



LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS/ COUNCIL

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LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS / COUNCIL

MINUTES


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Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Council held in the Credit Union offices, Dunkellin Street, Loughrea on the 9th October, 2006.

I Lathair.

Mayor; Cllr Jimmy Curley.

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Sheamie Tully.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers and a minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the late Miko Kelly, Tuam, former Town Commissioner and County Councillor. Cllr. Morgan said that he served a term with the late Miko Kelly. He was very involved with the Football Board and did a lot for the GAA and in fact he was Treasurer of the club for 25 years and he extended his sympathy to his wife and family and also to Tuam Town Council. Cllr. Burke also associated himself with the sentiments of Cllr. Morgan. Cllr. Hynes said that he was sorry to learn of the death of Miko Kelly, who had been ill for some time. He valued his friendship over the years and he was a true and loyal friend. He extended his sympathy to his wife and family. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she served on an SPC committee with the late Miko Kelly. She said he was one of nature's gentlemen. She said he will be sadly missed and she also extended her sympathy to his wife and family. Mr. Cullen, Director of Services, said that he would also like to be associated with the condolences to his wife and family on behalf of all the staff of Galway County Council. Mayor Curley also recorded his sympathy for the late Miko Kelly and extended this to his wife and family.

Confirmation of Minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Burke that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th September, 2006 be adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Cllr. Bane asked Mr. Cullen, Director of Services, what are the future plans for the Town Hall. Mr. Cullen said the current process which the County Council had undertaken was at an end. He said the Area Councillors felt that the process did not achieve what they wanted in terms of provision of community facilities and they could not accept the recommendation put to them.

Cllr. Morgan said that he was approached by a school mate before coming into the meeting who suggested that the people of the town buy shares, set up a limited company between the County Council and the people who are genuinely interested in the development of the Town Hall. He said the biggest problem is that this premises must pay for itself. He said the purchasing of the Town Hall is not the biggest issue but the insurance and maintenance of the building is the crux.

Mr. Cullen said that it is an important building for Loughrea on the second most important street but it is utterly derelict. He said he would like to see it brought back to life with community effort involved. He said that people have lots of views for its use but it is difficult to convert them into

reality. He said he had been involved with two processes to see this come to fruition but all of them to date have been rejected.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she read on a local paper recently that a development company is being set up to look at the Town Hall in Clifden. She suggested that some of the town councillors might meet with that committee to see how they plan to refurbish that building. She said that the Town Council should explore every avenue including Cllr. Morgan's proposal. She asked Mr. Cullen if this property is owned by the County Council or if it is in private ownership. Mr. Cullen said he thinks it is privately owned but is not sure.

Cllr. Burke said that Tuam Town Hall was refurbished recently with the aid of the County Council grants. He said the County Council funded a big proportion of it from their own funds. He asked if the tax designation status will expire at the end of the year. Mr. Cullen said that Tuam was selected some years ago under Urban and Village renewal scheme for funding. It also received Heritage funding, County Council and Town Council funding. He said it was a much smaller project and did not compare with Loughrea in size or scale and was structurally much better than the Town Hall in Loughrea.

Cllr. Maher asked if there was any news on the provision of public toilets for Loughrea. Mr. Raftery, Acting Executive Engineer, said the planning process has gone through for the toilets. He said an archaeologist will have to be on site while the excavation works are being carried out because it is near the Old Bridewell site. The Archaeologist will have to procure a licence which will take about three weeks.

Cllr. Burke asked for an up date on the signs in relation to the Drinking by-laws. The Town Clerk said she had written to the County Council's Law Agent but had not received a reply. Mr. Cullen said he had got a three page report but did not have time to read it before he came to the meeting.

Cllr. Burke said he raised the matter of blocked gullies at a previous meeting and he wanted to know when the work will be done. Mr. Raftery said that Dyno Rod was booked to carry out the work but they need a few weeks notice and Loughrea is in the queue. He said they will clean Main Street and the Housing Estates in our charge. The gullies need to be vacuumed out. Cllr. Burke said they would need to be dug out as well.

Fix date for Annual Budget Meeting.

The Town Clerk said that the statutory dates for holding the Annual Budget Meeting was from the 15th November to the 15th December, 2006. It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Burke that the Budget meeting be held on the 11th December, 2006 which is the date of the monthly meeting.

Adoption of Barcelona Declaration on Disability.

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke seconded by Cllr. Regan that this be adopted.

Correspondence.

Town Clerk said that the correspondence had been circulated. She referred to the letter from the IPA with enclosure from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local

Government outlining an upcoming information seminar for elected members and former town commissions. She said it was open to all members to attend. She outlined the different venues and dates where the seminars will be held. If anyone is interested in going to the seminar to let her know so as she can send a booking form. Cllr. Morgan said that he would recommend that no member attend if it is coming out of Town Council funding. He said they made a resolution that they would reduce the figures at the 2006 Budget meeting in order to keep the rates down to the minimum. Cllr. Gunter-Nix proposed that the three new members elected in the 2004 election be nominated to attend. Mr. Cullen said it was open to everyone and expenses would be paid to the members to travel. He said they could think about it and let the Town Clerk know so that the booking could be made.

Cllr. Curley said he would like to refer to correspondence from Deputy Paddy McHugh regarding the Swimming Pool. He asked for an up date on this matter. Mr. Cullen said that as far as he was aware the department requested information on this matter and this was submitted last week. He said it is being considered by the department at the moment which he regarded as a positive step. Cllr. Hynes said the Swimming Pool Committee and the Town Council want a decision. He said they are well aware that there is a need for it. Cllr. Burke said the same questions seem to be repeated every few weeks and the committee are getting frustrated with the whole project. He thinks this is a delaying tactic so as no decision can be made. Cllr. Morgan said that the decision is being held up until nearer the general election. It was proposed by Mayor Curley seconded by Cllr. Morgan that the town council seek a meeting with the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism before the next town council meeting. Cllr. Regan said that the Government ministers should also be made aware of the situation. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she had briefed the government ministers of the situation.

Letter from Gerry Concannon, 40 Eden Park, Loughrea, regarding taxi ranks for Loughrea.

Newsletter from the AMAI. Cllr. Burke said that he was not available to attend the annual conference of the AMAI and he had requested Cllr. Regan to attend.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Morgan.

"That Galway County Council be requested to state if the V Junction adjacent to the Children's Playground, The Green, Loughrea, complies with Road Safety Regulations, and if the roadside car park there also complies with the said Regulations"

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Tully.

Cllr. Morgan said the V junction adjacent to the Children's playground is very dangerous as motorists are speeding along this stretch of road. He said the County Council will not allow the public to build on National Secondary roads in the interest of safety yet the County Council are in breach of Road Safety Regulations. He said the traffic should be diverted at the T. Junction in by Leahy's Garage and Statoil. He said the County Council removed a road side ditch, which created a vacant space and cars are parking near this junction. Cllr. Regan said this plan to divert traffic at Leahy's garage was rejected before as it was not considered safe. Cllr. Bane asked if the pedestrian crossing at the stile from the playground is in use as she almost witnessed a tragic accident recently. If the pedestrian crossing is not authentic then burn away the marking and remove the stile. Mr. Raftery said it is an official pedestrian crossing. He said he tried to get funding last year from the NRA to upgrade this road. He said it is a very dangerous road. If funding is not made available the County Council will remove the

pedestrian crossing. Cllr. Regan said until such time as a decision is made on the funding the stile should be blocked. He said once you put your foot on the road there is no turning back and there is an accident waiting to happen. Cllr. Burke said he has requested many times that the playground should be fenced off but still nothing has happened. He said unless it is fenced properly the public will keep jumping over the wire. Mr. Cullen said that they have sought quotations to finish off the playground. He said he would be proposing at the Budget meeting that extra funding would be made available from the Capital fund to improve the grass and whatever else needs to be done. He said this was a very successful project.

"That Galway County Council be requested to allocate any surplus top soil they have to be spread on the lake side of The Green, as the layer of top soil there is very thin; it having been formerly reclaimed from the lake"

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Cllr. Morgan said that the portion near the lakeside needs top soil badly. It is very dangerous for playing on as it was landfill material which was used when the reclamation work was done some years ago and not soil. He said the whole of the fairgreen formed part of the lake and is not a natural sod. He said there is topsoil dumped beyond the Long Point at the pumphouse which could be used here. Mr. Raftery said he would investigate this matter and see if he can procure top soil for it.

"That a recommendation be sent to the Superintendent, Loughrea Garda Station, to regularly have speed checks at Bride Street, Loughrea".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan

Cllr. Burke said if he worded it differently and included the whole town he would second it. Cllr. Regan said it would not be the week to be taking the Gardai to task in view of the great work done by Superintendent Walsh with the bank raiders. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that there are regular speed checks above her house on Bride Street. She suggested a note of congratulations be sent to Superintendent Walsh for his bravery in foiling an attempted bank raid on the 6/10/2006. Mr. Cullen suggested wording the motion differently to read "They would like to acknowledge the work and effort of the Gardai and encourage them to increase their vigilance in relation to speeding". This was supported by the town councillors.

AOB.

Cllr. Burke said that the Caheronaun road down from Danesfort Drive to the Bypass is in a terrible condition with huge potholes. He asked if the Developer is responsible for the repair of this road or will it be reinstated from the development contributions. Mr. Raftery said the County Council had funded the public lighting and footpaths at this location. He said that the construction of the Bypass had weakened this road together with the huge development that has taken place at this area. Upgrade works need to be funded by Developers.

Cllr. Tully said that the road at Eden Park has narrowed since the development took place at this location. He said that prior to this development three articulated trucks could pass each other now two cars can not pass each other. He said that signs should be erected at this location saying road narrows until it is upgraded by the Developer.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix asked if the Urban Renewal project is complete at Station Road. She said it does not show what we expected as the finished product. She said the paving is sub standard, no decking, no lighting and no trees as were shown on the plans. It was very exciting and innovative when it was shown on the plans presented to the town council but it is far removed from that now. Mr. Cullen said he expects this project will not look any different and that it is complete. Cllr. Bane asked why it is different from the plans shown to the town council. Mr. Cullen said it must have run over budget and the works had to stop when this happened.

Mayor Curley said that Loughrea Hurling team had reached the County final with Portumna and the match would be played in two weeks time. It is the third time they have contested the county final in four years. He requested the Town Clerk to send good wishes to the team.

Cllr. Morgan said that Sr. Adrian Hehir had died recently and he proposed that a vote of sympathy be sent from the Town Council to the Sisters of Mercy, Loughrea. He said she was principal of the National School and was teaching for 70 years. Cllr. Hynes said he would like to express his personal regret at the passing of Sr. Adrian Hehir, who was related to him. He said he would like to pay tribute to all the service she gave to Loughrea as a mercy nun and a teacher. He is sorry to see her passing from our lives.

Cllr. Maher said that a song has been written about Stoney Brennan and he wondered where the plaque was and if there were any plans to erect it. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said it could be erected where the old pound is now and it could become a feature for the town if the County Council would lease it to the Town Council. Mr. Cullen said he would have to check to see if this area would be available. Cllr. Morgan asked why it was removed from the Westbridge as it could have been incorporated into the new building.

Mayor Curley asked the Town Clerk to send a note of congratulations to Robert Reilly who received the prestigious award for international fishing in Wales. He said that the town council should acknowledge this achievement. Cllr. Morgan said he would prepare a scroll and it could be presented to Mr. Reilly at the next meeting. This was agreed.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed this 13th day of November, 2006.

Mayor:

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Council held in St. Brendan's Home, Lake Road, Loughrea, on the 13th November, 2006.

I Lathair

Mayor : Cllr. Jimmy Curley.

Members : Cllrs. Gabriel Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Sheamie Tully.

Officials : Adrian Raftery, Acting Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely, Town Clerk.

Apologies for Cllr. Bane and Jim Cullen, Director of Services, who were unavoidably absent.

The meeting opened with prayer.

The Mayor said he would take the presentation by Padraig O Baoill if the councillors were in agreement. This was unanimously agreed.

Padraic Ó Baoill - Gaeilge Locha Riach.

Padraic Ó Baoill thanked the Mayor of Loughrea Town for allowing him to address the meeting. He said that Gaeilge Locha Riach was set up a year ago and his brief was to work with public bodies, schools and businesses. He said that Irish is a visible living language in the streets of Loughrea. He said the local Irish language office brought this to the fore at a recent Gnó Means Business event when certificates were presented to local companies who promoted their business through Irish. The panel of judges announced that Loughrea had a greater percentage of bilingual business signs than any other town outside of the Gaeltacht. He said that Foras na Gaeilge had received more applications from Loughrea for participation in its bilingual signage scheme than from any other town in the country. He said that Developers and Auctioneers also use the service when naming new estates. Gaeilge Locha Riach proposes that the next step should be to plan for Bi-Lingual town in the same way Loughrea became Euro town. He said for this to happen he wanted a three prong approach and Loughrea Town Council had a role to play in this plan. He said that they will need the support of the Communities like Glor na Gael, Conrad na Gaeilge, Gael Scoileanna, Local Authority, Chamber of Commerce. He said the Chamber of Commerce would be discussing this matter at their monthly meeting on the 14th November, 2006 as well. If they back it then it can go ahead. He said this is being set up as a Pilot scheme in Loughrea. The requirements are signage, stationery, receipt tills, etc bilingual. He said that Paidi O'Neachtain, Irish Officer for Galway County Council will also come on board if this gets the go ahead.

Cllr. Maher said it would be good for the town and he would fully support it. Mayor Curley also supported it. Cllr. Morgan said he supports it 100% as it would be good for business in the town. Cllr. Hynes said that we are lucky in Loughrea that Padraic Ó Baoill is in our midst. He said he is delighted to see the Irish language being promoted so as it will stay alive. He said most of the new housing estates have Irish names in keeping with the heritage or history of the area. He thanked him for his presentation. Cllr. Regan asked what funding will be set aside to implement this plan. Padraic Ó Baoill said there was an allocation of €40,000. Cllr. Regan said it is not a huge amount considering what is involved. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she thinks it is a good idea and it would improve the business of the town. She said Loughrea is also in close

proximity to the Gaeltacht and most people would be familiar with the language. Padraic Ó Baoill said if this plan is accepted by Foras na Gaeilge his office will facilitate the work. He then left the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan seconded by Cllr. Morgan that the minutes of the 9th October, 2006 be adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Cllr. Regan asked if there is any update on the swimming pool. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that a number of Loughrea people met with Minister O'Donoghue at a recent Ard Fheis. He is familiar with the project and is anxious to progress the swimming pool. At the moment, it is being examined by the Chief State Solicitor's office. When that is done, the file will be sent back to the Minister and he will be in touch with the local representatives. He hasn't forgotten about it.

Cllr. Regan said that Minister O'Donoghue's department seems to be asking the same questions constantly and replies have been returned. It is like hitting a stone wall.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said the problem was the change of site. A feasibility study was done first on the site at St. Brigid's Vocational School which did not go ahead and then on the other site offered by the County Council. It is also a first private sector scheme for the construction of a swimming pool and leisure centre and all of the documentation has to be scrutinised. The combination of the two issues has caused the legal people to be cautious. The Department has also has to ensure that it is a public swimming pool with public access and social inclusion considerations adequately catered for in the project.

Mayor Curley said another month will have gone by with nothing definite about the pool. He said the Swimming Pool Committee are being led up the garden path.

Cllr. Burke said that Cllr. Tully and himself had tried to make contact with Minister Treacy over the week end. Minister Treacy rang me today and left a message to say he had a meeting with Minister Donoghue during the week, and another meeting is scheduled this week with the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism and the legal team. Everything has been agreed between the Swimming Pool Committee, Developer and the County Council. He guaranteed that by Christmas, all will be settled.

Cllr. Hynes said at the end of the day, when all the discussions are over, it will come down to a political decision. The Minister and the Department have all the information at this stage, which has gone on for over 12 years.

Cllr. Regan said it does not matter if it is used policically in the year ahead, so long as Loughrea has the facility.

Cllr. Morgan said he is disappointed that the Minister did not receive a deputation from Loughrea Town Council. He said that Loughrea needs the swimming pool urgently.

Cllr Maher asked for an up date on the legal advice from the Council's Law Agent in relation to erection of signs under Drinking By-laws. The Town Clerk said she had not received a copy of that advice. He asked that it be circulated to the members for the next meeting.

Cllr. Burke asked if the public toilet will be erected before Christmas. Mr. Raftery said that the foundation was dug and they are waiting for the Archaeologist report on its suitability. As soon as this comes to hand work can start on it immediately. The purchase order has been raised for the Contractor. It should be working before Christmas.

Cllr. Tully said that the construction of footpaths at Eden Park will be a help in ensuring the safety of pedestrians living in this estate. He requested that signs be erected saying road narrows near the bypass road.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that public lighting is also needed at Caheronaun on the exit to the bypass. She asked if the County Council will provide it or is it up to the Builder. Mr. Raftery said it is planned for next years programme.

Cllr. Burke said he understood that the construction of footpaths and erection of public lighting is usually a condition of planning for the Developer not the County Council. He said if a Developer wants to build houses in Fairfield or any where else on the outskirts of the town will the County Council provide footpaths and public lighting to that development. He asked if the money was coming out of the planning levies. He said he knows a person building his own residence and he was requested to connect to the public lighting himself. He said the bigger you are the more you get away with. He said the seven area County Councillors should be the watch dogs for Loughrea Electoral area and make sure the money is spent in the area. He said about €5 million was collected in levies in Loughrea this year and it should be spent there. Mr. Raftery said that any planning report that has been submitted from the local office have stipulated that public lighting and footpaths be included but this has been ignored by the planners. He said that the planning levies are for roads, water, sewerage, and amenities. He said that there will be no funding for roads this year out of the planning levies.

Cllr. Regan said Ballinasloe did well out of having the dump in the town. Loughrea's natural resource, water from the lake is being pumped to different areas, but Loughrea is not benefiting from it. Mr. Raftery said that a pump will be installed in Loughrea which will upgrade the system.

Cllr. Burke said that a recommendation should be sent to the Planning Section, Galway County Council that every Developer provide public lighting and footpaths in every estate before they leave it. This was seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Cllr. Regan said that footpaths have been dug up for the last few weeks at various locations around the town. He asked why this work is not done earlier in the year with the bright long days which would give better return for tax payers money. He said it is crazy to be doing footpaths in November as it is hard to get them to dry and there is also the risk of frost. Mr. Raftery said that ducting had to be put down for ESB and Eircom supply so as to avoid having to dig up the paths again. He said that there was also a problem with the contractor to lay kerbs and a new contractor had to be sourced at short notice. He said the concrete was being poured into the Cosmona paths over the last week.

Cllr. Tully said there was a major safety issue at Cosmona while the footpaths were dug up. He said that a wheelchair bound person and pedestrians had to go out on the public road to get to town. Health and safety matters are not being taken into consideration when road works are being undertaken.

Cllr. Burke asked if the Urban Renewal project at Station road is being left in this state. Mr. Raftery said the same contractor did projects in Loughrea and Athenry. They had a meeting with Contractor, Consultants and Architects over three months ago and gave them a snag list but to date this has not been returned. Cllr. Burke said that Part 8 planning process went through for this project and the plans were put on public display so where did it go wrong. Cllr. Morgan said that this firm should be sued for negligence of work. Cllr. Maher requested a copy of the drawings, presented to them by John Yates over a year ago, be made available for the next meeting. Mayor Curley requested that it also be put it on agenda for next meeting.

Correspondence.

Letter from Superintendent Enda Walsh regarding speeding in Loughrea.

Letter from Arts, Sports & Tourism concerning the Swimming Pool.

Letter from Noel Treacy concerning new Nursing Unit and day facility in Loughrea.

Letter from Noel Treacy from Dick Roche regarding Loughrea Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Letter from the Health Service Executive addressed to Mayor Curley requesting the hospital sign outside St. Brendan's Home be changed to "St. Brendan's Community Nursing Unit".

Letter from Chamber of Commerce.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Morgan.

(i) "That a recommendation be sent to Galway County Council to increase the size of the water pipes which bring water from the Corrib River to the Railway Crossing at Craughwell; so that Loughrea lake may be available to give maximum benefit to the area around Loughrea; such as Kilrickle, Bullaun, Kilchreest, Clostoken etc. Also that the Loughrea lake supply be connected to the Corrib supply at Craughwell, so that if a major disaster were to occur at either side, such as contamination of water for human consumption, that Galway County Council would be in a position to divert some water to relieve the affected area".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan. This motion was not seconded so it was not discussed.

(ii) "That a 10 mile per hour limit be applied at Bohercom, from its junction with Moore Street east, to its junction with the south side of the east end of Bride Street, Loughrea".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Mayor Curley.

(iii) "That a recommendation be sent to the appropriate authority that the trees on the south side of the property at the east side of the junction of Piggott Street and Barrack Street, Loughrea, formerly St. Brendan's Boys National School; and later the E.S.B. be protected by a Preservation Order, if such an order does not already apply; as there removal from where trees have been for the past 100 years, would spoil all the adjacent area".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Burke.

AOB.

Cllr. Burke said that a man, from Poland, got sick recently in the town and went to the Garda Station for help. The Garda Station rang for medical help but the patient had died from a heart attack before this arrived. There is no defibrillator in the Garda Station. Mayor Curley said there is one in the Fire Station but it is kept on the fire engine which was out that night. Cllr. Burke proposed that a letter be sent to the Department of Justice and the Superintendent recommending that all Garda Stations should have one and have staff trained in its use. This was seconded by Cllr. Regan.

Cllr. Maher said he would like to send his warm congratulations to the Loughrea hurling team on winning the County title. Mayor Curley said he would also like to be associated with those good wishes as were all the members. He said that the next match is the Connacht final which will be played on the 19th November and he wished the team continued success. He suggested that there would be a presentation to them once this match is over. He said he would let the members know when this is arranged. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that Fr. Ambrose McNamee should also be invited to meet the team as he is the only surviving player of the 1941 team. This was agreed.

Cllr. Regan said that the signs at the Moneamore roundabout show Bullaun, Mountbellew, New Inn. This is not the correct order. It should be Bullaun, New Inn, Mountbellew. Mr. Raftery said he would arrange to have it changed. He said that all of the signs around the area would need to be tightened so as they can not be turned and it might prevent a fatality.

Cllr. Morgan said that Loughrea is taking a water supply to Craughwell but that is o.k because it is being polluted by an inferior sewerage system in Loughrea for years. He said that there will not be sufficient water to cope with all the development going on in Loughrea if demands continue at the same rate. He said that the sewerage plant in Loughrea is not working and he has evidence of raw sewage going into the river at Ballygasty which in turn goes to Craughwell. Mr. Raftery said he is not aware of any leakage of sewerage into the river. He said the inflows and outflows are tested periodically and the system is working properly. He said the plant is in compliance with the E.U Directive and its capacity is capable of serving 5000 population. He said occasionally if there is very heavy rainfall the overflow system might kick in at the outflow but he is not aware that this is the case at present. He said that any new development has to put in their own treatment system until the present system is upgraded and they will link into the main sewerage when capacity is increased.

Cllr. Tully said that potholes are filled with macadam but in a short time the material comes out again and there are as bad as ever. Mr. Raftery said that (DBM) tar and chip material is used to fill the potholes in the town which is not lasting with the volume of traffic and the foundation of the roads are very poor. He said that there is now a new patching unit which serves the rural areas, in the Electoral Area, and it is very satisfactory. The pothole is filled with 804 stone and then covered in tar and rolled afterwards. Cllr. Regan asked what is the status of the Main Street or when will it be done. Mr. Raftery said that he had a meeting with the Roads department and the Chamber of Commerce to see that everything was covered in the plan. He said that contract documents have been prepared and have gone out for tender. Contractors are evaluating these. Cllr. Regan asked why there was not representatives from the Town

Council. He requested that the Town Council be informed of the starting date before it is leaked to the media. Cllr. Maher asked what area was being done. Cllr. Burke said his information is that it is starting at the Westbridge and finishing at Kilboys.

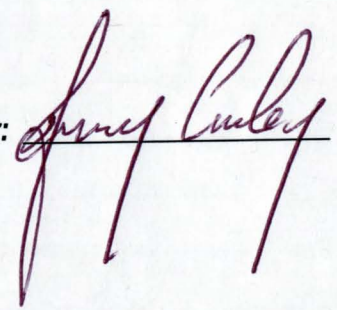
Cllr. Gunter-Nix asked if there is any control over the erection of scaffolding and if they are allowed to shut off the footpath. Mr. Raftery said that a licence would be required to erect scaffolding. There are standard conditions set down in terms of pedestrian access which has to be maintained. In the event of non-compliance of the conditions the local office will be in contact with the culprit to ensure that the conditions are adhered to.

Cllr. Regan said that the Community Warden was ticketing a number of cars early on Saturday morning and he was wondering if a little leniency could be shown towards them. He said there was a little celebration in the town on Friday night and people had got taxis home and had left their cars on the street. Cllr. Maher asked if the traffic management plan had been reviewed yet or when is it likely to happen. They were told that once the Bypass was open this matter would be dealt with immediately.

Mr. Raftery said he has been requested to relocate Stoney Brennan and asked for suggestions as to where it should go. Cllr. Burke said that they agreed at the last meeting that it should be sited in the Pound if the County Council will lease it to them. Cllr. Morgan said that Stoney Brennan should not be put here as there could 1000's of Stoney Brennan. There is no proof he existed. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said it may be a myth but it was always associated with the west end of the town. Most of the councillors agreed with Cllr. Burke's suggestion.

Mayor Curley said that the Annual Budget meeting will be held on the 11th December, in O'Deas Hotel with a starting time of 7.00 p.m., followed by the monthly meeting. He asked that there be no Notice of Motions for this meeting. He said that the Annual Christmas dinner will follow at approximately 8.15 p.m.

This concluded the business.

Signed this 11th day of December, 2006. Mayor: 

Minutes of proceedings at the Annual Budget Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 11th December, 2006, in O'Dea's Hotel, Bride Street, Loughrea.

I Lathair:

Mayor: Jimmy Curley.

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Sheamie Tully,

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Acting Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely Town Clerk.

Mr. Jim Cullen, Director of Services, presented the Annual Budget for the year 2007. He said a copy had been circulated to all the members on the 30th November, 2006 for their perusal. However, it was found in that copy that there was an arithmetical error and an amended copy was circulated to the members and this is the one to look at. Mr. Cullen, said in framing the budget he tried to keep the rate increase as low as possible while still providing for unavoidable increases in salaries and allowances. He said he had included also a contribution towards the cost of additional works to fully complete the Gort Road Playground. He said the rate proposed for 2007 is modest and is just an increase of 3.5% on last year's budget. He said expenditure was at €90,686.20 and receipts at €19,375.00 leaving a demand of €71,311.20. He strongly recommended the adoption of the Budget as presented.

Cllr. Regan said that Loughrea Town Council has already given €20,000.00 towards the playground and should not have to put any more in to it. He said the county council should pay for the works out of development levies. Mr. Cullen said that there is an estimate of around €50,000.00 to put a good finish to this playground. He said Galway County Council will provide €40,000.00 and the balance will come from the Town Council.

Cllr. Bane asked what the expenditure on Parks in the budget was for. The Town Clerk said it goes towards wages for the outdoor staff and the gardner for maintenance of the Town Council's green areas.

Cllr. Burke said that a recent seminar which he attended in Tullamore he was informed that the County Manager has discretion to allocate money to the Town Council which can be spent on any project which the town council members decide. He said this funding would be outside the Budget for the town in the same way as the allocation for footpaths in town commissioner areas. Mr. Cullen said that neither he nor the County Manager had any authority to allocate monies to any town. Only county councilors through their own statutory budget process could do so.

Cllr. Maher said that he and the local groups had spent a lot of time and effort trying to raise funds for this project. He said the Town Council should contribute to this project as well as the County Council in order to give a good finish to the playground. He said that the town councilors are shouting at meetings to get the railings up get signs up but they do not want to contribute. He said the town councilors should seize the opportunity and give the contribution.

Cllr. Morgan said the town council has a responsibility towards its own property. If work has to be done then spend the money.

Cllr. Tully said the town is gaining with all the development taking place commercially and otherwise and he said there seems to be a misunderstanding on how they are spent. Mr. Cullen said that they are principally on water and sewerage and a small portion goes to recreation and amenity.

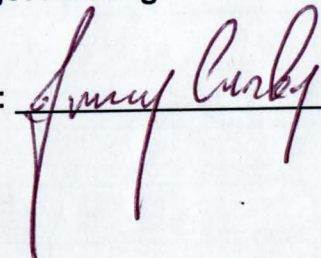
Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she agreed with Cllr. Maher that the playground should be finished. She would have reservations about providing a walk way around the lake until the situation in Corry's Field is addressed. She said a plan was drawn up for Corry's Field a few years ago but it never went any further. She said she has a copy of the plan. She said that this plan might be looked at in the New Year and see what aspects of it could be implemented. She said that this area needs attention.

Cllr. Burke asked why the School Warden's budget was reduced. The Town Clerk said that from her records the School Warden will be retiring in May. He asked if she will be replaced. The Town Clerk said it would be looked at over the next few months.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher that the amended budget be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr. Gunter-Nix.

It was also resolved that the Demand be made on Galway County Council by the Loughrea Town Council for the sum of €71,311.20, for the Financial Year ending on the 31st December, 2007, and that the Form of Demand be signed by the Mayor and by the Town Clerk.

This concluded the business of the Annual Budget Meeting.

Signed this 8th day of January, 2007. Mayor: 

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Council held in O'Dea's Hotel, Bride Street, Loughrea, on the 11th December, 2006.

I Lathair

Mayor: Jimmy Curley.

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Sheamie Tully.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Acting Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely, Town Clerk.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 13th November, 2006.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Maher that the minutes of the 13th November, 2006 be adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Cllr. Maher asked if any report had been received from the Law Agent in relation to signage under the Drinking Bye-law adopted by Loughrea Town Council. Mr. Cullen said that while the county council law agent is not legal advisor to the Town Council he had sought advice from the law agent on this matter. He said the Bye-Law is in force in the town. He said the adoption of Bye-Law is a public process and notices were published in the paper and the public were well aware of it. He said the legal position is if signs go up in one area and no signs in another area it would be difficult for the Gardai to enforce the law. He said you may as well not have signs up at all. There should be no difficulty implementing the law as the Bye-law stands.

Cllr. Maher asked if a reply had been received from the Contractor who carried out the Urban Renewal job at Station Road. Mr. Raftery said they are investigating this matter and a reply will issue soon.

Cllr. Tully said the footpaths are done on Cahernaun but there is a telephone pole protruding and is causing an obstruction on the road. People have to go to the opposite side of the road to avoid it. Mr. Raftery said that an order has been given to Eircom to remove this pole. He said the footpaths in Cosmona are finished and the one on the Hill will be finished before the end of the week. Cllr. Regan said it is not value for money doing footpaths at this time of the year. If the Council can not do the work it should go out to tender Mr. Raftery said they were seeking Expressions of Interests for the laying of footpaths so as they can be done earlier in the year if the local staff can not reach them.

Cllr. Burke asked about the public toilets in the Fairgreen and when is it expected to have them finished. Archaeologist report notes the presence of

walls at this location. They have preserved all the findings and recorded them. The foundations can be put down as soon as the weather improves. The toilet unit is coming from France and will be delivered in early January.

Cllr. Burke asked for an update on the use of the Pound for Stoney Brennan. He asked if a decision had been made by the Council in regard to the lease. Mr. Cullen suggested that the Town Council write to the relevant Director of Services in the County Council about this.

Cllr. Regan asked for an up date on the provision of a Swimming Pool for Loughrea. Mr. Cullen said he had no information as he is not dealing with it. Cllr. Burke said that the County Council, Department of Art, Sport & Tourism and Developer legal team met last week. There are still issues to be settled. The Minister wrote to the Swimming Pool Committee and said a decision will be made before Christmas.

Disclosure of Donations - closing date 31st January, 2007.

This was noted.

Notice of Motions - Cllr. Morgan.

(i) "That a recommendation be sent to Galway County Council that a ground level roundabout, similar to the one in Ballinasloe, be provided without delay at the five road junction at Westbridge, Loughrea. As the Ballinasloe roundabout is successful, one in Loughrea, where the space is equal or greater, must surely be successful".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Maher.

(ii) "That the Stoney Brennan sculpture be erected at the Paddy Sweeney building at Westbridge, Loughrea. As the sculpture was removed from there to facilitate the building of the Sweeney premises, it should now be returned to its original location".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan.
This motion was not seconded so it was not discussed.

(iii) "That Galway County Council informs Loughrea Town Council, by what authority they removed the Public Toilets from the Westbridge, Loughrea, without first having provided alternative Public Toilet facilities. Surely depriving the public of said facility, even for one day, was highly unacceptable, insulting and cruel".

This was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Regan.

Cllr. Morgan said this facility should not have been removed from the site without another facility being provided. The County Council had the responsibility to upgrade the toilet but no moral right to deny the public access to them. Mr. Cullen said the County Council were acting within their authority

by removing the toilet. They gave an undertaking to provide a replacement. The building was very unsightly and the town has not suffered by removing the eyesore. This area has improved immensely since this new development took place. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that the toilet had not been used for a number of years since a tragic accident took place there. She said the County Council are now providing a state of the art facility in a better location.

AOB

Cllr. Regan said that a doctor could not attend an emergency as his car was blocked in. Mr. Raftery said that it will not be reviewed until the Main Street has been re-surfaced and realigned. He proposed that a recommendation be sent to Galway County Council that all Doctors be allowed parking permits outside their surgery. This was seconded by Mayor Curley.

Cllr. Maher said the first phase of the capital development for St. Brendan's Home will be a 40 bed unit on the land owned by the Western Health Board. Cllr. Hynes said this is a big reduction from 300 beds as heretofore. 40 beds are not acceptable. He said there is 15/16 acres of land at this location and a close eye will have to be kept on it to see that it not disposed of. Mayor Curley said this matter has come up a number of times and the general consensus is that there will be no further reduction of beds in St. Brendan's Home. He said a few years ago they were told that it would be an 80 bed unit that would be provided. It seems to be reduced every time. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said the town should welcome the 40 bed unit for phase one and keep on the pressure to get phase two in trail as soon as possible. Mayor Curley said that J.J.Keane is the new administrator and he requested the Town Clerk to write to him to seek a meeting to discuss this matter. This was agreed.

Mr. Cullen, said work is expected to commence on the Main Street in early January. A Contractor will be appointed shortly. He said that talks are currently taking place with the NRA to seek further funding. The Council are in close liaison with businesses and that will continue during the duration of the works. He said it will be disruptive but he hopes it will be a good job for the town. Cllr. Burke asked if the final plans were available and if they can be put on public display in the local office. It would be good PR for the County Council if the public can see what the end product will look like after all the disruption. He asked the time frame to get this work done and if a one way system will be in place or will the Main Street be closed to traffic completely. Mr. Raftery said that it will take about eight months to complete the job on Main Street. He said they will be talking to Superintendent Enda Walsh in relation to traffic management while work is in hand. Mr. Cullen said that it is hoped to put E.S.B. and Eircom lines underground. Discussions are taking place with Bord Gais this week with a view to laying gas pipes along the route. He said the sewerage and water pipes will be upgraded; new footpaths, kerbing and cobble blocks will also be provided.

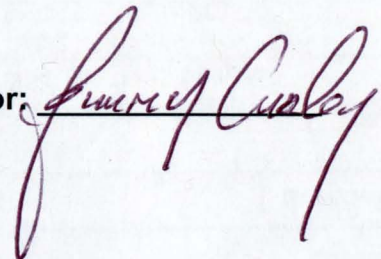
Cllr. Regan asked if it is intended to relieve the flooding on Barrack Street outside the Temperance Hall. Mr. Raftery said a snag list has been done on

Barrack Street and Gort Road and there are just minor works outstanding that will be attended to.

A scroll was presented to Robert Reilly, by Mayor Curley, to mark his achievement in winning the Top Irish International Angler and Top Overall International Angler in Wales. He said it brings great credit to you and Loughrea. Cllr. Morgan said his father Richie spent a lot of time teaching young people to fish so it is no wonder his son is so involved. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she would like to congratulate Robert Reilly on his special achievement at national and international level. It was wonderful for him and the town. She wished him continued success. Cllr. Bane said that Robert is a cousin of hers and fishing was always in his blood. The family are very honoured and proud of him to bring home the cup and bowl. She would also like to thank his wife Caroline for being so patient and understanding with Robert. Cllr. Burke said if you ever wanted to know anything about fishing ask a "Reilly". He said the funding from the club and town was not sufficient for him to compete and represent his country so his family had to support him financially. It is great to have such dedication for ones country. He said it was a prestigious award and he hopes he enjoys it. Cllr. Tully said other sports in town get greater recognition and he hopes that Robert will get the recognition he deserves. Robert Reilly thanked the Town Councillors for the scroll and he said it would be kept in a very warm place his heart for the rest of his days.

Mayor Curley wished the members and officials a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

This concluded the business.

Signed this 8th day of January, 2007. Mayor: 

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Council held in the Credit Union Offices, Dunkellin Street, Loughrea on the 8th January, 2007.

I lathair

Mayor: Jimmy Curley.

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Sheamie Tully.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely, Town Clerk.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 11th December, 2006.

Annual Budget Meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke seconded by Cllr. Gunter-Nix that the minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting be adopted.

Monthly Meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan seconded by Cllr. Maher that the minutes of the Monthly Meeting be adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Cllr. Bane said she wished to make an amendment to the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11th December, 2006. She said that Robert Reilly's wife name is Majella not Caroline as stated. This was agreed.

Cllr. Regan asked for an update on the Swimming Pool. from Mr. Cullen. Mr. Cullen, Director of Services, said all of the information requested is with the Department of Arts, Sports & Tourism and is fully complied with. Cllr. Burke said he received a letter from Minister Treacy dated 22/12/2006 confirming that a decision will be made shortly and said he would circulate the letter.

Cllr. Regan asked about the proposed works on the Main Street. Mr. Raftery said work will commence on the 22nd January, 2007 with a targeted finish in September, 2007. The work will be done in three phases so that the full street will not be closed for the full duration of the work. The bus stop will be moved 500 metres east of their current location to the Green in Garrybreeda. Maps and details will be posted on all the buses and on the windows of the Newsagents and Supermacs. Information leaflets were delivered to all the premises along the route before Christmas. Pedestrian access will be provided to all premises at all times and individual arrangements will be made where car parks are blocked off or where there is no rear access. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said the bus stop was very far out from elderly people coming from St. Laurencefields and

suggested that an approach be made to the Carmelite Fathers to see if they could use the car-park for the buses. Cllr. Morgan said that the bus stop should be sited at Station Road. He said they could go down the Mart road and onto the Bypass.

Mr. Cullen said the members had raised very valid points and Galway County Council will be looking at whatever options are available so as this project will run as smoothly as possible. He said it is a big undertaking and there will be inconvenience and it will be painful but the reward at the end will be enormous.

Cllr. Burke asked for an update on the Urban Renewal Project at Station Road. Mr. Raftery said he had sent in a report to the Planning Section outlining the defects and asking them to address them. Cllr. Regan said that there is an E.S.B. pole left out in Church Street and asked that this pole be removed without delay.

Cllr. Burke asked if there was any news on the lease of the Pound to the Town Council. The Town Clerk said she had got a reply back saying that the Senior Executive Officer in the General Purposes Section would be dealing with it. She will send a reminder to him.

Correspondence.

Letter from the Department of the Environment in relation to expenses for members.

Letter from AMAI stating that the Spring Conference will be held in Tralee on the 9 & 10 February, 2007. Two delegates nominated.

Letter from Chamber of Commerce setting out agenda for meeting on the 9/1/2007.

Cllr. Burke asked if the Town Council get a copy of the minutes of the Chamber meetings or does the delegate from the Town Council receive them. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she enquire at the next meeting.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Morgan.

"That a recommendation be sent to Galway County Council to examine the traffic going through Loughrea since the By-Pass, as hold ups and delays are being experienced through the town, which in turn confirms that, as already proposed, a road connecting Hanley's Cross roundabout to the Bishop's Cross/Corheen, on the Gort Road, is essential for Loughrea town and for the truckers and commuters to Gort, Ennis, Limerick etc."

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Tully.

Cllr. Hynes said a corridor is reserved for this road way and the land is frozen around it for some time. This has been discussed a number of times but it has not progressed any further. He said several representations have been made to the NRA but no response has been received.

"That Galway County Council be requested to inform Loughrea Town Council, if, during the high water levels on Loughrea Lake, the sluice gates were lowered and

raised so as to minimize any harmful affects on the land owners and householders on the lake shore and on farmers and others downstream. This resolution is based on the fact that the water level went higher than the extension from the promenade point at Long Point.”

It was proposed by Cllr Morgan seconded by Cllr. Tully.

Cllr. Morgan said that it is important to hold the same level in the lake the whole year around. Mr. Raftery said that Joe Fahy, Bride Street, keeps control of the sluice gates for eel fishing and that he would check out what the levels were.

“That Galway County Council be requested to provide drainage of the frequent flooding at the exit from St.Brendan’s Home, Loughrea.”

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Curley.

Cllr. Morgan said that the shore is blocked along this road and the bridge is not able to take it.

AOB.

Cllr. Hynes said that the Credit Union is celebrating 40 years in business and suggested that the Town Council should make some form of civic gesture to acknowledge this great achievement. Cllr. Burke said this is a great idea and he would fully support it. Cllr. Regan suggested that a scroll be presented to them to mark their 40 years in business. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that it would be a good idea to organise some little party for the Credit Union as soon as possible.

Cllr. Burke said that he is a member of the Planning SPC and had been given a map showing all of the proposed infrastructure to be constructed in the County for the foreseeable future but there is no mention of the link road from Loughrea to Kiltulla dual carriage way. Mr. Cullen said that this would be examined.

Cllr. Burke asked for up to date information on the recycling facilities at Rathruddy and when it is expected to be opened. He said the bottle banks were left in a terrible condition over the Christmas period. Mr.Raftery said that the Bottle Banks had been emptied three or four times over Christmas. Mr. Raftery said that 20 to 30 fines have been issued during this time. He said that warning letters will issue and fines will be processed in the next few weeks. Mr.Cullen said that if the fines are not paid that legal proceeding will be instituted.

Cllr.Tully asked if any extra staff will be employed in Loughrea this year. Mr. Raftery said that a panel is in place at the moment and any extra staff will be taking off that panel for road works programme as needed. Mr. Cullen said that there is an embargo on recruiting staff at the moment and it refers to all grades.

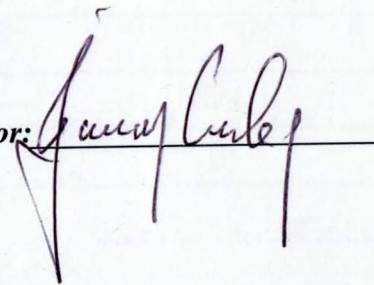
Cllr.Regan asked when the footpaths will be completed in Loughrea. Mr. Raftery said that the staff will be going back to finish the footpaths once the material is available. He said the manufacturers had not returned to work since Christmas. He said that the

staff had been dealing with flooding and opening of water tables since they returned after Christmas.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix asked when the Town Council will be recruiting a replacement for the School Warden, who is due to retire later on this year. The Town Clerk said that Mrs. King has not indicated when she will be retiring so there is no vacancy there at the moment. This matter will be looked at when Mrs. King lets me have this information.

Cllr.Bane said that the parking of cars along the Old Galway Road is a serious issue and should be addressed. It was proposed by Cllr.Bane seconded by Cllr.Curley to request that the law be implemented at this area.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this 12TH day of February, 2007. Mayor: 

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Council held in the Credit Union Offices, Dunkellin Street, Loughrea, on the 12th February, 2007.

I lathair.

Mayor: Jimmy Curley.

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Sheamie Tully.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely, Town Clerk.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 8th January, 2007.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Burke that the minutes of the monthly meeting be adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Mayor Curley said he would like to congratulate Loughrea Hurling Team on winning the semi-final against Cushendall on the 7th February. He requested that a letter be sent to them wishing them luck in the final. He said the club finals will be taking place on the 17th March, 2007 in Croke Park. He said the team will be returning to Loughrea on Sunday night and will be giving a reception whether they win the match or not. He said he spoke to the President of the Chamber of Commerce before coming to the meeting and he informed him that the St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Monday 19th March, 2007 instead of the 17th March, 2007.

Cllr. Bane asked for an update on the replacement of Carmel King, School Warden. Mr. Cullen said the Town Council are grateful for the excellent service provided, and the recruitment process will be proceeded with without delay.

Mayor Curley said that the concrete paths put down by Council Staff had been damaged and it is a disgrace what had happened. Cllr. Burke said he would have to agree with the comments made by Mayor Curley. He said the members are shouting to have footpaths put here and there but this kind of practise is unforgivable. Cllr. Regan said there seemed to be a spate of vandalism in the area recently. He said when the Gardai were walking the street they were more in touch with what was happening. Cllr. Morgan said there seems to be a greater presence of Gardai since the new Superintendent was appointed. He seems to be more familiar with the area than his predecessor.

Roadwork's at Main Street, Loughrea.

Mr. Martin Lavelle said there was a Liaison Group set up comprising of the Residents, Shopkeepers and Chamber and anybody involved with the disruption. He said it was

set up because there were so many affected on the Main Street, particularly businesses who are trying to exist and they did not want to interfere with that. He outlined the works to be undertaken. He said that the Contractors are in ownership of the site while the work is progressing. He said that they had encountered a lot of rock near Mob Hill where silt was uncovered and two spring wells were hit resulting in flooding over the weekend. He said it is hoped to construct the road in three phases. If a problem is reached in phase 2 the Contractor will have to move to phase 3 and return to the other area again. It is hoped that work will be finished ahead of September but it is difficult to state at this stage. He apologised for disturbances but he said that it is the first town in County Galway to get such a face lift.

Mr. Cullen said that this is not a committee to run the job; it is being done by a Contractor. It is simply a useful vehicle so that concerns can be dealt with on the ground. He said the Town Council was the forum to raise the concerns of the public and in this context he suggested one member from the town council attend the working committee. He said this is not an operational committee and has no statutory basis but because this work is so complex the County Council thought it prudent to set it up.

Cllr. Regan said that a member of the Town Council should be included in the committee. He said that the signs erected on the approach roads to the town were misleading. The public was of the opinion that the centre of Loughrea was closed to business. He asked Mr. Lavelle to address this matter.

Cllr. Burke said it was a fine job. He did have a reservation about trucks using the Main Street and asked if they could be stopped. Mr. Lavelle said that the HGV's can not be stopped from using the town as they are paying vehicle registration fees and can drive on a public roadway. He said people need deliveries in the town and that can not be stopped. If a restriction is brought in for one vehicle it applies to all. He said they try and encourage them to use the By-pass road but can not force them.

Cllr. Maher said that another bus venue will have to be found as the existing one is totally unsatisfactory. He said they are looking at the possibility of putting another bus stop at the Fairgreen and will talk to the Bus Companies. Cllr. Regan said that he would not like to see a bus stop at the Fairgreen. He asked which buses will be at that site. Mr. Lavelle said that this is such a sensitive issue with town councillors that they had abandoned this idea but would look at it again. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she had no objection to a temporary bus stop at this location. Cllr. Maher asked if a bus shelter could be erected at the stop on the Hill while work was ongoing on the Main Street. Mr. Lavelle said that they would talk to the Bus Companies and try and work out a plan. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that Healy private bus service picks up passengers at Athenry Road.

Cllr. Morgan said he was very happy with the work on the Main Street. He asked if an area east of Bride Street could be included in the work schedule. He said this part of the Main Street is in very bad condition. He requested that it be done as far as Murphy's Supermarket. He said there is constant flooding at this area. Mr. Lavelle said that there is no funding for this section of the road. He said that the money from the NRA is capped. No further work can be done.

Cllr. Tully asked if the side streets would be reinstated when the road works at Main Street are complete. Mr. Lavelle said that the budget is for the Main Street only.

Cllr. Hynes said he had attended an area meeting of county councillors earlier in the day. He said that County Councillors were not present at the committee meeting regarding the road works on the Main Street either. He said that they put a proposal through that a member of that committee be also included in whatever discussions were taking place. He said that they had a mandate from the people to represent them at such talks.

Mayor Curley said that the refurbishment of the Main Street was a great thing for the town. He said it had been raised at several meetings the reconstruction of the Main Street and it is great to see the work progressing.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix that the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, of the Town Council, attend the meetings for the duration of the works. This was seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Mr. Cullen thanked the town councillors for their positive approach during the reconstruction works. He said that this is one of the biggest things to happen in the County and it certainly will enhance the economic development of Loughrea.

Correspondence.

Letter from Tony Murphy, Senior Executive Officer, in relation to leasing the Pound. Extract from that letter "The Pound at Loughrea was provided by Galway County Council in accordance with the Pounds (Provision & Maintenance) Act, 1935. In order for the Pound to be used for any other purpose, it would be necessary that it be decommissioned by the Minister for Justice" Cllr. Burke requested Cllr. Maher to pursue this matter with his colleague Minister McDowell. Cllr. Maher agreed to this.

Annual Declaration - Part 15 Local Government Act, 2001 - Ethical Framework - closing date the last of February, 2007.

Letter from the Department of the Environment in relation to gratuity for councillors.

Letter from Chamber of Commerce - setting out agenda for meeting on 13/2/2007 at 6.30 p.m. in O'Dea's Hotel.

Draft Litter Management Plan.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Gunter-Nix.

"I will propose that Bothar Cam road be widened to improve the road safety aspects for all who use this road and that additional public lighting is provided at the east of Bothar Cam".

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Cllr. Burke.

She said this road is used by people bringing children to school. She understood that it was to be widened near the Moore Street end to facilitate two way traffic. She said that extra public lighting would need to be put in this location as it is very dark at night and might combat unsocial behaviour in the area.

"That Loughrea Town Council seeks a meeting with the I.D.A. to obtain an update regarding employment prospects for the town and hinterland"

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Cllr. Maher.

She said Loughrea Town Council should be to the fore in bringing Loughrea further employment opportunities. She said that there is an increase in population in Loughrea and it would be an ideal time to bring industries to the town. It would improve the quality of life for families who would have to spend less time commuting to Galway, Athlone etc. She said it would also improve the commercial/business life in the town. She said she deputised for Cllr. Burke at the AMAI Spring Conference in Tralee and there was a representative there from Shannon Development who spoke about e-town. This type of development would enable people to live and work in the same area. She said that Shannon Development has set up this idea in Ennis and it is working very well. Cllr. Burke asked the amount of land left in the Industrial Estate on the Dublin Road at Greenanagh. He said he knows some of it was used for a car park for some of the factories. He said there is a big population in Loughrea now and people would welcome an industry to the town so as to avoid travelling to work. Cllr. Hynes said that the present government are responsible for putting industries in place in Loughrea but they have done nothing in terms of job creation over the last five years. He said that the County Councillors have zoned sufficient land in the Development Plan for Loughrea. Cllr. Regan said that politicians are not interested in bringing jobs to Loughrea.

"Ask Galway County Council what provisions they have made for the maintenance of Garrybreeda and Mount Pleasant cemeteries during 2007"

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Mayor Curley.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that the public are asking about the maintenance of the cemeteries in Loughrea. She said that the contractor who carried out the work last year for the County Council wants to know as well so as he can plan his programme. She said that the public were very pleased with the upkeep of the cemeteries last year but it was started too late in the growing season. Cllr. Maher said this should be looked at early in the year so as the grass does not go out of control like other years. It makes it very difficult for the contractor. Mr. Cullen said he would check what the budget was to cover this work this year.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Burke.

"I propose that Galway County Council create the conditions so that multi-national retail companies can locate in Loughrea"

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke seconded by Cllr. Tully.

Cllr. Burke said that the multi-national companies attempted to come to Loughrea, over the years, but always conditions have not been right and can not get planning. I am going on hearsay that outside town was the wrong place. There is nothing in the town centre for them and they have to go outside town. Town is growing so much, so many people in it; there is no harm in competition. He said you can not buy a pint of milk from Dunkellin Street to the Hill. Every other town has those companies and people are leaving Loughrea and going to Ballinasloe and Gort to do their shopping. Cllr. Regan suggested that a letter be written to the multi-nationals saying that the Town Council welcomes such companies. Cllr. Bane said that there is a myth out there that there is a certain group who object to everything. There are spaces within the town at the Mart and other areas. Cllr. Burke said that this is private property and it is up to the committee to sell if they so wish. Cllr. Regan said that it is peoples right to shop where they want and have variety. He said that he would like to see Tesco, Lidl and Aldi come and set up in Loughrea. Cllr. Hynes said Tesco lodged a planning application with the County Council last year. They were granted planning permission by the County Council. Loughrea Chamber of Commerce lodged an objection and it went to An Bord Pleanala. As a result Tesco were stopped in their tracks from putting a new business in place, ruling out options for the public. He said a small group are trying to keep in place the "closed shop" which rules out competition and locked out companies coming to Loughrea. Cllr. Burke said that thousand of petitions had been signed by the public in Loughrea welcoming the multi-nationals to Loughrea. He said that the population has grown over 25 years and there should be enough business in the town for all companies to survive. Cllr. Bane said that there is a much bigger picture involved and it gave her faith in the planning system to see a minority group lodge an appeal and be successful. She said that plenty of town centres have been destroyed when multi-national companies were introduced to the area. She said Tesco went for a cheap option.

"I propose that when Galway County Council staff locates to the new offices in Loughrea that the present offices are demolished and that houses for the elderly be constructed on the site".

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke seconded by Cllr. Morgan.

Cllr. Burke said that Cllr. Morgan had a similar motion in for the meeting and perhaps they could be taken jointly. Cllr. Morgan said he would prefer to speak on his own motion if the chair agreed with this. The Mayor agreed.

Cllr. Burke said that the County Council has provided a lot of houses for the elderly but unfortunately they are a long way from the town centre. He said this location is ideal for elderly people near the town, shops, church, lake etc. He said this is an opportunity that might never arise again. He said that at least 6 or 7 houses could be built on this site if the right plan was drawn up. Cllr. Regan said it is a novel idea but people would have to look at the reality of the situation. It is a valuable site and the County Council will have to sell it so as to pay for the new building. Cllr. Burke said it is putting money before the person. They have served their town and county well and are entitled to a bit of comfort. If you have no respect for the elderly you have respect for nobody. Mr. Cullen said that he can not allow that message to come away from this meeting. The present building would not have been bought if the sale of the present offices was not going to happen. He said the County Councillors will receive

a recommendation for this site to be sold in the near future. He said if they do not agree with the recommendation they will have to come up with a solution to pay for the new offices.

"I propose that public lighting be provided at the Caheronaun junction on the Loughrea By-pass".

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Cllr. Burke said that 2 million has been allocated to finish off the By-pass and some of it could be used at this area to improve the public lighting. He said it is very dark and dangerous especially with all of the extra traffic at the moment on this road. Martin Lavelle said this allocation is to pay outstanding bills on the Main Street. Public Lighting is the responsibility of the NRA. From a safety point of view it is dangerous to provide intermittent lighting as drivers get used to darkness and are distracted by lights at roundabouts. Cllr. Maher said that the allocation of 2 million was to finish off the by-pass and he has a letter in his possession from the County Council stating that it is for wrong signage and missing signage and other areas that need attention.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Regan.

"I propose to call on Galway County Council to erect a cover at Garrybreeda for those people waiting for buses".

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan seconded by Mayor Curley.

"I call on Galway County Council to explain to Loughrea Town Council why there was no public meeting called for rate payers and residents regarding road works on the Main Street, Loughrea".

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan seconded by Cllr. Maher.
Mr. Lavelle said this was already discussed and explained.

"I call on Galway County Council to clean out the gullies so as to avoid flooding"

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan seconded by Cllr. Morgan.
Cllr. Burke said he had brought this matter to the attention of the Executive Engineer. He said some of them had been freed but others were still blocked.

Notice of Motions - Cllr. Morgan.

"That a recommendation be sent to the Roads Authority responsible for the major reconstruction of the roadway, with the upgrading of all services – sewer, water, etc at Dunkellin Street, Main Street, and Bride Street West, Loughrea, be extended to Murphy's Foodmarket, Bride Street, Loughrea. This section of roadway does not have a proper foundation, resulting in an uneven surface and potholes. This section of road is frequently flooded".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Cllr. Morgan said that Bride Street East is in need of upgrading as far as Murphy's Foodmarket. He said this stretch of road is subject to flooding. He said that the public can not use the right hand side of the road going east. He said he has to close his business on a wet day as the splashes go in his doorway. He said he was going to sue Galway County Council if this road is not done. Mr. Lavelle said there is no budget to do this stretch of road as stated already.

"That a recommendation be sent to Galway County Council that when the Council moves to its new offices at Loughrea that the present offices be demolished and that dwellings for the elderly be built there. As such an opportunity is unlikely to present itself ever again, consideration should be given to the fact it is only 200 yards from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, shopping and the Green public park".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Cllr. Morgan said that houses should be provided for the elderly at this location instead of providing them elsewhere. Retired people are not able to walk long distances. This opportunity will never arise again. Mr. Cullen said that the County Council can not proceed with the new Council offices without selling this site. He said the County Council is meeting its obligations regarding social housing and housing for the elderly.

"That a recommendation be sent to Galway to remove immediately the large blue Porto cabin from the "Carmelite Nuns" Tercentary Park" at the junction of Mount Carmel Crescent and Athenry Road, Loughrea. The ground was donated by the nuns to Galway County Council for a public park and was accepted by Galway County Council for that purpose. Therefore, Galway County Council is duty bound to protect that park, and not allow it to be used for anything else except a Public Park. No person could possibly understand why said Porto cabin was not put on the Green, where there is plenty of free space, and which is nearer Dunkellin Street".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Cllr. Morgan said that the circus and other amusements use the fairgreen from time to time but this porto-cabin can not be parked there. He requested that it be moved to the Main Street or the fairgreen. Mr. Lavelle said that the fairgreen would have been an ideal location but it such a sensitive issue with the town councillors they chose not to put it there. He said this facility is necessary for the staff and is convenient to the Main Street. There is no room on the Main Street with the machinery working there. It will be there for about six months. Cllr. Burke said that the porto-cabin is unsightly at this location. He said he knows someone who will leave it in their yard. Cllr. Regan said that Cllr. Burke should give the name of that person to Mr. Lavelle before he leaves.

AOB.

Cllr. Regan said he read in the local papers that it is planned to erect "Stoney Brennan's" plaque on the front of the new council offices. He asked Mr. Cullen or Mr.

Raftery, Executive Engineer to confirm that this is the case. Both officials said they were not aware of this arrangement.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she understands that the County Manager is retiring at the end of the month and requested that the good wishes of the Board be extended to himself, wife and family. She said she would like to thank him for his service to Galway County Council and especially Loughrea. Mr. Cullen said that the County Manager had planned to visit all of the local authorities but due to work constraints it was not possible.

Cllr. Morgan said that rubbish is being dumped in an open space on Bride Street. He proposed that Michael Kelly, Community Warden, be requested to investigate this matter. This was seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Cllr. Regan asked if any work will be done on Barrack Street to relieve the flooding caused by Ward on Burke. Mr. Raftery said he had prepared a snagging list for Ward & Burke and he hopes to meet up with them shortly. He said the problems will also have to be addressed by them at Cuscarrick and other areas along the route. He said there is funding available all the time.

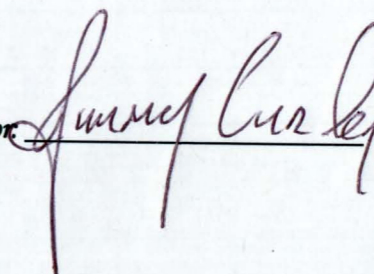
Cllr. Tully asked if it was intended to put a safety barrier at Monearnmore roundabout to cater for people walking to the rugby club, fitness club etc. Cllr. Burke asked if it is officially finished and if it is handed over to the County Council. He said there are a lot of open drains along the route and asked if they will be closed in. Mr. Lavelle said they were French drains and would not be closed. It is the most modern drainage system. Mr. Raftery said that footpaths were not included in the design of this scheme along this route. He said that it is not fully signed over yet to Galway County Council.

Mayor Curley said he spoke to the Manager of the Credit Union regarding celebrations for 40 years in business in Loughrea. He said that a reception would take place on the 6/3/2007 at 8.30 p.m in the Credit Union. Cllr. Morgan said he would have the scroll ready for that night as promised.

Mayor Curley thanked Mr. Lavelle for attending the meeting and answering all the road queries.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this 2nd day of March, 2007. Mayor



Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Council held in the Credit Union Offices, Dunkellin Street, Loughrea on the 12th March, 2007.

I lathair.

Mavor: Jimmy Curley.

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Michel Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Sheamie Tully.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely, Town Clerk.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 12th February, 2007.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Maher the minutes of the monthly meeting be adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Mayor Curley said he wished the Loughrea team every success in the All Ireland Club Final on the 17th March, 2007, in Croke Park. He said it is a great occasion and he hoped that it would be well supported. He said if people can not attend the match at least they should be on the Main Street to welcome them home whether they win or loose. He said there are a number of years trying to progress to Club final and hopefully this will be their year. He said it would be great for past players and fans from all over the world. He said Cllr. Regan has a son and two nephews on the panel. Cllr. Morgan said he would also like to be associated with the good wishes. He said if they do not win they will still be our champions. Cllr. Maher said they had all played hurling over the years and they would enjoy the win as much as the team. Cllr. Burke said that Mayor Curley was on the hurling team in 1981 and it would be great to see the O'Moore Cup coming to Loughrea for the present players and past players. He said that they are a very dedicated bunch of lads and have worked very hard behind the scenes in all kinds of weather. He said interest in hurling had faded some what in Loughrea but Frank Burke revived it again through the schools and credit is due to him as well. He said Loughrea are County Champions and Connacht Champions and a win on Saturday would be the icing on the cake. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that many of the members would have come through Feile na Gael competitions and are very experienced players and she hopes they will do us proud and enjoy the big occasion. Cllr. Hynes said he would also like to express his good wishes on behalf of the County Council and the Electoral Area of Loughrea. He said they have come a long way and he is confident they will succeed. Cllr. Tully also expressed the sentiments of the other members. He said it would be great for the Youth of the Town and it would keep hurling alive in Loughrea. Cllr. Regan said they are going in as under dogs and they have nothing to loose. He said it is great they have progressed to the final on St. Patrick's Day.

Cllr. Maher asked if any progress had been made with the bus shelter on Bride Street. Mr. Raftery said that he spoke to the Resident Engineer on the project and he said that there were in discussions with the Bus Companies. He said they were looking at the lay-by near Mount Carmel Crescent or the disused garage across the road. He said they would remove the parking bays from this area to allow the buses pick up passengers. Cllr. Morgan requested that the Porto cabin be removed from this location onto the fairgreen. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that she had attended the last Liaison Committee Meeting on behalf of the Mayor. She said that this matter was brought up and it was hoped to have it removed within two weeks

Cllr. Gunter-Nix asked for an up date on the upkeep of the burial grounds in Loughrea. Mr. Cullen said that they were seeking quotations for the maintenance and they hope to maintain them better than the previous year. Mr. Raftery said that Gerry Glynn had sent in a quotation to do the work and the price was about the same as last year. Cllr. Regan said the footpaths in Mount Pleasant had got tarmac recently. Mr. Raftery said they hope to do Garrybreeda footpath as well but this is a protected site and they will have to get approval from the Department of the Environment, Heritage Section, for any works carried out. Cllr. Burke asked if they could remove the ivy off the wall in Garrybreeda. He said a number of volunteers had started the work last year but were stopped by Marie Manning; Heritage Officer. He also mentioned that the wall around the cemetery is fallen down and asked if this could be done under the Grants Scheme. Cllr. Gunter-Nix proposed that the Heritage Officer be invited to the meeting to address those issues and other matters pertaining to the burial ground. This was seconded by Cllr. Morgan.

Cllr. Regan asked when Ward & Burke will be returning to do the remedial works outside the Temperance Hall, on Barrack Street. Mr. Raftery said that he had been in contact with Ward & Burke and they expect to be in a position to do the work within 2 – 3 weeks. Mr. Raftery said there is funding retained.

Cllr. Burke said that there is water lodging in Piggott Street outside the Boxing Club, opposite the old E.S.B. offices. Cllr. Tully said there is a safety aspect on this street as well. He said the footpath is very narrow along this area and is dangerous with the volume of traffic using it. Cllr. Regan said that Moore Street is another hot potato. He said in view of the Main Street refurbishment works not continuing to O'Dea's Hotel or beyond it that the condition of Moore Street will have to be looked at. Mr. Raftery said that there is no funding for Moore Street and they would have to look for a grant and see if they will be successful. Cllr. Morgan asked if the Council use a hot box when tarring. A negative reply was given by Mr. Raftery. Cllr. Morgan said that the County Council will have to invest in a hot box for tarring or patching as the other method is useless and waste of money. The present method does not bond.

Fix date for April Meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher seconded by Cllr. Burke that the April meeting take place on the 2nd April instead of the 9th April, 2007 as it is a Bank Holiday.

Correspondence.

Letter to members regarding mobile phone allowance.

Letter to non-party members outlining the policy in relation to filling of Casual Vacancy as per Standing Orders No. 61. The members concerned asked for clarification on this matter. This was outlined to them by Mr. Cullen.

Acknowledgement letter dated 15th February, from the Superintendent of the Garda Siochana in relation to concerns of the Town Council.

A letter from Pat Gallagher, former County Manager, acknowledging the good wishes of the members on his departure to Offaly County Council.

Letter from AMAI stating that the Annual Conference will be held in Connacht in September, 2008 and looking for a suitable venue to accommodate 400/500 persons. Cllr. Burke suggested the Town Clerk should contact John Shaughnessy and make it known to him of the upcoming conference and see if he would be interested in hosting it.

Letter from Chamber of Commerce inviting the Mayor members to the reviewing stand for St. Patrick's Day parade at 3.00 p.m on Sunday 18th March, 2007.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Gunter-Nix.

"That Galway County Council replaces the railings at Garrybreeda Park on the Dublin Road with a stone wall".

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said it has come to her notice that the railing at Garrybreeda Park is in very bad condition and is dangerous for children using the park. She said it has disintegrated over the years because of lack of maintenance. She said the safety of children is paramount and she considers that a stone wall is safer and is maintenance free. Cllr. Burke said he would like to compliment Cllr. Gunter-Nix on her initiative in securing grants and providing picnic tables and seats for the Park. He says in the interest of safety the Town Engineer should look and see what he considers the best option. Cllr. Morgan said he would disagree with the railings being removed. He thinks a wall would pose the same threat to children using the Park. He said the Park is visible from the road with the railings and visitors to the town would know there was a Public Park at this location. Cllr. Regan said if children's lives are at risk at this area it should be looked at by somebody in authority and make it safe. Mr. Cullen said he would refer it to Recreation and Amenity Section.

"That Galway County Council engage in further tree planting in public areas of the town as a gesture for National Tree Week which will benefit the environment, and enhance the appearance of the town in years to come".

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Mayor Curley.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that trees should be planted along the approach roads to the town to coincide with National Tree Week. Cllr. Morgan asked if she was including the Fairgreen and Corry's Field in public areas for planting. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that she noticed recently driving through Terryglass that they have beautiful trees on the all the approach roads to the village and it enhances the surroundings. She said it might help to improve the markings in the Tidy Towns competition. She said that a plan had been drawn up for Corry's Field some years ago and it should be reviewed.

"That the Town Council urge the Department of Education to examine the educational needs of the town into the future, because of the rapid expansion of the population of Loughrea"

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Cllr. Morgan.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that there are huge Housing Estates mushrooming all over the town that it is time to start now and make provision for the future generations. She said with the rapid expansion of the population of Loughrea that the present facilities will not be able to cope with it. She said that the Town Council should urge the Department of Education to examine the educational needs of the town.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Morgan.

"That Loughrea Town Council recommend to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche, T.D. that the "Special Protection Areas Co. Galway", not include the Green, Corry's Field, The Long Point, and any other areas within the Loughrea Town Boundary". Copies of the "Special Protection Areas Co. Galway" as proposed by the Minister are enclosed for the Members of Loughrea Town Council."

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Regan.

Cllr. Morgan said that there is a proposal to have a walkway around the Lake and he wondered if this Directive will impinge on its progress. He said that the birds seem to be more important than Humans. He said that Corry's Field is a disgrace and it is not maintained. He said he has spoken to visitors to the town and they make the remark how badly kept this area is. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that a lot of the Wild life is extinct around Corry's Field. She said the Tidy Towns Group had a notice board up with all the species to be found in the area but a lot of them no longer exist. She said the fairgreen is manicured and the contrast of the rugged and wildness of Corry's Field is enhancing the environment. She would like to see more wild flowers growing there. Cllr. Regan asked if this order will affect the widening of the Gort Road. Mr. Cullen said that Sac's and Spa's can be restrictive and prohibitive when undertaking County Council work. He said that the flora, fauna and wild life have to be protected and that is just the reality of the situation. Cllr. Gunter-Nix suggested that somebody from Duchas or Wild Life Department be invited to the next meeting to clarify matters for the members. Mr. Cullen said the Conservation Officer in Galway County Council could be invited to answer queries on this Directive. He said that objections to the Special Protection Areas (SPA) on scientific grounds do not have to be lodged until the 25th May, 2007. He said if the Conservation Officer is not available for the next meeting there will be the May meeting which will give ample time to send a submission..

"That Loughrea Town Council would have the walkway in Corry's Field measured and that the measurements be posted on a notice board at the entrance".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Bane.

Cllr. Morgan said he is often approached by residents and visitors to the town on the length of the walkways in Corry's Field. Cllr. Bane said that this would be very useful information. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that the Tidy Towns Group had a project in mind to put up finger post signs in wood from the Cathedral to Corry's Field. They would be like the Sli na Slainte signs that are erected in Galway City. Mr. Cullen said that is a great idea and it might be eligible for a grant from Community and Enterprise.

"That a recommendation be sent to the Loughrea Garda Superintendent that gardai visit local schools to inform students of normal rules of conduct on the community's footpaths".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Cllr. Morgan said that students walk 4 or 5 abreast on the footpaths with large school bags and have no consideration for other people. He said he nearly got knocked down a few times with the belt he got from the school bags. Cllr. Regan said that there are 500 to 700 students attending the schools in Loughrea and they have no respect for elderly people. Cllr. Bane said she did not think this was the duty of the Gardai. She would think that the parents should talk to them. Cllr. Burke said this practice is particularly bad on Kelly Street/Barrack Street. Cllr. Tully said that a water balloon was flung at a motorist recently which nearly caused an accident. He said the youth are not afraid of the law. Cllr. Morgan requested that this matter be brought to the attention of the Superintendent.

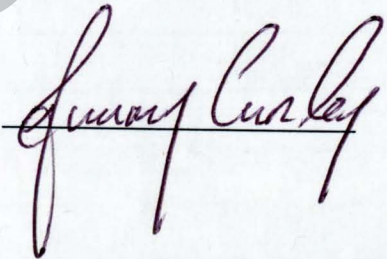
Another other Business.

Cllr. Bane asked about the toilet on the fairgreen and when is it expected to be completed. Mr. Raftery said that the Council will put paving around it. They are waiting for E.S.B meter connection.

Mayor Curley made a presentation to the Naomh Breandan Credit Union to mark 40 years in business in Loughrea. They have gone from strength to strength in those years. They are now lending €35 million per year. All the members congratulated them on their success. Pat Lawless, Chairman of the Board, thanked the Mayor and members of the Town Council for the Luxury Desk Set and Scroll and he said it would always hold pride of place in the building.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she would like to congratulate Glor na Gael, Loughrea, on receiving 4 awards in a competition run by T.G 4 for the use of Irish in the town.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this 22nd day of April, 2007. Mayor: 

Minutes of proceedings of meeting of Loughrea Town Council held in the Credit Union Offices, Dunkellin Street, Loughrea on the 2nd April, 2007.

I lathair.

Mayor: Jimmy Curley.

Members: Cllr. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Sheamie Tully.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely, Town Clerk.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Mayor Curley said he had a request from Cross Street/ Mount Pleasant / Baunogue/Masonbrook Residents regarding concerns they had in relation to road widening, road markings, road signs, car parking for the cemetery, dangerous trees etc. He asked the members if this item could be dealt with first. This was unanimously agreed.

The residents were represented by Mattie Quinn, Kevin Dooley, Seamus Fahy. Mr. Quinn said he would like to thank the Town Council members for receiving the deputation at short notice. He said because of the seriousness of the situation and because of safety issues on the Tynagh Road they felt they had to raise awareness to rectify the situation before a serious accident occurs. He said there is much concern at the appalling amount of road casualties at present and they feel that the condition of certain sections of this road could regrettably add to the statistics. He said he hoped the County Council would share their concerns, as a matter of urgency, to put a programme in place to upgrade this road and make good the sheer neglect which has allowed the road to deteriorate over the last number of years. He said they had a meeting on Saturday morning 31st March with T.D.'s, Senators, County Councillors and Town Councillors in order to make them aware of the serious issues. He said they had got a vague report from the County Council with no definite time scale for the remedial works to be undertaken and in fact "sometime in the future" for some of the issues. He said they are not concerned about funding for the Tynagh/Derryfrench road or Tynagh Limehill road. They want funding for the road from Fitzy's Corner to Racecourse by-road. He said that safety was their primary concern for all road users. He said most of the areas requiring attention are easily rectified and do not carry a high cost factor. It just needs the will to do it. He said he understands that €21 million was allocated to County Galway for non-national roads. He said the volume of traffic has increased on this road with the Gama Power Station and the Kart racing in Tynagh. He understands that there is a link road proposed from Tynagh Road to the Fairfield roundabout but that could be years before this comes on stream. He said the sign for "Loughrea" is missing for over 3 years. Signs are facing in the wrong direction. He said that gives a bad image to the town and is sheer negligence. He said it is bad enough for the natives but for visitors it is appalling. He posed the question if an accident happened along this 4 km stretch, now the dangers have been reported, who is responsible at subsequent proceedings. He said cars are crossing from Lake

Road to Moore Street without stopping. He said the stop line from Moore Street is of major concerns for them because it is too far out on the road. He asked why the building line was breached at Mount Pleasant Cemetery resulting in future difficulties in road widening at the cemetery. He said there are over hanging trees along a road margin before the roundabout which they consider dangerous and need to be removed. He said he knows from previous experience that the land owner is responsible and the County Council notify people of such matters. He asked why those trees have not been removed in the interest of safety. He said a serious drainage problem has developed since the road was resurfaced and the gullies are blocked. He said this is particularly dangerous in frosty weather which leads to accidents. He said land was acquired near the Racecourse junction for a Community Scheme, but this seems to be abandoned or shelved. He said raw sewage was visible on Cross Street recently and if this had gone into the stream nearby there could be more pollution for the County Council to deal with. He said he knows the County Council has a Mission Statement and a Code of Practice to adhere to and he hopes they abide by them. He asked Mr. Raftery to address the problems, without delay. They want action now not in the future.

Mayor Curley thanked the deputation for their presentation and hand out. He asked them if they had objected to the development near the cemetery. Mr. Quinn said they had but did not expect planning to be approved in the interest of safety and sustainable development. He said there was such an acute bend on the road they could not comprehend planning permission being granted.

Cllr. Morgan said that a lot of the issues raised did not concern the Town Council. They have no power as town councillors. The only function of the town council is to recommend to the County Council that those items be addressed. He said that the matters should be addressed by Cllr. Hynes who is the only member of the County Council. He said some of the issues have already been raised by the Town Council members by resolution. He said he is 100% in support of their concerns. He said the road markings at Moore Street/Lake Road is written in law and has to be adhered to. He said the trees should be cut back by the land owner as he is responsible. Mr. Quinn said they carried out a traffic count recently from 8.30 – 9.30 a.m. on the junction at Moore Street - 336 cars went out the Tynagh road and 286 came in from the Tynagh road. He said it is one thing being legally right and another being dead.

Cllr. Maher said that most of the concerns the deputation had could get a quick fix within two months. He said he would keep up the pressure at every meeting until it is done.

Cllr. Bane said that the deputation should consult the Superintendent about the Moore Street/Lake Road Junction on a point of information to see if the road marking is correct. She said the Board of Management has some concerns about the same issue and perhaps a successful conclusion might be brought about if they all come together.

Cllr. Regan said that the Town Council are elected by the people and certainly some of the concerns raised are in the town jurisdiction. He said he raised the matter about car parking at the cemetery and asked if there was land zoned for an extension to the burial ground. He said the question of signs was also raised numerous times at the Town Council meetings.

Cllr. Tully said it seem to him that the Planners look at Planning inside the development and not outside. He said consideration should be given for road users and increase in traffic with new developments.

Cllr. Burke said he was years fighting about those matters raised by the deputation without success. He said he would keep on the pressure until all the items raised are ticked off and complete. He said the deputation should bring their concerns to the Area Meeting of the County Council.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she would like to compliment the deputation for presenting their concerns so well and taking the initiative to bring those matters out in the open and preparing the hand out. She like the other speakers supports their concerns.

Cllr. Hynes said he got delayed at a County Council meeting but he would make their concerns known to the relevant personnel in headquarters and at the forthcoming County Council meetings.

The deputation then left.

A general discussion then took place to see what items could be readily addressed and a time frame for the outstanding matters.

Cllr. Regan asked why the sight lines were ignored by the Developer when constructing the housing estate beside the cemetery. He said the Residents driveways are being used for a car park on funeral days. He said they are not complaining but there is a limit to people's patience. He said he understands that there is 6 acres zoned for Community use but there will be no room for a car park. He said the land has to be acquired and that could be a long process. He asked Mr. Raftery if he gave the go ahead for this development. Mr Raftery said there are not enough personnel to deal with every application. Mr. Cullen said the Area Office contributes what they can to planning applications but the planning decisions are made by the Planners. He said they are guided by what is in the Town Plan. Cllr. Regan proposed that a Planner be invited to a future meeting to discuss planning issues in the Town and around the town. This was seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Cllr. Burke said that the Developer should have been ordered to move back 4 – 5 metres in case the road was widened. He said the link road is aspirational at the moment and may never materialise. He said the kernel of the matter is the safety of people and how is this going to be implemented. He fails to understand how a Developer could get planning permission near a dangerous corner. He wants the directional signs put up properly as this gives a bad image for the County Council. He wants all the issues addressed as soon as is possible. He asked why the road markings were not completed when the machinery were around the town. He said that some safety measures were needed outside the Vocational School. Mr. Raftery said that two different crews do road lining. One is worked by machine and the other is hand done. He said a yellow edge would be put outside the Vocational School to define the carriageway.

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 12th March, 2007.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Maher the minutes of the monthly meeting be adopted.

Matter arising from the minutes.

Cllr. Regan asked for an up date on the reconstruction of the Main Street and if it was on time. Mayor Curley said he had attended the meeting of the Liaison Committee which is held fortnightly to deal with progress on the Main Street. He said they are two week behind time because of the adverse weather and delays with Eircom, but the Contractors hopes to make it up when the weather improves. Cllr. Regan said that they are now behind time which means that this project could be running into November/December finishing. Mayor Curley said they hope to move the Porto-cabin out over the Easter period. He said that a bus shelter could not be provided at Garrybreeda by the Bus Companies. He said once Dunkellin Street is complete traffic will be moving East to West one way. Cllr. Burke said that Piggott Street and Abbey Street will have to be resurfaced as they are in terrible condition as a result of Lorries going along those streets during the construction work. Mr. Raftery said that they will have to look for a grant for Piggott Street, Abbey Street and Cross Street to resurface them because a lot of development went on in those areas. He said it will have to be brought before the Area County Council meeting and then be adopted by the full County Council meeting before any work could commence.

Cllr. Burke asked if the town engineer had inspected the railings at Garrybreeda Park to see if they need replacement. Mr. Raftery said the existing railings are gone beyond repair. He said it will be replaced with a wall with combination sections of rail in between, subject to funding being made available. It will be fully secure and also the public will be able to see the park.

Correspondence

Letter from Mr. Paddy McHugh, T.D. regarding Loughrea Swimming Pool. Cllr. Regan asked Mr. Cullen what is the present position regarding this matter. Mr. Cullen said that discussions had taken place, last week, between officials from Galway County Council and the Department of the Environment, as a result of correspondence from the County Council. He said the County Council are getting back to the Developer on one or two small items. Cllr. Regan asked if they could expect an announcement shortly from the relevant Department. Mr. Cullen said he couldn't say when a decision might be made.

An acknowledgement letter from Superintendent Walsh in relation to concerns of the Town Council around the town.

A letter from St. Brigid's Vocational School looking for funding for the upcoming Colleges final on the 22/4/2007. Cllr. Burke said they made a decision at the Budget meeting that there would be no funding to anybody in order to keep the rates down to the minimum. This was unanimously agreed by the members. Mayor Curley suggested that they all contribute €10.00 each in order to defray costs on the players. This was agreed.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Morgan.

"That a recommendation is made to Galway County Council to provide, as a matter of urgency, a Hot Box for the Loughrea and Athenry Engineer District, as the present practice of using cold tarmac and other materials on the repair of potholes throughout Loughrea town has failed, and proved to be a waste of time and money".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Cllr. Morgan said it is a waste of time putting out cold tar to fill potholes. He said it is like painting a wall without first washing it. He said that a "hot box" should be ordered without delay. Mr. Raftery said that they have purchased a Roadmaster patching machine for the Electoral Area from the Machinery Yard. He said conditions for patching at the moment are not ideal. He said when the weather improves the results should be better.

"That a recommendation be made to Galway County Council that name plates be erected at the Carmelite Nuns Tercentenary Park, The Walk and at Latimer Lodge Park".

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan.

As this motion was not seconded it was not discussed.

"That Loughrea Town Council erect name plates at Garrybreeda Park and the Long Point"

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan seconded by Mayor Curley.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that there is a name plate at Garrybreeda Park but was taken down recently for painting and repair. Cllr. Regan said there is a sign at the Long Point.

Any Other Business.

Cllr. Burke asked when the mechanical sweeper will be purchased to sweep the town and the footpaths. He said that one person could not possibly sweep the whole town with a brush and barrow. Mr. Raftery said there were looking for quotations for a mechanical sweeper but this would not happen until the Main Street refurbishment is complete.

Cllr. Tully asked if publicans could put tables and chairs on the footpaths during the summer under the Bye-Laws adopted by the Town Council. Mr. Raftery gave a negative reply. He said the Gardai would enforce the law if it was breached.

Cllr. Bane said the pier at the Long Point is unsafe and needs attention. She said there are gaps in the concrete slabs and there is an accident waiting to happen.

Cllr. Bane asked if the signs at the playground could be lowered as it is very difficult to read them. Mr. Raftery said this would be done as soon as possible.

Cllr. Maher said the fencing around the playground would need to be replaced and is very dangerous.

Cllr. Maher referred to sand, pipes and debris at the opening to the Lake on the Gort Road. He said there is green stagnant water at this location and could cause pollution to the water and wants it investigated. Cllr. Hynes said he wants to put it on record that the Lake Water is perfect to drink.

Mayor Curley said that Loughrea Senior Hurling Team had won the County Club Final and Connacht Club Final this year and came second in the All Ireland Club Championship. In this context he said it is only fitting that those achievements should be acknowledged by Loughrea Town Council. A presentation was made to Damien McClearn Captain of the Team and Gavin Keary Assistant Captain. A scroll, which was printed by Cllr. Morgan, free of charge, was presented to the 30 member team and the officials. There was also a presentation to Fr. Ambrose McNamee who is one of the surviving members of the 1941 Club finalists which was the last time Loughrea won the club title.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this 14th day of May, 2007.

Mayor:

Minutes of proceedings of meeting of Loughrea Town Council held in the Credit Union Offices, Dunkellin Street, Loughrea on the 14th May, 2007.

I lathair:

Mayor: Jimmy Curley.

Members: Cllr. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Sheamie Tully.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely, Town Clerk.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Mayor Curley said he would take item number two on the Agenda in relation to Special areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. He said Dr. Julie Fossitt would address the meeting in relation to this particular E.U. Directive and answer questions if the members had any concerns.

2. Nature Conservation Issue - SAC's and SPA's

Dr. Julie Fossitt said she was from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Galway. She said Loughrea is a Special Protection Area (SPA - site code 4134) selected for the conservation of birds and their habitats. It is also a candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC - site code 304) selected for the conservation of certain habitats and/or species other than birds. SACs and SPAs are European sites, and part of the European wide network of Natura 2000 sites. They are of international importance for nature conservation.

European sites are selected, designated and protected under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.

The main issues and responsibilities for the Town Council, in conjunction with the County Council under the EU Directive is in carrying out their duties as developer, planner or consent authority are to ensure that these sites, and the habitats and species for which they have been selected, are maintained at, or restored to "favourable conservation status". She said all plans or projects in the general area must be subject to "appropriate assessment" under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. This is a four step process, involving the following - 1. Screening to see if significant impacts are likely. 2. Appropriate assessment, if screening finds that significant impacts are likely. 3. Assessment of alternative solutions. 4. Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain.

The assessment must establish, based on best scientific knowledge, whether significant impacts are likely to occur as a result of each plan or project, or on its own and in combination with other plans or projects. Plans or projects may not be authorised if adverse effects on the integrity of the European site are likely, except

under exceptional circumstances. The opinion of the EU Commission may be required.

As Lough Rea is a lake, there are overlaps between nature conservation requirements and obligations to maintain or improve water quality status under the Water Framework Directive. Issues that affect the water quality of the Lake are – Water Abstraction, pollution sources i.e. end of pipe draining into lake or ditch drainage or diffused pollution from agriculture, housing developments and individual houses or any development around the lake. Loughrea is at significant risk of failing to reach the required standard under the Framework Directive by 2015 if appropriate assessment is not taken with plans or project before it is authorised. She said this assessment should be on the best scientific knowledge not the gut feeling of certain professionals to give an opinion. She said it is up to the Local Authority to monitor the Drinking Water and Bathing Water. She said if there is any judgement against Ireland, all authorities with responsibility in an area will be under scrutiny.

She said there is a threat to wildlife particularly water birds which are internationally important such as Shoveller Duck, Tufted Duck, Coot, Golden Eye, Teal etc. because of too many recreational activities such as jet skies, boats, dogs in the water etc. She said the disturbance of birds by dogs off their leads, street lights, and dogs barking could cause birds to move away and not return to the area. She said the more people moving around the lake the more noise that will be created. She said there is a legal obligation on the Town Council and County Council to make sure that there is no pollution getting into the lake. If it is, the local authorities have to take steps to rectify it.

Mayor Curley thanked Dr. Fossitt for her informed talk and he asked the members if they had any questions to put to Dr. Fossitt.

Cllr. Morgan said that the Town Council had an amenity area called "Corry Field" and because of the Wildlife Act the grass can no longer be cut there. He said it was agriculture land prior to the Town Council acquiring it and hay was cut every year. He said it would seem from information delivered by Dr. Fossitt that the walkway around the Lake can not now proceed because of disturbance to the wildlife around the lake.

Mayor Hynes said when he was Mayor of County Galway in 2005/2006 he got approval for this project i.e. a walkway around the lake. He said an assessment report was done by the County Council and they have got clearance from the Anglers, Fisheries and other interested parties to this project. He said the Director of Services for Cultural and general services is moving this project along. He said it will not interfere or disturb the wildlife.

Cllr. Regan asked who carries out inspections on the Lake for Drinking Water and Bathing Water. He asked if she had scientific evidence that the lake will deteriorate so much by 2015 that it will not comply with the EU Directive.

Mr. Cullen, Director of Services, said that the Local Authority in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency monitor the lake under the Water Directive Programme. There is a set period for sampling and the number of samples taken is

determined by the Environmental Protection Agency. He said that the quality of the water for drinking and bathing has met the required standards as laid down by the present legislation. He said there is a rigorous sampling regime but there are very high parameters to be achieved by the year 2015. He said some water supplies have it and others will have to be brought up to the required standard by 2015. He said in East Galway there are intensive agriculture and forestry activities which could easily cause pollution. This does not mean that the quality of water in the Lake is going to deteriorate but because of its location and hinterland, there are identified pressures.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix said she would like to thank Dr. Fossitt for taking the time to address the members of Loughrea Town Council. She said that Loughrea has had Blue Flag status for the last nine years. Loughrea Environmental Group do litter picks on a weekly basis in order to retain the Blue Flag. This is over and above the Council's programme. She said it is important that Loughrea retain its Blue Flag status as it is a prestigious award. She said that it is no harm making people aware of the pitfalls which might damage the quality of water or the wildlife. She said everybody has to play their part to keep the Blue Flag in Loughrea and report any misdoings around the Lake.

Mayor Curley thanked Dr. Fossitt for addressing the meeting. Dr. Fossitt then left the meeting.

3. Garrybreeda Burial Ground.

Mayor Curley said that some of the members had concerns about footpaths and removal of ivy from the wall of the Church at Garrybreeda and requested the Heritage Officer to address the meeting on those issues. He asked the members if they were agreeable to take this item three on the Agenda next. This was unanimously agreed.

Brid Higgins said she was acting Heritage Officer in the absence of Marie Mannion. She said Christy Cunniffe who has vast experience in archaeological monuments would address the members in relation to Garrybreeda graveyard.

Christy Cunniffe said that Garrybreeda graveyard and Church are recorded as archaeological monuments and because of this are protected under the National Monuments Act. He said there are no issues with doing the work but it would need to follow a specific procedure. There are a number of conditions which must be met before work on a graveyard can commence. The Heritage Service requires both a pre-conservation and post conservation archaeological report on the site prepared by a qualified archaeologist. The pre conservation report should provide full details of the present condition of the graveyard and the archaeologist's advice and recommendation as to the nature of the works required. The post conservation should include a comprehensive survey of the site, describe in full all the works carried out. Once a plan is prepared two months notice must be given to the National Monuments Service for approval. He said pulling down ivy can destabilize a structure and often hasten its total collapse. He said it is a very important ecclesiastical site. He said there is a 15th century window that needs to be preserved. He said it is very important to conserve this building as pieces of glass could be removed. The removal of ivy from trees is also not recommended as, contrary to popular opinion it does not damage trees but provides a valuable ecological habitat for birds and insects.

In relation to footpaths Mr. Cunniffe said if the County Council are digging more than 2 inches underground it will be necessary to get an archaeologist's report and also have an archaeologist present during the work.

Brid Higgins said that before starting the work on the conservation of a graveyard it is important to consider how it will be funded. She said it will depend on how much work the committee intends to carry out. She said that the committee could apply to the Heritage Council for funding when the plan of works is complete. She said the closing date for this grant is the end of the year. She also suggested talking to Mairin Doddy, Conservation Officer, Galway County Council.

Christy Cunniffe said if the Gothic Church is a protected structure they could also talk to Hugh Carey the State Archaeologist to see if funding is available or on any queries arising during the works.

Mayor Curley thanked both speakers and asked the members if they wished to ask any questions.

Cllr. Regan said that the footpaths just need to be made safer and in his opinion and did not require an archaeologist's report as it is unlikely that they will be digging down more than 2 inches. Mr. Cunniffe said that two months notice will still be required.

Cllr. Bane said the Burial Ground Register for this cemetery is missing and wondered if there would be funding if a group undertook this project. She also said that the National Monuments should provide funding if there is a voluntary group willing to do the work. Christy Cunniffe said this is a huge problem in a lot of burial grounds when the Register is missing. He said he would look into the matter.

Cllr. Burke said the Gothic Church was cleaned up about 20 years ago. He said he is disappointed that the ivy can not be removed from this building. Mr. Cunniffe said the ivy can be tidied up with a hand clippers not with slash hooks or as directed by the State Archaeologist. This work would have to be done outside the nesting season.

Cllr. Morgan said he knows it was a monastic site in 1160. He said the footpaths are six inches above the grass. He said that an archaeologist would need to be on site and works approved two months in advance of it starting or otherwise the committee would be in breach of the law.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix proposed that Hugh Carey, State Archaeologist, meet the committee on site to discuss all aspects of the project with them. This was seconded by Mayor Curley. She also said that the committee and the Town Council would enter into discussions with Brid Higgins and Mairin Doddy in relation to having this Gothic Church declared a Protected Structure. It is her opinion that this Church is as significant as St. Brendan's Cathedral and should merit a Protected Structure status. Christy Cunniffe said that this Church has significant archaeological values and should be protected.

Ms. Brid Higgins and Christy Cunniffe left the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 2nd April, 2007.

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke seconded by Cllr. Regan that the minutes of the monthly meeting be adopted.

Matter arising from the minutes.

Cllr. Regan said that work on the Main Street is progressing very slowly and asked if two crews could be put on the job before the tourists start arriving so as to advance the work. He says you get better value for work if it is done during the long days. He asked Mr. Raftery how one can get into Main Street car park legally from Barrack Street. He said you can not go right at the top of Kelly Street or from Church Street onto the Main Street. He asked that this matter be addressed before there is a serious accident. He said the traffic flow has changed on Kelly Street yet traffic is still coming down from Main Street to Kelly Street. Mr. Raftery said he would take up this matter with the Resident Engineer.

Cllr. Maher asked when the Traffic Management Plan will be reviewed. He said it was first when the Bypass was open. Mr. Raftery said when the Main Street is finished it will be reviewed and the concerns highlighted will be addressed. Cllr. Bane and Maher said they were not happy with the report of the Gardai in relation to Ma's Boreen. Residents are very irate at the illegal parking on this boreen and they can not get into their houses.

Cllr. Burke said that the footpaths are very wide on Dunkellin Street and he wanted to know the reason for narrowing the street. Cllr. Regan said he understands that the Main Street is going to be one way eventually. Mr. Raftery said that it would be open for discussion when the Traffic Management Plan comes under review. He said it will have to go before the Area Council meeting and then before the full County Council meeting before it could be implemented. Cllr. Tully said that there were a couple of accidents between Dunkellin Street and Westbridge when markings put down were changed. He asked when traffic is being changed to put markings on the road first to avoid accidents. Cllr. Burke asked where the hand water pump had disappeared to. Mayor Curley said this matter was discussed at Liaison Committee meeting recently. It was stated that it would be put back but he is not sure of the location yet. Mr. Raftery said the area where it was sited was too narrow and it needs to be repaired. He said the cap is missing from the top of it. Cllr. Burke said he understands that the cap is in the Garda Station.

Cllr. Maher asked when it is intended to repair the fencing around the playground. He said this matter has been mentioned a number of times. He said that the children will be soon getting holidays and he requested that this matter be addressed before then. Cllr. Burke and Regan also mentioned this matter. They said that there is no protection from the public road if a child strayed away. Mayor Curley also supported this matter and asked the town engineer to address this matter before an accident happens.

Cllr. Morgan asked for an update on the proposed Swimming Pool. Mr. Cullen said all the information is with the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism and a decision

is awaited. Cllr. Burke said that he was speaking to the Developer before he came to the meeting and he expects to hear from the Department shortly. He said once the Developer gets the final word he will be ready to start work within two months.

Cllr. Bane asked when the public toilet will be functioning. She said it would be important to have it available for the summer season. Mr. Raftery said that there is a crew working on it at the moment preparing for E.S.B. and putting in a ramp. He will leave them on it until it is finished. He said the stone wall will be built up. Cllr. Regan asked if the seat is going back at the entrance to the fairgreen. Mr. Raftery said there are no plans to build the wall at this area.

Cllr. Bane said that cars are going up on the grass at the Long Point and asked if it can be addressed. Mr. Raftery said that bollards could be put to stop this practise. Cllr. Bane asked if the Community Warden could patrol the area. Mr. Raftery said that most of it is happening at night.

Cllr. Maher asked when the bus stop will be provided on the Hill. He said that elderly people are getting drenched waiting for the bus. He said it is also coming into the holiday season and visitors will be coming to the town over the summer. Cllr. Regan said that people on the west side of the town have to walk two miles now to catch a bus and that it needed to be addressed.

Cllr. Burke asked if any progress had been made on the road from Fitzzy's corner to Racecourse road as highlighted by the deputation. Mr. Raftery said that road lining was done. Drainage works have been done past the cemetery. Welcome to Loughrea and Safe Home on exit have been erected along this area. He said the signage under the Roads Programme has been erected in some of the County. However, the signs have not been delivered for Loughrea or Athenry yet. A crew will be assigned for this purpose when they are delivered.

Cllr. Tully asked if the pupils attending the schools in Loughrea could be picked up at the school. He said that they converge at all corners of the town waiting to be picked up by bus. He said that the Gardai had to be called in when some of them started firing supplies outside a shop at each other. Cllr. Morgan said that there is mayhem on the streets at 4.00 p.m. when the students leave the schools. He said the public will have to take the law into their own hands and take action. Mr. Cullen, Director of Services said that this is a matter for the Gardai to deal with. Cllr. Gunter-Nix said that it would be her opinion that the ideal place to pick up students is at the school and not have them loitering around the town waiting for the bus. She said this could be implemented in the new term in September.

4. Fix date for Annual Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke seconded by Cllr. Regan that the Annual Meeting will take place at 7.00 p.m. followed by the Monthly meeting.

5. Correspondence.

Letter from AMAI - Requesting motions for the Annual Conference 2007 on the following topics: Alternative Energy: Regional Planning Guidelines: Road Safety.

Closing date 30th June, 2007.

Cllr. Burke said that the County Leader Partnership Board is seeking one delegate each year to sit on the Board. (This appointment is rotational).

Casual Trading Bye-Laws: Cllr. Tully said that the proposed Trading Bays along King Street would make it very dangerous as this is a narrow street with cars parked along it. He said there are already 2 stalls trading there and it would be very difficult to add another 4 stalls. Mr. Raftery said the Community Warden looked at it and considered it the safest area for the trading bays. Cllr. Burke said that the street would have to be closed when the stalls are operating there, which is two days a week. He also asked if the Residents are aware of this matter. He said there will still be Traders on Barrack Street as the flower display is always near the Fire Station. Cllr. Regan said that King Street will have to be closed on Market days. He said there is also a problem with Barrack Street as the Traders park near the Doctor's surgery. Cllr. Regan proposed that the town council members meet in committee to discuss this item and see what the best options are. This was seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Letter from St. Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea acknowledging €100.00 from the members and official of Loughrea Town Council. Cllr. Burke proposed that a letter of congratulations be sent to the school.

Letter from An Garda Siochana in relation to illegal parking at Coy's Boreen/Ma's Boreen and a response to Cllr. Morgan's Notice of Motion.

All correspondence circulated to the members.

Agenda for Chamber of Commerce meeting on the 15th May in O'Dea's Hotel at 9.00 p.m.

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Tully.

"I call on Galway County Council to introduce a law banning all HGV's of 3 tonne or over from entering Loughrea town centre unless they have documents proving that they have business in the Town Centre".

It was proposed by Cllr. Tully seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Cllr. Tully said that trucks are coming into town and he asked that they be banned and use the Bye-Pass road. Cllr. Regan said if trucks are coming from Portumna Road and going onto Gort they automatically come through the town. Mr. Cullen said that the Council can not be selective on who they let through the town. If a HGV has paid road tax it is entitled to use the public road in the same way as a saloon car. He said it would also be difficult to monitor. He said this practise was introduced when construction work started on the Main Street, as a Safety measure, but that did not prohibit HGV's going through the town.