
LTC/1/

Loughrea Town Commissioners,

Minutes of

1909 – 2006

Archives Collection

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LTC/1/

**Loughrea Town Commissioners,
Minutes of
1909 – 2006
Archives Collection**

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First produced 2008

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Island House
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2008

Proceedings of the Government of the County of Galway. Information concerning a General Meeting held Pursuant to an Order of the Lord Lieutenant at Ballinasloe, On Wednesday the 1st of November 1808.

Present

Viscount Duncannon



CONTENT & STRUCTURE

	Page No.
ACCESS TO THE COLLECTION	III
Disclosure Form for Access to Sensitive Information	iv
INTRODUCTION	v
Summary History of Loughrea Town Commissioners	v
<i>Bridewell</i>	vii
<i>Town Hall and the Tolls & Customs</i>	viii
<i>Fair Green</i>	ix
<i>Town Sergeant</i>	xi
<i>Rates</i>	xii
<i>Street Trading & Fairs</i>	xiii
<i>Lighting</i>	xiii
<i>Local & National Political issues</i>	xiv
<i>New Offices & Fire Station</i>	xv
<i>Fire Service</i>	xvi
<i>Housing</i>	xvi
Sanitation Works & Children's Play Area	xxi
<i>Water</i>	xxiv
<i>Street Names</i>	xxiv
<i>Town Crest</i>	xxiv
<i>Town By-Pass</i>	xxv
Arrangement	xxv
Related Legislation	xxvii
Relates Collections	xxvii
Further Reference	xxvii
Appendices	xxix
1. List of Some of the Chairmen	xxxi
2. List of some of the Staff	xxxiii
3. Abbreviations	xx

LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS, MINUTES OF

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- A. Minutes of Loughrea Town Commissioners, 1909 - 2006

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Proceedings of the Government
of the County of Galway. Information
of a General Meeting held Pursuant to
an Order at Ballinasloe, On Wednesday
Present
Viscount Duncannon
P. J. O'Brien



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Introduction

This collection of archives consists of minutes of Loughrea Town Commissioners commencing from 1909. The collection has been assigned the archival code of LTC/1/. It was acquired by transfer from the Loughrea Town Council to Galway County Council Archives in 2004. The minutes up to June 1985 were microfilmed in 2009, and from 1985 to 2006 were microfilmed in 2011.

Summary History of Loughrea Town Commissioners

WHAT FOLLOWS IS A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS AS EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.

Loughrea Town Commissioners was first established in 1861. The first members of Loughrea Town Commissioners were John Henry Blake, Chairman, Jeremiah O'Leary¹, Robert Burke, Thomas D O'Farrell, Edward Skerrett, John Fahy, Thomas Macklin, Thomas Kelly, Patrick McCarthy, William Stratton, Joseph O'Brien and Thomas O'Brien². For information on the Commissioners, and their work, prior to the first item in this collection researchers should consult contemporary local newspapers.

However, from the minutes in this collection we learn that the Commissioners initially met fortnightly, and from about 1931 they met monthly. In the early 1900s there were in the region of 5 Commissioners but this increased in *circa* 1914 to 10, and increased again in 1925 to 12. Under Section 39 of the Commissioners' Clauses Act of 1847 five members formed a quorum. The Commissioners were elected annually up to 1928, and thereafter elected every five years.

The Commissioners were initially responsible for the lighting of the town, and the maintenance of its roads, the fire fighting service and the collection of rates. Following the introduction of the County Manager Act of 1940, and its enactment in 1941 many of the Board's statutory powers were withdrawn. Thereafter many of their functions were taken over by the County Council, though the Commissioners retained some responsibility for housing and they could also make recommendations on issues relating to the town. All other services were the responsibility of Galway County Council (LTC/1/17, p34). This is particularly evident in the minutes especially from the 1960s onward, as the majority of resolutions are simply recommendations to be sent to Galway County Council, or other bodies, requesting that certain works or approaches be taken on a variety of issues. Such as for instance, in 1973 '*On the proposition of Mr Morgan seconded by Mr Kelly it was decided to request Galway County Council not to give planning permission for any structure in the area between the lake shore and the road which runs around the lake'*

¹ O'Leary was Manager of the National Bank in Loughrea and uncle of the Fenian John O'Leary. He died in 1871 and is buried in Garrybreeda Cemetery (LTC/1/18, p149).

² Minute includes extract from the *Loughrea Journal* of 1st May 1861, and also give the names of the first Commissioners (LTC/1/18, p149)



(LTC/1/19), p64), and '*That a recommendation be sent to the Western Regional Health Board to have special accommodation provided for patients who are married couples at St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea, i.e. to put an end to the segregation of husbands from their wives'* (LTC/1/19, p67).

In 1929 the Board discussed the Town's Improvement Act of 1854 but resolved '*not to interfere with the Act for the present*' (LTC/1/9, p320).

In February 1954 the Town Commissioner's Chairman, Mr Michael Carty, sent a letter to the Board stating '*Re Proposal to abolish the Town Commissioners I am of opinion that a special meeting should be summoned for an early date to discuss the matter. Both the Co. Manager and Law Agent should be requested to attend. This meeting might also consider whether Urban Status, if it could be secured for the town, would improve matters for the Ratepayers of Loughrea*' (LTC/1/15, p142). It was agreed to adjourn the matter of abolishing the Board to the next monthly meeting. At that meeting Mr Crowley, Solicitor informed the Board, that at least four towns, previously administered by Commissioners, had voluntarily ceased to have Town Commissioners and were instead, administered by County Councils. The Board then agreed to refer the matter further to their solicitor for advice on '*If, and when the Town Commissioners are abolished would the expenses be a County-at-large charge or levied on the Town only?*' and '*if the Town Commissioners become an Urban District Council would the ratepayers of the Town benefit financially?*' (LTC/1/15, p144). At the April meeting details of a letter from the County Manager on the issue were read, which stated, '*There appears to be no method by which a Town having Town Commissioners can be completely de-commissionerized.*

The County Council could be made the Commissioners for the Town but that would affect the area of charge. I would not, therefore, recommend that anything should be done in relation to this matter unless and until the law is altered.

There is no legal method by which the Town Commissioners can relieve themselves of their obligations in respect of houses built by them under their statutory powers....

Experience shows that rates tend to be higher in urban districts than in towns which are not urban districts because in the latter case the sanitary service charges are spread over the entire county health district....' (LTC/1/15, p146). The Board was to ask Galway County Council to take over the public lighting of the town. The Board also decided to write to the Minister for Local Government regarding housing charges, informing him that the Commissioners had relieved the County Council by housing tenants from outside the area, and pointing out that it felt it should get greater assistance either by reducing the Charges or requesting the County Council to contribute towards the annual Housing Charges (LTC/1/15, p146). It was then decided to adjourn the matter for a period of six months.

However, there was little or no discussion about the possible abolition of the Commissioners until the topic was raised again in 1967, when Mr A Dervan raised a Notice of Motion '*That the town be de-commissionerised and be replaced by a Junior Chamber of Commerce*'. A discussion followed during which the Assistant County Manager informed the meeting that if for any reason the Town Commissioners were abolished then the Galway County Council could act



as Commissioners for Loughrea. However, as there was no seconder for the Motion, Mr Dervan withdrew it (LTC/1/18, p146).

In 1971 a Notion of Motion was proposed by Mr Morgan stating '*I will propose that a strong recommendation be sent to the Minister for Local Government condemning the Local Government White Paper's proposal to abolish Loughrea Town Commissioners*'. The White Paper proposed the reorganisation of local government. However, following some discussion it was decided instead to hold a special meeting to discuss the issue (LTC/1/18, 8 March 1971). At the special meeting held on 15th March, it was unanimously decided to oppose the proposal of the White Papers on several grounds, including '*That people should have the right to elect their own area representatives*', '*Representation by County Councillors would not in our opinion be as good as that provided by a Council of people of the town*', and '*If these local authorities are abolished, towns would lose their status*' (LTC/1/18, 15 March 1971).

Bridewell

The Town Commissioners meetings were originally held in an office on Main Street, they were then held for a time in the Temperance Hall. From about 1928 to the late 1940s the Board met in the Bridewell, which the Ministry of Local Government had handed over to them for the sum of £80. Several of the rooms in the Bridewell were rented out but the Board held onto two centre rooms for its own use. In the late 1940s the Bridewell was handed over to the Vocational Education Committee as a site for a Vocation School (LTC/1/13, p164). The Committee then met in the Temperance Hall.

The issue of the Bridewell was an ongoing one for many years until 1953 when it was decided following receipt of various tenders to lease for 999 years the premises to St. Brendan's Hurling Club G.A.A., for £100 (LTC/1/15, p127). However, in October 1956 the Town Commissioners were advised by its Solicitors that there was a possibility that the GAA may not purchase the premises (LTC/1/16, p68). In December the Commissioners received a letter from the Secretary of the Hurling Club stating '*I beg to inform you that the above named Club at a general meeting decided to withdraw from purchase of Bridewell*' (LTC/1/16, p72).

In late 1958 there was discussion about either the Galway County Council or the Town Commissioners surrendering its interest in the Bridewell to the other organisation, as it was felt desirable that one Authority should have control of the entire premises. In November the Town Commissioners asked the County Council to surrender its interest in the premises to the Town Commissioners (LTC/1/16, p142).

Meanwhile the erection of a Vocational School was also ongoing. In November 1954 the Department of Education advised the Town Commissioners that plans were under consideration and it was hoped to convey a decision to the Vocation Education Committee shortly. The Chairman, Mr Carty informed the meeting that there was '*a grave danger that the School would be erected elsewhere other than Loughrea*'. It was then decided to convene a Public Meeting to discuss the issue. (LTC/1/15, p170)



Town Hall and the Tolls & Customs

In 1920 the Commissioners commenced a petition for the purchase from Henry George Charles Viscount Lascelles (1882-1947)³ of the Town Hall and the Tolls & Customs. For instance, in July 1920 it called a special meeting '*...to meet Chairman and Secretary of Sinn Féin Club, IT&GW Union, Temperance Society, A.O.H. Gaelic League, Town Tenants also Father Heagney, Cannon Eccles and the very Rev Prior the Abbey to discuss the question of the purchase of the Town from Lord Lascelles and to make representations to him on the occasion of his forth coming visit to the County with regard to the Tolls & Customs and the Town Hall'*' (LTC/1/7, 28 July 1920). The representations were ongoing over the following years. In October 1928 Lord Lascelles handed over ownership of the Town Hall to the people of Loughrea: '*It having come to our knowledge that Viscount Lascelles was pleased on the occasion of a recent visit to Portumna, accompanied by her Royal Highness, Princess Mary, to make a presentation to the people of Loughrea through the Rev. Mr O'Reilly, C.C., William Duffy, T.C., J Cunniffe and P Cahill, Co. Co., of the yard and building known as the Town Hall, Loughrea and a gift of £1,000 towards its reconstruction and equipment, we instruct our Secretary to make a full and fitting record of this generous act in the minutes of our corporation. We place on record our deep sense of gratefulness and our warm appreciation of this generous Act, and on behalf of the people of Loughrea we tender to the Right Honourable Viscount Lascelles our heartfelt thanks*' (LTC/1/9, p305).

The Directors of the Electric Light Co., were to act as Trustees, and had the power to raise further finance to put the Town Hall in proper repair.

In July 1933 the Board decided to commence again, with the Earl of Harewood, though his Agent, Mr Munroe, discussion on the issue of Tolls and Customs (LTC/1/10, p124).

In 1941 the Board, following enquiry regarding ownership of the Tolls on the Fair Green, were advised by George Munro, Agent to the Earl of Harewood (Grafton Chamber, 102/103 Grafton Street, Dublin) that the '*Tolls are on lease to Mr Ryan, Cuscarric, and he is responsible for the keeping of the Green. If the Town Commissioners wish to purchase the Tolls they can do so and collect the income from the tenant. His Lordship will be pleased to sell them. The net amount of Tolls for the year ended July 1941 was £78.2.8*' (LTC/1/12, p46).

The minutes of a Special meeting held on 16th February 1941 reveal that the estimated cost of steam rolling the Fair Green was £2,624.18.3. But as no member of the Parish Council was

³ Following the death of his father Henry Ulick Lascelles, the 5th Earl of Harewood, in 1929 Henry George Charles Viscount Lascelles was elevated to the position of 6th Earl. He had married HRH Princess Mary at Westminster Abbey on 28th February 1922. Their son, the 7th Earl (Sir George Henry Hubert Lascelles) was born in 1923. He was educated at Eton and Kings College, Cambridge; he served as a Captain in the Grenadier Guards during the Second World War and was taken prisoner.

Elizabeth Joanne De Burgh-Canning, daughter of Ulick John De Burgh 14th Earl of Clanricarde and 1st Marques, married Henry Thyme Lascelles (1824-1892) the 4th Earl of Harewood in July 1845.

<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/nigel.battysmith/Database/D0013/I10796.html>



present at the meeting to discuss the issue of steam rolling and tolls, the matter was adjourned (LTC/1/12, p50).

The issue of Customs and Tolls was raised again in 1948, when upon receipt of a letter from the Harewood Estate's solicitor the County Manager recommended that the Board avail of the opportunity to acquire the property and strongly advised the Board not to let it '*...pass into private ownership. He stated that as a public body it is the duty of the Town Commissioners to look to the interests of the town. He also stated the Fair Green needed development and if it falls into private ownership it might be sold leaving the town without any Fair Green'* (LTC/1/13, p156).

The Board decided not to purchase the Toll at that time, but on the recommendation of the County Manager they were to '*ask Mr Ryan (Toll Keeper) if at any future date he is disposing of the property will he sell to the Town Commissioners at the same figure he now acquires it'*' (LTC/1/13, p161).

Shortly afterwards the Board was advised that under a circular from the Dept of Local Government regarding the Purchase of Market and Fairs Under 1948, the purchasing of Customs & Tolls was no longer a matter for the Town Commissioners as the powers had passed on to the County Council (LTC/1/13, p166).

In late 1950 the question of purchasing the Customs & Tolls was yet again raised. The County Manager undertook to enquire into the matter (LTC/1/14, p157). In October 1951 the Chairman informed the Board that the purchase of the Tolls and Customs was proceeding (LTC/1/14, p245). Galway County Council was in discussion with Mr Shields, Solicitor, and hoped to arrive at a satisfactory settlement (LTC/1/14, p259). In September the Commissioners were advised that Galway County Council had purchased the Tolls and Customs from Mr Ryan for a sum of £4,250. '*The nett takings from the Tolls for the last three years were £379 - £438 respectively. The Ryan family had leased the tolls in 1859 from Earl of Harewood and 5 years ago bought out the Lease from the Landlord'* (LTC/1, p60).

Fair Green

In 1955 plans were before the Town Commissioners for the Fair Green. It was decided to recommend that the Old Fair Green as the location for the improved green, and it was proposed that the new Fair Green be located at the railway site. However, as the provision of the Fairgreen and swimming facilities for the town were functions of Galway County Council, the County Manager advised the Board to '*appoint a deputation to attend a meeting of Galway County Council at which the matter of selecting suitable site may be considered*' (LTC/1/16, p5). A Special Meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners was held on 25 April 1955, in conjunction with the business people, local representatives of the town and the farmers of the locality to discuss the proposals for the Green. Two possible alternative sites were discussed, but after lengthy discussion it was decided to adjourn the selection of a suitable site for development to a further special meeting (LTC/1/16, p7). In July 1955 the Board decided to recommend to



Galway County Council the existing site on the west end of the town as the new Fair Green (LTC/1/16, p16).

In December 1957 the Board informed the Assistant County Manager, Mr T. F. MacDermot⁴, that they were in favour of having the question of the Fair Green site opened up again by Galway County Council (LTC/1/16, p105). In June 1959 Mr Carthy, T.D., advised the Town Commissioners that there was '*a persistent demand for a Fair Green in the town, £16,000 being available for same. The Board recommended that the Galway County Council should avail of this grant. Assist. Co. Manager informed the meeting that the Dept. was not in favour of the present site as a Fair Green as it was not considered suitable*' (LTC/1/16, p162).

In June 1960 the Commissioners were advised by Galway County Council that a Conference was to be held on 17th June to '*consider the advisability of providing a Fair Green and possible sites for such Fair Green*' (LTC/1/17, p22). After some discussion on the topic it was decided that the current Fair Green was to be developed, with the northern portion of the Green including the plantation needing development and the portion nearer the Lake be kept as a green belt. The Conference minutes were approved at the Commissioners meeting on 11 July 1960. At that meeting the demolition of the Bridewell was agreed, for inclusion in the site for the Fair Green. In January 1961 Mr Devine recommended that the rubble following the demolition of the Bridewell be dumped in the Lake for the '*development of the foreshore, when Chairman informed the meeting that stones from the demolished Bridewell were to go towards the surfacing of the Fair Green*' (LTC/1/17, p59).

However, the issue of the demolition of the Bridewell was again discussed in 1969, when the meeting was informed that the work would be carried out in conjunction with a road widening scheme. It was then proposed that the site be converted to a car park when it is cleared by Galway County Council (LTC/1/18, p206).

Work on the Fair Green was due to commence in June 1961.

In June 1961 the Assistant County Manager advised the Board that the plans for the development of the Fair Green were ready and it was necessary to have a group of the farming type, '*both buyers and sellers, to examine same for the purpose of arranging the size of pens etc and the flow of traffic...*' (LTC/1/17, p78).

Plans for the new Fair Green were to be discussed at a meeting of Galway County Council in April 1962, prior to being sent to the Department of Local Government for sanction. By December 1962 the development works still had not commenced. Decisions were awaited on the drainage design for the Green. Galway County Council had to carry out an investigation of the main outfall sewer, which was over loaded, by an increase in surface water drainage. A solution to the problem had been found and proposals were to be submitted for approval early in the New Year (LTC/1/17, p157). The minutes at this point also include a letter from Neil Blaney,

⁴ Mr MacDermott was appointed Limerick City Manager in September 1959



Minister of Local Government addressed to Michael Carty, T.D., and Chairman of Loughrea Town Commissioners advising that '*There have been no further developments....*'.

In February 1965 the Board was advised that private enterprise was considering a live stock mart and that the development of the Fair Green would have to be reconsidered (LTC/1/18, p62). In June 1966 when the Board made yet further calls for the development of the Green, it was advised by the Assistant County Manager, Galway County Council, that '*private enterprise was for a mart and not for a Fair Green and it was not included in the Town Plans which will be considered in the near future by the Co. Council engineers and Town Commissioners*' (LTC/1/18, p120).

A discussion took place regarding the provision of a Fair Green at the meeting held on February 1967, during which Mr James Barrett asked Mr Carty, T.D. to enquire from the Minister for Local Government about the position of the proposed Green. However, Mr Carty refused stating '*that when he was trying to have a fair green provided before for Loughrea he received very little help from some of the Commissioners*'. The Town Clerk was then asked to write to Galway County Council to ask it to provide a green (LTC/1/18, p144).

In September 1968 it was proposed, that as the proposed cattle mart was refused planning permission, the ratepayers should withhold the 2nd moiety of the rates until such times as Galway County Council stated when they would provide a fair green for the town. However, the proposition was then withdrawn until such time '*as the planning appeal is heard by the Minister for Local Government*' (LTC/1/18, p190).

Town Sergeant

A Town Sergeant oversaw the maintenance of the town on behalf of the Commissioners. His duties included ensuring that there were adequate quantities of stones for the roads, that the fire hose was in good repair and that rubbish was disposed of. He was also responsible for the collection of the town rate. The Sergeant generally had several, usually 3, labourers in full-time employment and some casual labour as and when required, for example on fair and markets days. Members of the public made occasional requests to the Commissioners for the loan of the town horse, cart or ladders, maintained by the Sergeant, which were usually granted. The Sergeant reported to the Commissioners regularly on work carried out or required, and similarly the Commissioners drew his attention to work required, for example '*The Town Sergeant's attention was directed to the disgraceful state of the lane or passage leading to the lake along side the Old R.I.C. Barracks, and that he would be held accountable if any accident occurred or any outbreak of disease took place*' (LTC/1/9, p219).

The position of Town Sergeant was phased out about the 1950s.



Rates

In 1909 the '*rate of six pence in the pound on house property and one fourth that sum on land within the township be struck*' (LTC/1/7, 6 December 1909). In 1930 the rate of 1 shilling in the pound was struck '*upon all occupiers of houses and premises within the township and in proportion of one-fourth of such rate upon meadow, pasture and arable land*' (LTC/1/9, p413). Rate of one shilling remained until 1939. It was subsequently increased to 1 shilling and 6 pence, and again increased in 1943 to 2 shillings and 1 penny. The County Manager advised the Council that the increase was due to the purchase of two groves at Fair Green (£20), the enforcement of bye-laws for control of traffic, repairs to the Bridewell, and also for gates and walls for the Athenry Road houses (LTC/1/12, p96).

In March 1944 the County Manager advised that the rate in the pound could be reduced by two pence for the 1944/45 year. The rate levied for the year was thus one shilling and eleven pence in the pound (LTC/1/12, p119). The following year the rate increased by five pence, being two shillings and four pence (LTC/1/12, p135). The rate for 1946/47 was three shillings in the pound (LTC/1/13, p51). In 1948 the Board submitted its estimate and demand to Galway County Council, requesting that the sum of £405 be demanded for the financial year ending 31st March 1949. There was a reduction of approximately six pence in the pound on the town rate for the year 1948/49. The demand for the year 1949/1950 was £839. The 1950/51 demand was £645. The 1951/52 demand was £1,187, the 1952/53 demand was £1,439, and for 1953/54 the demand was £1,018. In 1957 the demand was £565, and in 1958 the demand was £544.

In 1960 the demand was £492, and the rate was 1/9½ in the £. The demand in 1961 was £503, and the rate was 1/8d in the £. In 1967 the Town rate was 1/6d in the £. The demand for financial year ending 31 March 1970 was £426 (LTC/1/18, p198). The demand for the year ending 31st March 1972 was £256 (LTC/1/18, 11 January 1971). The demand for 1974 was £431. The demand for the nine months ending 31 December 1974 was £264 (LTC/1/19, p72). The demand made on Galway County Council for Loughrea Town Commissioners for the year ending 31 December 1976 was £953 (LTC/1/18, p128). The demand for 1977 was £1,367 (LTC/1/18, p156), the demand for 1978 was £597 (LTC/1/18, p182). The demand for the year ending 31/12/1983 was £1,270 (LTC/1/20, p309), and the demand for 1984 was £1,418 (LTC/1/20, p330), the demand for 1985 was £1,595 (LCT/1/20, p350).

At its April 1940 meeting there was much discussion regarding the town rate for housing, when it was finally agreed to maintain it at one shilling (LTC/1/11, p300). However, at the subsequent meeting in May the matter was again under discussion when it was agreed that a housing rate of six pence in pound be struck (LTC/1/11, p303).

The Rate Collector had great difficult in collecting rates from tenants in many areas of the town, such as at Convent View, Abbey Terrance and at the Bridewell apartment. As a result the Council directed that a copy of the Collectors report before them in May 1938 relating to defaulters be sent to their solicitor with instruction to take the necessary action against the



defaulters (LTC/1/11, pp1-131- 32). Much of the Council's time in the subsequent years was devoted to attempts to recoup arrears in both rates and rents from defaulters. Its solicitor initiated legal proceedings on their behalf in many instances.

Street Trading & Fairs

In 1926 the Commissioners introduced bye-laws to prevent street trading in some parts of the town.

In 1938 the Commissioners introduced bye-laws on Fairs. So that henceforth most of the fairs would be confined to the Fair Green, rather than the streets of the Loughrea, and thus cause little disruption to traffic and traders in the town. They also directed that '*...motors passing through the town not be exceed 15 miles per hour*' (LCT1/11, pp151-152, and pp179-180). The issue of re-drafting bye-law arose again in 1943. In February it was decided to order that the main street will be divided by a white line and live stock will then be confined to the south side leaving the north side free to traffic (LTC/1/12, p95).

Lighting

The lighting of the town by electricity was a concern for the Commissioners in 1912, and in particular obtaining the loan to finance it. They resolved in March 1912 '*That as at the present time the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland have no statutory power to lend money to Sanitary Authorities for the lighting of towns by electricity, and as the expense of borrowing a loan for the purpose in the open market would be a very heavy burden in the local rates, we request the Government though the Loans Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to authorise the Board of Works to issue loans for that purpose*' (LTC/1/7, 12 March 1912). The Electric Lighting Co. were contracted to provide electric light to the town.

In February 1916 the Commissioners agreed to dispense with the need for lighting on moonlit nights (LTC/1/7, 6 March 1916). In 1929 the Company was asked to leave the street lamps lighting until 12 mid-night, especially on Fair nights (LTC/1/9, p321). The Electric Light Company agreed to keep the lamps lighted until 11.30 pm and on nights proceeding Fairs till 12 o'clock (LTC/1/9, p327). Following its established in 1927, under the Electricity Supply Act, the Electricity Supply Board provided the town with power. The ESB charged £100 for many years for the cost of public lighting but increased it after some discussion in 1934 to £145.2.3 (LTC/1/10, p181).

Over the years the Commissioners requested various extensions to the street lighting. For instance in 1949 it had allowed £200 for the extension to the lighting, but subsequently rescinded the order and resolved that '*the Board not proceed with the erection of extra street lamps, owing to the high cost as estimated for erection and maintaining of same*' (LTC/1/14 p49).

In 1969 the Board asked the E.S.B. to carry out a survey on the public lighting in the town and requested Galway County Council to improve and extend the public lighting system in



Loughrea, especially on the Gort Road and Woodford Road (LTC/1/18, p198). A survey by the E.S.B. showed that 55 additional lights were needed in order to provide adequate public lighting. The contribution required for the proposed E.S.B. scheme would be £398 and the annual charges would be £481.5.0. The matter was referred to Galway County Council (LTC/1/18, p204).

Also in 1969 there was some discussion about the location of a site for the new town dump, with sites at Rathruddy bog and Corry's field on the Gort Road proposed (LTC/1/18, p199).

Local & National Political issues

The Commissioners often commented on local and national social and political issues, resolving for instance in 1913 '*The rejection of the Home Rule Bill by the House of Lords was condemned on the motion of Mr Farrell and seconded by Mr O'Loughlin*' (LTC/1/7, 3 February 1913). In June 1914 the Commissioners adopted a resolution of the Limerick County Council '*advocating that every effort should be made by organising the Volunteer force in every parish in Ireland*' (LTC/1/7, 15 June 1914).

In May 1916 the Commissioners passed a resolution condemning the 1916 Rising: this was later expunged in 1920. The resolution read '*That we deeply deplore the recent action of a small section of fanatics calling themselves Irishmen, exploited no doubt by Agents of Germany, in fermenting an uprising against the authority of the Irish nation and the government, at a time of some trial to the cause of civilisation and we are horrified by the scarified of many innocent lives and the ruthless destruction of property caused thereby. We sympathise with the Leader of the Irish people Mr J E Redmond for the pangs of grief this wanton outrage has brought upon him after his life work in the service of the nation, by which he has brought the Irish cause to such a splendid triumph and in this sad ordeal we pledge him our unsevering support*' (LTC/1/7, 8 May 1916). The resolution repudiating this resolution stated in 1920 '*That we the members of the Loughrea Town Commissioners repudiate with the utmost scorn the resolution of the 8th May 1916 and that instead of expunging same from the Books, we allow same to remain as a record of the treachery and an indelible stigma on the proposer, seconder and supporters of the said resolution*' (LTC/1/7, 1 March 1920).

The record shows however that this last resolution was '*...to be struck out as being irregular*' (LCT1/7, 6 April 1920). The matter was on the agenda again at this meeting of 17th August 1936 when the Chairman, Martin O'Regan, moved '*That the Resolution inserted in the Books condemning the 1916 Rebellion and the men who gave their lives for the country be expunged*'. The resolution was passed after a '*heated discussion*' (LCT1/10/, pp437-438). At the Council's subsequent meeting on 21 September the Board's attention was drawn to the previous resolution of April 1920, and the need to have it rescinded before the resolution of 17th August could be dealt with. The Board then '*...unanimously agreed in leaving the matter in abeyance, and if any question arises the Board can reply to it*' (LCT1/10/, p439).



In 1918 the Commissioners suggested that a meeting be held in the Temperance Hall grounds to ‘...protect against conscription and that posters be got out for same’ (LTC/1/7, 15 April 1918).

In 1919 they called ‘...upon the Government for the immediate release of our Brother Irishmen suffering in British Dungeons without the smallest clue or stigma of crime against them. But love of county, and call on every Public Board in Ireland also to demand their immediate release’ (LTC/1/7, 11 February 1919).

In July 1920 the Commissioners received a letter from the Loughrea Sinn Féin Club relating to the boycotting of Northern Ireland firms. The Club had pledged itself to ‘...do all in our power to keep the merchants and traders of the Town from giving any orders for goods to Belfast, or North of Ireland firms until the Catholics in the Northern cities and towns are reinstated in their employments and treated on an equal footing with their Orange neighbours’ (LTC/1/7, 5 July 1920). The Commissioners did not adopt the resolution immediately but decided to hear from Dáil Éireann. However, at its meeting in September it adopted a similar resolution passed by the County Council’s General Council.

In March the Board resolved that ‘...that in future resolutions of a contentious nature affecting matters outside the Township be not entertained’ (LTC/1/9, p72). Indeed a proposed resolution condemning Éamon De Valera’s arrest when he crossed the border into Northern Ireland in 1929 was not passed, as ‘...no seconder owing to a Resolution being inserted in the Minutes prohibiting all Resolutions connected with politics’ (LTC/1/9, p328).

In August 1934 a motion that the ‘...resolution inserted in the Minutes excluding politics from the meetings be rescinded’ was lost by five votes to seven (LTC/1/10, pp224-225).

New Offices & Fire Station

In 1946 there was discussion about the provision of a general purposes hall which could be used by the Town Commissioners for their meetings. It was proposed that the Hall should be erected as part of the new Fire Station. Initially this was rejected, but following discussions between the County Manager and the Dept of Local Government it appears permission was granted for the inclusion of such a facility in the Station. At its meeting in October 1946 the Board was advised that the proposed office would ‘contain approximate 1/5th the entire building where Fire Station is to be erected and the cost will be approx £1,000. This would mean a charge of £70 a year, as the annual repayment charge on Loan at 2¾% over a period of 35 years for each £100 would be £7.4.9 payable in two moieties....

The Office accommodation would consist of a large room 14 x 22 and 2 built-in presses and lavatory accommodation’ (LTC/1/13, pp70-71). However, given the costs involved the Board decided not to enter into an agreement as they were not prepared to incur an increase of 4d in the pound annually on the rates for office accommodation.

In March 1948 the Board was advised that there would be a room attached to the new Fire Station, when it was built, which could be rented as the Board’s office (LTC/1/13, p131).



Tenders for building the new Fire Station were invited in 1950 (LTC/1/14, p70). Hayes & Hayes Contractors were awarded the contract for building the Station.

In December 1950 the County Manager advised the Commissioners that there was no special provision made in the Station to accommodate them, but if the County Council agreed a room could be made available. A discussion on the matter took then followed, but no decision was made (LTC/1/14, p167).

Fire Service

There was discussion in 1926 regarding the setting up of a voluntary Fire Brigade in Loughrea. The Gardai had their Commissioner's conditional consent to become members, one of which was that the '*Brigade so stated must be regarded as purely voluntary in which the Gardai take part as ordinary citizens and not as Gardai. The appointment of the local sergeant as Captain is requested*' (LTC/1/9, p196).

In 1935 the Commissioners considered the setting up of a fire service in the town and in providing a Fire Engine (LTC/1/10, p345)⁵

Housing

In 1919 the Commissioners adopted the Housing of the Working Classes Acts 1890, and thereafter for a time became involved in the provision of housing loans.

However in 1932 their involvement in this respect intensified after its Solicitors confirmed that a section under the Housing Acts 1931-1932 gave them power to build, and further that they had the power to levy a rate as high as 2/6 in the £ for building purposes (LTC/1/10, p59).

Also around this time they requested the Galway County Board of Health to prepare a scheme for the erection of 20 houses under the Labourers' Act (LTC/1/10, p64). However, the Board of Health responded stating it was not advisable to erect new cottages, '*seeing that there was £36 rent and £121 rates due by Tenants of Cottages*' (LTC/1/10, p73).

In October 1932 sites were selected on the Athenry Road and Moore Street. In April 1933 Mr Lee, Engineer estimated the cost of building seven three roomed houses at £230 per house (LTC/1/10, p108). In July 1933 the Board acquired further sites for housing, from O'Neil's plot to the corner of Abbey Street (LTC/1/10, p120).

Costs for four new houses at a site near the Convent were estimated, including development costs, at £400 each (LTC/1/10, September 1933, p137). The contract, for £1,582, was awarded to T. Higgins & Co.

Twelve houses were to be erected in Cabbage Lane (October 1933), latter to be named 'Abbey Terrace'. They were to have timber landings and stairs as opposed to the concert ones

⁵ Following the passing of the Fire Brigades Act 1940, the Board of Health & Public assistance discussed in detail the introduction of the county fire-fighting scheme. At its meeting in May 1941 tenders for fire engines and equipment for Loughrea, Tuam, Clifden, Athenry, Portumna, Gort, Dunmore, Glenamaddy, Headford, Roundstone, Oughterard, Spiddal, Clonbur, and Kinvara were considered (Board of Health & Public Assistance GC5/20, May 1941). The total cost of the scheme was approximately £5,000.



originally planned (LTC/1/10, p141). The houses were to be laid out in two blocks of six each. Brendan Sweeney, Moore Street, Loughrea was appointed the project's building clerk of works. Mr Lee, County Surveyor, recommended that the Thomas Higgins & Co., Fr. Griffin Road, Galway tender in the sum of £3,479.19.4 be accepted (LTC/1/10, p161). The Board took out a loan (mortgage) of £4,040 to cover the costs of the scheme. A rent of 6/= per week exclusive of rates was set in 1934 for the 12 houses. The Council also selected, by ballot vote, the tenants who were granted one of the 12 houses (LTC/1/10, p253).

In 1934 plans were drawn up for the erection of 9 houses on Athenry Road. T O'Higgins & Co. were again contracted to build the houses for £2,492.19.3, but progress on completing them was slow, with the Commissioners set to impose a penalty clause on O'Higgins for late completion (LTC/1/10, p359). In September 1935 the Commissioners agreed to charge rent of 2/9, exclusive of rates, per week for these houses (LTC/1/10, p349 and p353). Most of the tenants were being transferred to these new houses from condemned houses.

In September 1934 the Minister for Local Government & Public Health sanctioned the tender of Messer's Thomas Higgins & Co., Galway of £1,582 for the erection of four houses on the Convent site (LTC/1/10, p236).

In April 1936 the Council adopted a resolution of the Athlone Urban Council calling on the government '*to initiate a purchase scheme whereby occupants of houses erected by local authorities could become owners of their houses as in the case of Labourers' cottages'* (LTC/1/10, p399).

In February 1937 the Bridewell premises were reported as been unfit for human habitation, and also houses in the Brewery Yard were recommended for immediate closure. However, as the Commissioners had no alternative housing accommodation for the tenants it requested the County Medical Officer of Health to advise what steps it could take to provide housing for those people (LTC/1/11, pp26-27). Following on from this the Board adopted a resolution from the Killarney Urban District Council requesting that the Minister for Local Government and Public Health make the reconstruction grants under the Housing Acts available for all urban houses '*...which confirm to certain conditions as to site, contain the required number of rooms and floor area and have sanitary accommodation and thus assist in solving the housing problem by facilitating the enlargement and improvement of large numbers of houses which otherwise would be left fall into bad repair'* (LTC/1/11, p35). In addition they recommended that tenants under the control of absentee landlords shall '*be in a position to avail of these grants should they be extended to urban areas*'.

In April 1937 Mr T O'Keeffe, B.E. was appointed as engineer for a proposed scheme of 32 houses (LTC/1/11, p36); 20 working class houses and 12 better class houses. In October 1937 O'Keeffe reported that the only way the Board could secure sites for the required houses was by compulsory purchase order. Sites for ten houses were selected at the County Home Road, Athenry Road, and Cross Street (LTC/1/11, p82). It was estimated that the cost of building 5 Working Class houses on Athenry Road would be £1,500, and the total cost of the scheme



would amount to £2,059; £411.16.0 per house. The cost per house at Cross Street was estimated to amount to £441.13.0.

The Council in December 1937 agreed to acquire sites for Better Class Houses on Kelly's Street for 2 houses, Bride Street for 4 houses, Dunkellin Street for 3, and Abbey Street for 4. It also agreed to acquire sites for working class houses; Galway Road for 4 houses, Cross Street 4 houses, Athenry Road for 5 and Galway Road (McTigues) for 7 houses (LTC/1/11, p106). However, the Medical Officer of Health subsequently reported that the sites at Kelly Street, Bride Street, Abbey Street, and Galway Road (McTigues) were unsuitable, but that the sites at Galway Road (Bowers & Fallon), Cross Street, Athenry Road were suitable.

In February 1938 John Bowers told the Board he felt the Council's proposal to acquire his field on Athenry Road for their Housing Scheme was '*...unjust, seeing that his mother had already given a field for a similar purpose*' (LTC/1/11, p116).

A special meeting to discuss the issue of sites for the housing scheme was held on 14th March 1938, when the Board decided not to take over the field owned by Mrs Bowers. It agreed that the scheme would provide for 5 houses on Healy's plot on Athenry Road, 5 at Galway Road, and on the filed belonging to Mrs Healy adjacent to the County Home (LTC/1/11, p123).

At its meeting in March 1944 a proposed housing scheme for the town and a list of suitable building sites approved by the County Medical Officer of Health was discussed. A list of condemned houses in the town was also submitted to the meeting, and is included in the minutes (LTC/1/12, p120). An estimate prepared by M E O'Keeffe, B.E., was submitted to the meeting, '*to erect 34 houses at a total cost of £16,122 or £474.3.6 per house. The estimate was approved and it was recommended that the County Manager be asked to give more consideration to the erection of better class houses when the needs of the work class are met*' (LTC/1/12, p129). Plans for the houses were discussed by the Board at its meeting in December 1945. The Board approved its Engineer's recommendations and '*considered that the provision of bathroom space as well as W.C. space was most desirable*' (LTC/1/13, p37). Shortly afterwards the Board sought the Department of Local Government's sanction to raise a loan of £32,000 for the erection of the 34 slum clearance and 6 better class houses. However, in May 1949 the County Manager, Mr C O'Flynn, advised the Commissioners that the amount of the loan might not be adequate, and any application for the necessary loan for the erection of 34 houses must be made through Galway County Council. As a result of calculating the cost of 18 slum clear houses at a cost of £1,375 each, the Commissioners resolved to obtain a loan of £19,800 from the Commissioners of Public Works through Galway County Council (LTC/1/14, p29)

In December 1946 it was proposed that six additional '*...better class houses be erected, independent of the present 40 House Scheme*' LTC/1/13, p74). The matter was discussed at the Board's subsequent meeting when the County Manager stated that the Scheme drawn up was sufficient to meet the needs of the town. The Board unanimously agreed (LTC/1/13, p76).



Shortly afterwards Mr Sheahan, architect for the scheme, submitted details of progress and outlined the types and costs of the houses to be built. The total cost of 31 houses at £24,890.

In 1947 and 1948 there was discussion regarding the acquisition of sites for the Pollorebuck housing scheme⁶. In October 1948 the Board approved an advertisement for the contract for the erection of 9 houses at Pollorebuck and 3 at Market Square (LTC/1/13, p168). The Architect, Mr Sheahan, recommended acceptance of the tender from Messrs Hayes & Hayes of Ballina, Killaloe, Co. Clare, in the sum of £12,377.5.4 for the 9 houses at Pollorebuck. He also recommended acceptance of their tender in the sum of £4,676.6.0 for the three houses at Market Square. It was decided however to investigate the possibility of carrying out the required schemes by direct labour before deciding on the tenders (LTC/1/13, p179). In March 1949 the Architect advised the that cost of building the Pollerbuck and Market Square houses, based on the lowest tenders, worked out at 30/= per square foot of floor area. The County Manager and Engineer, Mr O'Keeffe, were of the opinion that the houses could be built cheaper by direct labour. The Board then agreed to proceed on that basis, building 6 six houses at Pollorebuck, 3 at Athenry Road and 3 at Market Square.

In 1950 the one Commissioner, James Barrett '*...drew attention to a certain amount of slackness among the labourers and tradesmen employed on the Housing scheme*' (LTC/1/14, p70). This resulted in lengthy discussion on the matter at the Commissioners' subsequent meeting, where the minutes include the content of a letter from the Clerk of Works on the project refuting the claim, stating that he regards the claim '*as unwarranted criticism of the manner in which both the Foreman, Mr Sweeney, and myself are supervising the job. I must demand that Mr Barrett at the next meeting of the Town Commissioners produce the evidence on which he made such an irresponsible statement or else withdraw his allegations completed...*' (LTC/1/14, p73). The meeting of March 1950 was told that Mr Barrett had had a confidential interview with the Clerk of Works and the '*he now wished to state the matter is closed*' (LTC/1/14, p78).

Also in March 1950 the County Surveyor and Engineer advised the Town Commissioners that the cost of building the six houses in Pollerbuck totalled £6,661.4.2 (LTC/1/14, p82).

The cost of the proposed housing scheme of 16 houses at Nunnery Lane was £1,500 each, and inclusive of solicitors and other fees the total cost could be £25,800 (LTC/1/14, p30).

The proposed estimated rent for the houses would be 17/8 per week (LTC/1/14, p31).

'Carmel Terrace' was the name to be given to the new houses at Nunnery Lane (LTC/1/14, p75). The plans, subject to some modifications were approved at the Council. In September the Local Government Department wrote to the Council advising that the density for the scheme is too high and should be reduced to 8 houses per acre which would involve a reduction to not more than 14 houses in the scheme (LTC/1/14, p112). It was decided to build these 16 houses by direct labour.

⁶ See for instance LCT1/13, p138



In December 1950 the County Manager informed the Commissioners that it was only with great difficulty that he had received the agreement of the Local Government Department to a floor area of 850 sq ft and to allow 16 houses on the site (LTC/1/14, p163). The houses were to have three bedrooms upstairs, and the bathroom was to be in the front of the house on the ground floor (LTC/1/14, p179). In June 1952 tenants were selected for the 16 houses at Nunnery Lane (LTC/1/15, p37). The maximum weekly rent for the houses was set at 35/1, and the minimum was 19/10 (LTC/1/15, p46). It was decided to invite the Minister of Local Government and his Secretary to open the new houses officially and invite His Lordship Most Rev. Dr Dignan to bless the houses (LTC/1/15, p38). The launch took place on 6th August 1952. In August 1952 the Commissioners agreed to name the new houses as Mount Carmel Crescent (LTC/1/15, p54).

In March 1950, the Town Commissioners called to have another survey of the housing needs of the town carried out, as they considered more better class houses were required (LTC/1/14, p81). However, the County Manager, Mr O'Flynn, the Medical Officer, Dr Dryan, and the Town Surveyor, Mr O'Keeffe were all of the opinion that there was little need for a new survey as the previous one had only taken place in November 1948. In November 1950 the Commissioners asked the County Manager again to carry out a new survey of housing needs (LTC/1/14, p150). New houses in Athenry Road were named Liam Mellows Terrace (LTC/1/14, p146).

In October 1951 the Commissioners advised the Local Government Department that there were 53 applicants awaiting houses at the beginning of the year, 19 of which had since been housed, and 16 were about to be housed. Therefore 18 were currently on the waiting list (LTC/1/14, p241). Following advertisement for notices of people wishing to be added to the list in November the Council was advised that there were a total of 37 applicants on the list (LTC/1/14, p252).

In December the Commissioners requested Galway County Council to formulate a Housing Scheme comprising of 12 working class houses for the town (LTC/1/14, p257).

In October 1953 details of a circular letter from the Local Government Department referring to the Sale of Urban Houses and the review of existing rented were outlined to the Commissioners by the County Manager. It was then resolved that the '*Purchase Scheme for the 25 old houses be adopted and that the tenants concerned be offered the sale of their houses. Details of the Purchase Scheme to be furnished to each tenant, when finally approved by the County Manager*' (LTC/1/15, p133).

In November 1953 the Commissioners recommended to the County Managers the erection of ten one storey houses and ten two storey houses to satisfy the needs of the 20 applicants whose names were entered on the List; '*Scheme to be carried out by the Galway County Council for the Town Commissioners*' (LTC/1/15, p135). The Minister sanctioned the scheme on 14 December 1953.

In July 1955 the Board discussed the cost of new houses, and to have a new House Purchase Scheme drawn up for 34 new houses, and to refer the matter to the County Manager (LTC/1/16,



p16). In October 1955, the Commissioners were advised that persons anxious to build their own houses could procure grants by making application to the States Officials Organisation (LTC/1/15, p25).

In January 1962 there were 5 applicants in need of housing. At its meeting on 31 March 1962 the Board recommended to Galway County Council the necessity of having twenty dwelling houses erected by the County Council to meet the housing required in the town (LTC/1/17, p106).

In May 1964, 15 applicants qualified to be added to the housing list. As a result the Board sent a recommendation to Galway County Council that a scheme of 15 houses be proceeded with in Loughrea to provide the housing needs of the town (LTC/1/18, p34). In July it was suggested that from Moore Street to the top of Bride Street, townland known as "the Rock", be the site for these houses (LTC/1/18, p41)

Also in May 1964 the County Council approved the purchase of 3½ acres of land at Athenry Road for 19 building sites and proposed to pay £7,500 for the land, development, water-mains, sewers and other expenses (LTC/1/18, p34).

In 1969 the Board had 48 housing applicants, 12 of whom were deserving of houses, with 2 possible applicants, and 34 who were either not deserving of houses or had died (LTC/1/18, p198).

In 1971 further new houses were provided for letting at Pollroe buck (LTC/1/18, 14 June 1971). In November 1973 the Board was advised that it was expected that other houses would be ready within six months, and that a further 20 houses would then be built (LTC/1/19, p68). In December a recommendation was forward to the Assistant County Manager, Mr Peter Kearns, requesting that rear entrances be provided in '*the 16 houses already built, the 10 houses under construction and all other houses to be constructed at Pollroe buck, Loughrea, so as to eliminate the present system under which householders, except those with end houses, are compelled to carry their turf, coal, bicycles, etc through the hall and kitchen (3 doors) on their way to their back yards and sheds'*' (LTC/1/19, p70). The matter was again raised in October 1975 in relating to the 16 council house which are facing southwards at Pollroe buck (LTC/1/19, p131).

In July 1974 a new House Purchase Scheme was adopted by the Board which was based on the original cost of the house converted to current values. The prices for houses were fixed as follows, Athenry Road houses £1,994, Abbey Terrace £2,133, Mount Carmel Crescent £4,212, Liam Mellows Terrace £4,371, Barrack Street £5,128, Lake Side £4,371, and Galway Road £4,074. The prices were '*reduced by £900 grant plus a discount of 3% of gross cost of the houses, for each year of tenancy up to a maximum discount of 30%*' (LTC/1/19, p87).

Sanitation Works & Children's Play Area

In 1926 the Commissioners petitioned the Local Government Board regarding a sewerage scheme (LTC9/1, 31 August 1926, p185).



In 1939 a deputation from the Board met with the Minister for Local Government and Public Health and the Minister for Lands regarding the 'Children's Park, Town Park, and Cosmona sewerage and received a favourable response (LTC/1/11, p221). The Land Commission advised the Council that there was no objection to the transfer of the park to the Town Commissioners provided they continued the grazing (LTC/1/11, p229).

At this time the Board also put forward proposals for Employment Schemes, and agreed to excavate and level the present dumping ground at the Lakeside, owned by the Town Commissioners, for the purpose of a Children's park, and to construct walks there and plant some shelter beds. The estimated cost of this work was £515. They also agreed for the second Employment Scheme to excavate, level and re-sow part of the grounds at the hill for a show ground and sports field, and to replace the in fences. The estimated cost of this project was £848. The land was to be transferred to the Town Commissioners from the present Trustees (LTC/1/11, p222).

In February 1941 the local Traders Development Association offered to contribute £100 towards the cost of the Children's playground, as a result of which the Minister of Local Government was prepared to consider the allocation of a grant not exceeding £415 (LTC/1/11, p341).

The development of an amenity scheme at the Lakeside was under discussion during the early 1960s. It was proposed to purchase additional lands to lengthen the promenade and to provide bathing shelters (LTC/1/17, pp112-113)

In October 1938 the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr O'Beirne, advised the Council that the Board of Health had approved a proper sewerage scheme for Cosmona (LTC/1/11, p256). In September 1940 the Council made a further appeal to the Board of Health to proceed with the proposed sewerage scheme, and pointed out that it was '*most urgent in view of an outbreak of fever which occurred among some of the Cosmona Tenants of Labourers cottages within recent week*' (LTC/1/11, pp329-330).

In September 1942 the Board due the County Manager's attention to the necessity of '*...an extension to Cosmona cottages of the town sewerage and the water main to Cuscarrick and also housing the water pump on the Hill removed further east for the convenience of householders*' (LTC/1/12, p85). At the subsequent meeting the Board was advised that the County Engineer could not approve any extension for a water supply to Cuscarrick cottages or the Hill until the new mains for the town were laid, and nor could the Cosmona scheme be carried out until that work had been done (LGT1/12, p88).

In 1950 the Commissioners' attention was drawn to 80 Board of Health houses in the town with no water or sewerage connections. It was therefore resolved that these houses should have sewerage and water installed as soon as possible, and notices were served on private individuals to have sewerage connected to the mains within 14 days. It was also suggested that the Board of Health be requested to give a grant to private individuals to enable them make the necessary connections (LTC/1/14, p206).



At its meeting on 8 April 1953 the Commissioners unanimously decided to recommend to the County Manager the '*necessity for having a survey made by Sanitary Authority, of the sewerage and drains in the town, as they (Commissioners) are not satisfied at the delay in having sewerage extension carried out to the Co. Co. cottages and other houses within the township'* (LTC/1/15, p96).

In February 1955 the Minutes record that the County Manager had '*at last approved*' of the Sewerage Scheme for Cosmona (LTC/1/16, p2). In October 1956 the Town Commissioners were advised that plans for the Cosmona and The Hill schemes were sent for approval to the Local Government Department (LTC/1/16, p68).

The matter was raised again in May 1960 when a letter from Galway County Council was read and approved stating, "*Regarding the provision of water and sewerage to Cosmona and Athenry Road, I wish to inform you that arrangements are being made to interview the tenants in question with a view to having them signing Agreements to pay their contribution towards the cost of the scheme, by amounts not less than 2/- per week. The carrying out of the scheme is, however, conditional on all tenants in both schemes agreeing to the terms and to the signing of the necessary agreements.*" (LTC/1/17, p20)

The Commissioners were advised in July 1960 that 19 of the 25 tenants had accepted the terms of 2/- weekly for the extension of the sewerage and water scheme (LTC/1/17, p34).

The County Manager advised the Commissioners that at least 80% of the resident would have to agree before the County Council would proceed with the scheme (LTC/1/17, p43). By October 1961 the figure of acceptances was still below the required 80%.

In December 1963 the Chairman informed the Board that the town services were to be extended to the 27 County Council cottages at Cosmona (LTC/1/18, p13).

In December 1964 the Department advised the Board that the Cosmona Sewerage Scheme had been sanctioned (LTC/1/18, p56). Contracts for the system were signed in January 1966.

In June 1964 the Board was advised that the Minister for Local Government approval had been given for the extending the public sewerage to the Galway Road district subject to the County Medical Officer for Health being satisfied, and that no danger to public health was likely to arise from the overflow to the Lake from the Gort Road pumping station. The total cost of the works was estimated at £15,000 (LTC/1/18, p36).

There was discussion in late 1966 and early 1967 about the Cuscarrick sewerage and the existence of an overflow pipe from the scheme into the lake. At a meeting in March 1967 it was explained to the Board that a temporary sewerage pump was erected by the National Building Agency (NBA) near the new pump-house site in order that the 52 housing scheme at Cuscarrig could be tenanted in advance of the completion of the permanent pumping system by Galway County Council. An emergency overflow from the pump sump was provided in order that if a breakdown in electricity supply occurred, or for any other reason the pumps failed, sewage would not flow back into private houses. Unfortunately, there was a break down in the



maintenance arrangements for a short period, and thus the overflow worked during that time. As soon as the issue was brought to the NBA's attention it immediate arrangements for better supervision, and thereafter the pump worked satisfactorily (LTC/1/18, p147). Nevertheless, Mr D. Sweeney said '*that they could not accept that it is right to convey untreated sewerage into the lake and he still felt that a tank should be provided (to hold sewerage which should overflow as a result of a breakdown in the pumping system but that he could not agree under any circumstances to sewerage being conveyed to the lake'* LTC/1/18, p150). Mr Devine said that in his opinion the sewerage should be continued to meet the existing sewerage scheme' (LTC/1/18, p148).

Water

When the water at several fountains in the town, such as at Athenry Road, and also from the Loughrea Water supply, were tested March 1949 they were all found to be of poor quality. In March the Commissioners then issued notice that the water should be boiled before use. It also recommended that the Public Health Engineer should investigate the whole system to determine where the contamination was occurring (LTC/1/14, p14). By April corrective measures had been taken and there was no further necessity for the public to boil their water.

Street Names

The Minutes detail the proposed change of street names agreed in April 1945. For instance, Main Street was to be changed to Pearse Street, and Victoria Terrace was to be changed to St. Dynma's Terrace (LTC/1/12, p139). However, at its July meeting the Board was advised, following legal advise on the matter, that it '*had no powers to change street names either with or without the consent of the Ratepayers of the streets in question*' (LTC/1/1, p14). There was further discussion at the meeting on the issue before it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance. It was established that the County Council had the power to change street names, provided it had the consent of two thirds in number and valuation of the ratepayers residing in each street. As a result the Board decided to rescind its original proposal to change the street names, and to leave the names unchanged (LTC/1/13, p24).

At its meeting held on 12 December 1960 the Board agreed to the adoption of the Town Planning Act for Loughrea (LTC/1/17, p54)

Town Crest

The Board discussed the design of a crest of the town on a number of occasions. Such as in April 1976 when it discussed a letter received from The Chief Herald which advised that they had no official record of a coat of arms for Loughrea, but would be happy to assist with the design of one. The Town Clerk advised the meeting that he had previously got the views of Rev. Patrick K Egan (P.P. Portumna, & historian) on a crest for Loughrea. It was decided to give the matter some thought for the next meeting (LTC/1/19, p145). At the subsequent meeting it was agreed that Fr Egan's suggestions be forward to the Chief Herald's office and request that



a preliminary illustration of a proposed arms be requested (LTC/1/19, p147). The Board received and approved the illustration in November, consideration was then given to devising a motto to accompany the coat of arms (LTC/1/19, p159).

In 1980 the Town Commissioners obtained a Chain-of-Office. It cost £850, the money was raised by sponsorship and subscriptions, and most of the former Chairmen since 1909 or their families made a contribution for links bearing their names. Two Chairman or their families declined to make a contribution and thus no link with their names was added to the Chain (LTC/1/20, p247).

Town By-Pass

In January 1985 a scheme to by-pass the town of Loughrea was referred to in the minutes. It was indicated that it would be constructed '*the medium term but that a number of matters remain to be resolved at local level. Mr Howlett (Assistant County Manager, Galway County Council) stated that the Loughrea Bye-Pass is included in the 10 year Plan, priority is given the bridge over the Corrib and the Oranmore Bye-Pass, it is proposed that the Loughrea Scheme will start in 1987. Comm Loughnane stated that he understood that these schemes were held up by the Department, it now transpires that the initiative rests with Galway County Council'*' (LTC/1/20, pp349-350).

The construction of the bypass was to occupy much of the Board's attention of the next twenty years, as it was not until 25th November 2005 that the N6 Loughrea bypass was officially opened by Mr. Martin Cullen T.D., Minister for Transport.

The completion of the 3.75 km bypass of the town of Loughrea was within budget and ahead of schedule.

Arrangement

The volumes which comprise this collection have been arranged in chronological order.

The item reference number (e.g. LTC/1/7) should be used in full when citing documents or records, and each reference cited should be preceded by the initials GCCA (Galway County Council Archives, e.g. GCCA LTC/1/7).

Overall this collection illustrates aspects of the early administration of the town. It should be of interest to administrative, social and local historians.

The extracts from the various Minute books listed herewith are intended as a representation of the proceedings. The purpose of their inclusion is to give the reader an indication of the Governors' areas of concern and responsibility. It is hoped that the extracts will clearly and fairly reflect their work and involvement with the administration of the Hospital. ,

In addition, readers are asked not to view as definitive the appended list of Chairmen and staff.



Overall the collection is in relatively good condition. The minutes are recorded in bound volumes, on good quality paper.

For security preservation and access purposes the collection was microfilmed and digitally scanned in 2009.

Patria McWalter
Archivist



Related Legislation

- Lighting of Towns (Ireland) Act, 1828
- Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act 1854 / Commissioners Clauses Act of 1847
- Under the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 urban sanitary districts became Urban District Councils. Any towns which had hitherto operated under the Lighting of Towns Act, 1828, automatically came under the Towns Improvement Act, 1854.
- Local Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1936.
- The Local Government Act of 1946 included section relating to Town Commissioners, such as Section 66 which stated that the quorum at meetings shall be three.
- The Local Government Act 2001 re-designated town commissioners and urban district councils as town councils from 1 January 2002.

Relates Collections

Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- Galway County Council, Minutes (GC/1/)
- County Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance, 1922-1941, (GC5/)
- Loughrea Waterworks Committee, 1903-1925, GS01/11

Further Reference

Barrington, T J	<i>The Irish Administrative System</i> , Dublin, 1980
Feingold, W.L.	<i>Transformation of Local Government in Ireland 1782-1886</i> , Boston, 1984
Ferriter, Diarmaid	<i>'Lovers of Liberty'? Local Government in 20th century Ireland</i> Dublin 2001
Hardiman, James	<i>The History of the Town and County of the Town of Galway from the Earliest Period to the Present Time 1820</i> , Reprinted by the Connacht Tribune Printing and Publishing Company Ltd., Galway, 1958



Hurley, Victor J.

The Growth and development of Connaught towns with particular reference to Ballinasloe, Mountbellew, Loughrea and Athenry
M.A. , Thesis, UGG, (1975)

Loughrea History Society

The District of Loughrea Vol. History 1791-1918
Loughrea History Project, 2003
(includes article *The 1872 By-Election*, M Liffey; *Local Government in Loughrea, 1898-1900*, P Manzor etc)

Loughrea History Society

The District of Loughrea Vol. Folklore 1860-1960
Loughrea History Project, 2003

Meghen, P J

'The Development of Irish Local Government', in *Administration* Vol.8., No.4, Winter 1960

Moran, Gerard, & Gillespie Raymond, Editors

Galway History and Society, Geography Publications, Dublin 1996

O'Cumin, Padraig

The Baronial lines of the Midland Great Western Railway. The Loughrea and Attymon Light Railway...
Dublin, Transport Research Assoc. (1972), 88p., ill.

Roche, Desmond

Local Government in Ireland
Institute of Public Administration, Dublin 1982



Appendices

Appendices



Proceedings of the Government
of the County of Galway. Information
of a General Meeting held Pursuant to
an Order at Ballinasloe, On Wednesday
Present
Viscount Duncannon
P. J. O'Brien



Appendix 1

1. LIST OF SOME OF THE CHAIRMEN

Chairman

Kennedy, Patrick	1888 - 1918 (resigned as Commissioner) +1919
Smyth, Thomas	1919
Hanafin, John J.	1920
Cahill, Patrick	1923 – '35
O'Regan, Martin	1935 – '45
Devine, Francis	1945 - 1949 ⁷
Carty, Michael	1950 ⁸ - 1955 (also Member of Galway County Council, elected TD in 1957) +1975
Shields, Vincent P.	1956 (Solicitor)
Dervan, Anthony	1957 – 1960 (National Teacher)
Carty, Michael	1961 – 1964
Conlan, William	1965 – 1966
Kelly, Sean	1967 – 1968
McDonnell, James	1969
Devine, John	1970 – 1971
McDonnell, James	1971 – 1975
Kelly, Sean	1976 – 1977
Loughnane, Matthew	1977 - 1978
O'Brien, Francis	1978 – 1979
Kelly, Sean	1979 - 1980
Morgan, Norman	1980
Kelly, Sean	1981 – 1984

⁷ The minutes record that Mr Devine was re-elected Chairman at the Board's meeting in June 1948. However, the signed Declarations of office show that James Barrett, who was elected as Vice Chairman, signed the Declaration for Chairman, and Devine signed the Declaration for Vice Chairman (LTC/1/13, pp145-147)

⁸ At the first meeting of the newly elected Town Commissioners the election of Mr Carty as Chairman was objected to on the basis that he was a press reporter, but there being no seconder to this motion Carty was elected Chairman (LTC/1/14, p130).



Proceedings of the Government
of the County of Galway. Information
of a General Meeting held Pursuant to
an Order at Ballinasloe, On Wednesday
Present
Viscount Duncannon
P. J. O'Brien



Appendix 2

2. LIST OF SOME OF THE STAFF

Town Sergeant/ Steward

O'Neill, F	19?? - 1913 (resigned)
Finnegan, P.J.	1913 - 1931 (his son P.J. occasionally acted as Town Sergeant during absence due to illness or leave)
Finnegan, P.J., Jr.	1931 - ? (as at 1931 the annual salary was £95.12.0) ⁹

Town Surveyor

Gilchrist, J	1917
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Town Engineer

Dalton, E.P.	1952 -
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Clerk

O'Loughlin, M	? – 1914+
McNamara, Michael A	1914 – 1918 (resigned)
Ryan, Thomas	1918 - 1922 (resigned)
Keller, W.F.	1923 – 1924
Greene, M.	1924 – 1925 Acting Clerk, resigned
Cahill, Ms Nora	1925 – 1930?
Kiely, Mrs. H.M.	1931 – 1966 ^{10 & 11} , +1977
Marmion, Cyril A [Alex]	1966 –

⁹ Finnegan was suspended in August 1935, and reinstated in November with order from the Minister that he be paid full pay for suspended period (LTC/1/10, p366). The Commissioners objected to this & sought legal advise from Mr A Coymn who concurred with the ministerial order (LTC/1/10, p371)

¹⁰ Loughrea Town Commissioners minute 'That in view of the fact that Mrs H.M. Kiely, proposes to retire shortly from the post of Town Clerk, Loughrea which she has filled with Tact, Courtesy and Efficiency for the past 30 (Thirty) years, this Board respectfully calls on the Minister for Local Government to sanction either an ex-gratia payment or an appropriate pension' (LTC/1/16, p25).

¹¹ In 1966 Galway County Council and the Loughrea Town Commissioners agreed to pay Mrs H. M. Kiely, Town Clerk a gratuity, as she proposed to retire due to ill health. (LTC/1/18, p126 & p133)



Appendix 3

Appendix 3

The image shows a handwritten title page in cursive script. The text reads:
Proceedings of the Governor
County of Galway Infirmary
At a general Meeting held Pursuant to
-ment at Ballinashop, On Wednesday
Present
Viscount Dunclo
etc.

Galway County Council - Archives

'...to acquire, preserve and make accessible the documentary memory of county Galway'

U:\Archives - Collection Management\Descriptive Lists\LTC, Loughrea Town Commissioners\Loughrea Town Comm, Minutes , LTC1-.doc

xix



3. ABBREVIATIONS

B.O.H.	Board of Health
Co.Co.	County Council / County Councillor
C.D.B.	Congested Districts Board
Comm.	Commissioner
D.C.	District Councillor
G.J.	Grand Jury
J.P.	Justice of Peace
L.G.	Local Government
L.G.B.	Local Government Board
L.G.D.	Local Government Department
L.T.C	Loughrea Town Commissions
M.O.	Medical Officer
M.P.	Member of Parliament
N.O.M.	Notice of Motion
R.I.C.	Royal Irish Constabulary



Proceedings of the Government
of the County of Galway Informing
the General Meeting held Pursuant to
a Council Meeting at Ballinasloe, On Wednesday
Present
Viscount Duncannon
Robert Gaudron



LTC/1/

Loughrea Town Commissioners, Minutes of

1909 – 2006

Archives Collection

A Descriptive List Prepared by Galway County Council Archives



Proceedings of the Government
of the County of Galway Informing
the General Meeting held Pursuant to
a Council Meeting at Ballinasloe, On Wednesday
Present
Viscount Duncannon
Robert Gaudron



A. Minutes of Loughrea Town Commissioners, 1909 - 2006

Volumes of handwritten and typed minutes of the proceedings of Commissioners' fortnightly up to 1931 and therefore monthly meetings. The minutes record attendance, details of correspondence, generally from the Local Government Board or Department and Galway County Council, and proceedings of the meetings dealing with issues such as the lighting of the town, waterworks, the maintenance of roads, provision and maintenance of fire fighting equipment and appliances, such a hose, dangerous structures, the provision and maintenance of houses, employment schemes and works, and the collection of the town rates and rents, and from the late 1940s details of the demand for annual expenses made to the County Council. After the introduction of the County Managers in 1942, the Galway County Council County Manager or Assistant Manager generally attended the meetings.

Includes signed Declarations of persons elected to Commission until *circa* 1959.

The minutes are generally signed or initialled by the Chairman. Average size circa 180pp.

(1-6)

7. 3 May 1909 - Includes:
- 8 November 1920 - 'That a rate of six pence in the pound on house property and one fourth that summon land within the township be struck' (6 December 1909).
- Includes signed declarations of office by the Commissioners (6 December 1909).
 - 'Messrs Ward, Sweeney and O'Flaherty were appointed a Committee to prepare a memorial or petition to Local Government Board setting forth the present condition of the waterworks machinery and pointing out the necessity of making provision for the upkeep of the water supply to the town by having the recommendations of Mr Bergin C.E., adopted by the District Council carried out' (18 April 1910).
 - 'That we the Loughrea Town Commissioners in meeting assembled take this opportunity of expressing our disappointment and disapproval of the action of the majority of the members of the Galway County Council when the appointment of Returning Offices was made. Their action, in not recognising the claims of Mr P.J. Finnegan, a Veteran Nationalist, is worthy only of the men who voted for a man unknown to Galway Nationalists. And we call on the Electors to remember their action when they again seek their votes for the purposes of furthering their own ends' (12 December 1910).
 - 'The question of procuring a Quarry having engaged the attention of the Board after considerable discussion the Town Sergeant was instructed to report on the most suitable sites and to take the necessary steps to procure same' (15 May 1911).



- .That we condemn in the strongest possible terms the recent poisoning of the Co. Galway Hounds and assume the Master and members of the Hunt that the people of this neighbourhood have no sympathy for such dastardly act' (20 November 1911).
- Letter from the Local Government Board regarding to public lighting advising that, 'It would be necessary that a scheme for lighting the town by means of electricity and borrowing therefore should be undertaken by the Sanitary Authority, the Loughrea Rural District Council, and that a licence or Provisional Order should be obtained from the Board of Trade to which body the Commissioners should refer as to the cost of procuring such authorisations.
The Commissioners of Public Works do not at present make loans to Sanitary Authorities for electric lighting schemes' (19 February 1918, pp2-3).
- 'Read Circular letter from the Committee organising Home Rule Demonstration at Galway on 15th August and requesting that two members of the board might be nominated to act on the Committee' (5th August 1912).
- 'Mr Ward explained to the meeting the result of the interview with the Sisters of Mercy in reference to the site of the burned houses in the Main Street. The Sisters of Mercy while not prepared themselves to build would let or sell the site for building purposes' (1 December 1913).
- 'Dr Geraghty introduced a deputation of the local Electric Lighting Co. with a request that the Board should contribute a sum of £100 per year towards the public lighting of the town under the new system of lighting by Electricity. This was agree to, the bond to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk on behalf of the Board' (20 April 1914).
- Resolution from the Athlone Urban District Council was read and adopted, 'being of the opinion that it is only through the Irish Party that the Town Tenants of Ireland have achieved, or can hope to achieve any benefits, call upon the Irish party to take over the complete control and organisation of the Town Tenants Movement' (7 February 1916)
- 'That we the Loughrea Town Commissioners, as representatives of the people of Loughrea, object to the description of this district, given by County Inspector Clayton in his evidence before the commission of Inquiry into the recent insurrection, when he stated "Loughrea was one of the 'Black Spots' under his charge". During the recent trouble Loughrea was not disturbed, and this was testified to by the colonel in charge of the military of (sic) in this district at that time. We admit that frequently in the past when the people's fight against the cruel and oppressive Landlordism had to be waged or when the national principles were at stake, the people of Loughrea were foremost in the fight, and in the eyes of the law our district might then be regarded as disturbed, but we resent the appellation now applied by the County Inspector and we call for its withdrawal. (5 June 1916).
- 'A letter was read from the LGB transmitting copy of a report of their auditor (Dr Boughey) on his extraordinary audit of the accounts of the commissioners and of the Town Clerk up to 22nd inst. The Board requested that the Town Commissioners should at Special Meeting summoned forthwith for the purpose remove Town Clerk from office and take steps for the appointment of a suitable person in his stead of whose qualifications and ability to fill the position they should be fully satisfied. Mr McNamara tendered his resignation which was accepted...' (4 November 1918).



- 'That a vote we tender to the Lady Mayoress our sincere sympathy on the death of the Lord Mayor of Cork who as cruelly murdered' (29 March 1920)
- 'That Lord Lascelles be requested to transfer the Tolls & Customers to this Board' (6 April 1920).
- '...the Commissioners have been asked to surrender their office by Mrs Canavan and as they will then be without a place of meeting that Lord Lascelles be requested to put the Town Hall in repair with a view to giving us accommodation there' (19 April 1920).
- 'A letter was read from Dáil Éireann asking the Board of there were any R.I.C. men in Loughrea who had left the force through love of county and if so would they find them work. Approved and it was decided to co-operate with Dáil Éireann in the matter' (6 September 1920).
- Letter from the County Surveyor's Office with recommendations on the number of labourers required to keep the streets in proper repair; '...I beg to suggest that under existing circumstances the Commissioners would be doing extremely well by employing constantly two labourers and one carter, and a gander, for permanent work on the streets. This small gang of course must be increased by temporary labourers on special occasion, such as attending crushers and cleaning after Fairs & Markets etc...' (4 October 1920).
- 'That we tender to the bereaved relatives of the Lord Mayor of Cork, Aldermen Terence McSweeney, T.D. our deep sympathy upon his death while Ireland mourns the loss of one of her truest sons and greatest Martyr, she is proud of the sacrifice made by Alderman McSweeney in his county's cause, a sacrifice which will cause his name to live and be venerated in this County's history. He (the Chairman) said the subject of that resolution needed no word from him to comment. The sacrifice made by the Lord Mayor of Cork was one of the greatest in human history and in common with the vast majority of his fellow county men hoped and prayed that it would not be made in vain...' (28 October 1920).

(8.)



9. 22 October 1922 Includes incomplete index. Also includes
- 2 March 1931
- 'The Clerk was directed to write to A. E. Moran asking him if Lord Lascelles (Henry George Charles, 6th Earl of Harewood) would give the site in Castle Street or the old Police Barrack for the erection of new Artisans dwellings' (30 October 1922).
 - 'Read letter from Cork Rural District Council condemning the action of the Government in reducing the old Age Pensions and after some discussion it was decided that same be marked "Read" and that in future resolution of a contentious nature affecting matters outside the Township be not entertained' (p72).
 - 'That this Board respectfully invites the attention of the County Council to the circumstances attending the roads in the Loughrea District with a view to inducing the Council to include Loughrea and District in the distribution of the residue of the Road Grant. We desire to point out that the Trunk Road through Loughrea for some years past had to bear an enormous amount of traffic and in order not to hamper the County Council in view of the terrible difficulties which confronted them we carried out the contracts of our roads at a huge loss on the basis of the low rate of wages which obtained in the pre war days. We would be justified in tendering and in requesting the County Council to treble our contract prices for the reason mentioned but we purposely abstained from doing so which we hope the Council will appreciate. The roads today are greatly run down, they are in a starved state and unless the Co. Council sees fit to assist us now we have no doubt it will cost vastly greater sums in the coming year for reconstruction and repairs' (p76).
 - 'That this Board condemns the secret trials and imprisonment of our fellow countrymen and demand their immediate release especially that of our elected representative' (6 June 1924, p84).
 - '...The Maximum speed for motor cars was fixed at 12 miles an hour' (p147).
 - 'Submitted Minutes of the first General Meeting of the Co. Galway, Carnegie Libraries' (7 June 1926, p170).
 - 'Read letter from Mr J.P. Cunniffe, Manager & Secretary of the Loughrea Electric Lighting Co. acknowledging paying Order for £100 for street lighting' (p174).
 - 'It was decided that the Town Sergeant employ all stone breakers in future, and distributed the work as best he thinks' (p176).
 - 'Order: Mr Flynn proposed & Mr Duane seconded that the Bridewell be taken over by the Commissioners, Unanimous' (p181).
 - 'It was decided that a typewriter be purchased for the use of the Board' (p185).
 - 'Clerk order to write to Minister L.G. Department for permission for the Board to purchase a field containing 2 acres of land and a quarry at £100 for the maintenance of the Roads' (p213).
 - 'An Order was made that Clerk notify the Guards of the obstruction caused at the entrance to the Protestant Church by travelling tinkers and others who put up there from time to time. The attention of the Town Sergeant was also drawn to the matter' (p217).



- 'Read letter from the Minister for L.G. & Public Health to the Secretary, County Council stating that he (the Minister) was willing to hand over the Bridewell to the Loughrea Town Commissioners...' (p231).
- '...decided to have a speed limit of not more than 10 miles her hour when driving through the town...' (p236).
- '...it was decided that a deputation be sent to Mr Moran, Agent for Viscount Lascells, with a view to getting his assistance in the re-building of the Town Hall' (p243).
- 'Clerk directed to notify Town Sergeant to have Kelly's Street and Abbey Street cleaned and spread gravel on roads about every 30 yards' (p285).
- 'The Town Sergeant was directed to remove all carts etc from the Temperance Hall to the Bridewell and submit list of all articles in the possession of the Town Commissioners at next meeting September 3rd 1928 (p292).
- 'Read letter from Mr J.J. Hanafin, stating that the Loughrea Water-works & sewerage Committee are prepared to give the Board all surplus stones excavated from the sewer trenches in the town, provided that the Commissioners restore the street surfaces and steam roll over the trenches where necessary' (p296).
- 'That this Board are unable to cope with the Housing requirements of the area and beg to request further information on the subject from the Ministry Local Government & Public Health' (p406).
- '...it was unanimously decided that the Board take over the Trust and management of the Carna and Tulla Hill plots' (p425). (see also p453 & p454)
- 'Read letter from the Electric Supply Board asking permission for the erection of a Transformer Station on the site near to the railway station with access there to at all times. Order: Granted' (p426).
- 'Read letter from the Secretary Galway County Council stating that Dr O'Beirne took up duty on April 1st as County Medical Officer of Health' (p430).

10. 16 March 1931- 12 October 1936 Includes incomplete index. Includes at the back of the volume financial details relating to the Convent Site Housing Scheme, the Athenry Road Housing Scheme, and the contract for erecting 12 houses in Dauplin Street, and in Cabbage Lane
Also includes
 - 'The Board decided to procuring old sites for the purpose of erecting new houses'
 - All members present were appointed as sites Committee and on order made that a plan and specification be got from Mr Gilchrist for a £4000 house' (p31).
 - 'Town Steward was directed to "have 1 w.c. erected in the Bridewell at the eastern wall and to have a connection made to the main sewerage"' (p31).



- 'Read letter from Mr Hanafin, (Secretary Co. Homes' Committee) stating that the Commissioner (acting for the Board of Health) has directed that inmates of the Co. Home do some work for the Town commissioners' (p38).
- 'Clerk was directed to write to Clanricarde's Agent, Dublin re the building of Lakeside wall; (p58).
- 'That a "No. 2 Housing Scheme" be formulated and Mr A.W. Coymn, Solicitor , be directed to serve notices on the Earl of Harewood and Michael McNamara, with a view to acquiring compulsorily 33½ perches of land in Athenry Road for building purposes' (p114).
- 'Read letter from the ESB confirming the terms and conditions of street lighting Agreement for period ending 31/1/34 via 47 lamps at £100' (p120).
- 'After length discussion "Re mixed bathing in the Lake" it was unanimously agreed that bathers be completed to adhere to their respective places as hereto practiced in the town, via:- The male portion at Long point and the Ladies at Courheen side of the lake' (p219).
- 'Read letter from the Minister for Local Government & Public Health sanctioning the Tender of Messrs Thomas Higgins & Co., Galway of £1,582 for the erection of four houses on the Convent site (p236).
- 'The Board decided to name the newly erected houses in Cabbage Lane, "Abbey Terrace" (p236).
- 'The board decided to advertise for tenants for the four new houses at the Convent site, to be considered at next monthly meeting' (p301).
- 'The Contractor (Messrs T. O'Higgins & Co) be held liable for the rent of the "Convent site" houses from the date of expiration of the contract till the houses are completed, the Contractor also to be held liable for Clerk of Works Fee for same period' (p308).
- Letter from the Local Government Board advising that the Minister 'would not be prepared to consider a further Housing Scheme of the type erected on the Convent site until they have made adequate provision for the re-housing of persons living in unfit houses' (pp389-309).
- 'Read letter from the Local Government Department requesting to, be furnished with particulars of the Board's demand for a sworn Inquiry into allegations made by their local representative on the County Council, regarding the disbursement of monies received on respect of Road contracts' (p391).
- 'Read letter from the Secretary County Council dated 15th May 1936, informing the Board that arrangements were being made to have the refuse removed weekly from houses in the Town that had no rear entrances' (p416).



11. 2nd November 1936 – Includes incomplete index.

7 April 1941 Also includes

- 'Read letter from Mr T Ryan, Toll Keeper, stating that he was agreeable to have a new fair established in July for the sale of pigs, cattle and sheep and that he would have the Fair advertised in due course' (p11).
- The Acting County Medical Officer of Health pointed out that Dr Quinlan reported that 'the Bridewell premises are unfit for human habitation and that action be taken by the Board to have this "slum closed". The report also stated that "certain houses in the Brewery yard should be immediately closed" (p26).
- 'That we, the Loughrea Town Commissioners, respectfully beg His Holiness Pope Pius XI, to satisfy the most urgent desire of the Irish people by adding to the list of canonised saints the name of Blessed Liver Plunkett, who suffered martyrdom for the faith, we also beg to express our pleasure at His Holiness, the Pope's remarkable recovery from His serious illness' (p32).
- '...that unless the Committee of the Loughrea Town Hall are prepared to conclude their programmes with the playing of the 'National anthem' Mr M O'Regan, Co.Co. be requested to oppose the application for the renewal of annual Licence' (p66).
- Report from the Rent and Rate Collector advising that 'six tenants in Abbey Terrance still refuse to pay increase of rent.

Town Rates – not satisfactory – refusal by some to pay arrears, but are willing to pay 1937-1938. As the Finance year is coming to a close and I do not expect to have all Rates collected within the month what is to be done? Considering that I did not receive books until 15th November 1937, also the ratepayers refused to pay me until 1938' (p117).

- 'The Chairman (Mr M O'Regan) proposing a vote of congratulations to Dr Douglas Hyde on his selection as president of Ireland, stated that he hoped the appointment would lead to the goal they all had in view, the Unity of Ireland' (p141).
- Letter from the Superintendent of an Garda Siocanna to the Council regarding the obstructions caused to vehicular passage on the streets of the town on fair days, 'when there is a very suitable Fair Green for this purpose' (p148).
- 'Mr Michael Sweeney, Main Street and the Irish American Oil Co. submitted applications for petrol Licence for year ending 31st December 1939, which were granted' (p214).
- 'The Board further discussed the question of assignment and memorial regarding the Eel Fishery, when it was decided on Mr Ward's proposition, seconded by Mr Corry to request the County Council to adjourn the matter for another month, in the meantime the Board to communicate with the Department of Fisheries, with a view to obtaining expert advice from the Board of Conservators, as to the best mans of preserving Fish in the Loughrea Lake' (p217).
- 'Read letter from Mr Munroe, Agent for Earl of Harwood, addressed to Collector McNamee, stating that he does not think he should be asked to pay rates seeing that Mr Shields, Sol., is negotiating for the sale of the holdings in Loughrea' (p226).
- Letter from the Count Medical Officer of Health, Dr O'Beirne, stating 'that it would be a great addition to the town to have the Town Park converted into a proper Show Grounds and Sport's



Field. The letter also stated that the Board of Health have approved a proper sewerage scheme for Cosmona' (p256).

- 'Submitted lengthy correspondence from the Dept of Defence, Galway County Council, and the Electricity Supply Board referring to Air Raid precautions and the "Emergency Powers (Control of Lights) Under 1939" and to street lighting control necessitated by the Minister's Order dated 16th October 1939' (p262).
- 'That we, the Loughrea Town Commissioners, on our own behalf, and on behalf of the people of Loughrea, hereby call on the British Home Secretary to annul the death sentences passed upon James MacCormack and Peter Barnes'.

The execution of these two Irishmen in an English jail "would not alone be unjust but would embitter indefinitely the amicable feelings between our two nations" (p280).

12. 15 April 1941 - Includes

1 May 1945

- Minutes of special meetings to discuss turf production.
- 'Clerk reported that the Local Government Act 1941 came into force on the 1st November 1941 and that Section 37 referred to members who fail to pay their rates within the financial year will be disqualified as members' (p33).
- 'The Board congratulate the Loughrea Hurling club in winning the Galway Senior Hurling Final for the first time' (p35).
- 'Regarding the general improvement of the Fair Green and repairs needed to the Market Place.....

There was a lengthy discussion as to who owned the Fair Green? And who should be Toll Keeper for the town?

Mr Coughlan informed the Board that some years ago Mr Ryan wanted £2,000 as compensation for his Tenant Right for the Tolls and Customs

Clerk read Minutes of August 1933, which recorded that the Earl of Harewood's Agent (Mr Munroe), informed the Board that the rent for Tolls & Customs was £200 per annum.

After discussion it was decided to appoint a joint deputation from the Town Commissioners and Traders' Association to wait on Mr Ryan with a view to discussing the proposed shelter belt and repairs to market place...' (p37).

- 'Chairman reported that part of the new Fire Engine had arrived in Loughrea, together with 1,000 ft [upwards] of Fire Hose, which is stored in the Court House. This Fire fighting equipment to serve all East Galway...' (p66).
- 'Circular letter No. 97/42 dated 20th August 1942 explaining the Executive functions of the County Managers' and the Reserved functions of the Elective Bodies was read by the Clerk and noted' (p85).
- 'That we,strongly protest against the action of the Galway Corporation in giving the dates of the May Fairs to clash with Loughrea Fairs, which are always held on the 25th and 26th May. Heretofore the Galway Fairs were always held on the 31st May. We, therefore, call on the County Manager to regulate such dates for Galway as will not clash with the May fairs held in Loughrea' (p100).



- 'County Manager's proposal "to arrange for the building of a Fire Station with residence for the Captain of the Fire Brigade and the proposal to include provision for offices for the Town Commissioners to be rented from the Co. Co. at approx £36 or £50 per annum" was considered when Mr Carty proposed, seconded by Mr Duane "That the Board do not agree with Co. Manager's proposal re office accommodation as they consider they have sufficient accommodation already" (p117).
- 'Congratulations. It was proposed by Mr Coughlan and seconded by Mr O'Regan that Éamon DeValera and his Government be heartily congratulated on their glorious success in the recent General Elections. The Board wished them many years to continue the administration of the Country in its onward march to Nationhood' (p127).
- 'It was unanimously decided that the Town Hall Ltd., be requested to have the "National Anthem" played after all performances and if necessary have the doors of the Hall closed until the Anthem is finished' (p135).
- 'Read letter dated 16/2/45 from the Secretary Gaelic League requesting that certain of the street-names be changed and renamed and that appropriate name-plates for each street on which the name (of each street) should be printed in Irish and English, be provided. The letter also requested that all road sign-posts in and around Loughrea be printed both in Irish and in English' (p135).

13. 25 June 1945 – 13 Includes
January 1949

- 'On the proposition of Mr Carty seconded by Mr Conlon the Clerk was directed to write a letter of protest to C.I.E. against the closing of the Loughrea Railway Line and to request that it be again open to traffic at the very earliest opportunity' (p84).
- Rev Fr Mitchell Árus Uí h-Lidhir addressed a meeting stating he 'was anxious to have some improvements carried out in the town especially in the walks, which was second to none in Ireland....
The raising of "Stoney Brendan" at the West Bridge was also under discussion.
Very Rev. Fr Mitchell explained to the meeting that he was prepared to defray all expenses in connection with said Improvements' (pp101-102).
- Notice of Motion 'That as the Children's play ground situate at Cuscarric is not being used the Town Commissioners offer it as a site for Housing Scheme to the County Manager' (p102).
- GarryBreedia Wood....After some discussion the Boardunanimously agreed to allow Mr Hope (Blake house proprietor) to complete his contract for the felling of thirty trees. Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Forestry Department and state that the Town Commissioners strongly protest against the felling of the remaining fifty three in the GarryBreedia Wood, and request that permit will be withdrawn and trees not interfered with' (p120; see also LTC/1/14, p99 & p103, p160, & pp164-165, p179, p225, p242).



- Mr Carty informed the meeting that Loughrea would be entitled to one of the three new vocational schools to be erected in East Galway and proposed that the 'playground field' owned by the Board be offered free as a site for said school subject to Minister's sanction' (p123).
- '....the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr McConn) had now approved and recommended that a 'swimming pool' and 'dressing shelters' be provided for Loughrea town....' (p130, see also LTC/1/14, p45, p48, p197, p200).
- 'The Board on Mr Carty's proposition unanimously agreed (with the Co. Manager's approval) to offer the Bridewell premises to the Vocational Committee as a suitable site for Vocation School' (p164).
- Disposal of Bridewell to Co. Galway Vocational Education Committee
Read letter dated 23.11.48 stating the County Council can re-lease the Commissioners to Knock down the Bridewell. It is the Commissioners who must assign their interest to the Vocational Education Committee and the Committee can then obtain the permission of the County Council to knock down the building' (p184, see also LTC/1/14, p228, p231).

14. 22 January 1949 – Includes

13 December 1951

- "Chairman explained to the members present the reason for calling meeting namely – To consider what preparations would be made re celebrations of the coming into operation of the Republic of Ireland Act, which he considered would be a Historic occasion' (p16).
- 'On the proposition of Mr M O'Regan seconded by Mr F Devine, Chairman the Board unanimously passed the following Resolution: "That, we the Loughrea Town Commissioners hereby approve the action of all parties in the Dáil in co-operating with the Taoiseach's resolution in protesting against the British Government's proposal to continue the partition of our county' (p23).
- Disposal of Playground Field.
Clerk stated that Co. Manager suggested that it be levelled and cleaned and that it be developed as a sports field. Co. Manager also recommended that subject to sanction, that it be sold and the proceeds applied to the development of some amenity in the town'... (pp57-58; see also p60, p64, p71, p80, p96).
- Antiquarians Visit
Messrs J.B. Donoghue, M O'Regan and W Conlon were deputed to meet the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society in Loughrea on Thursday 29th June 1950 and give them an official welcome to the town' (p101).
- '..The Board unanimously decided to increase the Town Clerk's salary by £20 per annum...' (p170).
- Includes lists of persons to be housed in Liam Mellows site, Barrack Street and Abbey Terrace (p171, see also pp181-182).



- Resolution re Dutch in North:

Mr Conlon proposed, seconded by Mr O'Regan "That this Board strongly protest against the Dutch Government allowing their troops to occupy portion of our Irish Territory against the express wishes of the Irish Nation" (p171).

- 'On the proposition of Mr Shea, seconded by the Chairman, the Board unanimously decided in asking Rev. Fr O'Callahan Adm, to make the necessary arrangements for the Blessing of the new houses' (p183).

- 'Referring to Demolition of the Bridewell premises when it was proposed by Mr Morrissey, seconded by Mr Cronn, "That the Co. Manager be requested to rescind his order in this respect as the Board are of opinion the premises should not be demolished but converted into stores or garages and retained for revenue purposes by letting at suitable rents" (p187, see also p228. p231).

- 'After some discussion re delay in housing the Electric lights installed in the Cosmona Cottages, Clerk was directed to inform the Co. Manager that this Board recommend that the lighting contract be cancelled and local electricians be employed to do the work' (p188, see also p191).

- 'Mr Carty, Co. Co., moved his N.O.M....."That bathrooms be provided in all T.C.'s houses", Seconded by Mr Conlan, and approved by Co. Manager.

- Letter from the Co. Manager, '..arrangements are being made for the re-organisation of the co. Engineering Services. The Engineers who are at present performing the Engineering functions of the Town Commissioners are members of the Co. Engineering staff and are in receipt of a small additional allowance for the services performed for the Town Commissioners. Under the re-organisation scheme the Town Commissioners will cease to pay the Engineers for duties performed by them, and will instead pay a contribution to the Galway County Council towards the remuneration of the Engineers. It is my intention to fix a reasonable contribution having regard to the extent of the duties involved. By reason of the fact that the Council's Engineers will be performing the Engineering functions of the Town Commissioners, they will be allotted a smaller odd area than that for which they are at present responsible so as to enable them to give more time to the duties they perform for the Town Commissioners.....'(pp202-203).

- '...Address of Welcome be presented by the Town Commissioners, Mr Séan MacBride, Ex-Minister for External Affairs, on the occasion of his visit to the town on Sat. 19th inst...' (p206, see also pp209-210).

- '..referring to the leasing of Bridewell yard to the County Councilunder no circumstances will he (Co. Manager) offer to the County Council or accept the proposals of the Town Commissioners. The letter continued "If the Town Commissioners are not prepared to agree to lease the Bridewell yard for the unexpired period of the term of 99 years from 1st January 1927 at a nominal rent of 1/= per year, the Co. Manager proposed to retain the existing pound and to leave it to the co. Vocational Education Committee to find an alternative site for the school" ...' (p231, p240).



- 'Supt Dunphy submitted statistics of the volume of traffic passing through the town and explained that from 5th to 11th September traffic ranging from 209 vehicles to 489 passed through the town each day, during that time the Guards had no reason to accost any driver for speeding and it was his opinion that the Board will not improve the situation by imposing a speed limit' (p234).

15. 9 January 1952 – 12 Includes

January 1955

- 'Delay in having Water and Sewerage schemes proceeded with-
"The extension of the sewerage scheme or the Athenry Road will be commenced it is hoped next week. The extension of the service to the cottages in Cosmona cannot be undertaken until the authority of the County Council is received and further information asked from L.G. Dept. supplied. This scheme is going to be an exceedingly costly one and will be the subject of a discussion by County Council when water extensions are generally being discussed" (17).
- 'After discussion on the matter it was decided with Co. Manager's approval to advertise the Bridewell premises on a long term lease of 999 years. Tenders to state for what purpose it is to be used for'. (p47, see also p59, pp65-67, pp71-72, p80).
- 'Clerk was instructed to send a strongly worded protest to C.I.E. Co., in view of their failure to make adequate provision for intending pilgrims to Croak Patrick on the night of 26/7/52, and request an assurance that this will not happen again' (p51, see also pp57-58)
- 'Chairman also stated that he suggested to County Council that the Fair Green be concreted, shelter beds be erected and pins be put down, also that a new weight bridge be erected. The Board were in agreement with Mr Devine in having the Fairs moved off the streets and held on the Fair Green' (p61).
- 'Removal of Fairs off Streets:
Mr Devine's N.O.M. that Section 103, Public Health Act, 1878 be adopted, was ruled out of order. County Manager stating it was the powers of the County Council and it will be the County Council's rights, when Tolls and Customs are purchased, to control Fairs and Markets of the town of Loughrea Under Section 1 of Public Health Act 1896 (Ireland) as set out under Section 103 of Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878' (p74).
- 'Bridewell. Details report from Engineer in connection with development of Bridwell was considered. It was decided to ask Mr D'alon to if the County Council would purchase the building for demolition and at what price. The question of erecting a new building be considered when the site is cleared' (p85, see also p89, p95, p100).
- 'Unemployment. The Chairman reported that work on a \$4,000 Relief Scheme had commenced in the area. The unemployed were being offered work on the Scheme and he hoped that it would be fully availed of. ...' (p86).



- 'A further letter from Sinn Féin Headquarters dated 20/2/1953, was adopted (with Mr Devine disassociating himself with the matter) protesting against any Irish participation in the Coronation ceremonies of the Queen of England' (p92).
- 'Clerk was directed, on proposition of Mr Devine, seconded by Mr O'Shea, to request Radio Éireann to play Ceile music at least for half an hour every night, and more traditional songs including Tom Moore's melodies, especially during the An Tosal period' (p96).
- 'Chairman explained to the members that meeting was summoned to express the townspeople's sympathy on the death of Bishop of Clonfert, Most Rev. Dr Dignan, which occurred at this residence, St. Brendan's Coorkheen, Loughrea on the 12th inst. (April 1953)' (p98).
- 'Consideration of converting the Bridewell into a 'Civic Centre' was fully discussed, when it was unanimously decided to rescind the order made 12th November 1952, agreeing to retain the building. It was then proposed by Chairman seconded by Mr Conlan, that the leasing of the Bridewell premises be advertised on the same terms of 999 years lease as heretofore. Tenders must state the purpose for which it was to be used. This was approved by Co. Managers' (p107, see also pp119-120, p121).
- 'Co. Manager stated if the Board were to build a Hall on the Bridewell site it would cost approx. £14,000' (108).
- Bridewell Premises: Submitted particulars regarding proposed renovation and expenditure on Bridewell signed by Secretary of St. Brendan's Hurling Club G.A.A., which were noted and approved. County Manager's Order no. 584 was also submitted and approved accepting the tender of £100 submitted by the G.A.A. Club. (p127, see also p129, p136).
- Includes letter dated 7 November 1953 from the Apostolic Nuncio in Ireland the Town Commissioners for their resolution protesting at the 'persecution of the Catholics in Poland and against the treatment meted out to the Cardinal Primate of the country by the communist regime ...' (p134).

16. 26 January 1955 – 9 Includes
November 1959

- 'Resolution adopted by Galway Borough Council at meeting of Council on 21/1/55 "That since the much discussed policy of Decentralization has been defeated by the attitude of the Dublin Civil Servants our efforts should be directed to persuading organizations to hold their conventions and annual Meetings at Provincial Venues and that to this end representations be made to such National Organizations". This resolution was read and unanimously adopted...' (p3).
- Provision of local Museum Section 57, L.G. Act, 1955, was read which stated – 'Council of a County or Corporation may with the consent of Minister contribute to the funds of a Society, Committee or other body providing a museum etc...' (p20, see also p23, pp28-29 regarding Diocesan museum).



- 'The Members brought to the notice of the Asst. Co. Manager the great want and necessity for the provision of a Public Weighbridge in the town of Loughrea...' (p80, see also p85, p94).
- '..The Board unanimously agreed to change the days of monthly meetings from the second Wednesday to the second Monday in each month to facilitate Mr M Carty, T.D. (p89).
- 'Re Bridewell Premises. Proposals for the conversion of the Bridewell into a Town Hall were placed before the Assistant Co. Manager by the members present. The Asst. Co. Manager informed the meeting that a Demolition Order was being made by the County Council, who with the Town Commissioners were joint owners of it. Mr Devine, Acting Chairman, said he was informed that certain persons were prepared to pay £450 for the Bridewell as it stood....'(p96, see also p99, 101).
- 'Board Failte Eireann Read Letter dated 10/8/57 addressed to M Carty Esq., T.D., regarding proposed Plaque for Seamus O'Kelly the Poet & Playwright, stating that the general policy is to supply Plaques and Historic information notices, only for buildings up to and including the 18th century, the letter added that the matter would be pursued further' (p99, p101, p104).
- 'Official Guide for the Town: The Editorial for the Guide was submitted and perused when it was noted there were errors and omission sin same. After discussion on the omission of the Diocesan Museum, Mount Carmel Convent, the Golf Course and particulars of Architecture & Stained Glass in St. Brendan's Cathedral the Board declined to accept the Editorial as at present, and agreed to refer it to the Editorial as at present, and agreed to refer it to Rev. Fr. P.K. Egan C.C., Ballinasloe for suggested improvements' (p115, see also p119).

17. 14 December 1959 – Includes

8 July 1963

- 'Cosmona Sewerage - 'Letter from Mr M. Carty, T.D., which stated "That the Galway County Council discussed the question of the provision of a proper fair green at Loughrea. It was unanimously decided to convene a conference in Loughrea, and invite interested parties to attend..."' (p16)
- 'Assistant County Manager stated that "29 Tenants of Co. Co. cottages were circularised regarding the increase of four shillings weekly for four years, on their rent to go towards expenses of providing sewerage and water to their cottages and only one tenant replied"' (p17)
- 'Closing of Local Railway Branch Mr Barrett queried if there was any truth in the rumour that the C.I.E. were closing down this line? Mr Carty T.D. that that no decision was made by C.I.E. as he had communicated with Dr. Andrews on the matter and was informed that question of Branch Lines was being examined and no decision had been arrived at...' (p24) (See also p112, p116, p137, p154; See also LTC/1/18, p4)
- 'Closing Down of County Home: There were lengthy discussion regarding tthe rumour that the Co. Home was closing down, Mr Dervan, who stated he was speaking in the capacity of



Chairman of the Local Development Association asked Chairman if he would agree to have a deputation appointed to query this matter.

The Chairman assured the meeting that there was no truth in this rumour as he had letter from the Minister of Health who stated that the Co. Home was not closing down'. (p34)

- Letter from the Minister of Health on the closing down of County Home was read 'The present position regarding reconstruction of St. Brendan's Home is as follows: There is as you will recall from mine of the 17th June a proposal to transfer a number of patients to Merlin Park – a 120 – bed block in Merlin can be made available and it is considered that about 100 residents of St. Brendan's Home would be suitable for transfer to this improved accommodation. The exact number of patients whom it would be possible to transfer is a matter which has yet to be determined and it is hoped shortly to arrange a Conference between the appropriate Officers of the co. Council and my Department to discuss this matter, when this has been determined it will then be clear how much accommodation must be provided at St. Brendan's Home and it will be possible to proceed with detailed planning of the reconstruction of that Institution...' (pp38-39)
- 'On the proposition of Mr Devine the Board's sympathy was extended to the Department of Defence and relatives of the 9 men who were killed in the Congo' (p52).
- 'Deputation from South Galway Old I.R.A. Association consisting of Messers Stephen Jordan, P Ryan, P Howley, M Morrissey and Martin Newell attended meeting, ...requesting to have Athenry Road, Loughrea renamed 'Donnellan Road' in honour of Volunteer Brendan Donnell who died in action 1916....

The Board paid tribute to the memory of the Late Brendan Donnellan, Rev. Fr Griffin and Jack Oliver R.I.P. and were in agreement with Deputation's request when it was unanimously decided on the proposition of Mr J Devine, seconded by Mr W Conlan to have 'Athenry Road' renamed Donnellan Road...' (p66) (See also p101 and LTC/1/18, p192, see also LTC/1/18, p100)

- Letter signed by twenty residents of Cosmona was read at the meeting, station 'We old residents and tenants of the Cosmona Housing Estate wish to protest in the strongest possible terms against the letting of houses in said Estate to persons of the itinerant class.

We and our predecessors have been tenants there for fifty years and upwards and we have always striven to maintain our houses and premises in accordance with the instructions and specification of the County Council. Four of us have on the recommendation of the Co. Council vested our houses and a number of others are making arrangements to do likewise. That vesting scheme has now, however, been dealt with a mortal blow as the value of houses has been depreciated since the Co. Council decided to make what has been described in the public Press recently as a "permanent headquarters for itinerants" at Cosmona....."

There was lengthy discussion on the matter wen the members agreed with the sentiments expressed in the letter.

Assistant County Manager also agreed with letter and undertook to have the whole position examined without delay' (p105)

- 'Removal of Ambulance: Mr Devine Act. Chairman stated that it was rumoured that the two Ambulances formerly based at St. Brendan's Home were in future to operate from Ballinasloe which would leave Loughrea & District without an Ambulance.



This proposed action was strongly condemned by the members present, when it was unanimously decided to request the two local T.D.s to raise the matter in the Dáil with a view to protesting against such action being taken' (p123).

- 'Outing for 60 children from local Oranmore: Congratulations were extend to the 14 private care owners who were responsible for the outing also to Loughrea Cottons for organising the Day's outing to the sea' (p148).
- Letter from CIE to the Town Clerk stating '....Informed you that a further examination into the branch line was being undertaking (sic)....The Board has considered the results disclosed and has decided not to terminate the Rail services on the line at the present time. It is proposed to substitute diesel working for stream on the 4th February next....' (p156, see also p166).

18. 12 August 1963 – Includes

12 July 1971

- Proposed Swimming Facilities : Town Engineer, in his report stated that he visit Hudson Bay, Athlone, as directed and that the amenities at the Long Point, Loughrea Lake, were superior to any other place he had visited. He recommended the continuation of the Prom and that two piers be erected at Long Point...' (p1)
- 'CIE Services in Loughrea Area Read letter....from Minister for Transport & Power addressed to Chairman (Mr M Carty T.D.) acknowledging Chairman's recent representations re alterations to CIE Services the letter stated, that a general reorganisation of road and rail services in the Western areas took place, 17th June last, and the Minister has been informed that it is not correct to say that the alterations made are aimed at the closing of the Attymon / Loughrea railway line.

There was a lengthy discussion on the matter when it was unanimously decided that CIE re requested to have the lorry restored to Loughrea and state that towns-people are not satisfied by CIE diverting business from Loughrea to Ballinasloe' (p4, see also p6, p15).

- 'Discussion took place regarding employment of a girl in the Local Factory when the following resolution was passed on the proposition of Mr W Conlan, Seconded to Mr S Kelly:
"That this Board condemn in the strongest terms the discrimination that took place when an employee there had to leave because the girls decided not to work with (her) on the ground that she was from a lower social class.

As the People's representatives we fell it our duty to condemn all kinds of discrimination and hope that we will never be forced to speak on this subject again" (p26).

- 'Congratulations were extended....to the Co. Galway G.A.A. on winning the All-Ireland F.B. final against Kerry' (p48, see also p91, p137).
- 'The demolishing of Bridewell was recommended by the members to Assistant County Manager with a view to gaining more marks in the tidy towns competition' (p62, see also p108).
- 'Visit of His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, to the town, was discussed by the Board. Mr D Sweeney stated that Very Rev Fr O'Callaghan Adm., said the Cardinal will be given a Liturgical Reception in St. Brendan's Cathedral on the 13th August.... (p86, see also p89).



- 'Congratulations were extended to most Rev Dr Ryan, Bishop of Clonfert on his action in protesting against the "Party Games" incident in the Late Late Show Telefis Éireann programme on the 12 May 1966 (p108)
- Itinerants Votes Mr T R Kelly proposed that Itinerants be granted the same right to vote as other citizens. Mr J Devine seconded. Chairman stated that it was his opinion that it would be impossible until such time as camping sites had been provided for them' (p111)
- '1916 Commemorations: Letter signed by M.A. Nevin Hon. Secretary Loughrea Committee was read, thanking the Members and Town Clerk, for their subscriptions and assistance in the success of the celebrations' (p122).
- 'Loughrea Lake – Mr Morgan produced a written statement in connection with the recent leasing of the Loughrea Lake by the Loughrea Anglers Association from Lord Harewood. The statement was signed N.W.R.L. Mr Barrett stated that his answer to that statement was that the Loughrea Anglers Association now owned the lake and that any person who wished to dispute this could do so in the courts. Mr Barrett's statement was hotly disputed by Messers Devine, Green & Morgan. In reply to Mr Kilboy, Mr Barrett stated that any person may use the lake for pleasure proposes but that if they wished to fish the lake they must first join the Angler's Association' (p214).
- 'The Chairman explained to the meeting that he had called this special meeting for the purpose of deciding what help the people of Loughrea could offer to the people of the Six Counties in their present difficulties...' (p215, see also p219, p220, p222).
- 'Future of Loughrea Cottons: Mr Barrett proposed and Mr Morgan seconded that a meeting should be called between the Loughrea Town Commissioners, Loughrea Chamber of Commerce and the management of Robert Usher Ltd to discuss means of safe guarding the future of Robert Usher Ltd. Loughrea¹². On suggestion of Mr McDonnell it was decided to defer calling a meeting until such times as the Town Clerk could ascertain from the factory management if such a meeting could serve any useful purpose' (8 March 1971, see also 19 March 1971).
- 'Mentally Handicapped Children: Mr Morgan stated that he would not accept the reply received from Galway County Council, stating that every effort is being made to provide institutional care for all mentally handicapped children. Mr Morgan stated that Unit 7 at Merlin Park, is vacant and he proposed that the Co. Council be requested to make this Unit available for the care of the mentally Handicapped children' (10 May 1971).

¹² A recent fire had damaged the factory



19. 20 September 1971 Includes

- 13 March 1978
 - 'Letter from Dept. of Posts & Telegraphs dated 30/08/1971 stating that it is not proposed to issue a stamp commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the death of Michael Collins'. (p1)
 - 'Town Park: Mr Devine stated that he understood that the Land Commission are selling the Town Park to local sporting bodies Mr Devine appealed to these sporting bodies not to pay the Land Commission for this lands, as when the Land Commission first acquired this land, it received it free of charge' (p2).
 - 'Meeting re Redundancy at Local Factory: Mr Kelly referred to a press report of a meeting held in the Temperance Hall in connection with the recent redundancy at Loughrea Cottons. Mr Kelly stated that the report of this meeting had gave the impression that Mr H Melvin C.C. had attended the meeting without an invitation. Mr Kelly stated that he had called this meeting and he had invited Mr Melvin, C.C. to attend. Mr Morgan stated that the meeting he was referring to when he asked if Mr Melvin C.C. was invited to attend, was a special meeting, called by the Chairman, to discuss the McKinsey report on C.I.E.' (p10).
 - 'New Houses: Mr Kearns informed the meeting that the applicants for the 16 new houses at Galway Road, Loughrea are under review and the houses will be allotted as soon as possible...' (p12, see also p17).
 - "The Walks": ...The question of preserving "The Walks" as a public park was discussed and on the proposition of Mr Morgan seconded by Mr Greene it was agreed to request the County Council to have "The Walks" abandoned as a public road, to have the Right-of-Way for vehicular traffic extinguished and to have "The Walks" preserved for pedestrian traffic and amenity purposes' (p60).
 - 'The Town Clerk stated that the Assistant County Manager was waiting on a decision of the Galway courts in connection with itinerants camping on public property, before he proceeds to take legal action against itinerants parked at the Fairgreen, Loughrea' (p70, see also p74).
 - 'Galway County Council informed the meeting of the following decisions on recommendations made by Loughrea Town Commissioners:
 - (1) The Australian Gates at Barrack Street have been removed.
 - (2) It is not recommended to let surface water into the town sewer.
 - (3) Public lighting on Gort Road and additional lights at Collage Hill, is being attended to.
 - (4) Grass in burial grounds at Loughrea will be cut.
 - (5) There is no provision for a public convenience at the Long Point, but that this location will be kept in mind when a new priority list is being prepared.' (p82)
 - 'Mr Brendan Donnellan moved the following motions:
 -
 - (b)"That the Western Health Board provide a decent coffin for all burials that they are responsible for.Mr Donnellan is moving the above motions referred to a funeral he had attended recently of a person who was in employment for over 40 years, this person was buried in a "contract coffin" and a "pauper's grave". This Mr Donnellan stated was an indictment of our Social Welfare system. Mr O'Brien stated that this was a very isolated occurrence and if any relative had



claims the corpse a plot would have been provided and a state grant towards the cost of the funeral, applied for. Mr O'Brien added that the County Council is most generous in looking after these matters. Mr Kearns pointed out that the closing of burial grounds is a complicate matter and he suggested that Mr Donnellan alter his motion to request the Western Health Board to cease using the plot known as the County Home plot. Mr Donnellan agreed to alter the motion. The motions were then seconded by Mr Barrett and passed unanimously.' (p97)

- 'On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm O'Brien the following applications for Sale or Lease of dwellings owned by Loughrea Town Commissioners were approved...' (p104).
- 'Late Late Show, Saturday 12th April 1975: Comm Donnellan referred to the appearance on the Late Late Show on the 12/4/1975 of one Sir Oswald Mosley, Comm. Donnellan stated he considered it a disgrace, that a person who held such beliefs as this person holds, should be given an opportunity of appearing on the public media, especially in view of the policy that exists at present regarding the appearance of certain organisations on the public media....' (p114)
- 'The Walks" A.D. Comyn & Co., Solicitors in reply to the query raised at the last meeting regarding the ownership of "The Walks" stated that there is no simple way of finding out who owns "The Walks" and that unless it is considered of importance to solve the problem, the fee which would be charged to try to determine ownership would be substantial and would not be justified...' (p122, see also p127).
- 'The Chairman in welcoming the delegates to the meeting stated that C.I.E. has decided to close the Loughrea branch line and felt that the people should do all in their power to keep the branch line in Loughrea open...
Mr Donohue stated that he would like to remind the meeting that Loughrea is the last remaining branch line in the British Isles and was in fact for one time closed for four years. With regard to the question of finding the £300 extra revenue per week, Mr Donohue state that he thought that this was a considerable sum in view of the fact that only a percentage of the charge made on goods, etc is credited to the Loughrea Station....' (p125, see also p131, LTC/1/20, p278).
- 'At this special meeting the sympathy of the Board was extended to the family and relatives of our former President, Mr Eamon De Valera. Commissioner Donnellan in proposing the vote of sympathy, paid tribute to the late Mr De Valera for the work he had done for the country and referred to Mr De Valera's early association with Loughrea adding that the late Mr De Valera had addressed one of his first, if not his first public meetings, at Loughrea in 1917....' (p126).



20. 10 April 1978 – Includes
10 June 1985
- ‘As the closure of Tynagh Mine is now imminent, the Industrial Development Authority should be asked to enter into negotiations with Irish Base Metals Ltd., with a view to utilising the land and existing buildings at Tynagh for alternative industrial use...’ (p236, see also p244, p273, p297).
 - ‘Chain-of-Office. Mr D Solan, Manager, Bank of Ireland, Loughrea in his letter of 03/07/1980 stated that while his bank is not prepared to sponsor the Chain-of-Office in full, it will contribute to any public subscription for this purpose. The meeting expressed its disappointment at the Bank’s refusal to sponsor this project. Comm. Morgan stated that he had received an offer of subscriptions from other firms. It was agreed that Comm. Morgan should look for further subscriptions. The Town Clerk was instructed to write to former Chairman or their relatives inviting them to subscribe towards the cost of having name links supplied with the Chain. The meeting agreed in principle with acquiring a Chain-of-Office but felt that it should be not be ordered until the cost of same was collected.’ (p245, see also p247)
 - Letter of address from the Town Commissioners to the Rev. Mother Prioress and Community of St Joseph’s Monastery, Mount Carmel, Loughrea on the occasion of the Tercentenary of the establishment of the Carmelite Nuns in Loughrea...’(p247)
 - ‘Demands made by prisoners at Maze and Armagh Jails: Mr L.C.W. Figg the British Ambassador, set out in his letter dated 14/8/80, the reasons why certain demands are refused to a special category of prisoner in the Maze and Armagh jails....’(p249, see also p267, p271).
 - Address to the Captain and members of the Galway Senior Hurling Team, winners of the All-Ireland Championship 1980 (p252)
 - ‘County Library: The County Librarian, Mr Thomas Sharkey, stated in his letter of the 21/1/1981 that he had written to Mr J.B. Donohoe, Press Reports regarding the purchase of the photograph of the Blessing of the Foundation Stone of Loughrea Cathedral and other photographs in connection with the Seamus O’Kelly Centenary year for display in the Loughrea Library’ (p262).
 - ‘Pollroe buck Housing Estate: Comm. Donnellan asked Mr Howlett if something could be done to improve the deplorable condition of the playground at Pollroe buck Housing Estate’ (p266)
 - ‘Closure of Westfalian Carpet Yarn Spinning Co. Ltd: Comm Hynes stated that we had all heard with regret, the sudden closure of the Westfalian factory during the week. This again highlighted the mistaken policy of the I.D.A. in giving approximately £600,000 to the foreign industrialist, a sum which would have funded 10 or 12 small industries in the area...’(p282. p307)



- 'Tullira Castle: Comm Morgan referred to the fact that Edward Martyn who was born in Masonbrook in 1859 and was mainly responsible for the Irish Literary Revival had his home at Tullira. Comm Morgan proposed that the Taoiseach be asked to have Tullira Castle purchased by the State and preserved as a national monument, this was seconded by Comm. Barrett. Comm Donnellan supported the proposal and added that the members could show their interest by supporting a proposed tour to Tullira which Sister Austin is arranging' (p292, see also p294, p314, p316, p325)
- New Library: The County Librarian, in his letter of the 21/6/1982 to the County Secretary stated that he is reasonably satisfied with the Library Premises in the Temperance Hall, however if a better premises became available he would be interested in providing a new Branch Library in Loughrea if funds are available. The County Librarian requested the Town Commissioners to inform him of any suitable premises. Comm. Morgan stated that he was not satisfied with this reply adding that the Temperance Hall is not suitable. After discussion it was agreed that the Temperance Hall is not suitable. After discussion it was agreed that the present Vocational School is suitable and will be vacated when the new school is open. It was unanimously decided to request the County Vocational Education Committee to donate the existing Vocational School premises to the town. It was also decided on the proposition of Comm. Morgan to request the County Librarian to have the microfilms of old newspapers, manuscripts etc which are presently available in the Library in Hynes Buildingsthereby ensuring that these micro-films are available to the public during existing library opening hours' (p294, see also p297, p299, p314, p316).
- 'Visit of President Reagan: Comm. Morgan referred to the recent visit of the President of the United States, Ronald Regan, to Galway and stated that he was disappointed that the County Manager, Mr Keating had read the Address of Welcome. Comm Morgan added that he felt the Chairman of the county Council, as the elected representative, should have read the Address on behalf of the people of the county.
Mr Kearns in reply stated that the precedent set on the occasion of visit of President Kennedy was adhered to on this occasion and no offence was intended to anybody. Mr Kearns said that he also wished to state that no one had worked as hard as Mr Keating had to make this occasion a success. The Chairman ruled that this was a matter for the County Council' (p337)
- 'Loughrea Bye-Pass: Mr Kavanagh (County Secretary) indicated that this scheme is included for construction in the medium term but that a number of matters remain to be resolved at local level. Mr Howlett stated that the Loughrea Bye-Pass is included in the 10 year Plan, priority is given the bridge over the Corrib and the Oranmore Bye-Pass, it is proposed that the Loughrea Scheme will start in 1987. Comm Loughnane stated that he understood that these schemes were held up by the Department, it now transpires that the initiative rests with Galway County Council. Comm Morgan stated that he is satisfied that the Regional Water Scheme is progressing satisfactorily and he is in no hurry with the proposed bye-pass' (pp349-350).
- 'The Chairman in welcoming Bishop Cassidy stated that tonight's meeting was historic insofar as it was the first time that a Bishop of Clonfert had attended a meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners....' (p354).



21. 1 July 1985 – 10 June 1991
22. 8 July 1991 – 13 November 1995
23. 11 December 1995 - 10 June 2002
24. July 2002 – June 2006