
Tuam Town Commissioners

Minutes, 1843 - 1968

TTC/1/



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2014



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Identity Statement

Reference Code:	IE GCCA/TTC/1/
Title:	Tuam Town Commissioners, Minutes
Dates:	1843 - 1968
Extent:	13 items

Context

Creator(s): Tuam Town Commissioners

Archival History

The Minutes were transferred to Galway County Council Archives in 2013.

Archivist's Note

Descriptive list prepared by Patria McWalter, Archivist, 2014.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of the minutes of the Tuam¹ Town Commissioners, dating from 1843 – 1968. It consists of 12 volumes of minutes with some gaps, and also one volume of rough minutes.

Administrative History / Biographical Notes

King James I granted Tuam a Royal Charter on 30th March 1613, and the town was laid out as a market town to its present plan with all the streets converging on the central square. The Royal Charter enabled Tuam to send two representatives to parliament and allowed the town to set up a formal local authority, the forerunner of the present day Town Council with a sovereign and 12 burgesses elected.

In September 1843 a 21 man Town Commissions Board was elected under the Lighting of Towns Act 1828, thus took over from the Sovereign and twelve Burgess of the original charter. In 1843 following the election of members and Chairman, the Board agreed various bye-laws. At one of its early meetings various legal issues were queried and answered by legal consul regarding the status, duties and powers of Board, most particularly those of its Chairman, under the new legislation.

The Town Improvement Act of 1854 was adopted on 25 October 1855. The first meeting of the Board under this Act was held on 19 November 1855, with Mr Richard Kelly elected Chairman.

¹ Tuam is situated in a low lying area of north Galway County, 21 miles north of Galway City. The N17 national route links the town to Galway City to the south and Sligo, via Claremorris, to the north.



Under the Local Government Act 1898 the Town continued to be governed by the Town Commissioners until 2002 when their name changed to Town Council. Fifteen Councillors were elected following the 1899 election. James McDonnell was elected Chairman.

Due to the traditional reluctance to strike a rate, Tuam Town Commissioners provided the town with very few services. The streets were maintained by the County Council, the Board of Guardians provided health care and administered the workhouse, and the Rural District Council provided sanitary services. The County Council took over the street cleaning function in 1915.

In 1921 Eileen Costello (1870-1962) was elected the first female member of Tuam Town Commissioners and also served as first female chairman (1921-22).

Tuam Town Council, along with 79 other Councils, was abolished under Local Government Reform Act 2014 which is due to come into effect in May 2014. Following the abolition of the councils, councillors will represent Municipal Districts at County Council level. The Act states:-

An Act to make further and better provision in relation to local government and, in particular, to amalgamate Limerick County Council with Limerick City Council, Waterford County Council with Waterford City Council and North Tipperary County Council with South Tipperary County Council, to provide for the position of chief executive in relation to each local authority, to dissolve town councils, to make provision for municipal districts, to assign additional reserved functions to local authority members, to dissolve County Development Boards and City Development Boards and make provision for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees, for planning and oversight of Local and Community Development Programmes, to provide for an increased role for local authorities in economic development and enterprise support, to amend the Local Government Act 1991 and provide for regional assemblies, to enable (subject to certain preconditions) a plebiscite to be held in the administrative areas of the local authorities in the Dublin area in respect of a directly elected mayor for that area and for those and other purposes to amend the Local Government Acts 1925 to 2013, the Local Elections Acts 1974 to 2012 and other enactments relating to elections, the Housing Acts 1966 to 2013 and the Planning and Development Act 2000, to amend other Acts in connection with the foregoing matters, to amend section 20 of the Dublin Docklands Development Authority Act 1997 and to provide for related matters.

The following is some detail extracted from the minutes relating to major issues dealt with by the Commissioners over the years.

Housing

In 1883 the question of erecting Artizans' dwellings was raised, with a committee appointed to look into the matter (TTC1/2, 5 Nov 1883). The issue was again discussed in 1885 when the Commissioners resolved *'That considering the great extent of destitution that exists in this town principally for the want of decent dwellings for the poor and laboring classes, we now beg as ratepayers to call upon the Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union to at once put in force the salutary provisions of the Labourers Act of the last Session and by means of that beneficent measure provide for the miserable rack-rented cottiers striving to exist in the hovels which abound in this town comfortable accommodation and a plot of ground upon which they can raise some crops for their*



subsistence' (TTC1/2, 7 Sept 1885). However, it was not until the early 20th century that the Council engaged in the provision of housing. In particular from the mid-1930s onwards the Commissioners were very pro-active in building public houses. Over 200 local authority houses were constructed by 1942.

In May 1913 the Commissioners started the process of building its first social housing scheme, when it issued an advertisement inviting tenders for the erection of 30 houses in the Town, under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts 1890 to 1908 *'in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by Mr Costello, Engineer'* (TTC1/4, p840, see also p849 & p855). There was some delay in commencing the building as Arbitration was required first in relation to the compulsory purchase of the required lands (see for instance TTC/1/4, p862).

These houses were built in 1915 under two separate schemes, later known as McHale Terrace and Parkmore Terrace. The Board had obtained a housing loan from the Commissioners of Public Works of £6,000 for the erection of artisan dwellings in 1913 (TTC/1/5, p22, see also TTC/1/4, p874 & p876, p881), 20 in Ballygaddy Road and 10 at Dublin Road or Farranabox). The engineer, Mr G. P. Costello, resigned in 1914 as he had volunteered for military services; *'...on account of my donning the colours for service at the Front as the matter appears to me, as an imperative duty towards our county and every man's help is important, and being impelled by that sense of duty is the reason why I now sever my connection with your Board, which has always treated me with the greatest consideration and kindness and to whom I shall always be very grateful'* (TTC/1/5, November 1914, pp27-8). Less than a year later Costello was *'killed in action at the Dardanells'* (23 August 1915, p76).

In 1922 the Provisional Government proposed a free-grant scheme for housing which the Commissioners decided to avail of and considered several possible sites, such as at Bishops Street, Ballygaddy Road and Old Road (TTC/1/5, p396). They struck a rate of *'1/6 in £ for Housing Scheme'* (TTC/1/5, p404, see also p458). Fr Cunningham offered a site at Ballygaddy Road for £175, which was accepted (TTC/1/5, p434). It was estimated in September that 6 houses would cost £3,318 to build. A loan of £837 was sanctioned by the Ministry of Local Government in April 1923 for the scheme. The tender of Martin Burke in the sum of £2,895 for building five houses was accepted in June 1923. In autumn 1924 the Commissioners advertised for tenders for the sale of the five houses.

In October the Irish Sailors and Soldiers Fund Trust offered £500 for the houses but this offer was declined. However, the Commissioners offered the Trust a site known as Cloran plot (TTC/1/5/ p524). Yet in 1927 the Clerk was *'directed to write to the Secretary of the Soldiers and Sailors Land Trust and find out cause of delay in building the houses at Bishop Street, Tuam, it being a long time in contemplation'* (TTC/1/6, p73).

In 1924 the Commissioners decided to erect a scheme of social housing with 30 units. In order to qualify for financial aid under the Scheme the Commissioners had to finally begin to levy rates, a decision they made on 17 May 1922.



In mid 1926 the Commissioners accepted the tender of Martin Burke, in the sum of £915, for building two houses at Ballygaddy Road (TTC/1/6, p39).

In February 1927 the Housing Department, Merrion Square agreed to the Commissioners selling houses to tenants under the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts, subject to certain conditions (TTC/1/6, p75). Yet the Commissioners felt that some of the conditions were too harsh. They felt for instance that the 10/- Ground Rent should be abolished, and that the £200 asking price was also too high, considering that it only cost £175 to build each house (TTC/1/6, p75). The Local Government Board subsequently agreed to leave '*...the question of Ground rent to the Commissioners' own discretion in case if sold and the purchase price to be lodged to the credit of original loan of £6,000*' (TTC1/6, p81).

In October 1927 the Commissioners received tenders for building five houses on Galway Road, and accepted James Mohgan's tenders in the sum of £1,325.7.0 (TTC/1/6, p107).

In July 1928 an issue regarding the size of the plot purchased for Galway Cottages was highlighted, wherein the '*...plot actually purchased has now just sufficient frontage to allow four more houses to be built on the Galway Road, and two more houses on Church View Road. The original scheme contemplated the erection of 15 houses, eleven on the Galway Road and four on the Church View road. This will not be possible unless extra plots are acquired on both roads*' (TTC/1/6, p172).

In October 1928 the Board agreed to purchase Plot 15 from Roger Kenny for £40, '*...as it is most essential to enable them to build ten houses at Galway Road...*' (TTC1/6, p204). In November the Commissioners accepted the tender of James Moggan, Tuam, for the erection of ten houses at Galway Road '*...according to plan and specification completed with roads, sewers, fencing, paths, drainage, excavations and fillings for the sum of £2,375*' (TTC/1/6, p213).

At a later meeting an offer from Miss Margaret Sweeney of Cloonkelly, Tuam for one of the houses at £500 was accepted, as was an offer of £450 from John J Egan for another. Tenants were agreed for the remaining three houses at rents of 12/6 per week (TTC/1/6, p531-2).

In 1932 the Commissioners discussed commencing a scheme to provide 50 houses, as a start under a new Housing Act in Tullinadaly Road, Ballygaddy Road, Bishop's Street and Dublin Road (see for instance TTC/1/8, p42). Sites were offered by the Stractran Estate at Ballygaddy Road '*...at a rate of £300 per acre. (This offer was not considered)*' (TTC/1/8, p48). In March 1933 it resolved that the site for 10 houses at Ballygaddy Road '*be purchased from the Catholic Church Authorities at £175*' (TTC/1/8, p72).

In 1933 the Board decided that 20 tenanted houses at McHale Terrance and 10 at Parkmore should be offered for sale to the tenants (TTC/1/8, p77). In June that year, the Engineer, J. P. Glynn, threatened to resign in protest of the Commissioners' decision to build terrace houses (type 1a), which he felt were '*altogether unsuitable*' for the site (TTC/1/8, p88). The Commissioners subsequently rescinded its decision to proceed with type 1a and resolved instead that '*Mr Glynn's plans and layouts be adopted for this site, as in the opinion of the Commissioners they are the most*



suitable and the estimated cost of the Department's 1a plan is very little under Mr Glynn's estimate for the type of house submitted by him' (TTC/1/8, p89). However, the LGB did not accept the revised plans (TTC/1/8, p95). Glynn resigned in March 1935, at which point J. P. Moran of Vicar St., Tuam was appointed to act as Engineer to the Commissioners (TTC/1/8, p137).

The Dept of LGPH sent its Engineer Inspector, Mr Raftery, to Tuam in 1934 to discuss with the Commissioners the '*question of the selection of sites for a Housing Scheme etc, etc'* (TTC/1/8, p142). In early January 1935 the Commissioners requested the Minister for Local Government's sanction for 90 houses at Tubberjarlath Road (TTC/1/8, p196). Details of tenders received for the scheme were discussed on 19th February, 1935, and the contract for the erection of the houses, to be built with concrete walling, wooden sashes and slated roofs, was awarded to Hession Brothers, Abbey Street, Roscommon who had submitted an estimate of £26,725.8.4 (TTC/1/8, p203). Patrick J. Colleran, 6 Parkmore Terrace, Tuam was appointed Clerk of Works for the scheme. The Minister's sanction of a loan of £30,000 for the scheme was granted in March (TTC /1/8, p213).

Also in April 1935 the Commissioners sought sanction for 32 additional houses at Farranabox, and 40 additional houses at Athenry Road (Scheme B), '*subject to alterations which may be necessary in connection with the proposal to have the New Cemetery extended on the south or Athenry side...'* (TTC/1/8, p218). Five tenders were received, with the contract for the Athenry houses awarded to Naughton Brothers, Ardnaree, Ballina, Co. Mayo, in the sum of £11,545.15.0 and for the Farranabox houses awarded to the second lowest tender, submitted by Glynn & Tobin, Ballina, Co. Mayo in the sum of £9,737.9.0 (TTC1/8, pp230-1). Naughton Brothers objected to the Farranabox contract being awarded to Glynn & Tobin rather than to them, as they had submitted the lowest estimate. The Minister subsequently sanctioned Naughton for the scheme at a cost of £9,592.8.6 for 30 houses (TTC/1/8, p241).

In October 1935 the Commissioners met especially to '*fix the rents of the houses (160) now in course of erection at Tubberjarlath, Farranbox and Athenry Road sites'*. It was also decided at that meeting that the houses on Mooney's field, '*facing the New Cemetery be named Michael Moran Place; that the houses on Father Burke's field be named Father Burke Row and that all houses on the Athenry Road south of the Cemetery (both sides of the road) be named St Anne's Place' (TTC/1/9, pp6-7). Another special meeting was held on 21st January 1936 to further discuss the issue of rents (see also TT 1/9/, p34).*

They also meet later in January to deal with the proposed '*Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders'* for the Tirboy Road area (TTC/1/9, p24); situated at Barrack Street, Church View, Galway Road, Cloontooa Road in the town of Tuam. Plans and specifications proposed by Mr J Murphy and Mrs M O'Brien were accepted, thus granting Murphy and O'Brien permission to build the houses at the No.2 Clearance site (TTC1/9/p162).

At a special meeting on 25 August 1936 the tenants selected, and named in the minutes, for the new Tubberjarlath houses were formerly allocated their new homes (TTC/1/9, pp88-91). The date for the handing over of the keys had yet to be decided (see also TTC/1/9, p111, and p125)



Tenants were selected, and listed in the minutes, for the 27 Farranabox houses; Michael Moran Terrance (16) and Father Burke Row (11) (TTC/1/9, pp106-7).

Tenders were reviewed in May 1937 for the erection of 84 new houses at Tirboy. The Tender of Messrs M. Bermingham & Sons, Galway, in the sum of £28,338.5.0 was accepted (TTC/1/9, p169). Mr T. J. Egan was appointed Clerk of Works (TTC/1/9, p211). A mortgage of £31,000 was obtained for the building of the 84 houses (TTC/1/9, p193).

Further Clearance Orders, under Section 5 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1931, were proposed in January 1938, such as at Sun Street, Bishop Street, Tullinadaly Road, Old Ballygaddy Road and Galway Road (TTC/1/9, pp219-221).

In July 1944 the County Manager advised the Commissioners that a Housing Survey of the Town had been completed. It was proposed to provide *'35 houses, 20 slum clearance and 15 to relieve overcrowding, Galway Road, Cloonthoa Road and Church View to made (sic) a Clearance Area and Improvement area, and that Mr Egan, Town Surveyor was preparing map of areas suitable for building sites'* (TTC/1/11, 4 Jul 1944).

In 1945 the Commissioners considered there was a lack of housing for the middle-classes but the County Manager advised them that they were not entitled to *'compete with private enterprise, and it was the first duty to cater for the working classes'* (TTC/1/10, p5 Nov 1945).

There was ongoing discussion with the County Manager in 1946 and 1947 regarding the proposed housing scheme. When the architect Mr Sheehan, submitted plans for the 37 houses it was decided to adopt *'types H, K and Z'* for the 21 slum clearance houses at Barrack Street houses and *'type G for Newtownmorriss Scheme'* (TTC/1/10, 21 January 1947). Tenders for the latter houses were received in December 1949 when there was discussion regarding the original estimated cost of the houses and the current costs. It was unanimously adopted that *'a protest be sent to the Minister... indicating the members disapproval to the delay in the preparation of plans and specifications in respect of both schemes, unless a satisfactory reply had been received from the Manager in the meantime'* (TTC/1/12, 6 Dec 1949). The delays were apparently due to the acquisition of the sites by Compulsory Purchase Order which was a slow process.

In early 1950 the Commissioners authorisd the building of two *'further houses at Cloonthoa-type H revised'* by direct labour (TTC1/12, 3 Jan 1950).

Architects plans were examined for the 22 houses, *'type F.Z'*, which were planned for Cloothoa Road, and some alternations were recommended (TTC1/12, p 15 Dec 1949). The scheme was increased to 26 houses in May 1950. In early January 1951 12 houses were ready for occupation, and 8 were nearing completion, with jus the laying of the water mains left outstanding.

There was discussion throughout the 1950s about retro fitting the Commissioner's houses with Stanley ranges. For instance it was agreed in May 1951 that £400 would be taken from Revenue to enable the Engineer purchase the ranges (1 May 1951). In subsequent years the minutes include entries relating the allocation of ranges to various tenants and their houses.



The minutes include details of discussions in the late 1950s relating to a housing scheme in the Palace grounds, which had been purchased by Galway County Council some time earlier. In 1959 plans had been prepared and submitted to the Dept. for an extension of the scheme by providing an extra 10 two-storey houses (TTC1/14, p75). However, there was little progress, just ongoing discussion in the subsequent few years about the necessity for this extension. It was felt that as the number applying for houses was low there was no justification for construction extra houses (TTC/1/14, p14, p215, see also p229, p231, p253). In the 1963 and 1964 there was discussion about the provision of 12 houses still outstanding (see for instance TTC/1/15, 7 Apr 1964). In November 1964 Galway County Council advised the Board that a tender for the 12 new houses had been sanctioned by the Dept. LG. It regards to the proposal for private sites at the Palace Grounds the Dept. required new lay out plans (TTC/1/15, 3 Nov 1964).

In the early 1960s there was ongoing discussion about improvements to Gilmartin Road, including the proposal for a tenant purchase scheme (see for example TTC1/14, p192).

In 1968 the Board decided to *'press for the immediate erection of new houses due for construction in the (Children's) Home grounds, in view of the demand which would arise from Textile workers in the Weir Road Factory and to request the County Council to forward the plans of these for inspection by the Board'* (TTC1/15, 2 Jul 1968). There were also proposals at this time for 8 new houses in Athenry Road.

The use of the Fairgreen as a housing site was discussed in September 1968. Three months later the County Manager advised that £700 an acre would be a fair price for the land and that the area of *'the Green which it was proposed to dispose of would at this price realise £3,714.7.6d, and would provide sites for from 20 to 25 houses'* (TTC1/15, p3 Dec1968).

The Shambles

In March 1860 the Commissioners agreed to lease from Frederick John Foster a premises in Chapel Lane called the Fishmarket or Fish Shambles at a yearly rent of £4.4.0 (TTC1/1, p492).

In 1861 the Commissioners received from their Solicitor, Mr Tully, leases with Rev Mr Jackson Clarke for premises used as the meat shamble, formerly in the possession of Patrick Egan, blacksmith, and Patrick Hadican, for the term of 99 years at an annual rent of £12.12.0, and also a lease from John Stradford Handcock, dated 20 April 1857, for premises known as the 'old shambles' for a term of 999 years at an annual rent of £10.0.0. Also a third lease with Richard Kelly, also dated 20 April 1857, for premises opposite Daly's Hotel, as a site for the new Town Hall forever, at a yearly rent of one shilling (TTC1/1, pp519-20).

Many years later the Commissioners considered the purchase of the Fish Shambles, *'situate at Egan's Lane Tuam, which said premises the Commissioners had been tenants of for a number of years...'* (TTC/1/5, p146). However they were advised by the LGB that they, as Town Commissioners, did not have the powers of compulsory purchase under Section 21 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878 (TTC/1/5, p161).



Fair Green

The issue of the Fair Green was one of the first considered by the new Board in 1843. Sites at the Grove and College Park were considered, with the Board resolving *'That the College Park be taken at the rate of thirty pounds per annum'* (TTC/1/1, p16). However, this resolution was rescinded in February 1848 (TTC/1/1, p 146).

The minutes include details on ongoing correspondence with Mr E P O'Flanagan of Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, between 1916 and 1918 relating to the leasing by the Commissioners of the Fair Green.

In 1933 the Board wrote to the LGD *'to ascertain if the Board could acquire the Tuam Fairgreen (in full) and to allot portion of it to building sites...'* (TTC/1/8, p81).

In September 1933 it resolved to *'make a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), under and by virtue of the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890-1931, for the compulsory purchase of the lands known as the Fair Green and plots adjoining set out and numbered on the Map, prepared by the Board's Engineer...'* (TTC/1/8, p116). However, the Dept. of Local Government and Public Health did not sanction the CPO.

In 1937 the Commissioners approached the solicitors, Conway & Quinn, for the O'Flanagan Estate *'with a view to making an offer for the purchase of the Fair Green'* (TTC/1/9, p189). Conway & Quinn offered the site for sale for £1,000 plus redemption monies. The Commissioners appointed a sub-committee to negotiate with the Solicitors and authorised them to offer a maximum *'inclusive sum of £650 for the purchase of the Fair Green, in fee-simple'* (TTC/1/9, p234). In March 1938 the Solicitors advised they would sell for £800 but the Commissioners considered the price too high (TTC/1/9, p241).

There is a gap in the minutes between 1938 and 1942 during which time the Commissioners did purchase the Fair Green.

In 1959 there was further discussion regarding the development of the Fairgreen, when it was stipulated that not more than £2,000 should *'be expended on such developments'* (TTC1/14, p82). However, the Engineer estimated that it would cost in the region of £7,000 for *'steel pens for about six hundred cattle and £3,000 to £4,000 for concreting such pens £10,000 to £11,000 in all'* (TTC1/14, p93). In February 1960 it was decided to lease one and half acres on the North side of the Fairgreen bordering Tullindaly road to the Livestock Mart Association for £525 for 99 years at a rent of £1 per year (TTC1/14, p104)

Around the time it was agreed to have styles constructed at the Fairgreen *'to allow the use of the road across it by cyclists and pedestrians'* (TTC1/14, p84).

Sanitary Conditions

In 1880 the Commissioners proposed applying to the Board of Works initially for a loan of £7,000 and then for £5,000, for the construction of waterworks in Tuam (TTC1/2, 5 February 1880), and asked the Board of Guardians, as the Rural Sanitary Authority, to join them in the application to the Board.



About this time they also requested Mr Edward Townsend, Civil Engineer, to prepare the required plans and estimates for the project. However, the question regarding the Commissioners' legal status, not being an Urban Sanitary Authority, was questioned. And it fell to the Board of Guardians to pursue the loan and the provision of the waterworks.

Many years later the Commissioners petitioned the Board of Health on a number of occasions for better sanitary conditions for the town. For instance in 1932 it resolved that *'The Public Health of Tuam is in constant danger, owing to the absence of a proper sewerage system and the development of the area by private enterprise is seriously prejudiced for the same reason'* (TTC/1/8, p43). In July 1933 a sub-committee of Commissioners met with the Minister of Local Government regarding the need for a sewerage scheme, following which they asked the Board of Health to prepare plans, specification and estimate for a scheme for the Town (TTC/1/8, p93).

In October 1934 the Commissioners again called attention to the *'bad condition of the sewerage system of the town of Tuam, particularly at the Old Road where the sewerage is flowing along the public Road, from houses recently erected in that area, pointing out that unless steps are taken forthwith by the responsible authority the public health of the town is in serious danger...'* (TTC1/8, p180).

In July 1936 McCaffrey and O'Carroll, Contractors for the Tuam Sewerage Scheme, advised the Commissioners that they were in a position to *'connect the Town Commissioners new houses with the new sewerage if they, (the Commissioners) would in return supply them with any water they might require from time to time for testing the pipes free of charge...'* (p79).

In 1944 when the Commissioners were discussing post-War planning water and sewerage improvement schemes were considered priorities. Galway County Council raised a loan of £15,800 for improvement to the waterworks and £4,310 for the sewerage scheme (TTC/1/11, 4 Dec 1944).

In 1947 the Commissioners were advised that Lady Cusack Smyth *'had consented to the signing of agreement for the letting of the Water Rights for Waterworks Improvement'* (TTC1/10, 6 Oct 1947). Improvement works were expected to commence by March 1948. A special meeting was held on 23rd March to discuss the water crises in the town. The Town Surveyor advised the Commissioners that the contract amount of £20,000 for the improvement works had been accepted and that the *'...delay in commencing the work as due to a technical point'*. It was decided to write to the Minister for Industry and Commerce to request an *'increase in fuel oil,'* to help improve the distribution and maintenance of the water supply (TTC1/10, 23 Mar 1948). In May the Commissioners learned that the improvement works were unlikely to commence before September, as the contractor, Mr R. M. Burke, was *'not in a position to supply pipes necessary for the Scheme'*, which had to be imported from England (3 May 1949). Various representations were made, such as to Senator Robert M. Burke and others, to help expedite matters, so much so that by the beginning of June it was hoped that work could commence the following month (7 Jun 1948).



In the early 1960's the Board was advised that the Town water supply was filthy. The Board requested that the water be filtered (TTC1/14, p212).

Town Hall

In 1855 the Board applied to John Handcock for a site for a Town Hall. Handcock agreed to give the requested *'waste premises opposite Mr Daly's Hotel at a nominal rent provided he get the annual rent of twenty pounds for the site of the Market, both premises to be included in one lease and in addition that the expense of compensating the present occupiers of both premises for giving up possession should be borne by the Board'* (TTC1/1, p366). Handcock agreed to give the site for the Town Hall at one shilling a year, with a lease in perpetuity, and a similar term for the premises known as the *'Old Shambles at a yearly rent of ten pounds...'* (TTC1/1, p395). The Board requested a period of five years for building the Hall.

Shortly thereafter the Board commenced initial discussion regarding the building of a Town Hall though there was some disagreement about building it immediately, on the basis that its *'present House is sufficient for all purposes required for a Market House'* (1 Jun 1857, TTC1/1, p419).

Nevertheless the Board invited tenders at its subsequent meeting, and shortly thereafter accepted the tender of Andrew Egan in the sum of £888. Commissioner Charles Blake resigned at this point, as he was against the Board inflicting *'Considerable difficulty and taxation'* by proceeding with the building (TTC1/1/, p425). John Handcock was requested to lay the foundation stone for the new Town Hall on 24th September 1857.

In April 1859 Edward Brady was allowed £10.0.0 for *'taking down the clock out of the old Market house, and erecting it in the new market house, together with gilding and lettering dial'* (TTC1/1, p473). In October 1858 it was ordered that the ground floor of the new Town Hall *'be flagged instead of boarding it'* (TTC1/1, p481). The contract for the flagging was awarded to James Keating and Dominick Loughan at 1/7 a square yard (TTC1/1, p487). In early 1862 the Commissioners discussed the installation of gas lighting in the Town Hall.

In 1881 there was discussion suggesting that the *'unfinished part of the Town Hall be built on the waste ground belonging there'*. Mr Townsend, Civil Engineer, was asked to consult on the matter (TTC1/2, 1 Aug 1881, see also 2 Jul 1883, 8 Oct 1883). Mr Egan was the contractor responsible for the required building work. A loan of £800 was required from the Board of Works to complete the necessary work (see for example TTC1/2, 28 Apr 1885 and 18 Jun 1885).

Following the earlier destruction, by burning, of the Town Hall the Commissioners proposed in 1921 to apply for loan of £7,000 to re-build the Town Hall (TTC/1/5, p320, see also p360, p424, p432, p438, p444). Discussions regarding the re-building of the Hall pre-occupied the Commissioners for several years. For instance they initially accepted the tender of Owen Larkin, of Ballinasloe in the sum of £4,130.1.4 for the re-construction of the Hall (TTC/1/5, p503, see also p504, p539). In 1925 the tender of *'Stephen Faller, jeweller, Galway in the sum of £208.10 to erect the clock on the Town Hall was accepted'* (TTC/1/5, p537, see also p569).



In 1932 the Commissioners accepted a tender in the sum of £40.8.6 from James Henehan, Tuam, for the electric wiring of the Town Hall (TTC1/8, p4 & p9). In April of that year the Commissioners decided to *'pay off the debt due on the Town Hall £120.6.9, as there was sufficient money to credit in the Revenue a/c after this payment was made'* (TTC/1/8, p14).

Consideration was given in 1937 to providing a new Town Hall in Tuam. Architects, Jones & Kelly, Dublin were appointed to carry out work with the inspection of sites and to prepare plans and an estimate of work (TTC/1/9, p208).

After World War II in 1946 the proposed provision of a new Town Hall was again considered (TTC/1/11, 1 Apr, 6 May and 2 Sept 1946).

In 1949 the Commissioners requested the Town Surveyor, Mr Finnegan, to inspect the Hall and consult *'with the Theatre Guild as to alterations and improvements'* (TTC1/12, 7 Jun 1949). In January 1950 there was discussion about erecting a new Town Hall on the site provided for the new fire station (TTC1/12, 21 Jan 1950).

Gas Lighting

In the early 1850's the Board commenced discussion relating to the introduction of gas light, the requirements and costs. The estimated cost for 200 to 300 lights was £522 and for 100 to 150 was £357 (TTC1/1, p235). Mr Daniel won the tender for the installation of the gas and there was ongoing discussion about the project and Mr Daniel's various bills and charges in the Minutes in the early 1860's.

In the 1880's there was discussion with the Tuam Gas Company Ltd. on the provision of lighting in the town for £78 (TTC1/2, 27 Sept 1880). In 1881 at the time of renewal of the contract the Board requested its Clerk to inform that Gas Company *'it was unanimously agreed that the Town will be lighted in future with oil unless the Gas Company supply gas at a much cheaper rate than last year'* (TTC1/2, 13 June 1881). The Board were prepared to offer £70 per annum. It was subsequently agreed to accept the Gas Company's tender of £2.10.0 per lamp (TTC1/2, 26 Aug 1881).

In 1885 the contract renewal terms for public lighting was for 29 lamps at £2.10.0 per lamp, and 2 lamps on the Chapel Road at 25/s each, the 29 to be lighted from 26th August 1885 to the 10 May 1886 both inclusive (TTC/1/2, 13 Aug 1885).

In 1929 the tender from James Moran for lighting the Borough of Tuam was accepted (TTC/1/7, p55).

Borough Extension

The Commissioners petitioned the Local Government Board on a number of occasions to constitute them a Sanitary Authority and/ or Urban Authority. Such as in 1884 when the issue of constituting them the Urban Sanitary Authority for the Town of Tuam was discussed but never progressed (see for instance TTC/1/2 2 Jun 1884, see also 5 Sept 1884, 20 Feb 1885). The issue was raised again in 1900



when the Commissioners again petitioned the LGB for an *'extension of the area of the Borough of Tuam and that the Borough as extended by constituted an Urban Sanitary Authority the County Council be requested to make a representation under Article 25 of Application of enactments Order 1898 calling upon the LGB to make an Order that the Borough of Tuam be extended so as to include the extension recommended by the Exham Commission (TTC1/4, p365)*. The LGB subsequently advised the Board that the Co. Co. did not have the power to deal with the representation as the Town *'is wholly and not partly situated within the County*.

Unless therefore the Town Commissioners are willing to come vested with the power of an Urban District Council over their present area and to leave the question of an extension of boundaries for subsequent consideration the matter can proceed no further' (TTC1/2, p374, see also p382).

In March 1905 the Commissioners adopted the following resolution, advising the LGB they *'consider the Public Bodies Order, 1904, is [not] applicable to our business. We are not an Urban Council. We never levy a rate on the Town, the Tolls and Customs of our Fairs and Markets being sufficient; and we have never sent minutes of our proceedings to the LGB. There could be nothing simpler or more satisfactory than the method of our account keeping, which has been in use since our Town was incorporated under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854*.

Therefore, we respectively decline to adopt the new and elaborate system of the Public Bodies Order 1904, the carrying out of which would cause us much additional and needless trouble and expense' (TTC1/4, p 558, see also p596). By November 1906 it appears that the Commissioners complied with the requirements of the Order to submit an Abstract of their Accounts to the LGB.

There was discussion again in 1932-33 about the extension to the borough boundaries, *'the extension to be one statute mile from the Square and in cases where the circumference (new) Boundary line intersects parcels of land to the extent of the greater half, such whole parcels are to be included in the new Borough...'* (TTC/1/8, p73). The proposed extension was again on the agenda in mid 1935.

In 1963 the Assistant County Manager was asked to prepare *'a paper on urbanisation and the extension of the borough showing the procedure and the advantages and disadvantages of each'* (TTC/1/14, p247). He reported back in April 1964 advising that if the Town had been urbanised the rates during 1963/64 would have been 4/11¼ less, but that various capital properties would have to be acquired for Galway County Council (TTC/1/15, 7 Apr 1964). The matter was discussed again in November 1966, with the fact that Tubberjarlarth and most of Athenry Road being outside the Town boundary of particular concern. The County Manager was to consider the issue and report back to the Commissioners.



Political

Throughout the years the Commissioners kept a watchful eye on national political events and issued a many resolutions on issues they felt strongly about. In particular they passed resolutions relating to tenant rights and support the national bid for Home Rule; examples of some are given below.

The Board issued a lengthy petition to the Government in March 1844 calling for the repeal of the Act of Union (TTC/1/1, 20, see also p102). They also passed a resolution following the arrest of Daniel O'Connell and another in September on his release, at which time they congratulated O'Connell and others on *'their liberation from unjust imprisonment and that we shall cheerfully join our fellow citizens and county men in our invitation to them to a banquet in this Town to be holden at such time as shall suit the convenience of the Liberator and his Co-Patriots'* (TTC/1/1, p38, see also p67).

In July 1848 the Board established a Committee to *'draw up a Memorial against Sir Wm Somerville's Landlord and Tenant Bill'* (TTC/1/1/, p120).

In the mid 1880's the Commissioners called on landlords to reduce or abate rents given the *'disquietude and alarm the gloomy outlook on the condition of things at pleasant in the country'* (TTC/1/2, 12 Oct 1885).

In 1886 they passed the following resolution *'We....repudiate and protest against the action of a self-elected and non-representative body as the Galway Grand Jury are in their passed a resolution against Home Rule, it being world-wide well-known fixed determination of the Irish nation to accept nothing less than their own native parliament, and until it is restored and all such...'* The next two pages, with the remainder of the resolution, appear to have been cut out of the minutes book (TTC/1/2, 15 Mar 1886).

In 1894, they resolved *'We, the Tuam Commissioners of Tuam protest in the strongest and most solemn manner possible against the cruel and persecuting action of the House of Lords in rejecting the Tenant's Arbitration (Ireland) Bill introduced by the Government and passed through the House of Common by a large majority of the representatives of the people. That we condemn in the interests of social order the vicious and hateful conduct the so-called noble lords who although admitting that the evicted tenants are almost universal subjects of pity, compassion and sympathy, nevertheless keep 4,000 of them and their unfortunate families on the road-site, preventing them from recovering their lost status on the land, deriding and scoffing at their suffering, flaunting public opinion, and by pursuing a persecuting policy seriously imperilling the peace and tranquillity of Ireland'* (TTC/1/4, p125).

In early 1895 the Commissioners *'urged upon the Government the necessity of opening public and remunerative works in the district to arrest present distress owing to the failure of the potato crop, relieve chronic misery and destitution and avert the horrors of another famine'* (TTC1/4, p13).

Though the Commissioners did not issue a resolution condemning, or otherwise, the 1916 Rising they did pass several political resolutions thereafter. For instance on 7th August 1917 it adopted the



resolution forward and passed by the Tuam McHale Sinn Féin Club, though the Chairman (McDonagh) and Mr Patrick Murphy dissented; *'That we condemn the action of those members of Galway Co. Council who degraded themselves by voting against rescinding their cowardly resolution passed on May 3rd 1916 (the day Padraic Pearse was shot) condemning the men of Easter Week who shed their blood for Ireland. We trust when the time comes their constituents will remember their action'* (7 Aug 1917, TTC/1/5, p173).

Also in April 1918 they protested *'against the extension of conscription in this county. We deny the right of the British Parliament to impose such service, and hold that the Irish people will be justified in resisting it by all means in their power. We approve of Dr Sherlock's suggestion, at the Dublin Corporation of a National Covenant in opposition to the proposed measure, and call upon all Irishmen to unite as one man in combating their nefarious scheme...'* (TTC/1/5, 11 Apr 1918, p207).

At its meeting of 4th May 1920 it resolved, *'That this Council of the elected representatives of Tuam, hereby acknowledged the authority of Dáil Éireann as the duly elected Government of the Irish people, and undertakes to give effect, to all decrees, duly promulgated by the said Dáil Éireann in so far as same affect this Council'* (TTC/1/5, p263).

The Commissioners supported the ratification of the Treaty in 1922, and in September that year resolved that its meeting be adjourned *'...as a protest against the wanton war of destruction that is being wages without the sanction of Dáil Éireann, and that the meeting stand adjourned until DE meets...'* (TTC/1/5, p440). In January 1923 they asked *'The Government to take immediate steps to appoint three members of the present Dáil to act in conjunction with the Seanad Peace Committee and meet three neutral Irishmen (acceptable to forces in opposition to the Government) to discuss the best means firstly, to bring about a cessation of hostilities and finally to establish peace on firm basis'* (TTC/1/5, p456).

Following a raid and subsequent arrests by the Free State forces of a party of Irregulars at Cluid in Headford in February, six² of the party were executed in the workhouse at Tuam. On 18th April 1923 the Commissioners recorded their *'...disapproval of and sorrow at the executions carried out in this Town on Wednesday morning last and we equally condemn attacks on the National Forces and reprisals by whomsoever committed.....to use their influence with the Free State Government to have a stop put to such executions in future, as already more than enough blood has been split, and young lives sacrificed in this unholy war...'* (TTC1/5, p465).

In August 1924 the Commissioners protested at the removal of the bodies from Tuam to Athlone; *'In all civilised countries the dead are sacred and are allowed to rest in peace and it is unbelievable that only in Holy Ireland are they disturbed, we hold that whatever offence have been committed by these prisoners had been expiated by their death, and we call upon the Government without further delay to hand over their bodies to the friends'* (TTC/1/5, p520).

² Seamus O' Maille, Oughterard, Francis Cunnane and John Newell, Headford, John McGuire, Cross, Cong, Co. Mayo, Michael Monaghan, Clooneen, Headford, and Martin Moylan, Annaghdown



Tolls

The Board issued a revised schedule of Tolls in September 1844. In September 1844 the Board accepted the tender of John Kelly, for £460, to act as tenant for ensuing year (TTC/1/1, p39). Kelly was also the tenant for 1846, for £417 (TTC/1/1, p73), and the following year for £400 (TTC/1/1, p 100).

In 1864 the tender of Patrick Bird was accepted for the Tolls (also known as Toll Farmer) in the sum of €475 (TTC1/1, p607).

In 1928 the tender of Simon Quinn of McHale Terrance, in the sum of £653 *'to take a letting of the Tolls and Customs of the Town of Tuam for one year'* (TTC/1/6, p181).

In 1929 the tender of Joseph Cooney's (of St Benins' Terrace) for £685 was accepted (TTC/1/7, p54).

In 1933 Cooney's tender in £380 was accepted for the ensuing year (TTC/1/8, p114).

In 1934 the tender of Ronnie Quinn, Kilcloghans, Tuam, in the sum of £320 was accepted for one year (TTC/1/8, p178). However, as Ronnie was under 21 years of age he could not sign the lease and contract. Therefore Simon Quinn was accepted as contractor for the Tolls, on the same terms, with Mr and Mrs Edward Quinn acting as sureties (TTC/1/8, p181).

In 1937 the tender of James Cooney was accepted, in the sum of £400 (TTC/1/9, p199).

Burial Ground

The issue of the provision of and site for a burial ground for the town occupied the Board for many years, commencing in 1846. In 1847 a grant of £50 was given to the Tuam Cemetery Committee *'to purchase a few acres of land for a burial ground for the parish of Tuam'* (TTC/1/1, p115).

In 1935 there was discussion about an extension to the New Cemetery on the South or Athenry side of the College Field (TT C/1/9, p2).

Swimming Pool

The issue of the provision of a swimming pool was raised in early 1960's, when it was resolved that *'The Tuam Town Commissioners recommend the suggestions of the Swimming Club (to contribute £1,000 for the pool) and ask the Co. Council to take all the steps necessary to forward the project'* (TTC/1/14, p209).

In 1968 the Board was advised that the lowest tender received for the construction of a swimming pool was £39,445, and that the Dept. Of Local Government was prepared to sanction from Central and Local government Council only from £25,000 to £30,000. Therefore the Dept would not approve the tender *'unless at least £8,000 was forthcoming from local sources'* (TTC1/15, 2 Apr 1968). A special meeting was held on 8th April 1968 to discuss the material further, when it was decided that a deputation call upon the Minister to plead their case.

In July the minutes record that six member of the Swimming Pool Committee had guaranteed the payment of £3,000 with three years (see also TTC/1/15, 6 Aug 1968).





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Primary Sources

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- Galway County Council Minutes, (GC1/)
- Tuam Poor Law Union (GPL5/)

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- Office of Public Works, OPW
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Appendices



Appendix A**A. List of some of the members of the Tuam Town Commissioners**

Lists of members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Thoms, Slaters or Pigots, or in local contemporary newspapers.

1843

Blake, Charles (re-elected; disqualified 1844)	Kelly, James (resigned)
Blake, Charles (resigned)	Kelly, Patrick
Bodkin, Thomas, M.D. (new member 1844 in room of C. Blake)	Kelly, Richard (new member in room of Keany)
Browne, John (resigned)	Managan, Pat (new member in room of Browne)
Burke, Patrick	Mathews, John
Clarke, Patrick, M.D.	Moran, William
Costello, Martin (new member in room of Turner)	Murray, Timothy W
Daly, John	O'Flanagan, Peter
Dwyer, James	Prendergast, John
Gannon, William (Chairman 1843-44)	Prendergast, Patrick (Chairman 1844-__)
Griffin, John	Reynolds, Rev Peter (new member in room of Kelly)
Haddican, Patrick	Tully, Jeremiah (resigned)
Keany, Thomas (resigned)	Turner, Thomas Blake, M.D. (resigned)
Kelly, Connor	Waldron, Francis (new member in room of Tully)

1846

Bodkin, Thomas	Kelly, James
Browne, John Francis	Kelly, Patrick
Burke, A T	Kyle, James
Burke, Patrick	Moran, William
Carrigan, William (in room of C. Keary)	Morris, Jeremiah
Costello, Martin	Murray, Timothy W
Daly, John	McHugh, Patrick
Dwyer, James	O'Regan, Anthony
Gannon, William (Chairman 1847)	Prendergast, John
Kelly, Richard	Reynolds, Rev Peter (Chairman 1846)
Keany, Charles (deceased)	Waldron, Francis

1849 (TTC/1/1, p159)

Benson, Joseph	Kelly, William
Bodkin, William	Kyle, James (resigned Apr 1851)
Burke, Michael	Mitchell, Michael
Burke, Pat (Chairman 1851-52)	Moran, William (Chairman 1848) Deceased 1851?
Concannon, Edward (in room of Costello)	Murray, Timothy
Costello, Martin (disqualified by 1851)	McHugh, Pat (deceased by 1851)
Costello, Michael	Quinn, William (in room of Prendergast)
Daly, John	Reynolds, Rev Peter
Dwyer, James	Townsend, Thomas (Aug 1851, in room of Fahy)
Fahy, Michael	Tully, Jeremiah (in room of McHugh)
Gannon, William	Waldron, Francis
Kelly, Patrick	
Kelly, Richard	



1852

Benson, Joseph
 Bodkin, Thomas, M.D.
 Burke, Patrick (in room of P O’Flanagan)
 Cloran, Martin
 Corbett, Francis
 Costello, Michael
 Coury, Rev Patrick (in room of Rev Townsend)
 Daly, John
 Dwyer, James
 Gannon, William
 Haddiean, Michael

Kelly, Patrick
 Kelly, Richard (Chairman 1853-55)
 Kelly, William
 Kyle, James
 MacEville, Rev John (in room of M Fahy)
 Mitchell, Michael
 Moylan, John (in room of Rev Reynolds resigned)
 Murtagh, Timothy
 Quinn, William
 Reynolds, Rev Peter
 Tully, Jeremiah

1855

Blake, Charles (resigned 1857)
 Bodkin, Thomas MD
 Browne, John Francis
 Burke, Pat
 Concannon, Edmund
 Costello, Michael
 Daly, John
 Dwyer, James
 Gannon, William

Higgins, Thomas
 Jordan, Pat (in room of Blake)
 Kelly, Patrick
 Kelly, Richard
 Moran, Martin
 Prendergast, John
 Tully, Jeremiah

1858

Blake, Charles (Chairman 1864 in room of Dr Prendergast)
 Bodkin, Thomas (Chairman 1862, 1863)
 Browne, John (Chairman 1860)
 Burke, Patrick (+Apr 1860)
 Burke, Thomas, (in room of Carr, 1871)
 Carr, Charles (elected 1868) (disqualified for non-attendance 1871)
 Cloran, Martin (elected 1868)
 Cloran, Michael (removed 1862 for non-attendance, + 1902)
 Concannon, Edmond
 Corbett, Francis
 Costello, Michael
 Cuilkeen, Patrick (elected 1869)
 Daly, John (Chairman 1871)
 Daly, Peter (elected 1969)
 Dwyer, Dr James

Fahy, Michael (elected 1865)
 Gannon, William (Chairman 1858 & 1865, 1868)
 Hosty, Michael P (elected 1869)
 Kelly, Jasper
 Kelly, Patrick
 Lyons, John
 McLeod, John
 Meagher, Michael (elected Oct 1866)
 Moran, Martin
 Moylan, John (in place of Burke) (+1862)
 Mullin, Lawrence (elected Nov 1865)
 O’Flanagan, Peter (resigned 1862)
 Prendergast, Dr John (Chairman 1864) +Aug 1864
 Quinn, William (elected Nov 1865)
 Ryan, Peter
 Shine, Denis (elected 1862)

1872

Burke, Thomas B
 Cloran, Michael
 Corbett, Francis
 Culkin, Patrick
 Daly, Peter A

Dwyer, Dr,
 Gannon, William
 Kennedy, P
 Lyons, John
 Moylan, John



1873

Cloran, Michael	Moylan, John
Corbett, Francis	Murphy, Thomas
Daly, Peter A.	O'Donnell, Edward
Gannon, William (Chairman)	Quin, William
Kennedy, Peter	Shine, Denis
Lyons, John	

1874

Bodkin, Thomas M.D.	Gannon, William
Burke, Thomas B. (Draper)	Hosty, Michael P. (in room of Murphy)
Cloran, Michael (Merchant) (Chairman)	Kennedy, Peter
Concannon	Lyons, John
Corbett, Francis (Merchant)	Moylan, John
Culkin, Patrick	Murphy, Thomas (+1874)
Daly, Peter A	Quin, William (Pawn Broker)
Dwyer, James, M.D.	Shine, Denis

1875

Bodkin, Thomas, M.D.	Hosty, Michael P. (in room of Murphy)
Burke, Thomas B. (Draper)	Kennedy, Peter
Cloran, Michael (Merchant) (Chairman)	Lyons, John
Concannon, Martin (Victualler)	Moylan, John (Pawn Broker)
Corbett, Francis (Merchant)	Murphy, Thomas (+1874)
Culkin, Patrick (Merchant)	Quin, William (Pawn Broker)
Daly, Peter A (Hotel keeper)	Shine, Denis (Chairman)
Gannon, William (J.P)	

1876

Blake, Charles H., (1885, in room of Burke)	Kelly, Richard (Newspaper proprietor) (Oct 1879 in room of Shine)
Bodkin, Thomas, M.D.	Kennedy, Peter
Burke, James (Merchant) (+1885)	Moylan, John (Pawn Broker; resigned 1880)
Cloran, John (in room of Daly)	O'Donnell, Edward (Draper)
Cloran, Michael (Merchant)	Quin, William (Pawn Broker)
Concannon, Martin (Victualler)	Ryan, P.J. (c .1878)
Corbett, Francis (Merchant)	Shine, Denis (Chairman)
Culkin, Patrick (Merchant)	Shine, Michael (circa 1878)
Daly, Richard (Farmer; resigned Mar 1877)	Ward, Martin (Oct 1877, in room of M Cloran)
Egan, Thomas (in room of Concannon)	Walsh, Martin (in room of Moylan, 1880)
Gannon, William (J.P) (Chairman 1876) (+1883)	

**1885**

Begley, John	(Grocer)	Gilmore, Timothy	(Merchant; 1889 – ?)
Bodkin, Thomas, MD	(+1886)	Glynn, Martin J.	(Solicitor)
Burke, Laurence		Guy, Edward	(Proprietor Imperial Hotel; co-opted Apr 1891 in room of Silk)
Carroll, Edward		Lyons, Patrick	(Merchant)
Culkin, Patrick	(Merchant; Chairman (1885-86)	McHugh, Patrick	(Merchant)
Cunningham, John		McPhilpin, John	(Newspaper proprietor)
Dowling, Dr	(co-opted Apr 1887 in room of Ward: Chairman 1889)	McNamara, Michael	
Egan, Thomas		Nohilly, James	
Fahy, Michael	(co-opted in 1886 following Bodkins death)	O’Flanagan, John	(Merchant)
Flatley, Thomas	(Blacksmith)	Silk, John	(Blacksmith: Resigned Apr 1891)
Gleeson, Michael,	(Merchant)	Ward, Martin C.	(Merchant: resigned 1887)

1892

Begley, James	(Merchant: 1893-)	Gleeson, Michael	(Deceased?)
Browne, Patrick	(Merchant: 1893-1896)	Glynn, Martin	(+May 1894)
Burke, Laurence		Goggins, Michael	(Merchant, elected 1894)
Burke, David	(co-opted 1898 in room of Lyons)	Guy, Edward	(Co-opted in room of Browne)
Commons, James	(Grocer)	Keane, Francis	(Merchant) (lost seat Oct 1892)
Costello, Thomas	(MD, elected 1896)	Lyons, Patrick	(disqualified 1898 due to non-attendance)
Culkin, Patrick	(Chairman 1892-1898?)	McCormack, Francis	(Solicitor, Elected Oct 1893)
Cunningham, John	(co-opted following the death of Fahy)	McHugh, Patrick	
Dowling, John, M.D.	(Resigned May 1894)	McPhilpin, John	
Egan, Thomas		Meagher, Francis	(1894 -
Fahy, Michael	(+ Sept 1892)	Munroe, Thomas	(Merchant)
Flatley, Thomas	(Disqualified due to non-attendance 1896)	Shine, Michael	
		Walsh, Martin	(General Merchant)

1899 - following elections

Begley, James Joseph		Hosty, Michael	(elected 1907, +Mar 1913)
Blake, Charles Henry		Keane, Francis	
Byrne, Patrick	(Merchant, elected 1906)	Lyons, Patrick	
Cahill, Patrick M	(co-opted 1905)	MacPhilpin, John	(+1908)
Canavan, Patrick	(Merchant)	McDonnell, James	(Chairman 1899, 1909-1910?)
Carroll, Patrick E	(1902 co-opted in room of Costello)	Meagher, Francis	
Connelly, John		Mellin, Thomas	(elected Jan 1914)
Costello, Thomas Bodkin	(M.D., resigned 1902)	Murphy, Patrick	
Culkin, Patrick		Nolan, Michael	(elected Jan 1914)
Daly, James	(Elected 1907)	O’Connor, Patrick	(Elected 1912)
Dowling, John Edward	(M.D., +1905)	O’Flanagan, Edward Patrick	(Solicitor, elected 1901; +1909)
Glynn, Joseph Aloysius		O’Malley, Anthony	(co-opted in room of Goggins)
Goggins, Michael	(Merchant, resigned Mar 1914)	Quinn, Edward	(Elected 1913)
Hession, Michael Francis	(Elected 1912)	Shine, Michael Cornelius	(Chairman, 1901)



1914

Blake, Charles	Keane, Francis
Burke, John	Mellin, Thomas J
Byrne, Patrick	Murphy, Patrick
Carroll, Patrick E	McDonagh, F. B (Chairman)
Connelly, John	O' Malley, Anthony
Daly, James	Nolan, Michael
Dwyer, Michael (+1936)	

1915-1919

Byrne, Patrick	McTigue, Patrick
Carroll, Patrick E (Died Dec 1915)	Mellin, Thomas J
Daly, James (Resigned Jun 1917)	Murphy, Patrick
Dwyer, Michael (Arrested in July 1919 (TTC1/5, p239; Died in 1936)	Nolan, Michael
Keane, Francis	O'Malley, Anthony
Lyons, John (co-opted Jul 1917)	Walsh, Patrick (co-opted Nov 1916)
McDonagh, Frederick B (Chairman)	Whyte, John (+ Nov 1916)

1920 following January elections

Browne, Samuel	Kelly, Michael
Byrne, Patrick, Vicar St (disqualified Jul 1921 for non-attendance, and subsequently co-opted TTC/1/5, pp301-2)	McDonagh, Frederick B (Chairman) (disqualified Jul 1921 for non-attendance, & subsequently co-opted, TTC/1/5, pp301-3)
Coogan, James (disqualified Jul 1921 for non-attendance, and subsequently co-opted TTC/1/5, pp301-3, see also p309)	Moran, James
Cooney, Martin	Murphy, Patrick (+ Sept 1921)
Corcoran, John H (co-opted Nov 1924)	O'Malley, Anthony (co-opted Oct 1921)
Costello, Eileen (24 Jan 1921, elected Chairman)*	Reapy, William (Disqualified Jul 1921 for non-attendance, TTC/1/5, p301)
Dwyer, Michael (Chairman 1920) Died in 1936 (TTC/1/9, p44)	Walsh John (Disqualified Jul 1923 for non-attendance & subsequently co-opted)
Garvey, John (co-opted)	Walsh, Martin J
Guy, Gabriel (co-opted Aug 1921: Chairman 1922, resigned Aug 1923)	Walsh, Patrick
	Whelehan, Joseph (Co-opted 1920) **

1925 following June elections

Burke, John	Heskin, Michael (co-opted)
Butler, Daniel Joseph	McTigue, Patrick
Byrne, Patrick (Chairman 1929)	Moran, James
Cahill, Michael William (Chairman 1928)	O'Brien, Martin J
Canney, Edward Joseph	O'Malley, Anthony (Chairman 1925-27: Died June 1944 (TTC/1/11, 23 Jun 1944)
Connelly, Thomas, (co-opted)	Walsh, Martin Joseph (Died 1936, TTC1/9, p142)
Cooney, Martin	Walsh, Patrick
Corcoran, John H (Died 1946 (TTC/1/11, 4 Feb 1946)	



1930s

Burke, John	(Chairman 1934)	Gibbons, P	
Byrne, J		Mooney, J.	
Byrne, P		Moran, James	(Chairman 1932 & 1933)
Cahill, Michael	(Chairman 1931)	O'Brien, M.	
Dwyer, Patrick (1930)		O'Toole, J	

1934

Burke, John	(Chairman 1934-37)	Heskin, M.	
Byrne, J.		McCormack, D.	
Cahill, Michael		Mooney, J.	
Colghan, John		O'Malley	
Cooney, M.		Purcell, P.	
Canney, E		Waldron, J.	
Donnellon, T			

1940s

Burke, John	(Chairman 1942: resigned as Chairman and Commissioner in February 1943)	Egan, J. J.	
		Joyce, T.	
Burke, J.		Lohan, P.	
Cahill, W.		McCormack, D.	
Coulghan, John		Mooney, J.	(Chairman 1943-44)
		Stapleton, W.	

1945

Burke, Jarlath		Joyce, T.	
Byrne, M. J.		Moran, James	
Cahill, Michael	(Chairman 1945-51)	O'Connell, J. A.	
Coulghan, John		Stapleton, William	
Egan, J. J.			

1950

Burke, Jarlath		O'Brien, Luke	
Cahill, Michael	(Chairman 1950-51)	O'Connell, Jarlath	
Campbell, Mio		O'Connor, Patrick	
Joyce, Thomas		Stapleton, William	
Nohilly, James			

1957

Browne		Healy,	
Cahill, M. W.	(Chairman 1957 - 59)	Mannion,	
Campbell, M		O'Brien, Luke	
Coghlan, John		O'Connell	
Connaughton		Stapleton	



1960s

Browne,		McDonagh, Stephen	(resigned Mar 1963)
Burke, J.	(Chairman 1963)	O'Brien, Luke	(Chairman 1962, 1966)
Campbell, M.	(+Aug 1964)	O'Connor	(Chairman 1964 -)
Coghlan, John		Purcell	
Heskin, Gabriel	(co-opted in Jan 1965)	Stapleton	(+1966)
Heskin, Joseph	(resigned Nov 1964)	Stapleton, P. M	(co-opted Jun 1966)
Loftus, Michael	(co-opted Nov 1964)		

1967

Browne, Gabriel	(Chairman 1968)	McCormack	
Farrell		O'Brien	
Glynn		O'Meara	
Joyce		Stapleton, P.M.	
Kelly	(Chairman 1967)		

Appendix B**B. List of some Town Commissioners / Council Officials and Staff**

Lists of most staff members are found in various contemporary directories such as Slaters or Pigots,

Secretary /Clerk³

Jackson, Henry	1843-1858	(Elected 27 Nov 1843)
Roche, Patrick	1858 - 1875	(Elected 1 Nov 1858)
Lyons, John	1875 - +1879	
Lyons, Patrick	1879 -	(brother of John)
Elwood, Patrick	? - +Aug 1886 ⁴	
Corbett, Francis	1886 ⁵ - 1893?	
Glynn, John	1893 - 1913?	⁶ (+Dec 1915)
Canavan, Patrick	1913 – 1927, 1928	Appointed Acting Clerk when Glynn was ill. In 1927 he ' <i>left without notice</i> ' and was thus suspended (TTC1/6, p158, see also p196)
Daly, James,	1927 -	Appointed temporary Clerk
Whyte, James ⁷	1929 –	
Whyte, Miss	1943- 1950	Acting Clerk?
O'Connor, Gerald	1950 –	
Holian, Angela	? – 2011?	Retired

Toll Farmer

Kelly, John	1840s?
Bird, Patrick	1860s?
Nolan, Thomas	1883? - 1888
Silk, Thomas	1888 - 1894
Nolan, Thomas	1894 –
Murphy	1911? -
Quinn, Simon	1920s

Rates & Rent Collector

Burke, James	1929
Hession, John	1930s –
NcNamara, Jarlath	1936 ⁸ -

Rates & Rent Collector, Town Surveyor & Town Hall Caretaker aka Town Steward

Hession, John	1929 ⁹ - 1965	Retired
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³ Dismissed 9 Jun 1876 as he '*refuses to produce books or act*'.

⁴ TTC1/2, 13 Aug 1886, includes a resolution of sympathy upon the death of Elwood, who had been ill for some time. His brother, Peter, had been acting Clerk during his illness.

⁵ TTC1/3, 1 Nov 1886.

⁶ Feb 1913 Doctor's Certificate issued for Glynn recommending '*rest for about six months*', TTC1/4, p 830, see also p831. He resigned in July 1914 (TTC1/4, p851).

⁷ Whyte of Ballinastack, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway, born 12 Jul 1905. Commercial and Secretarial training in the city of Galway Technical Institute. Fluent native Irish speaker (TTC1/7, pp15-16).

⁸ Appointed as rent collector for 160 new houses at Tubberjarlath and Farranabox (TTC/19, p164).

⁹ TTC1/7, p49.

**Inspector of Weights & Measures**

Fahy, Pat ? - 1843
Hopkins, John Feb 1844 -

Craner¹⁰

Nevin, Peter 1844 - +1855
Ryan, Peter 1855 - ?
Doran, John ? - 1861
Dwyer, Daniel 1862 -
Dwyer, Thomas 1882 - 1922 For weight house & crane at the Square (Retired; died Jan 1923)
Butler John 1886?- At Potato market

Toll Farmer

Kelly, John 1840s?
Bird, Patrick 1860s?
Nolan, Thomas 1883? - 1888
Silk, Thomas 1888 - 1894
Nolan, Thomas 1894 -
Quinn, Simon 1920s

Ganger

Crisham, Michael Dec 1923 –
Redington, Martin 1924? –

¹⁰ In September 1844 the position of Public Craner came under the Commissioners rather than the Toll Farmer. The salary was set at £30 a year (TTC/1/1, p37).

Appendix C**C. List of Abbreviations**

B.G.	Board of Guardians
C.D.B.	Congested Districts Board
Co.Co.	County Council
CPO	Compulsory Purchase Order
L.G.P.H.	Department of Local Government and Public Health
E.D.	Electoral Division
G.C.C.	Galway County Council
I.P.M.	Irish Plantation Measure
L.G.B.	Local Government Board
L.G.D.	Local Government Department
M.D.	Medical Doctor
MGWR	Midlands Great Western Railway Co.
M.O.	Medical Officer
M.P.	Member of Parliament
O.P.W.	Office of Public Works
P.L.C.	Poor Law Commissioners
R.D.C	Rural District Council
R.O.	Relieving Officer
TC	Town Commissioners
TTC	Tuam Town Commissioners



[Appendix D](#)

D. Related Legislation

- *Grand Jury (Ireland) Act 1836*
- *Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890*
- *Lighting of Towns Act 1828*
- *Local Government Act 1898*
- *Local Government Reform Act 2014*
- *Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Act 1840*
- *Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1838*
- *Public Health Act (Ireland) 1878*
- *Town Improvements Act 1854*





Tuam Town Commissioners

Minutes, 1843 - 1968

TTC/1/



A. Minute Books 1843 - 1968

Bound volumes of minutes of Tuam Town Commissioner meetings, which were generally held in the Town Hall, initially held weekly, then from mid 1846 monthly, also includes minutes of quarterly, special and annual meetings. The minutes record attendance, correspondence, decisions and resolutions and details of business transacted relating to issues such as the provision of public lighting, management of the shambles (meat and fish markets), permissions for use of the Town Hall for various functions and events, such as concerts or auctions and by groups such as the Boys Scouts, setting dates for fairs and markets, collection of tolls, customs and rents, and orders to issue payments such as for paving, repairing water pumps and gas lighting, from the early twenty century the minutes also relate to the provision and maintenance of public housing, such as at McHale Terrace and Parkmore Terrace in the 1920's and in the mid-late 1930s the construction of over 160 houses in the Tubberjarlath Road Farranbox and Athenry Road areas of the town, also to the letting of houses and collection of rents, the provision of a fire engine and brigade in the late 1930's, and minor road and footpath maintenance. The Commissioners also frequently passed resolutions expressing its views on local and national events and political developments.

From September 1933 (2nd ¼ of volume, TTC1/8) onwards the minutes are generally type-scripted and pasted into the volumes.

1. 27 November 1843 - 9 July 1875 Includes:
 - Proposed the '...taking of the Grove as a Fairgreen at thirty pounds yearly, rent to commence on 25th March 1844' (p4).
 - Unanimously agreed 'That the limits as defined by the Corporation map be the limits to which the Lighting, Cleaning and other purposes, do extend' (p19).
 - 'That this Board do petition the Imperial Parliament for a Repeal of the legislative Union and that the Chairman and Secretary do sign for and on behalf of the Board and transmit same for presentation to Daniel O'Connell Esq., MP...'. A transcript of the lengthy petition included with the minutes appeals for 'the Restoration of the Irish Parliament and the Judicial Independence of her Majesty's most faithfully and dutiful subjects, the Irish Nation...The Parliament of Ireland was extinguished by that Act against the wish and without the authority of the Irish people...The People of Ireland by an almost universal voice, protested against the passing of that Act. Upwards of seven hundred thousand of that people actually petitioned the Irish Parliament not to pass the Act of Union, while there were not six thousand petitioners found to favour it in any respect' (pp20-1).



- Resolved 'That a suitable place be taken as a meat market and that a Committee be appointed to report whether Mr Joseph Kelly's shambles in Chapel Lane be sufficiently large for the purpose' (p31, see also p104).
- Thanks to D M Kilkelly for presenting to the Town of Tuam a 'silver cup to be run for at our next and succeeding Races' (p38).
- Consul's opinion relating to the Board's authority to collect Tolls (TTC/1/1, p46-57).
- Call on the Lord Lieutenant to have a Resident Magistrate stationed in Tuam 'in order to enable the Commissioners elected under the 9th Geo 4th to effectually carry out the provisions of that Enactment' (p64).
- Call for petition to support the Dublin and Galway line of railway (p65).
- Funding not exceeding £40 to be given for uniforms for the Tuam Temperance Bank (p70).
- Committee formed for 'the purpose of making arrangements to commence flagging the streets of Tuam' (p75).
- Fire buckets and ladders acquired for use of the Town (p81).
- In October 1846 the Board again appealed for a resident magistrate to be stationed in Tuam 'for the purpose of securing the safe transit of food and of affording protection to property for the want of both which Tuam is at present in a deplorable state and further that Tuam be appointed a Depot for provisions in-as-much as that the Town has been for the last 3 days and still continues without a supply of meal or flour and that in consequence cattle have been taken off the streets and slaughtered by a starving populace' (p101).
- Resolved 'That public walks be provided for the health and recreation of the inhabitants of the Town' (p104).
- 'That a Committee be now formed to enquire into the state of this Town so far as regards the Church lands and that should they report that the improvement of the Town is impeded by short leases, uncertainty of renewals of leases, and loss of all improvements at the expiration of such leases without any remuneration that we petition Parliament for a redress of such great grievances' (p104).
- Deputation to 'wait on the Lord Bishop of Tuam for the purpose of procuring a site for burial ground' (p106).
- 'That it be notified to the inhabitants that there will be a solemn Mass celebrated at the Cathedral on the 17th inst (June 1847) for the repose of the souls of our illustrious and ever to be regretted Liberator (Daniel O'Connell), and that that day be kept a day of general mourning' (p106, see also 108).
- £40 granted to the Tuam Races 1848 (p124).
- 'That a sum of £3 be allocated out of the funds for the purpose of making a sewer from Mr Byrnes Lane to the Main sewer in Chapel Lane...' (p124)



- ‘That 75 per cent of the applicants for relief understand the Irish language only, and that the Vice Guardians, the Clerk of the Union, and the Tuam Relieving Officer are ignorant of said language and are consequently incompetent to investigate the claims of applicants for relief’ (30 June 1848, p126).
- ‘That we form a Committee for the purpose of making enquires relative to many cases of distress existing and report to the Board on next day of meeting’ (TTC/1/1, p126).
- ‘That the resolution of 1st January 1844 viz the taking of College Park for a Fair Green at £30 per annum, be rescinded’ (p146).
- Various entries regarding the contract for flagging the town (see for example pp218, 226, 230, 255, 260-69).
- ‘That the proposal of Mr Andrew Egan to complete the flagging and other works required to be done pursuant to the Plan and Specification of Mr Boylaw ...be accepted. The value not to exceed £647 (p272).
- Revision of bye-laws (pp280-1).
- Memorial in favour of William Smith O’Brien, requesting the Queen to grant a **free pardon** to men whose greatest offence was that they loved their County “not wisely but to well” ...’ 3 May 1852, (pp294-5).
- Entries relating proposal to provision of gas lighting (such as pp325).
- Letting of Market House by Miss Handcock to the town (p335).
- Proposal to introduce Town Improvement Act (see for instance Nov 1854, p356-7, and pp369-72).
- Request to Capt Gore, agent for John Handcock, to grant the ‘waste premises between Mr Daly’s hotel and Mr Brehan’s as a site for a Town Hall on lease in perpetuity and at a nominal rent...’ (Apr 1855, p363, see also p417).
- Transcript of letter from Archbishop William Plunket regarding the re-positioning of the High Cross, also known as the Market Cross ‘in some public and neutral ground’ (pp446-7, see also pp759-60, pp811-812, & p842-848, p869).
- ‘That a handsome clock Tower with four dials be erected on the sides of the old Market House as a Testimonial to Denis Kirwan, Esq., of Castlehacket to commemorate the accomplishment of the railroad to Tuam principally owing to this indefatigable exertions and influence, and that appropriate inscription characterizing our feeling of admiration of Mr Kirwan’s character and qualities together with the Castlehacket arms be cut on each side of the Clock Tower on an ornamental table’ (p505).
- Public meeting called ‘for the purpose of adopting measures for alleviating the distress and hardships of the poorer classes owing to the present ad prospectus scarcity of food and fuel’ (p542, see also pp549-50).
- ‘That we believe the existing crime and discontent disaffection and a prostrate position of our county emanate from the present land laws and if such law be permitted to exist such longer will be the source of bloodshed and devastation over the breadth and length of our land, while we believe the fixity of tenure at a fair valued rent empowering the tenant to sell the interest in his or her

- holding (as the case maybe) so long as he or she pays said rent and should the tenant fail to pay said rent that the landlord be entitled to enter into possession (of the tenement) on his paying or compensating the tenant for all requisite improvements made on the tenement (or for tenant's interest therein)....' (27 Jan 1870, p733).
- Address of welcome to and response from Archbishop John McHale on his return from Rome (pp744-777).
 - The Local Government Board for Ireland notified the Commissioners of 'recent legislation regarding the Government of Towns and the administration of the sanitary laws in Ireland...' which extended various powers of such authorities (pp809-11).
 - Transcripts of correspondence, primarily from the T TC of letter to the Church Representative Body, Dublin, regarding the Market High Cross. Includes for instance a transcript of an earlier letter dated 25 June 1858 from William Plunket, The Palace, Tuam to the Commissioners stating *'His Lordship feels very great reluctance in giving his sanction to the removal from the burial ground of St Mary's a Cross which (since the time when it was placed by the unanimous consent of the inhabitants of Tuam over the grave of Archbishop Synge in year 1742) has remained there undisturbed'. 'At the same time rather than deprive the inhabitants of Tuam of a more public view of so interesting a relic of antiquity he would as far as he has a voice in the matter consent to its erection upon its former base in public and in neutral ground. Provided that some legal security be provided so as to ensure its continuance in any such spot and to provide for the restoration of the Cross to the Protestant burying ground in case of its possible removal'* (25 Jul 1873, pp842-848, see also p869, p872, pp875-6, see also TTC1/2, 16 Jun 1882).
 - 'Resolved- That the Town Commissioners of Tuam be informed in reply to their letter that as soon as the base of the Cross is placed in position in the Market Place and the railing is ready for erection, The Representative Body will cause to be delivered to them for erect one said base the portions of the cross now under their control' (p872).
 - Details of the number of sheep and cattle sold and unsold at the Fair in October 1874 (pp896-7).
 - Following a vote the Commissioners accepted the offer from Mr Concannon for 8 Irish acres at Lissadira (Lysadyra) for £60 a year for a site for a Fair Green (8 Mar 1875).
2. 2 August 1875 - 19 November 1891 Includes:
- 'A lease of thirty five years at £60 per annum, a five year clause of surrender and should the Commissioners give up or surrender before full term of Lease, Mr Concannon to get as compensation for erection of gates and all other changes made on said and in connect with said Far Green, the sum of twenty five pounds...' (2 Aug 1875, see also 6 Sept 1875, see also 20 Apr 1877).
 - 'That the (Board of) Guardians be requested to provide a new burial ground for Tuam' (6 Sept 1875).
 - Patrick Bird's tender in the sum of £770 for Tolls & Customs was accepted (20 Sept 1878).
 - Election of Commissioners, some members who 'retire by rotation but who are eligible for re-election' (11 Oct 1878).



- 'The subject of waterworks being introduced it was proposed by Richard Kelly Esq. and seconded by Michael Shine Esq. that an application be made to the Board of Works for a sum not exceeding £7,000 for Waterworks...' (5 Feb 1880).
- 'Attention having been drawn to the late fire which occurred in Tuam, by which was demolished one of the Mercy Convent buildings, a discussion ensued after which Mr Kelly handed in the following Notice of Motion:
Take note that at next monthly meeting, I will move that this Board will subscribe towards getting Fire Engine and appliances for the public use' (6 Dec 1880, see also 8 Apr 1881, 2 May 1881).
- 'Mr Townsend, C.E., would have on Tuesday 9th inst. plan and specification of proposed Clock Tower prepared and ready for inspection of the Board' (1 Aug 1881, see also 3 Oct 1881, 5 Dec 1881).
- 'That this Board express its strongest condemnation of the Landlord Manifesto so hostile to the interests of Irish tenantry, above all the expression of cruel, cool and heartless purpose contained therein of dooming to exile with all its sad consequences the body of Irish farmers, and replacing them by aliens in race and religion, unless forsooth the intended victims submit again to the exploded tyranny of rack-renting...' (3 Jul 1882, see also 7 Aug 1882, 7 May 1883).
- 'That we congratulate Edward Dwyer Gray Esq., M.P., the intrepid High Sheriff of Dublin, and proprietor of the *Freeman's Journal*, upon his unconditional release from Richmond prison...' (2 Oct 1882).
- Letter from the LGB acknowledging receipt of a letter from the Commissioners 'requesting the Board to take the necessary steps to constitute the Town Commissioners the Urban Sanitary Authority for the Town of Tuam... the LGB will cause the necessary advertisements to be published in the local newspapers' (2 Jun 1884, see also 5 Sept 1884 20 Feb 1885).
- Tenders for a town clock were discussed, with the tender of Edward Brady in the sum of £95 for the supply and erection of the Clock accepted (1 Dec 1884). It was subsequently decided to withdraw Brady's tender as his clock was of 'English manufacture which the Board would not accept'. Instead the Board accepted the tender of Mr Chancellor (2 Feb 1885).
- 'It was agreed that an iron fire-proof safe be procured for the Board's books (1 Dec 1884).
- 'That small sign Boards be posted up at corners on the different streets of the town designating the names of such streets...' (1 Jun 1885).
- Letter from the Board to the Sanitary Authorities, 'Attention having been called at the meeting of my Board on Monday last to the outbreak of typhoid fever in this Town I was directed to request that you would bring under the notice of your Sanitary Board tomorrow, the necessity of cleansing the river from the Curragh factory to the Mill point at the Bridge in Shop Street, which part of the river is at present in a condition dangerous to the public health' (13 Jun 1887).
- Transcript of Address presented to Home Rule Liberal Deputation (11 Sept 1889).



3. 5 January 1885 - 1 April 1895 Rough Minute book

4. 7 December 1891 - 7 July 1914 Pages 489 to 528 are blank. Includes:
 - 'Resolved, That we the Tuam TC take this our first opportunity of conveying our heartfelt congratulations to the Right Hon W. E. Gladstone, on his accession to power. We also tender to the Nationalists of our Ireland our best thanks for the noble efforts they have made at the General Election in returning so many members of the Nationalist Party to Parliament in spite of faction, coercion and of the Tory Government who use every foul means in their power to defeat Home Rule and put it beyond the aspirations of the Irish nation for centuries' (p25, see also p66, p78, p82).
 - 'That we the Tuam TC respectively recommend to the Congested Districts Board for Ireland as a work of far-reaching and almost provincial importance the construction of a causeway and bridge across Lough Corrib at Knock Ferry as a means of communication for the purpose of fairs, markets etc between the congested area of West Galway on the one side and North Galway and South Galway on the other side of Lough Corrib' (p102).
 - Transcript of letter from P J Conway, solicitor, 'I will feel much obliged by your kindly associating the name of my legal partner Mr John Quinn, solicitor, with mine to act as joint solicitor for your body, a matter which will not involve any additional expense to you. I have been acting as the Board's solicitor for over 20 years, during which time I trust I have given satisfaction, and I hope you will now accede to my request and thus have the services of two solicitors instead of one; (p105, see also p218, p224, p236).
 - 'That we petition the LGB for Ireland requesting them to take the necessary steps to constitute us (the Town Commissioners) as Sanitary Authority for the town of Tuam in pursuance of the 7th Section of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878' (p114, see also p274).
 - 'The Clerk, in accordance with direction given him at a former meeting laid before the Board copies of the Gaelic inscription on the Town Cross with the view to have them with English translation engraved on the lime-stone base, some of the originals being totally obliterated and what remains being difficult to decipher' (p134).
 - Tenders for fire appliances considered (p162, see also p206).
 - 'That at this, a large meeting of the Town Commissioners, assembled we hereby approve of the Movement to celebrate the '98 centenary...' (p281, see also p286).
 - Details of a Committee report to inquire into the Financial State of the Board, included 'That in order to keep the Board's expenditure well within their income the Committee suggest that some of the offices under the Board be dispensed with via these of Caretaker of the Town Hall, Town Inspector, Caretaker of fire Station and Bellman...' (p332).
 - 'That we the Tuam TC as representing the capital of the West, hereby express our approval of the Gaelic League movement and pledge ourselves to aid in perpetuating the Grand Old Tongue of the Gael' (p338).
 - Resolution of sympathy following the death of Mr Perry, County Surveyor (p602).



- The Board as the LGB to confirm 'the Improvement Scheme, made by the District Council, for labourer's cottages for the Tuam Urban Electoral Division, especially having regard to the number of houses in the said ED certified to be overcrowded, insanitary and unfit for human habitation' (p628).
- Transcript of Address of welcome to His Grace Most Rev. Thomas J Carr¹¹, Archbishop of Melbourne on the occasion of his visit to Tuam (12 July 1908, p648).
- Special meeting called 'for the purpose of meeting Mr E P O 'Flanagan and negotiating with him for a further term of tenancy of the Tuam Fair Green' (p709).
- 'That while sympathizing with the Royal Family in their sad bereavement, we respectfully call upon the Prime Minister and the other members of the Government to remove from the Coronation Oath the language so grossly offensive to all Roman Catholics who comprise a large proportion of his Majesty's subjects' (p715).
- 'There was but one tender for contract to build four victuallers' stalls in the Meat Market, Vicar Street, Mr Tobias McHughe's at £112, which was unanimously accepted on the condition that the contract should include some additional items which the architect Mr J. J. Blake, MICE considered necessary to be due and cost of which he estimated at about £4, all to be done for the said sum of £112' (p716, see also p737, p743, p744).
- 'I propose that the Tuam TC adopt Part III of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890 and that 28 days public notice of our intention to take into consideration on the 7th November the propriety of adopting the said part of this Act, and of the time and place for holding the meeting when they will take it into consideration and that at the said meeting a Committee be appointed with our solicitor to carry out the provisions of the Act' (p764, see also p771).
- Resolution of sympathy following the death of Colonel Nolan, 'who for 25 years was the able and distinguished representative of North Galway in the House of Commons...' (p781).
- Meeting held to discuss the 'buying of the meat market' (p848).
- The LGB advised 'With reference to the application of the TC of Tuam for the appointment of an Arbitrator in the matter of the lands which the Council propose to acquire compulsorily in pursuance of the Town of Tuam Order 1913, I am directed by the LGB for Ireland to forward you herewith, a copy of an Order which they have made appointing Mr. C. C. Meyrick of No. 74 Marlborough Road, Donnybrook, Dublin as Arbitrator...' (p859).
- Resolution of Limerick County Council received and adopted, 'That owing to recent political events, and particularly to the attitude of the army on the Ulster question, we the members of the Limerick County Council consider that the time has come when every effort should be made to organise the Irish Volunteer force in every parish in Ireland. We are convinced that such a force, wisely led by men in whom our indomitable leader Mr John E Redmond would have confidence, would prove to the world that the manhood of Ireland are ready to do their part in defence of their homes and their liberties, and if need be to protect our fellow-nationalists in Ulster from insult and attack' (2 Jun 1914, p927).

¹¹ Carr, (10 May 1839 – 6 May 1917), was born near Moylough, Co. Galway, and educated at St. Jarlath's Tuam and St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. He was ordained in May 1866. In 1883 he was made Bishop of Galway, and in 1886 was appointed Archbishop of Melbourne.



5. 15 July 1914 - 6 January 1926 Includes:
- Proposed that ‘The Commissioners decline or refuse to give up possession of the Fish Shambles as in future date it would be required for more important business such as accommodation for motor house or plant for electric light or some other purpose’ (p15, see also p19).
 - ‘Proposed by Mr Patrick Murphy, seconded by Mr Daly that an address be presented to J. E. Redmond on his arrival at Tuam and that the Chairman, Mr Daly, and Mr Dwyer for the Committee’ (p33).
 - Proposed ‘...that the Clerk be directed to ask Mr McNally, contractor, to provide numbers for the dwellings and that the Ballygaddy Road dwellings be called McHale Terrace and the Dublin Road Parkmore Terrace’ (p59).
 - Names of tenants approved for houses at Parkmore Terrance and McHale Terrace (6 May 1915, p62).
 - ‘Mary McHugh, Kilbannon and William Cruise, Dunmore applied for and were granted artisans dwellings on McHale Terrace in complying with the regulations’ (p64, see also p66).
 - Transcript of resolution received from the Municipal Council City of Dublin which entered ‘...an emphatic protest against the unjust treatment of our fellow Countrymen (members of the Irish Volunteers) who have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment without satisfactory reasons being given; that we demand their immediate release, and desire to draw the attention of our Parliamentary representatives to the unequal administration of the law as regards public utterances and writings in Ireland and in England, further that we demand the same privileges to be extended to Irishmen, as have been given to Lord Northcliffe and the English Press presently opposed to the British Government’ (p80).
 - Report from Surveyor, T. Hamilton, following an inspection of the houses at McHale and Parkmore Terraces (pp106-09, see also p149, p189).
 - Granting permission to Irish Foresters to extend its Hall (pp119-120, see also TTC1/12, 1 Nov 1949).
 - ‘That we the Tuam TC respectfully request the magistrates of the district to refuse to grant occasional licenses for the Tuam Fairs in future.
‘We desire to point out that in a town of a little over 3,000 of a population with 30 public houses, several of them adjacent to the Fair Green, the necessity for such occasion licenses does not exist; and further that in face of the widespread Temperance crusade now being carried on all over Ireland, and the restrictions imposed even by the Government on the drink traffic, the granting of further drinking facilitates in the Town of Tuam is unnecessary and undesirable, and a source of contamination to the people attending our fairs’ (pp121-2).
 - ‘A resolution was received from the Westport Urban Council calling on the Government to release Irish prisoners arrested in connection with the recent rebellion on suspicion’.
‘Mr Burke proposed the resolution be adopted. Passed unanimously’ (p129, 1st Aug 1916).
 - ‘The Ganger at the quarry appeared before the Board and stated the labourers were going on strike next day unless the wages was increased from 18/- to 20/- per week....’ (p132).



- Tenders for public lighting were accepted (p135, see also p220).
- ‘Only one tender was received (for Tolls and Customs) that of Mr John Murphy offering £6000 (six hundred pounds) for the Tolls and customs and agreeing to the terms of advertisement. The Board unanimously decided not to set the Tolls less than £625. The Clerk having an interview with Mr Murphy’s son, he agreed to the price fixed by the Commissioners and the tender was accepted accordingly’ (p137, see also p181, p218, p242).
- ‘That the Clerk be directed to write to the LGB to inform them and request their attention to the unsanitary state of one of the favourite walks of the town, owing to the rotten matter emanating from the Workhouse and lodging on the roadside to the detriment of the health and hygiene of the locality’ (p140, see also p 142 & p152).
- ‘Tuam TC take the necessary steps to acquire compulsorily the premises known as the Fish Shambles, situate at Egan’s Lane Tuam, which said premises the Commissioners had been tenants of for a number of years...’ (p146, see also p151, p161).
- ‘The Secretary Irish Women’s Council wrote requesting the Board to get signature to their memorial calling on the Government to treat Irish women prisoners as prisoners of war and not as criminals.’ ‘It was ordered that the Clerk and Mr Dwyer would get the women of the Town who are in sympathy with the object of the resolution to sign it’ (p158).
- Resolution from Dublin Corporation was adopted demanding ‘...that the British Government shall adopt a similar policy to that which they have congratulated the Provisional Government of Russian, and declare a general amnesty of Irish Political Prisoners and a revocation of the recent order of deportation upon other Irishmen (9 May 1917, pp164-5).
- Resolution 'proposed by Mr John Burke seconded by Mr P Walsh against partition of the Irish nation and that the names of the Commissioners be sent to the proper quarter via Chas O'Neil, D.L. Gresham Hotel, Dublin' (5 Jun 1917, p166).
- Resolution of sympathy on the 'lamented death of Major William Redmond on the Battle field of France...' (3 Jul 1917, p169).
- 'That we condemn the action of those members of the Galway Co. Council who degraded themselves by voting against rescinding their cowardly resolution passed on May 3rd 1916 (the day Padraic Pearse was shot) condemning the men of Easter week who shed their blood for Ireland. We trust when the time comes their constituents will remember their action.' (7 Jul 1917, p173).
- Resolution from Dublin Corporation was adopted, ‘...having learned that certain members of the Irish Civil Service have been victimised by dismissal, transfer to other offices, or by having adverse records made against them by secret reports, demand that the evidence upon which they have been victimised shall be produced and that the officers concerned shall be given a fair opportunity of meeting the charges upon which they have been penalised...’ (14 Jan 1918, pp196-6).
- 'We the Tuam Town Commissioners...protest against the extension of conscription in this country. We deny the right of the British Parliament to impose such service, and hold that the Irish people will be justified in resisting it by all means in their power...' (11 Apr 1918, p207).

- ‘Re Tolls and Customs: Mr O’Malley proposed and Mr Burke seconded that the Tolls be increased via Bullocks and heifers from 4 to 6d each, 1 and 2 year olds from 3 to 4d each....
The Clerk in the meantime to find out if the Commissioners could increase the Tolls legally’ (p217).
- ‘Only one tender was received for repairs to the Dome of Town Hall that of Mr Darby Forde’s for the sum of £18.0.0, same to be complete and any defective parts replaced to the satisfaction of the Board’ (p232).
- Letter from Mr T. J. Reid, Gas Contractor, Ballina, proposing to apply ‘for a provisional order in connection with the Gas Works in Tuam with power to supply electricity for all purposes in Tuam and district...’ (p236, see also p246).
- Mr Collins was appointed engineer over the sewerage scheme at McHale Terrace (p240).
- ‘That this Council of the elected representatives of Tuam, hereby acknowledged the authority of Dáil Éireann as the duly elected Government of the Irish people, and undertakes to give effect, to all decrees, duly promulgated by the said Dáil Éireann in so far as same affect this Council’ (4 May 1920, p263).
- ‘Proposed by Mr Cooney, seconded by The Chairman that a public meeting be called or summoned for Sunday next the 11th inst (July 1920) at the Town Hall. Rev Father Hannon be asked to preside in aid of the Railway workers now dismissed over the present crises’ (p269).
- ‘That we the TTC cannot find words to condemn the atrocious and savage conduct of the members of the R.I.C. who in the early hours of the morning caused such havoc and destruction in several houses in the town. That many lives were not lost and the whole town laid in ruins is not the fault of the Police by their manical¹² (sic) acts of incendiarism¹³. That we demand of the British Government as has been already done by his Grace the Archbishop a sworn public inquiry into the barbarous acts of these men, and that we demand from that Government full compensation for the burning and looting of property.
Whist we condemn the shooting of two Constables near Tuam and express our sympathy with their relatives, it cannot be held as an excuse for these unbridled acts of savagery’ (3 Aug 1920, p271)¹⁴.
‘This resolution rescinded at the meeting held October 6th 1920’.
- Letter read from the LGB stating that ‘attention had been called to the series of resolutions passed by local authorities in Ireland repudiating the authority of the Imperial Parliament. The Government have given the Board explicit instructions that no loans or grants from public funds for any purpose shall be made by the LG Board to any local authority without a definite assurance that they will submit their accounts to audit and be prepared to conform to the rules and orders of the Local Government as heretofore’ (3 August 1920, p272).

¹² Maniacal - suggestive of or afflicted with insanity

¹³ Incendiarism *n* : 1. (Law) the act or practice of illegal burning; arson; 2. (Government, Politics & Diplomacy) (esp. formerly) the creation of civil strife or violence for political reasons, *Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged* © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003

¹⁴ The Town Hall and other properties were burned down by armed RIC men, after two had been killed in an ambush by the IRA near the town the day before.



- ‘Dáil Éireann has directed that the imposition of religious or political tests as a condition of industrial employment is illegal.
Attempts are being made to enforce such tests in Belfast, and thousands of workmen and workwomen have been forcibly driven from their employment because they refuse to submit to them.
Until this tyranny ceases and the expelled workers are restored goods manufactured or distributed from Belfast must not be purchased or received elsewhere....’ (p275).
- ‘That we the Tuam Town Commissioners beg to tender to Most Revd Dr Mannix Archbishop of Melbourne¹⁵ our heartiest welcome on his return to his native county. We offer him at the same time our warmest sympathy in the affront attempted to be put upon him by the British Government in prevent him to land here, and condemn such stupid and malignant conduct....’(p276).
- Details on the revision of Tolls and Customs (p279).
- Appeal by the TC to inhabitants of Tuam to ‘...cease from all trade with Belfast firms and firms which purchase from Belfast...’ (p281).
- Martin Costello was declared tenant of No. 14 McHale Terrace (p283).
- ‘A Committee of the Commissioners got estimates for re-construction or repairs to the Cross on the Square knock (sic) down by The Military viz Thomas McHugh £130...’ (2 Aug, 1921, p306).
- Tender for the lighting of the town (p309).
- With regard to the amalgamation of the Union workhouses the ‘Board desired to call the attention of Dáil Éireann and District Council. That they consider Tuam Union workhouse the most central and convenient for a county nursing Home for the above object...’ (p312, see also p314, p414, p520).
- Address of welcome to Dr De Valera ‘...on his visit to Galway Dec 4th (1921) by the Chairman (Costello), Mr Moran, Mr P Walsh and the Clerk’
‘The Committee of Management having decided that only one address was to be presented that of the Galway County council. The Clerk was directed to have it inserted on minute book and copy sent to Dáil Éireann’ (p326).
- Special meeting convened to give members an opportunity to give ‘...their views on The Treaty between Ireland and Gt. Britain’, where upon they call on public representatives to ratify the Treaty (27 Dec 1921, p332).
- Proposal to apply for loan of £7,000 to re-build the Town Hall (p320, see also p360, p424, p432, p438, p444).
- Rent on Artisan dwellings raised to 5/ (shillings) per week (p358).
- Defective drainage at the cottages at McHale Terrace (p376).
- Details of free-grant from the Provisional Government of a housing scheme (p392, 17 May 1922).

¹⁵ Daniel Mannix (4 Mar 1864 – 6 Nov 1963) was an Irish-born Australian Catholic bishop. Mannix was the Archbishop of Melbourne for 46 years and a very influential public figure in 20th-century Australia. He condemned the government’s attempts to introduce conscription.



- 'A letter was read from the Board of Public Works having sanctioned a loan of £4,200 for the purpose of re-building the Town Hall...'(p421, see also p444, p446, p 483)
 - 'That we the T TC express our appreciation and sorrow of, at the loss Ireland has suffered at the death of President Griffith, and we extend our deep sympathy to Mrs Griffith and Family... On this occasion we further express our sorrow for the deaths of Cathal Burgha and Harry Boland, and we earnestly hope that all their deaths may have the effect of ending the present horrible conflict and restoring the country to a state of peach and prosperity' (4 Aug 1922, p434).
 - 'Clerk be directed to write to the Minister of Defence call attention to the furious driving of military particularly with Crossley cars not alone through the town but more especially on country roads' (p480, see also p482, p486).
 - Special meeting convened to consider extension of the borough boundary (p483).
 - Claim of £3,350 for compensation accepted for burning of the Town Hall (p483, see also p491, p492 & see p497-8 regarding the rebuilding of the Hall).
 - Tender of Owen Larkin, Ballinasloe in the sum of £4,130.1.4 accepted for the re-construction of the Town Hall (p503, see also p504, p539).
 - Letters and discussion regarding the setting of the speed limit in the town at 10 miles per hour (p559).
 - 'Public lighting tender was accepted from Tuam Electricity Company per Mr James Daly, Secretary, as follows...£3.7.6 per lamp and also £3.7.6 for clock and £2.0.0 extra for any alright lamps...' (p566).
 - In November 1925 it was resolved to accept the tender of Mr Dwan in the sum of £265 per annum for ten years for the lease of the Town Hall (p574).
6. 21 January 1926 – 5 February 1929 Includes subject index. Also includes:-
- Minister of Local Government and Public Health 'approves for the Tuam Town Commissioners raising a loan of £1,200 for completing and furnishing the Town Hall...' (4p).
 - 'That we the Tuam TTC congratulate the Guards for the courageous and energetic action led by Sergeant Roddy in fighting the fire which recently occurred in Mr Tigue's premises in this town...without their assistance the fire must have spread and burn a considerable portion of the town' (p13).
 - Need for sewerage scheme at McHale Terrace where there 'are 20 houses in the town blocks and although is laid on, there is no means of taking away the waste from these houses. A few yards away is the sewer serving the new houses built by the commissioners and it cannot be very expensive to connect the McHale Terrace houses with this...' (p16).
 - 'A letter from the County Board of Health requesting the TC to take over the management, finance etc of the Tuam Water Work...' (p17).



- ‘Mr Butler proposed Mr M J Walsh seconded that the new Terrace at Ballygaddy Road be named Saint Benin¹⁶ Terrace, he being the patron saint of Kilbannon, passed unanimously’ (p32).
- ‘We request you call a special meeting of the Tuam Commissioners to be held this evening at 8 o’clock. To join with other public bodies in the province to protest against the impending action of the Government in contemplating the closing down of the Galway University’ (p33).
- Tenders received and accepted for the two new houses at St Benin’s Terrace (p70).
- ‘The Clerk was directed to write to the Secretary of the Soldiers and Sailors Land Trust and find out cause of delay in building the houses at Bishop Street, Tuam, it being a long time in contemplation’ (p73).
- Housing Department, Merrion Square agreed to the Commissioners selling houses to tenants under the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts, subject to certain conditions (p75).
- ‘The Clerk was directed...to state the sewerage of the Town is in a bad state nothing has been done for years and unless something is done their (sic) will be an epidemic. And any works such as pumps etc, done in no.s 1-2 Dispensary districts have been and is always paid by Tuam Urban’ (p94).
- Tenders for Tolls & Customs reviewed (p101).
- ‘A complete sewerage system for the town of Tuam would cost £12,000...’ (p124).
- Offer of ‘...sum of £455 for the Artizan’s dwelling at St Benin’s Terrace’ accepted (p170).
- Regarding 5 new houses at Galway Road it was resolved that ‘Mrs Bridget Kilcoursey get House No. 7 at the price of £227.10.0.
Mrs Hopkins was called before the meeting and asked if she would take House no. 11 at the £230...
Mr Higgins was asked by the Board if he would purchase any other House instead of no. 7 and refused to do so’ (p171).
- Offer from Miss M Kelly to purchase cottage No. 8 at Galway Road for £225 accepted (p175).
- ‘The tender of the Tuam electricity Co. Ltd., for the Lighting of the town of Tuam according to the terms of advertisement was accepted at the following prices viz; 45 lamps 100 candle power at £2.17.6 each, 4 lamps at Cathedral Grounds Protestant and Catholic Churches 100 c Power at £1 each, 1 all night lamp extra at £1 and Town Hall Clock all night 4.6 G.F.W. lamps for the sum of £5, all to be lighted from 15 August 1928 to 1st May 1929 and a 60 watt lamp to be put up on pole near railway crossing, Vicar St., free of charge’ (p181).
- Printed copy of Auditor’s Report pasted into the minutes (p193).
- ‘That we, the Tuam TC call upon the Land Commission to have the Strachan Estate Tuam sold forthwith and that the Fair Green be reserved for the Town Commissioners’ (p235, see also TTC1/7, p216, p237 & pp240-1).

¹⁶ ‘The parish of Kilbannon owes its name to St. Benen, or Benignus, signifying the Church of Benen. He was the son of Sescan, a chief who dwelt near the modern Duleek in Meath. The church of Benen was the mother church of the Archdiocese of Tuam, older than Tuam itself, as Benignus was older the St. Jarlath’ (<http://tuam.galway-ireland.ie/>) (Sept 2013).



7. 5 March 1929 - 11 December 1931 Ink light & can be difficult to decipher. Includes:-
- Toll Farmer, Edward Quinn advised the Commissioners of the need for 'concrete shelter to be erected at the Shambles in connection with the working of the scales for the weighing of the potatoes, the old box being past repair' (p4).
 - 'Letter from Mr Henry Concanon, solicitor to the Commissioners enclosing transfer Deeds to be signed and Sealed in the case of the houses sold to Mrs Jane Hopkins, John Hession, Margaret Kelly and James Daly' (p6).
 - 'That we call upon the Government and members of the Dáil to have the Evil Literature Bill passed forthwith...' (p7).
 - 'Whereas the Irish people are the lawful owners of the soil of Ireland and whereas the lawful owners of the soil of Ireland are being robbed by the British Exchequer and by the remnant of the British Garrison in Ireland. The levy of the yearly tribute by a so-called Irish Government is the definition of slavery. I propose that we transact no further business and adjourn this meeting as a protest against the arrest of Father Fahy. Also show our whole hearted sympathy with his patriotic action in his heroic and practical gesture to the enslaved and oppressed farmers of Ireland ...' (p14).
 - 'That we tender our heartfelt sympathy in their great loss to the relatives of the late Volunteer Dan McCormick¹⁷, Lisceevy (Liskeavy), Milltown. That we hope their grief will be tempered with pride in the knowledge that Dan's name will be treasured as a soldier of Ireland who was faithfully unto death...' (p60).
 - Details relating to provision of a public sanitary convenience or latrine (see for instance p90).
 - Discussion regarding the erection of electric light and poles on Bishop Street and Church view (p175 and p208).
 - Tenders for the purchase of new houses at St. Paul's Terrance considered (pp189-191).
 - Vote of thanks to Galway Urban Council 'for sending down their Fire Engine so hurriedly on the occasion of the recent fire in the Mercy Convent' (7 Apr 1931, p199).
 - Commissioners 'request the GAA and all promoters of athletics, tournaments, feiseanna etc not to hold on Easter Sunday in future any fixtures whatever as that day should be especially devoted to Commemorate the memory of the martyrs who died for Irish freedom' (p229).
8. 5 January 1932 - 6 September 1935 On light paper up to p116, thereafter typed pages pasted into volume. Includes:-
- 'Mr Stapleton submitted a specification for the electric wiring of the Town Hall. The specification was approved of and it was decided to forward copy of same to Messrs Gardiner and Rynhart, Electricians, Westport and to local men and to ask for estimates for same' (p2).

¹⁷ See for instance Witness Statements, Bureau of Military History,
<http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/reels/bmh/BMH.WS1400.pdf#page=11>, (accessed Nov 2013)



- 'That an address of welcome by the Board be presented to Mr De Valera on his visit to Tuam on Friday 12th inst (February 1931)' (p7).
- 'Tenders for the shoeing of the Commissioners' horse for one year from the 1st April 1931 were received...' (p8).
- Tenders for the vacant meat stall reviewed (p15).
- 'That lavatories be installed in the McHale Terrace houses, and that the cost of same be levied on the tenants by way of increase of rent of 1/- per week until same is paid off...' (p18).
- 'That, we, Tuam Town Commissioners place on record the deep sense of loss Ireland has suffered on the death of Mrs Pearse, one of Ireland's noblest martyred women, whose two sons gave their young and gallant lives for the cause of Irish nationhood, blessed by that noble mother whose death the entire nature now deplores' (3 May 1932, p21).
- 'That Galway Board of Health be requested to have the sewerage drain at Galway Road (near level crossing) cleaned immediately' (p23).
- '...on behalf of the people of Tuam pledge our whole-hearted support to the Government in the stand it has taken in the present national crises and in its fight against economic subjection. We view, with dismay, the unpatriotic attitude of a certain section of our own people, and a hostile anti-national press, not worthy of support. We appeal to all Irishmen to stand united behind the Government and help them in their struggle in release their people from unjust and crushing burdens...' (p33)¹⁸.
- 'That T Hussey be appointed tenant at no. 3 McHale Terrace. Mr W Lohan, tenant of No. 18 McHale Terrace, and Thomas Donelan tenant of No. 2 Parkmore Terrace at the weekly rent of 5/- (five shillings) exclusive of rates and other charges...' (p52).
- 'Mr P Purcell, Secretary, Tuam, Fianna Fáil Cumainn, wrote requesting the co-operation of the Town Commissioners in putting forward the claim for a Beet Factory in Tuam....' (p55).
- 'The Town Clerk and Tuam Steward were ordered to make a survey of derelict sites and houses unfit for human habitation in Tuam and to submit the list to a Special Meeting of the Board..' (p63).
- An address of welcome was to be presented to Mr De Valera, President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State '*on the occasion of his visit to Tuam to open the new Beet Factory*' (p127).
- 'That steps be taken by the Commissioners to provide a fire engine and additional fire appliances for the town; also to employ firemen' (p130).
- Letter from James Cooney, Lessee of the Town Hall Cinema 'stating that he proposed to install a Cinematograph machine and projectors in the hall on the 22nd September and that according to the terms of letting he would be liable for half the premium payable after 50 cinema entertainments...' (p246).

¹⁸ When Fianna Fáil came to power in 1932 they abolished "land annuities" due to the British government and the Dáil's Oath to the King of England in 1933. The former resulted in a retaliatory trade war between the Irish Free State and the UK lasting from 1933 until 1938, which became known as the Economic War or Anglo Irish Trade War.

- 'A Deputation of works engaged in the making of the new road from Tuam to the Beet Factory came before the meeting and asking the support of the Town Commissioners with them in their action of going on strike for an increased rate of wages...' (p247).

9. 1 October 1935 - 23 May 1938

Includes:-

- 'That we do give our Solicitor, Mr F D. McDonogh, instructions to prepare the conveyance, Agreement, etc., in respect of the sale of the plot at "Father Burke's Field" to Co. Galway Vocational Education Committee as a site for a Vocational School' (p3).
- An estimate of £600 was adopted for the cost of a 'Fire Engine, all accessories, all appliances and a fire station' (p51).
- Names and current addresses of the 73 applicants selected for tenancies of the houses nearing completion at Tubberjarlath (pp68-70, see also pp74-5).
- The tender of Merryweather, in the sum of £570.7.0 was accepted for the fire engine and fire-fighting equipment (p132, see also p149 and pp159-160).
- 'That arrangements be made to send Paying Order with the order for the Fire engine, etc, as proposed to Messrs, The Pyrene Co....' for the fire engine and equipment (p167).
- Resolution of sympathy for the 'grief-stricken parents and relatives of the victims of the recent Kirkintillch (Scotland) Fire; and that we request the Parish Priest of Achill Sound to convey our sympathy to the relatives and friends of the ten youths who lost their lives under such tragical (sic) and unusual circumstances' (p200).
- Discussion on the formation of a Fire Brigade was held in February 1939 (pp232-3).
- 'That the Clerk be instructed to write to the Department of Local Government in the matter, giving particulars as laid before the meeting and asking the Department's observations as to whether the Commissioners should insist on the use of natural slates, if procurable, or insist on the Contractor (Birmingham) giving an allowance according to the Engineer's (Moran) recommendation, for the substitution of asbestos slates' (p239, see also p245, p248, p254 & p258).
- 'Proposed by the Chairman....that we, TTC do congratulate Dr Douglas Hyde on his unanimous selection as the first President of Eire; that we do, at, the same time, congratulate the Government on their success with the recent Anglo-Irish Agreement' (p251).
- 'Letter from Mr M J Kennedy, County Surveyor, intimating that he has decided to take over the Tuam Streets from the Commissioners and have them maintained by direct labour for one year (from the 1st April, 1938), and stating that any further work need not be carried out by TTC' (p254)
- 'That Mr John Hession, Town Steward, be appointed Chief Officer of the new Tuam Fire Brigade; that Mr P Watson, Co. Messrs, Egan & Co. be appointed Mechanic; and the following applicants be appointed fire-men...' (p256).

(10.)



11. 1 December 1942 - 3 May 1949 Includes:
- 'The Board discussed the Managerial system, making reference to the expense of Election of members of the Board, and the holding of meetings in order to comply with the Statutory Regulations, even though they (have) no powers left to them. After some discussion on the matter, it was decided to have a thorough examination of the terms of the system' (6 Jul 1943, see also 3 Aug 1943, 4 Dec 1944 and 3 Dec 1945).
 - Fixing of dates for Tuam Fairs (13 Sept 1943).
 - 'The Members discussed the post war plans for the Town, and directed the Clerk to have the matters in connection with a Relief Scheme, Swimming Pools, etc put on the Agenda for the March meeting with the Manager for discussion, including the demolition of Condemned Buildings, at Galway Road, the Mall, etc (4 Jan 1944, see also 3 Apr 1944).
 - 'The members discussed the necessity of having a public telephone kiosk erected on the Square in the Town in order to facilitate persons making night calls, etc...' (7 Nov 1944, see also 7 May 1945, 4 Sept 1945).
 - 'The members discussed with the Manager the necessity of provision of playgrounds for Tuam, and Mr J.A. O'Connell pointed out that there was a suitable site for a playground at Ballygaddy Road, which would be appreciated by the residents...' (3 Jul 1945, see also 5 Nov 1945).
 - 'After some discussion with reference to the erection of a style at the loading bank at the Fair Green, the clerk was instructed to write to the Town Surveyor, Mr Egan to have the style erected' (4 Sept 1945).
 - Estimate of expenses for incurring year was expenditure at £9,687.10.0 and receipts of £7,753 (21 Jan 1948).
 - 'The Clerk submitted correspondence received from Estate Agent in connection with the expiration of 99 years lease of Meat Stalls, and correspondence from the County Manager relating to proposed purchase of the property...' (27 Aug 1948, see also 6 Sept, 4 Oct).
12. 7 June 1949 – 4 September 1951 Includes:
- 'The Members received a deputation from the Tuam Parish Council to discuss the question of improvements to the Tuam Firgreen (sic) and the provision of a road across the Fairgreen to link Tullindaly road and Ballygaddy Road...' (7 Jun 1949).
 - The Commissioners decided to adopt the Town and Regional Planning Acts (4 Oct 1949, see also 3 Sept 1957).
 - 'Mr Coughlan suggested that sites be sought for the erection of further houses and Mr Egan referred to the possibility of building houses for the White Collar class of workers, which could be sold or let at a full economic rent...' (17 May 1950).
 - 'The Clerk stated to the Board that a recent Court decision held that the Bye-Laws of the town to be null and void and that as a consequence no Bye-Laws were now in existence....' (3 Oct 1950).



- 'Various members of the Board explained to the Manager (of Galway Co. Co., Mr O'Flynn), grievances they felt in connection with the method adopted by the Co. Medical Officers of giving priorities to applicants for housing accommodation. Messrs O'Connell and Burke stressed the unfairness display towards persons with applications of years standing and the Chairman instances the case with which T.B. cases from other areas could come to Tuam and obtain houses, while local people had to remain without housing accommodation. Objects were also made to the case with which undesirable types of tenants could be placed in areas the board had not intended for such. The Manager informed that Board that under the Housing Regulations he and the Co. Medical Officer was obliged to give priority to T.B. and other specified classes...' (2 Jan 1951).
- Details of the allocation of houses are recorded in the minutes (11 Jan 1951, see also 1 May 1951).
- Discussion regarding the possible purchase of the Palace Grounds, the residence and lands attached to the Church of Ireland, Bishop of Tuam (3 Apr & 25 Apr 1951 and 25 Jun 1951).
- 'On a suggestion of Mr Joyce and Mr O'Connell that the Chairman should have a Chain of Office Mr Cahill agreed to inquire as to the cost of such chain' (4 Sept 1951).

(13.)

14. 2 April 1957 – 5 November 1963

Includes:

- 'A lengthy report from the Engineer on the amounts he would require in 1958/59 year for maintenance of the Town Hall and Shambles, Improvements of Fair Green and Repairs of Meat Stall and Houses was read' (p26).
- Discussion regarding the allocation of ranges in Council houses (pp33-34).
- 'TUAM FAIR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION A deputation from the Association was admitted... stressing that the construction of a live stock mart would be detrimental to the business of the town and would tend to tie small farmers to one purchaser, the mart association, in the disposal of their produce...' (p75, see also p104).
- 'A pump at Ballymoate sun some eleven months ago had not functioned for ten months and that eleven families were dependent on it for water' (p117).
- 'The Manager informed the Board that in applying a Town Planning Scheme to Tuam an acre around the Town was proposed for inclusion and detailed the townlands involved...' (p150, see also p 215).
- 'The Chairman (Burke) then proposed that Commissioner O'Brien, the last holder of the chairman's Office should accept the invitation to witness the conferring of the Freedom of the City of Galway on President Kennedy of the U.S.A. instead of himself in view of Mr O'Brien's services to the Board and of the fact that the invitation was received during Mr O'Brien's term of office. This was agreed to' (p243, see also TTC1/15, p2).



15. 3 December 1963 – 3 December 1968 Includes:
- 'Application of the Stadium Committee for the land for Stadium extension at St Enda's Avenue. Particulars of an application of the Stadium committee for portion of the land held by the Board at St. Enda's Ave and used as a children's play ground were given and the Clerk was directed to invite the Stadium committee requesting particular of its proposal and an assurance that the rights of the Children to playing in the plot of land would not be interfered with' (7 Jan 1964, see also 4 Feb 1964).
 - 'Commissioners O'Brien suggested the introduction of Tenant Purchase Schemes for the new houses in the Palace and for isolated Co. Council cottages...' (3 Mar 1964).
 - 'That in view of the urgency of the provision of houses in the Palace, of a swimming pool, of the new Clinic and of the development of sites for private housing in the Palace Grounds, that a meeting with the Assistance county Manager be arranged within the next week' (7 Jul 1964).
 - 'It should be recommended to the Co. Council that a purchase scheme should at once be framed for the new houses under construction at St. Joseph's Park, which tenants on appointed would avail of' (1 Jun 1965).
 - 'Arising out of the Minutes, the Asst. Co. Manager stated that in connection with the proposed folk museum, the Co. Librarian had examined the collection which Mr D. J. Murphy proposed to donate and found it to be extensive, but that the Librarian's official report was not yet to hand...' (7 Sept 1965, see also 7 Dec 1965, 2 Aug 1966, 8 Apr 1968, 3 Dec 1968).
 - 'Bi-Centenary Celebrations of 1916 Rising: The Chairman referred to the fact that these celebrations would be held this year and requested suggestions as to any initiative which should be taken by the Commissioners...' (7 Sept 1965, see also 5 Apr 1966).
 - Discussions and details relating to the Irish Municipal Authorities Association Conference to be held in Tuam in September (19 Apr 1966).
 - 'Housing of Itinerants: Commissioner Coghlan referred to the fact that itinerants housed by the Commissioners were confined in one part of one Scheme and stated he felt they should be more widely dispersed for proper integration into the settled community. The Chairman (O'Brien) also elaborated this point, but Commissioner O'Connor stated that he felt one could go too far in this regard and that consideration should be given to the wishes of other residents in areas where the housing of itinerants was proposed...' (7 Mar 1967).

