



**Loughrea Rural District Council**

**Archives Collection**

**1900 – 1925**

**G01/8**

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# Introduction

This archives collection consists of Loughrea Rural District Council minute books (1901-1925), together with minutes of a Public Works Committee (1925), and a volume of letters from the Clerk to the Council (1900-1922). The collection has been in the custody of Galway County Libraries for many years.

## Rural District Councils

Rural District Councils were set up under the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898. Their powers were conferred upon them by Sections 2 to 39 of the Act.

The Council assumed responsibility for the road and public works functions of the Grand Juries where the cost had been borne by the district and the housing and public health functions of the Boards of Guardians. In the early years of County Councils much of the routine business was transacted through these Councils. The Poor Law Guardians were also the Rural District Councillors; the same individuals but working in a separate capacity.

The Councils played an important administrative role in the period pre-dating the formation of an independent Irish state, and when democratic local government was first established and developing in Ireland. The Councils were dissolved in October 1925 under Section 8, Sub-section (2), (3), and (4) of the Local Government Act of that year. Their functions were transferred, under the Local Government Act of 1925 to the county councils. County councils were in turn required to discharge their new sanitary duties through boards of health and public assistance.<sup>1</sup> These boards also had responsibility for the supervision of county homes, hospitals and dispensaries, housing, water and sewerage, home assistance and a number of schemes including blind welfare, boarded out children, infectious diseases, tuberculosis and the school medical service.

The Boards of Health and Public Assistance survived until August 1942 when the administration of public assistance and sanitary matters came under the direct control of the County Council acting through the new county managers. Medical Health Officers were appointed and were responsible for the effective administration of the legislation for safeguarding public health.

## Loughrea Rural District Council

The Rural District Council meetings were generally held, if the required quorum of Councillors was in attendance, twice a month in the Workhouse, Loughrea. There were originally in the region of 70 elected and/or co-opted members of Council; from the 1920's the number was reduced to 38.

The Council's geographical area of responsibility included the electoral divisions of Aille, Athenry, Ballynagar, Bracklagh, Bullaun, Cappalusk, Castleboy, Cloonkeen, Colmanstown, Craughwell, Derrylaur, Dumkeary, Grange, Grangeabbey, Greethill, Kilbreekill, Kilchreest, Kilconickny, Kilconierin, Killimore,

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for Local Authority Archives Services, 1996

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Killogilleen, Kilmeen, Kiltesskill, Kiltullagh, Lackalea, Leitrim, Loughatorick, Loughrea Rural, Loughrea Urban, Marble Hill, Moyode, Raford, Tiaquin, and Woodford.

The Council held its inaugural meeting on 22 April 1899. A contemporary newspaper reported that all the newly established District Councils in Ireland ‘...appointed their chairmen and ex-officio representatives by law authorised and so far commenced the first chapter of what promises to be a new ere in the administrative life of this country. For good or ill, for better or for worse...the new bodies are launched upon a hitherto stormy sea of Irish life and it is to be hoped that, from a sense of patriotism if from no other consideration, the Councils now commencing their careers will by all classes and at all hands be accorded a fair trial neither condemned beforehand for inefficiency nor unduly commended for efficiency but given full, unprejudiced and honest trial....’<sup>2</sup>.

A wealth of information relating to the Council itself, and to the physical and social development of the district may be ascertained from the collection. For example the minutes reveal that two female members, Ms Nora Cahill and Ms Gertrude MacNamara, co-opted to the Council in April 1904 served as Councillors for a short period only. The minutes also record the appointment or co-opting of Councillors, Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and various committees. They illustrate the range of topics of concern and interest to the Council, and record together with general and financial business proceedings, the minutes of the Sanitary Authority, and the Burial Board, and proceedings conducted under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts. The Council was concerned with a variety of issues from contemporary political and social matters, both local and national, to public health and sanitary issues.

For instance, the Council's concern and interest in national political issues is illustrated in various resolutions, such as when in 1902 it adopted the motto “No Anti-Nationalist need apply” (G01/8/3, p342) and declared that all contractors employed by the Council were to be members of the United Irish League. The following year it pledged ‘moral and material support to the Irish Language Movement...’ (G01/8/3, p483). Concern for land rights after the passing of the Land Bill [1903] prompted the Council to call on the Irish Party to ‘...watch the progress... and not to allow grazing farms to be purchased by the present holders but to leave them over for distribution amongst small agricultural farmers which will be the only means of stopping the tide of emigration and which will in some measure satisfy the aspirations of our people namely – Ireland for the Irish and the land for the people’ (G01/8/3, p502).

In May 1916 it condemned the 1916 Easter Rising stating ‘That, in common with the vast majority of our fellow country, we deplore the occurrences in Dublin and other parts of Ireland during the past fortnight which resulted in the death of many innocent persons and the destruction of much property. We regret that many of our young countrymen were the dupes of German agents and of the enemies of the country, and for these of the rank and file of the insurgents we plead for mercy. We desire to convey to John Redmond and the Irish Party our wholehearted support for the constitutional movement for Home Rule, ... That we earnestly urgent upon the Government the desirability, for the future peace of the country, of stopping immediately the carrying out of the capital punishment against those of our countrymen who were

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<sup>2</sup> Tuam Herald, 22 April 1899

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*members of the rebel forces, and further that martial law should cease in as far as the trials of prisoners is concerned and further trials (of any) should be under the civil law' (G01/8/10, p642-623).*

Several years later, in early 1921, following its recognition six months earlier of the authority of Dail Eireann, the Council placed an order for enlarged photographs of several of the leaders of the Rising (G01/8/13, p1).

In September 1920 the Council resolved '*That all communication between the Rural District Council and their officers and the British Local Government Board in Dublin be discontinued, that no future Minutes of Meetings, Returns or correspondence of any kind be sent to them, but instead that Minutes and all information required be furnished to the Local Government Department of Dáil Éireann..*' (G01/8/12, p657). In December 1920 the Clerk, who had from about this time onwards begun to sign his name in Irish, informed the Council that the Acting Master of the Workhouse reported to him that Crown Forces searched the workhouse premises inflicting damage; they '*torn up all records including Account books, Bank Books, Minute books, Correspondence, Cheque Books etc ; they daubed the walls and pictures, etc, with ink, and they threw on the floors all books, forms etc found on the shelves or in Presses... I may add that it is now impossible to carry out an audit of the accounts as the records are mutilated or destroyed.....*' (G01/8/13, p764).

Throughout the duration of the War of Independence the Council called for better conditions for political prisoners and for their release. Indeed in 1921 several of its own members were either in jail or '*on the run*' (G01/8/13, p141).

In the midst of the national economic and political evolutions and revolutions of the first 25 years of the twentieth century the Rural District Council proceeded to carry out its administrative duties; duties and responsibilities that primarily involved the provision of water and sewerage schemes, roads, and labourers' cottages.

From 1910 onwards the Council became involved in the protracted and cumbersome business of providing water and sewerage schemes for Athenry and a sewerage scheme for Loughrea. The Loughrea work in particular was hindered by the lack of finance and the scarcity of labour and materials during World War I, and subsequently by the unsettled political climate in Ireland during the War of Independence and the Civil War. The lengthy process from commencement to completion was further complicated in the intervening years by the rising cost of labour and materials, and the consequential need to revise the estimate for the works.

The necessity of providing a main drainage scheme for the town of Loughrea was called for in March 1910 by Dr Ryan. He advised the Rural District Council that '*the sewerage of the town is bad and defective.....*

*The old drains and sewers in the town are bad and roughly built and quite unsuitable for the conveyance of sewage from water closets. The new sewers were very badly constructed, no regard having been paid to leveling and proper connexions (sic).....*

*There is only one remedy which I am loath to recommend on account of the impoverished condition of*

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*people generally and that is a system of main drainage of the town*' (G01/8/7, p435-436). Several months later the Council informed that Local Government Board that it had taken '*...steps to remedy the defects in the sewerage of the town of Loughrea by instructing their engineer to prepare plans etc, for an improved system of sewerage....*'(G01/8/7, p611).

In January 1911 the Clerk advised the Council that with reference to the Petitions presented to the Local Government Board for Provisional Orders for sewerage and waterworks in Athenry and for sewerage works in Loughrea, he had employed a Parliamentary Agent, Messrs. Bircham & Co., 46 Parliament Street, Westminster, S.W. London, to deposit Plans and Books of Reference in the Houses of Parliament (G01/8/8, p39). In February the Local Government Board's Engineering Inspector, Mr A.D. Price, held separate Inquiries on the Council's Petition for Provisional Orders to enable it acquire lands in connection with these works. The Council's Solicitor, Mr B.M. Toole represented the Council at the Inquiries. Following the Inquiries the Local Government Board granted the Council compulsory powers of acquisition for most of the lands required for the Athenry scheme and suggested that a '*...more complete sewerage system be designed and that, so as to obviate the delay of proceeding for a Provision Order next year, steps be taken, if possible, to arrange for the purchase of the necessary land for outfall works by agreement*' (G01/8/8, p103).

The Board was not however prepared to make an order for the compulsory purchase of all the plots required by the Council for the Loughrea Scheme. In addition the Board recommended that a Consulting Engineer '*...with large experience in the design and execution of works for sewerage of small towns should be employed...*' (G01/8/8, p104). In response to this recommendation the Council appointed, following an advertisement, Mr Francis Bergin, B.E., Dublin.

The question of which area(s) should be responsible for the cost of the works resulted in much discussion. However, it was finally decided that '*...the area of charge for repayment of the Capital sum of £4,000 proposed to be borrowed for the purposes of the Loughrea Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme be the Loughrea Rural District....*' (G01/8/8, p69). It was likewise decided that the area of charge for the repayment of the loan of £3,500 to be borrowed for the purpose of the Athenry water and sewerage scheme would also be the Loughrea Rural District (G01/8/8, p68). Both loans were to be obtained from the Commissioners of Public Works and repaid in 50 years at 3¾% per annum.

In August 1912 the Engineer reported that the estimates for the Athenry Waterworks and Athenry Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, and the Loughrea Sewerage and Sewage Disposal were in excess of the expenditure authorised by the Council (in February 1911). As a result the Council approved the plans for the Athenry sewerage scheme at £2,200 and for the waterworks at Athenry a cost of £3,100 with the area of charge for these expenses to be the whole Rural District (G01/8/8, p707). Mr J. J. Brodrick, Clerk of Works, was employed to supervise connections with the new sewerage system in Athenry.

With reference to the Loughrea sewerage scheme the Council gave exact consideration to the extent of the scheme and the possibility of dispensing with '*unimportant sewers*' (G01/8/8, p742). Mr Bergin advised the Council in December 1912 that he proposed to omit two of the percolating filters, and after amending the estimate accordingly he recommended the Council to adopt the Scheme at a cost of

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£7,235.5.6 (G01/8/8, p807). The Council considered the matter and at its meeting of 11 January 1913 resolved to accept the scheme at the revised estimated cost, with the area of charge for repayment of the loan being the rural district of Loughrea. Following completion of the work maintenance expenses were to be a charge upon the Loughrea Urban District Electoral Division' (G01/8/9, p16); *'...a much needed work affecting the health of the people of Loughrea and will afford a good deal of employment if proceeded with. We particular wish to impress on the Council the urgency of proceeding with the construction of a sewer from the County Home to the Town (which is part of the general scheme).....'* (G01/8/12, p346).

In September 1923 Mr Bergin, the Consulting Engineer, advised the Council that the approximate cost of completing the Loughrea Sewerage works would be £15,000 (G01/8/14, 13 September 1923). In December that year the Council applied to the National Bank Ltd. for a loan of £15, 487 for carrying out a general sewerage scheme for the town of Loughrea (G01/8/14, 20 December 1923). Later the following year the Council received a letter from the Local Government Department *'...referring to the Loughrea Main Drainage Scheme and stating that the estimate £15,487, is unduly high and compares unfavourable with the estimate for the carrying out of the scheme in 1913 after making due allowance for the difference in cost of materials and labour....'* (G01/8/14, 1 May 1924). The Department was of the opinion that the wages being demanded were too high. In November due to the reduction in the wages a revised estimate of £14,031.8.9 was approved by the Council (G01/8/14, 6 November 1924).

Following the dissolution of Rural District Councils the Board of Health under the auspices of the Galway County Council resumed responsibility for sanitary matters and thus for the Loughrea Sewerage works. The Minutes of the Loughrea Waterworks and Committee<sup>3</sup> reveal that the Board appointed *'...the members of the Loughrea Town Commission as Waterworks and Sewerage Committee'* (GS01/11/1, p357). They further reveal that the problems of completing the works continued until 1928. Patrick Dillon was appointed contractor in 1926 but his contract was terminated in 1927 due to the slow progress of work. However, by the end of 1928 the project had been completed by direct labour, under the supervision of Mr F. V. Murdock, Resident Engineer (GS01/11/2).

In tandem with the two major schemes at Athenry and Loughrea the Council was also involved in the provision of wells at various places throughout the district, such as at Newtown South, Ballywinna, Mulpit, Turloughalanger, Lisnadrisha, and Newtowndaly. However the sinking of wells was hampered and delayed in the early 1920s due to difficulties in procuring explosives (G01/8/13, p405).

Another matter of major importance to the Loughrea Rural District Council was the provision of adequate roads. The Council received regular reports from the County Surveyor on the quality and quantity of work required and carried out by contractors. For the most part the Surveyor felt it necessary to give negative reports on the contractors' performance.

One such report from the County Surveyor, John Moran, in October 1909 was very critical of the road contractors' work, advising the Council that its *'...contractors, speaking generally, seem to regard road*

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<sup>3</sup> Loughrea Waterworks Committee Collection, GS01/11

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*making as anything but a serious business. When everything else is attended to with due care, a hurried expedition is made by the contractor to the road after the expiration of the quarter, any kind of material is thrown out to do duty for road material, and then the contractor retires to winter quarter satisfied that the County Council money is at hand..... Now I would warn your contractors that what is required is work – and my idea of work is road material delivered, well-broken, and well spread...’(G01/8/7, p281-284).*

In January 1911 Moran reported again to the Council that ‘...in very few cases have the full terms of the Specification been adhered to, and there are the usual number of defaulters who have done practically no work at all...’(G01/8/8, p23). In April 1912 he reported some improvement in the roads, and in July was able to report that ‘The number of badly maintained roads in your district is, I am glad to say, much on the decrease. There are, however, some bad main roads in the neighbourhood of Loughrea; and a few particularly bad ones leading into the town of Athenry’ (G01/8/8, p659).

In April 1914 the County Surveyor reported an improvement in work, stating that ‘Those roads in the hands of the Co. Surveyor have been well worked up during the past quarter. A good supply of material has been spread, and though patching has been necessarily late, the stone has worked into the roads well. As regards roads in contract I almost despair of better methods of maintenance being employed. It is hard to understand why good work is not given as the existing contract prices are good and there is no reason why a contractor could not contract satisfactorily and with profit...’ (G01/8/9, p531).

Finally, in July 1914 the Surveyor was ‘happy’ to report a ‘...decided improvement both in the amount of work done and the methods employed by contractors, for the maintenance of roads in the district’ (G01/8/9, p643). Several years later in April 1920 the Surveyor again issued a positive report, advising that ‘a considerable amount of work has been done, with excellent results, in repairing the roads of your district....’(G01/8/12, p505).

For a short period in the early 1920’s, due to the economic difficulties resulting from political and civil strife, work on the district roads ceased on two occasions; during the War of Independence and during the Civil War (G01/8/13, p397, and G01/8/14, April 1923).

The third major issue that preoccupied the Council, particularly between 1905 and 1912, was the provision of labourers’ cottages. The Council was very pro-active in this regard. It had by the mid-1920’s provided in excess of 145 cottages. In relative terms this was a good performance; the other most active Rural District Council in the county in this regard was Portumna, which had provided 131 cottages. Other Rural District Councils were not quite so prolific, for instance the Mountbellew Rural District Council provided 45 cottages, Galway 40, and Clifden 12.

Under the Labourers Acts the Council was involved in the provision and maintenance of labourers cottages, taking advantage of the various housing loan schemes available under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts 1883 (46 & 47 Vict. c.60) & 1885 (48 & 49 Vict. c.77). Under this legislation the Council applied in the first instance to the Local Government Board, who in turn applied to the Board of Works giving its

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recommendation that the a loan be granted<sup>4</sup>. In particular from 1905 onwards the Loughrea Rural District Council undertook an extensive building programme under the Labourers Acts. Progressively it spent more and more time discussing the subject and dealing with related issues, such as the rising of the necessary loans, selection of sites and the acquisition of plots of land, advertising for tenders, deciding on designs for houses, fixing payments to the various contractors (such as John Martin for 2 cottages, John Forde 1 cottage, John Brodrick 6 cottages, and Patrick Hynes 4 cottages (G01/8/8, pp124-125)), the erection of cottages, the collection of rents, and maintenance of the cottages.

In October 1907 the Clerk advised the Council that he had '*...received a Provisional Order authoritising the erection of 116 cottages under the Labourers Acts*' (G01/8/15, 12 October 1907). The Council often encountered difficulty in completing its building programme. For instance, it had at one time to advertise four times for tenders for the building of the houses in an effort to receive tenders within the amount of their Engineer's estimate viz £3,916.8.4 (G01/8/6, p941). However, the Council finally accepted the lowest tender, received from Michael Ryan, Main Street, Loughrea, who was granted the contract for 27 houses at Cosmona, at a cost of £4,264 (G01/8/6, p929).

In February 1912 the Clerk advised the Council that its Capital Account in respect of the Labourers Acts Scheme No. 4 was depleted and that an additional loan of approximately £3,000 was required to complete the scheme (G01/8/8, p482-483). In June of that year the Local Government Board sanctioned a supplemental loan of £1,900 for the completion of the Improvement Scheme under the authority by the "Loughrea Rural District Labourers (Unopposed) Order 1907", to be borrowed from the National Bank Ltd. (G01/8/8, p639).

Following its extensive programme the Council had by 1913, undertaken four separate Improvement Schemes, and had built just over 130 cottages (G01/8/8, p205). The building programme slowed somewhat after this period. In August 1914 the number of cottages stood at 146 (G01/8/9, p690). Indeed at that time the Council voted '*...that as the requirements of the district generally do not demand that another Improvement Scheme (under the Labourers Acts) should be formulated, no steps be taken in the matter*' (G01/8/9, p703).

Several years later in June 1919 the Council ordered that '*There were three cottages, under our last Improvement Scheme, remaining un-built and the Council are now anxious to proceed with the building of these cottages. The cost of building will be covered partly by a balance remaining unexpended of a supplemental pre-war loan borrowed from the National Bank and partly by a new loan...*' (G01/8/12, p175).

Also at the same time the Council ordered that a public notice be posted throughout the district declaring the Council were '*...prepared to receive representations for Labourers' Cottages with a view to formulating a new Improvement Scheme under the Labourers Act*' (G01/8/12, p178). In anticipation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Improvement Scheme site maps and plans were drawn up for 188 cottages (G01/8/12/ p685).

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<sup>4</sup> The Archives of the Office of Public Works at the National Archives of Ireland, Dublin contains a substantial quantity of records relating to the various schemes and may be of value to those seeking further information on this topic. See *Guide to the archives of the Office of Public Works*, Rena Lohan, The Stationery Office, Dublin 1994, (pp256-257)

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However, the Council decided in August 1920 to defer the proposed making of a new Improvement Scheme until Dáil Eireann was in a position to lend the money for building the cottages (G01/8/12, p649).

In its capacity as Burial Board the Council was involved in the appointment of caretakers, and provision and maintenance of graveyards, such as at Templemoyle, Kiltulla, Cloonkeenkerrill, Garrybreda and Ardnamorane. It gave, for example, instructions in 1902 for the repair of the boundary wall of the Colmanstown graveyard to prevent sheep and cattle from trespassing there (G01/8/3, p177).

By the early 1920's, despite their fine work, Rural District Councils were viewed as unnecessary. The Free State government began to consider stream-lining local administration and thus the abolition of the Rural Councils. In September 1923 the Loughrea Council adopted the resolution forwarded by the Baltinglass and Wexford Rural District Councils '*...protesting against the abolition of Rural Councils...*' (G01/8/14, 13 September 1923). In December the Council again objected, stating it was '*..opposed to the proposal to abolish Rural District Councils...*' (G01/8/14, 20 December 1923). At its meeting in May 1924 it stated it felt the abolition of Rural District Council's was a '*retrograde step*', and would not '*...tend to the more efficient administration and will not effect any saving to the rate*' (G01/8/14, 1 May 1924).

Nevertheless Rural District Councils were abolished in 1925. In the immediate aftermath Public Works Committees were established to continue their work. The Loughrea Clerk, John H. Hanafin, submitted a notice received from the Secretary of Galway County Council stating it had '*...appointed Committees in each Rural District to be known as Public Works Committees to carry on the business in connection with all public works which has hitherto been done by the Rural District Council; the Clerks of the former Rural District Councils to act as Clerks to these new Committees*' (G01/8/14, 23 July 1925). Similarly the County Board of Health appointed (from July to October 1925) members of the Public Works Committee for each Rural District to also discharge the duties heretofore performed by the Rural District Councils under the Sanitary and Labourers Acts. There being no permanent Clerk for the former Councils at Ballinasloe, Gort, and Portumna, Hanafin was appointed to also act as Clerk for the Committees for these districts.<sup>5</sup>

## Arrangement

This collection consists of three categories of records. The principal group, the minutes of proceedings of Council (1901-1925), have been arranged chronologically. The remaining two categories are comprised of minutes of proceedings of a Public Works Committee (1925) established to continue the work of the abolished Rural District Council, and a volume of outgoing letters from the Clerk to the Council (1900-1922). The Loughrea County Board of Health and Public Assistance subsequently used this latter volume as a register of telephone calls, a scrapbook, and an account book.

The item reference number (e.g. G01/8/3) should be used in full when citing documents or records, and each reference cited should be preceded by the initial GCCA (Galway County Council Archives, e.g. GCCA G01/8/3).

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<sup>5</sup> Galway County Council Minutes GC1/4, p21

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Place names are generally given as they appear in the records.

Overall this collection illustrates the various aspects of local administration and democratic government during one of the most significant periods in Irish republican history. Commencing with records created when the authority and county were under British rule, and ending with records recording the authority's recognition of Dáil Eireann. It should be of immense interest to administrative, economic, political, social, and local historians. The latter in particular should learn much from the collection about the development of the Loughrea district's infrastructure, together with the provision and growth of various public and health related services, such as water and sewerage schemes.

The extracts from the various Minute books listed herewith are intended as a representation of the proceedings. The purpose of their inclusion is to give the reader an indication of the diversity of the Council's areas of concern and responsibility. Given the volume and multiplicity of the Council's work it is not practical in this instance to include an extract highlighting every single district, item and aspect mentioned in the minutes. However it is hoped that the extracts will clearly and fairly reflect the Rural District Council's work, development, and dedication to the district of Loughrea and to the county of Galway.

Readers are advised to consult the Loughrea Waterworks Committee collection, (1903-1933) (GS01/13), also held by Galway County Council Archives, for further information on the water and sewerage works in Loughrea.

In addition, readers are asked not to view as definitive the appended list of District Councillors: lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Thoms, Slaters or Pigots, or indeed may often be found in local contemporary newspapers.

## **Disclosure Requirement**

As much of the information in this collection clearly identifies families and individuals researchers are requested, in order to prevent possible distress or embarrassment to near descendants, to sign a disclosure form prior to consulting the records verifying a willingness not to cite specific names in research work.

## **Acknowledgment**

The microfilming of the collection was facilitated by a grant from the Heritage Council in 2003.

**Patria McWalter**  
**Archivist**

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## Related Collections

### ■ Records held by Galway County Archives :

- Loughrea Town Commissioners, LTC/1, 1909-2006
- Loughrea Water Works and Sewerage Committee, 1903-1933, GS01/11
- Loughrea Poor Law Union Collection, 1839-1922
- Galway County Council Minutes, GC/1/
- County Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance, GC5/
- Papers of Captain John Shawe-Taylor, Castle Taylor, Ardrahan, 1890 – [1909], G01/4

### ■ Records held at the National Archives of Ireland

- Office of Public Works, OPW

## Further Reference

Barrington, T J	<i>The Irish Administrative System</i> , Dublin, 1980
Burke, Helen	<i>The People and the Poor Laws in Nineteenth Century Ireland</i> , Dublin, 1987
Hurley, Victor J.	<i>The Growth and development of Connaught towns with particular reference to Ballinasloe, Mountbellew, Loughrea and Athenry</i> , M.A., Thesis, UCG, (1975)
Ferriter, Diarmaid	<i>'Lovers of Liberty?' Local government in 20<sup>th</sup> century Ireland</i> National Archives of Ireland, Dublin 2001
Kavangh, M.	<i>Galway – Gaillimh A Bibliography of the City and County</i> Galway County Council, Galway, 2000
Lambert History Project	<i>The Lamberts of Athenry A Book on the Lambert Families of Castle Lambert and Castle Ellen County Galway</i> , O'Regan for the Lambert Project Society, Galway 1999
Lohan, Rena	<i>Guide to the Archives of the Office of the Public Works</i> The Stationery Office, Dublin, 1994
Loughrea History Society	<i>The District of Loughrea Vol. History 1791-1918</i> Loughrea History Project, 2003
Loughrea History Society	<i>The District of Loughrea Vol. Folklore 1860-1960</i> Loughrea History Project, 2003
Maguire, Samuel, J.	<i>Loughrea</i> , Galway Reader, 3 (3), (1951), 166-177
P Manzor	'Local Government in Loughrea, 1898-1900' in <i>The District of Loughrea Vol. History 1791-1918</i> , Loughrea History Society, Loughrea, 2003
Meghen, P J	<i>The Development of Irish Local Government</i> in Administration Vol.8., No.4, Winter 1960
Murray, P James	<i>Galway : A Medico Social History</i> Kenny's Bookshop & Art Galleries Ltd, Galway, c 1996
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Athenry, A. Qualter, (1989)
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- Spellissy, Sean      *History of Galway*, Celtic Bookshop, (c.1999)
- Westropp, T.J.      *Athenry*, JRSAL, (1895), 297-302, iii

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# Appendices

## List of some of the members of the Loughrea Rural District Council<sup>⊗</sup>

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

Barrett, James	Corcoran, B.
Boland, Patrick (Woodford ED)	Cormican T.
Broderick, J.	Corry, Daniel
Brooks, P.	Coy, John
Buckley, Michael	Coy, Patrick (+1923, 'killed in action in Kerry', G01/8/14, 22 February 1923)
Burke, Laurence T.	Cronin, D.J.
Burke, Edward.	Cunniffe, M.
Burke, Thomas (Kilmeen ED)	Cunningham, D.
Burke, Timothy	Cunningham, Michael J.
Burke, Ulick (Colmanstown ED, +1907)	Daly, W.
Butler, J. (Kilmeen ED)	Darcy, J.
Cahill, P.	Deely, Jeremiah
Cahill, Ms. Nora	Deely, T.
Callanan, Bartly	Delaney, Thomas
Callanan, Patrick (Kilreekle)	Dempsey, Bernard
Canning, P	Dermody, W.
Carr, P.J.	Dervan, Andrew.
Cassidy, A.	Dillon,P
Cleary, P.	Dolan, John
Collins, P.	Donlon, P.
Connerton,J.	Donnelly, O.
Conney, James (Woodford)	Donohoe, James
Connolly, P. (+1906)	Donohoe, John (Graig Abbey ED, +1910)
Connolly, T. (Cahergal)	Doyle, M.
Connolly, T. (Rathcosgry)	Downey, Thomas
Connors, T. (Castleturvin)	Dunne, P.
Conway, Thomas	Dwyer, L.
Cooney, James (Woodford ED)	Earls, P.
Concoran, B.	Egan, L.M.
Corbett, J.F.	Egan, Martin M. (Bracklagh ED)

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<sup>⊗</sup> Not to be taken as a definitive list



Fahy, Patrick (Kilteskill ED, +1911)  
Fahy, J. Jnr. (Leitrim ED, + 1910)  
Fahy, J. Snr.  
Fallon, B (Woodford ED)  
Farrell, M.  
Finn, P.  
Finnerty, F.  
Finnerty, Martin.  
Flanagan, G.  
Flannery, J.  
Flynn, Patrick (Kilmeen ED)  
Forde, E. (Kilchreest ED)  
Furlong, John (+1904)  
Gannon, M.  
Gilligan, Peter  
Glennon, James T. (Bracklagh)  
Glennon, M  
Glennon, Stephen P.  
Glynn, J.  
Griffin, Thomas G. (Chairman, 1902-'04, +1914, Cappalusk ED)  
Hallinan. Matrin  
Halloran, R.  
Haniffy, J. (Kilconieraan ED)  
Healy, Michael  
Healy, P.  
Hehir, M. (Kilchreest ED)  
Henchy, M.  
Henehan, J.  
Hennessy, Raymond  
Hession, Michael  
Hickey, John  
Hogan, M.F.  
Hollan, P.  
Howley, Peter (Loughrea Rural ED)  
Hughes, J.  
Jordan, J.  
Jordan, Stephen (Chairman 1920) (Lackalea ED)  
Keane, G.  
Keane, James  
Keane, John  
Kearns, Daniel  
Keary, T.  
Kelly, James  
Kelly, Peter J. (Chairman 1905, Cappalusk ED)  
Kennedy, Patrick  
Kennedy, Thomas  
Kenny, E.  
Lardner, Laurence (Craughwell ED)  
Laffy, D.  
Larkin, Michael P. (Bracklagh ED) +1914)  
Lewis, H.H.  
Lewis, J.M.  
Lynch, Manus J.  
Madden, Martin (Ballinagar)  
Maloney, John (Ballinagar)  
Maloney, P.  
Mannion, P  
Manton, T.J.  
Manton, J. (Kilreekil ED)  
Melody, Laurence, (Kilmeen ED)  
McDonnelly, O.  
McDonagh, C.  
McDonagh, Patrick (Athenry)  
McEvoy, M.  
McGann, T.  
McGlynn, J.  
McNamara, Ms. Gertrude (resigned 1905)  
Moloney, P.J.  
Monahan, Daarby, (Cloonkeen ED, +1910)  
Mulkern, J.  
Murphy, John (Cappalusk ED)  
Murphy, T.  
Murray, Martin  
Nolan, R.P.  
O'Brien, P.  
O'Dea, E  
O'Hagan, M  
O'Loughlin, John



Pender, J.	Sheil, N.
Power, M. (Kilteskill ED)	Shiel, Thomas (Drumkeary ED)
Reardon P.	Smyth, J.J.
Reynolds, W.	Stankard, Edward (Bracklagh ED, +1907)
Riordan, John.	Staunton, James
Riordan, Denis (Drumkeary ED)	Stratton, J (+1907)
Riordan, Patrick (J.P.) (Chairman 1910 – 1912) (Grange ED)	Sutton, P.
Rogers, Patrick	Sweeney, Thomas
Roonoe, J.	Tannion, T.
Ruane, J.	Tully, Thomas. (Ballinagar ED)
Ryan, Martin	Villiers, E.C.
Ryan, Michael	Wade, John (resigned 1913)
Ryan, Thomas	Ward, B (Kiltulla ED)
Scully, Patrick (Kilteskill)	Walsh, T.

### Clerk of Council

Conway, J .	(1901 – 1904)
Conway, Laurence	(1904- 1915, resigned due to ill health)
Hanafin, John J.	(1915 – 1925) (1925 – Clerk to the South Galway Public Works Committee (+1943)

### Assistant Clerk of Council

Hanafin, John J.	(c.1911 – 1915)
Kelly, Joseph. P.	(1915 - )

Appendix B**Electoral Divisions covered by Loughrea Rural District Council**

Aille	Kilconickny
Athenry	Kilconierin
Ballynagar	Killimore
Bracklagh	Killogilleen
Bullaun	Kilmeen
Cappalusk	Kilteskill
Castleboy	Kiltullagh
Cloonkeen	Lackalea
Colmanstown	Leitrim
Craughwell	Loughatorick
Derrylaur	Loughrea Rural
Dumkeary	Loughrea Urban
Grange	Marble Hill
Grangeabbey	Moyode
Greethill	Raford
Kilbreekill	Tiaquin
Kilchreest	Woodford



[Appendix C](#)

**Abbreviations**

Co.Co.	County Council
C.D.B.	Congested Districts Board
D.C.	District Councillor
I.R.A	Irish Republican Army
J.P.	Justice of Peace
L.G.B.	Local Government Board
M.P.	Member of Parliament
R.D.C.	Rural District Council



# **Loughrea Rural District Council Archives Collection**

**1900 – 1925**

**G01/8/**

## A. Minutes of Loughrea Rural District Council, 1901 - 1925

Volumes of handwritten minutes of proceedings of Council meetings generally held twice monthly. The minutes record attendance, details of correspondence, generally from the Local Government Board, and from the early 1920's from the Local Government Department, and actions required thereafter, together with proceedings of Council business conducted under various legislation relating to the administration of the district under a range of headings such as general, financial, sanitary authority and labourers' cottages. The minutes often incorporate details of reports from various Officials, such as the County Surveyor, Medical Officers of Health, Sanitary Officers, Rent Collectors, Inspectors of Dairies and so on.

The proceedings of the Council acting as the 'Sanitary Authority' or from circa 1920 under the Public Health Acts, relate to health and sanitary matters, such as the prevention of disease, the care and management of burial grounds, and the provision and maintenance of sewerage systems and water supply; the latter encompassed reports from the Loughrea Waterworks Committee and the Athenry Waterworks Committee. The proceedings under the 'Labourers Acts' relate to the provision and maintenance of labourers' cottages and rent collection. The quarterly minutes incorporate details of reports from the County Surveyor pertaining to the district's roads, which included the business of applying for, reviewing and approving tenders for works.

The minutes are generally signed or initialed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Clerk.  
Average size circa 580pp.

(1.)

2. 12 January 1901 - 22 February 1902 Includes index to main topics discussed.

Examples of minutes include:

- 'That we ask the Local Government Board to sanction the payment of the cost of the erection of the Athenry pump out of the loan account of the District Council as there is a sum of £100 at present to the credit of the account which sum was borrowed by the old Board of Guardians for the purpose of erecting this pump' (p91).
- 'Read resolution from the Kanturk Rural District Council requesting his most Gracious Majesty the King to order the release of all the Irish political prisoners confined in the jails of the United Kingdom. Order : "Adopted"' (p101).
- Letter from the Local Government Board stating with 'reference to the proposed lighting of the town of Loughrea by Electricity, that the town is under the Towns Improvement Act, 1854, the Town Commissioners may contract for a loan for the purpose of lighting the town' (p14).



- 'Read report from Dr Ryan, Medical Officer of Health of Loughrea District, stating that the inhabitants of the cottages at the west end of Galway Road take water from the Lake at a point at which the water is very likely to be polluted. Here the town manure is heaped just adjoining the lake, cattle and horses are watered and sheep and clothes are washed. The drinking of the water at this point is dangerous to health. He recommends that the main pipe of waterworks be extended on and a fountain erected at such a point as will make it more convenient for those people to take water from the fountain than from the Lake....' (p214).
- 'That we condemn the action of Lord Ashtown, Woodlawn, in evicting his Catholic herds and workmen and replacing them by Orange Scotchmen, as arbitrary and tyrannical and calculated to disturb the peace of the locality, as his Lordship can find no fault to his employees except their religion. We think his Lordship's action unchristian and uncharitable' (p421).
- 'That we, the members of the Loughrea Rural District Council being of the opinion that any attempted solution of the Land Question in Connaught will be futile which does not make provision for the increase of small holdings by the distribution of the grazing lands among the smaller tenants ; and seeing that the present state of the law allows and even encourages the purchasing of large tracts of land by eleven [months] graziers, call upon the Irish Parliamentary Party to insist upon such an immediate change in law as will prevent individuals except in the case of Agricultural holdings acquiring by State aid more land than will bring their total average to 50 acres or there abouts or their valuation to more than £50.....' (p462-463).
- 'Read reports from the Committees appointed to choose suitable sites for the Labourers Cottages proposed to be built in the Electoral Divisions of Athenry, Ballinagar, Cappalkusk and Loughrea, mentioning the sites chosen by them' (p473).
- 'Read letter from Mr J Roche, M.P. stating that damage was done by the recent heavy flood to the wall and bank which surrounded the piece of land upon which the sewage of the town of Woodford is discharged, and recommending the Council to repair the place at once before further damage is done to it' (p491).



3. 8 March 1902 - 8 June 1903 Examples of minutes include:
- 'Read letter from \_\_\_\_\_, tenant of a labourer's cottage in No. 2 District, asking the Council to allow him sometime to pay up the arrears of rent due by him, and stating that if he is evicted he has no place to go to with his family except into the Workhouse. Order – Refused' (p13, see also p 14, p33, p273, p314).
  - Letter from the Local Government Board 'Returning the Plans in relation to the single and double cottages proposed to be erected by the Council under the Labourers Acts and requesting that the situation of the Privy and ash-pit may be indicated upon the Plans in each case' (p133).
  - Ordered 'The District Councillors to be notified that a new Scheme of Labourers Cottages is being prepared and they are requested to have any applications from their districts of which they have cognizance lodged before the 1<sup>st</sup> September (1902)' (p174-175).
  - 'Read letter from Mr P.S. Golding, Solicitor, Ballinasloe stating that Messrs. Donovan and Devitt, Plumbers, who were engaged by the Council at the pumping station in Loughrea, have dissolved partnership and it has been agreed between them that Mr John Donovan should continue to act for the Council at the waterworks subject to their approval' (p211, see also p291).
  - 'That while we hail the proclamation of our county under the Jubilee Coercion Act as a proof of the growing force of the United Irish League in Galway, we emphatically denounce as a foul and baseless calumny the assertion that it was "necessary for the detection and punishment of crime" in a country that has been practically a crimeless country for years past, and pledge ourselves to resist, by every constitutional means within our power, this puny effort of terrorism on the part of the Dublin Castle Gang whose object is to prevent us carrying out our determination to rid the country of the incubus of landlordism and Grazierism and establish once more a Parliament of our own in College Green (Dublin)' (p242).
  - 'Resolved ; Whereas a resolution has been unanimously adopted by the South Galway Divisional Executive calling upon the Loughrea Rural District Council and Union to give preference of all contracts to persons who are members of the U.I.L (United Irish League), we now resolve to have that resolution strictly put in force in future, and in order to have it efficiently carried out we would request each member of the Council to keep a sharp look out for contractors coming from their respective district as our motto will be – "No Anti-nationalists need apply"' (p342).

- 'Clerk's Report : As directed by you at last meeting I have procured for your information copies of Libraries Act 1855 to 1902 and now beg to submit them. Under Sub Sec. (1) of Sec.1 of the Libraries Act of 1894 a month's notice of intention to put the Act in force in the District must be given to each member of Council' (p421).
- 'Resolved :- We...protest against the unfair action of the Government in detaining Mr M. Finnerty, D.C. and Mr John Lohan C.C. in prison for a justifiable action which commands our respect and was in strict accordance with our principles as a national body. We consider that they should have sufficiently atoned for what prejudiced minds called a crime but what was in our opinion the feelings of their constituents who place implicit confidence in their integrity and admire the fearless attitude of their co-partners who for voicing the sentiments of a people were gagged and consigned to prison in order to uphold a felonious policy commonly called British law and order...(p443).

4. 13 June 1903 – 1 October 1904 Examples of minutes include:

- 'Read letter from Dr Quinlan, Medical Officer of Health of the Athenry District, reporting the occurrence of four cases of Scarlet Fever of a mild type in one family in Dunsandle, and stating that he has isolated the cases and does not apprehend the spread of the disease. He further, recommended the distribution of a small quantity of lime amongst the poor people in Athenry for the purpose of lime washing their houses' (p91).
- 'That whereas the Government have remitted the charges for the extra police force in this county as in other counties in Ireland, we the Loughrea Rural District Council call upon the Galway County Council to make a refund to each and every ratepayer in the Rural District of Loughrea upon whom the said tax for extra police has been levied and paid, and further that the proposal of the Galway County Council to place to the credit of the entire county the money which has been paid by the ratepayers of this District Council is one which does not meet with our approval and that we consider that those who paid this tax are the persons entitled to the benefits derived from the Government Grant to the County Council' (p243).
- Rural District Council protest 'against the hardship inflicted on the tenants of Ireland by the landlords bringing them into the High Courts in Dublin if they are not able to pay their rents immediately they become due instead of the County Courts where justice can be done between landlord and tenants at half the expense and considering the total inability of the tenants this disastrous year owing to the almost total failure of their crops they are not able to meet their engagements with either landlords or shopkeepers, and in view of the efforts of the Rt. Hon. The Chief Secretary to settle the tenants on the land we call on him to take some steps to prevent a hardship of a very grievous nature being inflicted on the tenants of Ireland by landlords who are unwilling to sell to their tenants by heaping up costs of the



- superior Courts for the purpose of coercing them into paying rents they are totally unable to pay' (p244).
- 'Read Report from Dr Ryan, Loughrea drawing attention to the choked condition of the eye of Mountpleasant bridge which causes the houses further down to be flooded in wet weather' (p331).
  - 'That we regard with regret and alarm the instructions recently issued to their Inspectors by the Secretaries of the Board of Irish National Education re Irish as an "extra subject" in the schools, and that we appeal to managers, teachers and to every other Irishman interested in the national language to protest before the world against the monstrous outrage of attempting to proscribe our native language in our own schools, which though with grim mockery are still called "National"'(p342).
  - 'Resolution from the Oughterard Rural District Council objecting to the action of the County Council in levying off the County at large certain sums for the improvement of Kinvarra Pier and the equipment of a Technical School at Gort' (p361).
  - 'Resolved- That we abandon that portion of the Improvement Scheme made by us under the Labourers acts which propose to purchase plots for 4 cottages in the townland of Caherroy, as the amount of compensation fixed by the Arbitrator is in our opinion excessive. That the Clerk be directed to publish the necessary notices in regard to this abandonment and that steps be taken to purchase the other plots set out in the scheme without further delay' (p374, see also p381, p413).
  - 'Read circular letter from the Local Government Board No. 67 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1904 setting out the manner in which accounts under the Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts should be kept' (p412).
  - 'Resolved: That considering the central position of Athenry and the fact of 2,000 acres being recently purchased by the Congested Districts Board in the vicinity of the town and the great Railway accommodation we consider that it would be a proper place for an Agricultural college as no more suitable position could be found in the County of Galway for an agricultural college' (p542).
  - 'Read letter from Dr Quinlan, Medical Officer of Health, Athenry stating that the graveyard at the Abbey, Athenry, is at present in a terribly congested condition there being no rooms for any new graves to be opened and he suggested that the present graveyard be enlarged by the purchase of two small pieces of land on the south and west sides' (p557).

5. 15 October 1904 – 19 August 1905                      Examples of minutes include:
- 'Read letter from Dr Ryan, Medical Officers of Health of Loughrea Dispensary District forwarding plans for treatment of sewage for boys' schools, which he received from Mr Scott, Architect' (p131).
  - Letter from the Local Government Board 'forwarding instructions with reference to the adoption of the Public Libraries Act in Rural Districts' (p141).
  - 'An Improvement Scheme for 21 cottages and plots was made and signed by the Chairman' (p173).
  - 'Read letter from Mr B.M. Toole, Solicitor, recommending that the prospective tenants of the cottages in course of erection be authorised to go into possession of the plots as Caretakers in order that they may till the land' (p193).
  - 'On the proposition of Mr R.P. Nolan it was ordered that Patrick Doherty of Athenry be re-appointed caretaker of the Athenry Sewerage system at a salary of £3 per annum' (p311).
  - 'That we the members of the Loughrea Rural District Council view with deep concern the action of the Nationalist electors of Cork city in returning un-pledged a Parliamentary representative for the vacancy created by the death of Mr J.F.X. O'Brien. The past has taught us a bitter lesson, and recent events in the nation's life have proved that unless the Irish Party are prepared to sit, act and vote under the guidance of one leader, our cause is fraught with peril. We therefore ask every nationalist body in Galway and throughout the country to prepare themselves for any attempt that may be made to diminish our strength and express a hope the nation's progress coupled with the experience of the past, may and ought to be an incentive to a mutual understanding being arrived at' (p342).
  - 'Read letter from Mr N. Rice, caretaker of the Woodford pump stating that the Woodford Pump is out of order and if the Council would give him the fittings that he would repair the pump without further expense...' (p432).
  - 'Read letter from Mr T.W. Roseingrave, B.E. and enclosing (1) plan (2) Specification (3) Estimate (4) Answers to L.G. Boards' letter and copy of specification for the Portumna cottages in connection with the Labourers' Cottages about to be built in the Rural District...' (p433).



6. 2 September 1905 – 19 December 1908 Examples of minutes include :
- Dr Geraghty, Medical Officer of Health, Balluan District, submitted reports (a) suggesting that as the water in the well at Balluan has been condemned by Sir. Chas. A Cameron, the Council provide a supply of pure drinking water for the inhabitants of the village and have the present well closed...'(p106).
  - Letter from the Local Government Board referring to a 'Local Inquiry held by their Inspect, Mr Crofton, into an Improvement Scheme which proposed the erection of 21 cottages, and stating the Inspector recommends the erection of 15 cottages – 1 in Bracklagh ED. And 14 in Loughrea Urban ED. ...'(p107).
  - Resolved :- ....suggest to the Congested Districts Board the advisability of handing over the Benmore and Ballyfinton Estates to the Estates Commissioners. We feel that if the Estates Commissioners had these estates handed over to them it would be conducive to the peace of the country and the prosperity of the tenants, and we are of opinion that if the Congested Districts Board had not purchased these estates over the heads of tenants at the time they were negotiating with their landlords – Mr Blake and Lord DeFreyne – they would be receiving in their present rent a reduction of 7/- in the pound under the Land Act of 1903' (p152, see also p181).
  - A meeting was specially summoned at the request of the Loughrea Labourers' Cottages Committee to consider a report regarding terms of purchase of the 15 plots from the Marquis of Clanricarde, which the Council propose to take for the purposes of the "Loughrea Rural District Labourers Order 1906' (p357).
  - 'Read report from Mr T.W. Roseingrave B.E. regarding the repairs necessary to the Woodford Sewerage works, recommending that 2 men be employed for two days to cut a drain from the mouth of the pipe through the filter-beds so as to relieve the pressure at the outfall' (p507).
  - 'That we the members of the Council having learned of the arrest of our Chairman, Mr Kelly, for an alleged public utterance take this opportunity of protesting against his arrest as we consider such action on the part of the government unreasonable and not calculated to tend to the peace of the district' (p539).
  - 'Sanitary Sub-officer Kelly reported that part of the wall beside the river at back of Waterworks engine House fell into the river, and with the approval of the Waterworks Committee he employed men to re-build it as the effect of the falling of the wall was to block the river and so prevent the turbine from working' (p673).
  - 'That we the members of the Loughrea Trade and Labour Society earnestly request the Loughrea Rural District Council to take into consideration the present condition of the labourers of Loughrea and neighbourhood and having regard to the high prices of the

necessaries of life and the great dearth of employment in the winter and early spring, that they would set aside the roads within one mile radius of Loughrea for the purpose of being tendered for in the interests of the Labourers' Society and thereby supply a much-needed source of employment during the hard times when no other employment is available...'(p774).

7. 2 January 1909 – 17 December 1910      Examples of minutes include:
- Report from Dr Quinlan, Athenry District advising of the 'insanitary condition of Athenry generally. As a result of that condition I have to report the prevalence of Typhoid Fever in the Town, several cases of which I have sent into the Fever Hospital recently..... I again respectfully suggest that something be done about the water supply which is very bad, also that the Inspector of Cowsheds and Dairies and Milk Shops' Order be put in force and also that the Common Lodging Houses Act be also adopted. Unless these suggestions are acted on I don't see how things are to improve' (p32).
  - 'Resolved : That the South and East Galway Executives of the U.I.L. (United Irish League) be asked to call upon the Branches of the League within their districts to make a collection in aid of the Parnell Monument in Dublin as this Council believe this to be a work deserving of the support of Nationalist Ireland' (p39).
  - Acting County Surveyor's report stating 'A good deal of work was done on the roads in the District during the part Quarter, and their condition is on the whole very much improved. .... The making of a new road from near the Chapel at Newcastle to Templemoyle Graveyard and Knockbrack district Boundary would accommodate several families, but portions of the road are only eight or nine feet wide and written consents of owners and occupiers should be obtained before proceeding with the work....'(p93-95).
  - 'Resolved That the Loughrea Rural District Council request the Postmaster General to extend telephone communication to Gurteen from the station at present being erected at Ballymacward, the Council having already agreed to give the usual guarantee. The Ballymacward and Menlough Telephone Stations are, respectively, 5 and 6 miles distant from Gurteen and would therefore be of no convenience to the people of that district, who are 12 miles from a medical doctor and 28 miles from the nearest veterinary surgeon' (p163).
  - County Surveyor's (John Moran) report stating '....You have 80,564 perches of District roads, and 35,006 perches of Main roads dealt within Form 22 to-day. In arriving at the quantities of materials required for the maintenance of these roads, your former County Surveyors followed roughly the simple rule :- allow a ton for every ten perches of District



roads, and a similar quantity for every five perches of Main roads, and on this rule the specified quantity for each individual road is generally based....As you are doubtless aware, nearly all your roads are hollow and ill-shaped : crust has disappeared, leaving the sole exposed; and where this is not altogether the case, the neglect of surface renewal is surely bringing about a like result and why? The why is plain. The men to whom you have given the care of your roads are absolutely starving them ; not only are they not making any serious effort at maintenance, but by their neglect are allow a steady, constant deterioration of that structure which perhaps you handed to them in a fair healthy condition..... Now I would warn your contractors that what is required is work – and my idea of work is road material delivered, well broken, and well spread...(p281-284).

- Letter from the LGB advising the RDC that it has received a letter from the ratepayers of Athenry complaining under Section 15 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1896 that the Council have 'made default in providing a proper water supply and sewerage system for the town of Athenry'. The Council advised the LGB that the 'contamination of the water supply is caused by the fairs and markets being held on the streets close to the pumps, the Council desire the Board to inform them whether they possess powers under the Public Health or other Acts to prevent fairs being held on the streets and to compel those responsible to provide a proper "Fair Green". The Council would regard it as most unjust that any extra expenses for sewerage or water supply should be levied off the whole rural district as Athenry is on the outskirts of the District and large portion of Galway and Tuam Rural Districts are served by Athenry.....'(p290, see also p317).
- Report from Dr J. F. Ryan, Medical Officer of Health of Loughrea District stating 'Generally I may state the sewerage of the town is bad and defective. One half of the town is drained into the Ramparts river which is dry in summer months during which lie a vast amount of sewage which, with its abominable odour, may be a fertile nursery for germs of enteric fever. In recent years two circumstances have contributed to the detriment of the public health to make this Ramparts River more a sewer than a river via :- the increase in the number of water closets and the sinking of the mouth of the Latimer River. The other parts of the town are drained into the Latimer River and the lake which are very improper outlets for sewage disposal.... '(p435-436).



8. 7 January 1911 – 21 December 1912 Examples of minutes include:
- 'Read report from Dr Geraghty, Medical Officer of Health of Bullaun District, stating that there are two sources of water supply for fourteen families in the village of Raherreen, one of which is a surface well polluted by cattle and fowl and the other a river supply that is nothing more than a foul sewer. He recommended the Council to provide a pump in some central place in the district' (p84, see also p189).
  - 'Resolved, That we the members of the Loughrea Rural District Council, request the Irish Party to have a clause included in the new Labourers Bill, now passing through Parliament, enabling Rural District Councils to borrow sufficient sums from the proposed new fund so as to complete schemes promoted under the Act of 1906, such powers of borrowing to be limited to expenditure properly incurred in the opinion of the Local Government Board' (p93).
  - 'Read letter from Mr J.J. Martin, contractor, Portumna, stating that the Paying Order recently issued to him by the Council has been returned to him by the Bank as there were no funds to meet it. He requested that the Treasurer be instructed to honour the Order' (p108).
  - Letter from the Local Government Board advising that 'His Excellency, the Lord Lieutenant, has made Regulations for the distribution of the unexpended shares of certain Counties in the residue of the Exchequer Contribution under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act 1891, and that the share of the Loughrea Rural District Council amounted to £850.14.2...' (p122).
  - Loughrea Cottages Committee elected with its functions 'confined to selecting tenants for vacant cottages or transacting any other business which may be referred to them by the Council but that their decisions be subject to confirmation by the Council before becoming effective' (p183).
  - Letter from the Sister of Mercy, Loughrea 'complaining of a shortage in the water supply during the past week, and reminding the Council that owing to a similar shortage in August 1909 a cistern in the Convent burst....' (p225).
  - 'The Clerk submitted a report, plans, specification and estimate from Mr T.W. Rosingrave B.E. for a sewerage system for Loughrea based on the recommendations of Mr Francis Bergin, B.E., Consulting Engineer, and the Committee ordered that these documents be forwarded to Mr Bergin for examination into details and a report....' (p379).
  - Circular letter from the National Health Insurance Commissioners for Ireland 'informing the Council that they are now prepared to send lecturers to the different districts in Ireland to explain the objects and provisions of the National Insurance Act, that the services of the lecturers will be given gratis...' (p469).

- 'Clerk's Report :- I have to call your attention to the depleted state of your Capital Account finance in respect of Labourers Acts Scheme No. 4. The total amount of the loan sanctioned by the Local Government Board for the purposes of the Order has been received from the Irish Land Commission and is expended, and an additional loan of, approximately £3,000 will be required to complete the scheme....It might be advisable for the Council, so as to avoid any delay in making payments to contractors to advertise for tenders for the additional loan the exact amount of which can subsequently be ascertained and embodied in the Mortgage Deed' (p482-483).
- Read and adopted resolution from the Castlerea Rural District Council 'condemning the recent attacks upon Catholic and Nationalist works in the Belfast Shipyards' (p697).
- 'The Council, as Burial Board for the District will not raise any objection to the opening of a new private burial ground by the Redemptorist Fathers (St. Patrick's Monastery)' at their property at Esker, Athenry' (p761).

9. 14 December 1912 - 19 December 1914 Examples of minutes include:

- Report of Medical Officer of Health of the Athenry Dispensary District, Dr Quinlan, describing the condition of the streets of Athenry as 'disgraceful' and stating that while the cattle and sheep fair was in progress the streets were 'simply in an appalling condition of filth and dirt – there was at least 6 inches of mud and dirt all over them. It was impossible for any one to pass through them on Monday. The climax was reached after the heavy rains. It was simply disgraceful to see the unfortunate owners and buyers of cattle wading through mud a foot deep in places.....When the streets commenced to dry the stench from them was truly awful. While these fairs are held on the streets it is no wonder that Typhoid fever will be prevalent in the town, the whole place was in a most insanitary condition....' (p140, see also p129, p147).
- Resolved 'That the Local Government Board be informed that on the date named by Cusack (tenant of cottage at Cosmona) his wife was murdered by being shot through the window of the cottage, that on some days prior to the murder the windows of the cottage were broken by it is alleged, the man who murdered Mrs Cusack, and that under the circumstances the Council consider it would be unjust to require Cusack to repair the windows. That the Local Government Board be requested to give their consent to the carrying out of the repairs by the Council' (p32, see also p89).
- Resolved 'That with a view to the carrying out of the agreement arrived at between Mr Frank Shawe-Taylor and a local deputation of the people of Athenry concerning the sale of 250 acres of the Shawe-Taylor property in Castle Lambert, and as this County is scheduled

as a "Congested Districts County" under the Irish Land Act, 1909, we request the Congested Districts Board to permit the Estates Commissioners to purchase this property and deal with the division of it between the small landholders and others in that locality in the manner agreed upon between Mr Shawe-Taylor and the local deputation' (p122, see also p59-60, p480, p511, p524, p555).

- 'Resolved : That we call upon the Parliamentary Representatives to that in the promised Land Bill to be introduced into Parliament provision will be made for giving land to the young men of the county who are at present without any land. We are of opinion that the Congested Districts Board's operations in this County should not be further extended as it results in depriving young men of the land unless they are at present holders of land under £10 valuation' (p102).

- 'Read letter...from Mr. P. Burke, contractor for construction of Athenry Water Sewerage works, stating that the occupiers of lands near Athenry have refused to permit him to proceed with the works until such times as they receive the compensation awarded to them.....'(p177).

- 'Resolved : That this Council, with every confidence, recommend to the Members of Galway County Council the claims of Mr Patrick Finnegan for appointment as Returning Officer for the County.

It is within the knowledge of the members of the County Council that Mr Finnegan has previously filled this position with credit, ...we are satisfied that this claim to support on political grounds admits of no question. His long term of imprisonment during the prime of his manhood on a charge for which he was not guilty, his refusal to yield any information to the enemies of Irish Nationality during his incarceration, and his constant support of our nationalist aspirations, are well known to Galway men in every part of the world....'(p189).

- 'Read final certificate for payment of balance due to Mr M. Page on foot of his contract for building cottages Nos. 147, 148 and 150 in the townlands of Woodford and Knockauncarragh.

It was ordered that fines at the rate of the rent lost to the Council by reason of the failure of the contractor to complete the work within the specified time be made and payment of the balances viz. :- £3.6.8 was ordered' (p394).

- Letter from the Local Government Board forwarding, 'for the observations of the Rural District Council, a copy of a resolution passed by the Loughrea Town Commissioners making application for the issue of an Order increasing the representation of the Loughrea Urban District Electoral Division on the Rural District Council from two to four members. Order:- the Rural District Council approve of the application' (p457).

- 'Resolved : That we, the members of the Loughrea Rural District Council and Board of Guardians, representing one of the largest Unions in Connacht, express our utmost confidence in Mr Redmond and the Irish Party during these anxious days of delicate

- negotiation; that we assure Mr Redmond that he shall have our utmost support in resisting any emasculation of the Home Rule Bill; and we urge upon him and the Liberal Government to offer the stoutest resistance to any division of Ireland by the exclusion of the Ulster Counties which are largely (sic) Nationalist and have a majority of Nationalist representatives. We believe that such a policy would lead to endless trouble and complications and would discourage the country at the very outset of Home Rule' (p461).
- 'Read letter....from the Secretary, Galway County Council, drawing the attention of the Rural District Council to the very large amount of irrecoverable arrears of poor rates (£91.14.8) returned by Rates Collector E. Corbett, Loughrea, the greater portion of which represents rates on labourers' cottages and plots, and pointing out that as these arrears are a charge upon the Rural District of Loughrea they must, if uncollected, be re-levied upon the rate payers who discharge their liabilities and consequently it is a matter for the consideration of the Rural District Council to devise a means by which the difficulty could be overcome by the County Council' (p507-508, p545, p571).
  - '...we further desire to point out that owing to the agitation for the division of this land (Castle Lambert) in the locality the Authorities have found it necessary to provide a police hut near the lands. If the Congested Districts Board purchase the farm and distribute it amongst congests from outside the locality demand for land will remain unappeased and consequently the retention of the Police Hut at the Ratepayers' expense will be necessary' (p524).
  - 'Read letter from the Town Clerk, Dublin Corporation, inviting the Council to appoint representatives to attend the celebration of the nine hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf' (p537).
  - 'Resolved: That the Loughrea Rural District Council, representing 20,000 people, congratulate Mr Redmond and the Irish Party upon the firm stand taken by them with regard to the passage of the Home Rule Bill through the House of Commons and we urge upon them the strong desire of the Irish people not to agree to the granting of any further concessions to the Ulster minority and, if not accepted in its present form by them, that the Bill as originally passed through the House of Commons be enacted without delay' (p556).
  - 'Resolved : That a circular be issued by our Clerk to the members of the Council and to the Portumna Rural District Council asking them to subscribe to the fund for the benefit of Mr Thomas Tully, D.C., which has been inaugurated in Woodford and of which Mr P. Boland D.C., Woodford, is Treasurer, and that steps be taken to secure him a suitable holding of land instead of that from which he was evicted under the Plan of Campaign' (p648).
  - 'Read Certificate from Messrs. E. Forde and M. Hehire, Councillors for the Kilchreest Electoral Division, recommending payment of £2.10.0 to John Forde, Ballgurrane, for repairs at the approaches to the Kilchreest pump' (p819).



- 'That the attention of Mr E. Shaw-Tener, Agent for the Marquis of Clanricarde, be called to the muddy condition of the pig market place in Loughrea from which he receives a revenue in tolls and customs, and that he be requested to improve its condition' (p832).

10. 9 January 1915 – 23 December 1916            Examples of minutes include:

- 'Read report from Dr Geraghty...Bullaun Dispensary District, stating that the water supply of the village of Bellayarha is contaminated by sewage flowing from the adjacent yards into the well, that three cases of typhoid fever have originated in the village within the past six months, and recommending the Council to close this well and to erect a pump for the supply of pure drinking water for the village' (p17).
- 'Resolved : That this Council is of opinion that every effort should be put forth to secure the sale of the towns of Loughrea and Portumna with the sale of the landed property by the Marques of Clanricarde to the Congested Districts Board. The sale of the town property would conduce to the peace and prosperity of the district, besides bringing contentment to many a town home where the breadwinner in several cases is serving the Empire in the Fighting Line. The towns of Ireland, and particularly the town of Loughrea, have sent many men to fight for Freedom and Justice against Oppression and Militarism, and it is but showing gratitude, in a small measure, to them that we should now fight for the sale of their town houses to them' (p307).
- Letter from Dr Quinlan, Medical Officer of Health, Athenry with his opinion on making connections with the main sewer of the new Sewerage System, stating that ' it is absolute rot not to make all the householders in Athenry make proper connections with the new Sewerage System. The connections should have been made 3 years also and if they have to pay more for now doing so they have only themselves to blame. I protest in the strongest manner against the old sewerage beds being further used, they have been condemned....'(p882).
- '*That we earnestly urgent upon the Government the desirability, for the future peace of the country, of stopping immediately the carrying out of the capital punishment against those of our countrymen who were members of the rebel forces, and further that martial law should cease in as far as the trials of prisoners is concerned and further trials (of any) should be under the civil law*' (p623).

11. 13 January 1917 – 21 December 1918      Examples of minutes include:
- Letter from the Local Government Board stating that the 'Government have decided to afford facilities for the supply of seed potatoes, seed oats, and artificial manure to tenants of labourers' cottages and occupiers of small holdings under £10 valuation; that the duty of distributing the seeds will devolve upon the Rural District Council; that if the Council decide upon providing seeds for small holders in their district it will be necessary for them to prepare lists of persons to whom seeds are to be supplied and forward a return showing the quantity of seeds and manure required to the Department of Agriculture ...'(p19, see also p44, p63, p67,p107).
  - The Council 'regret to observe that, notwithstanding the national need for additional tillage, the Congested Districts Board appears to us not to be favourable to breaking up the only available land near the town of Loughrea namely the farm at Tulla Hill now in possession of the Congested Districts Board. The conditions laid down by the Board will preclude any person in the Town taking con-acre there, and in our opinion, the condition requiring that 33 tons of farm yard manure to the Irish acre be given by the tiller is most unreasonable being excessive, and that the rent of £4 per Irish acre for con-acre not supplied with farm yard manure is prohibitive and greatly in excess of the normal rent for such purpose...'(p22, see also p49).
  - 'That we call on the Congested Districts Board to put their compulsory powers in force to purchase the Lewis Estate in this Rural District. There are 160 tenants in the Estate under £10 valuation and of the 60 tenants evicted under the Plan of Campaign only 12 have been restored to their holdings and of those some are in possession of non-economic holdings' (p22-23).
  - 'Letter from Mr T Corbett, Poor Rate Collector, stating that only seven tenants of labourers' cottages out of seventy in Loughrea have paid poor rates and that the remainder have no means apparently. He requested the Council to give the matter their consideration as he is responsible to the County Council for the collection of those rates' (p101-102).
  - 'That we protest in the strongest manner possible against the unjust and cruel treatment which is being meted out to the Countess de Markieviez in Aylesbury Convict jail, and we respectfully, but firmly, demand that until her release she receive the same privileges as the other Irish prisoners now in Lewes jail, namely isolation from ordinary criminals and daily intercourse with one another, or failing this, a daily visit from an outside friend' (p152).
  - 'Sealed Order fixing the townlands of Athenry, Caherroyn, Cullairbaun, Knockaunglass, Prospect and Raheen as the area of charge for special expenses amounting to £397.3.9. already incurred in connection with the Athenry water and sewerage schemes, together with any other sums which may hereafter be disbursed in respect of works of construction completed but not yet certified by the engineer' (p157).

- 'That the deepest sympathy of the Council be tendered to the relatives of the late Mr Thomas Ashe whose death as a martyr for Ireland we deplore. That we condemn the action of the Government in the treatment meted out to the Irish Political Prisoners and we call upon them to release the remaining prisoners or treat them as prisoners of war' (p370).
- 'That we deplore the loss which the Irish Cause has suffered by the death of the Irish Leader, Mr John E Redmond, M.P.; that we place on record our appreciation of, and gratitude for, his life-long and faithful service to Ireland ; and that as a mark of respect to his memory we adjourn this meeting' (p561).
- 'That, in the opinion of this Council, as the Government have now taken over control of all Irish Railways and have lately increased by 50 per cent all passenger fares, it is only equitable that they should pay, in full, the guaranteed dividends to shareholders in the Loughrea and Attymon Railway Company and relieve the rates of the charges in this respect' (p662).
- 'Read letter from Mr P. Hogan, Solicitor to the Council, advising that a notice be served upon Mr Thomas Cleary, Contractor for building an annex to the Engine House, Athenry Waterworks, requiring him to proceed with the work within a limited time and that, if he fails to do so, the work will be taken out of his hands...' (p703).

12. 11 January 1919 - 30 December 1920      Examples of minutes include:

- 'Read resolution from the Galway County Council declaring all roads in the Rural Districts of Ballinasloe, Glenamaddy, Loughrea and Mountbellew, as suitable to be maintained by direct labour under the charge of the County Surveyor, for three years from the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1919, and directing that the necessary steps be taken to put the scheme into operation' (p41).
- 'Mr Martin Greene, Inspector under the Dairies etc Order, reported that he inspected 41 Cowsheds and Milk shops in his district during the month of January and found them in good condition' (p57).
- 'That we, the members of this Council, are in absolute accord in demanding that Irish as a speaking language be taught in every school in our jurisdiction and that a copy of this resolution demanding an immediate compliance be sent by the Clerk to every Manager notifying him that unless steps are taken to put our demand into immediate operation it is with the parents to take drastic steps to have same enforced' (p217).
- Adopted 'That the annual allowance of £1.0.0 paid to Caretakers of Burial Grounds in the Rural District be increased to £2.0.0 on condition that the boundary wall or fence be kept in

proper repair and that all weeds and long grass be cut short as often as may be necessary' (p503).

- 'That this Council of elected representatives of the Loughrea Rural District at a duly convened meeting hereby acknowledges the authority of Dail Eireann as the duly elected Government of the Irish People, and undertakes to give effect to all decrees duly promulgated by the said Dail Eireann in so far as same affects this Council....'(p564).
- 'Read circular from the Department of Labour, Dail Eireann, requesting the Rural District Council to assist them in finding employment for those members of the RIC who have resigned from that body' (p673).
- 'That the resolution passed by the Rural District Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1920 declining to increase the limit of road expenditure in this district be rescinded, and instead that we approve of the proposal of the County Council to increase the limit from £9,000 to £11,200' (p713).
- 'That we request the County Council to strike out all arrears of poor rates brought into this year's rates against tenants of labourers' cottages in Collector Griffin's district as those tenants have consented to pay this year's rates in full provided the arrears are struck off' (p773).

13. 13 January 1921 - 7 December 1922      Examples of minutes include:

- 'The Clerk reported that the (Remington) machine was seized by the Police on the 14<sup>th</sup> April last and delivered to the Military at Renmore Barracks, Galway, by them on that date, and that it was returned to him on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. He states that the machine was in perfect order when seized but was broken when returned and that there was evidence that it had been extensively used while in possession of the Military...'(p201).
- 'That we call on the Ministry of Dail Eireann to cease all further negotiations with the British Government until all prisoners are released. We demand this as an Act of justice not mercy' (p256).
- 'That we, the Loughrea Rural District Council request, the County Council to notify their Surveyors (County and Assistant) not to appoint in future Road Gangers other than labourers solely depending on their labour as presently there are employed on the roads farmers and their sons with holdings of 30 acres and upwards and we hereby apply to have such men removed immediately...'(p340).
- 'Home Assistants Officers Flannery, Cahill and Fahy submitted their reports for the month of May on the children boarded-out in their respective districts' (p441).

- 'The Council had before them consideration of the Medical Officer's report regarding the necessity of a supply of pure drinking water at Cahernagarry and also the report of Dr. Walsh, Bacteriologist, that the present water in Cahernagarry well is impure, but stating also that if the well were properly built with concrete wall all around and cemented on the inside from the bottom up the water would probably be very good' (p451).
- 'Order, That Rural District Council again desire to point out that they are not the successor of the Loughrea Board of Guardians and do not accept any of their liabilities, neither have they received the unused funds of the Guardians as those were transferred to the County Council .....'(p461).
- 'That the sympathy of this Council be tendered to the Irish Government and to the relatives of the late President Griffith and General Collins upon their deaths ...'(p509).

14. 4 January 1923 – 18 June 1925      Examples of minutes include:

- 'The Clerk reported that the following sums are due to the Loughrea Union Fund by Boards of Guardians in the County in respect of the Maintenance of their inmates in the Loughrea Workhouse prior to the coming into operation of the Amalgamation Scheme, viz., Ballinasloe £82.4.6, Clifden £23.17.6, Galway £116.16.0, Glenamaddy £12.7.4, Mountbellew £24.11.6, Oughterard £26.10.8, Portumna £26.8.8....'(p2).
- 'Submitted circular from the Secretary, Neutral I.R.A, Members' Association, asking public bodies to support their call for a truce in order that they might negotiate peace. On the proposition of Mr Gannon seconded by Mr Burke the proposals contained in the circular were unanimously adopted' (22 February 1923, p3).
- Letter from Local Government Department stating that Galway County Council 'should raise the loan for the construction of the sewer from the County Home to the Town of Loughrea; and that plans and specifications of same should be submitted to them' (22 February, 1923).
- 'Ordered : Purchase of field at Mountpleasant [for use as new Burial Ground for Loughrea] approved of and that a Committee consisting of Messrs. A Devan, M Finnerty and M. Conway value this land, then confer with the local committee and purchase the field if they deem it advisable to do so' (28 June 1923).
- 'Read letter from Town Tenants Association, Loughrea stating that they are negotiating for the sale of the town from the landlord and requesting to be informed if the Council would purchase the Old Mill Premises and Waterworks for which 16 years purchase is demanded....'(27 September 1923).



- 'The Rural District Council of Loughrea learn that a small road from New Inn to Athenry has been provisionally selected as a trunk road from Dublin to Galway and we desire to call the attention of the Government and the County Council to the fact that the road is a narrow and unsuitable one and was until recently not even classed as a main road, and we recommend instead that the main road from Ballinasloe to Galway via Loughrea and Craughwell be selected as the trunk road instead' (20 December 1923, see also 31 January 1924).
- 'Order : Ask local labour organisation to again consider the question of the wages for which they are prepared to carry out the sewerage scheme and inform them that unless they agree to a reduction in wages to a figure to be approved of by the Council and the Ministry the carrying out of the proposed works must be indefinitely postponed' (17 July 1924).
- 'Submitted circular from the County Homes and Home Assistance Committee calling attention to the alarming increase in home assistance expenditure in the County, requesting the Council to revise the Assistance Lists for their area, notifying them as to the new limits of expenditure imposed by the Board of Health as from 1<sup>st</sup> April next and stating that Assistance may now be given in Money as well as in kind...' (8 January 1925).
- 'Resolved – that this Council Petition the Estates Commissioners for a proportional grant out of the monies now available for drainage, to clean and widen the Beech-Hill, Derrynamanagh and Brackloon river. Owing to the way in which this river is now choked up with weeds and drifting sand and almost level with the banks it overflows every year with the result that between 300 and 400 acres of land are poisoned and rendered practically worthless....' (8 January 1925).

## B. Minutes of Public Works Committee Acting for the County Galway Board of Health, 1925

[14.] 23 July 1925 – 22 October 1925 Volumes of minutes of proceedings of Committee meetings, generally held monthly. The minutes record attendance, details of correspondence, generally from Galway County Council and actions ordered thereafter, together with proceedings of Committee business conducted (previously by the Rural District Council) under various legislation relating to the administration of the district under a range of headings such as general, financial, sanitary authority and labourers' cottages. The proceedings under Public Health Acts relate to items such as the provision and maintenance of sewerage and water works. The proceedings under the 'Labourers Acts' relate to the maintenance of labourers' cottages and collection of rents.

Minutes are generally signed or initialed by the Clerk of the Public Works Committee (the former Rural District Council Clerk).

Size 66pp

Examples of minutes include the following extracts,

- 'Letter from Mr Thomas Tully, Tomanay, requesting that the public well at Newtown South be put in a sanitary conditions and stating that a sum of £2 was allowed for this work some years ago but the work was not done owing to the trouble in the country at the time' (23 July 1925).
- '....., an ex-soldier of the National Army, applied for employment on the Loughrea Sewerage Works and stated that he was refused employment by the Contractor...' (24 September 1925).
- Report from the County Surveyor stating 'Contractors endeavouring by every means in their power to avoid doing the work they are bound to do under the terms of their contractors. Many Contractors have got the idea that they can get off with the material left over from last year. But I want these Contractors to understand that this will not be tolerated and that the sooner they realise their duties to the employers the better for all concerned' (22 October 1925).

### C. Letters from the Clerk to the Council, 1900 - 1922

15. 1 December 1900 – 5 October 1922                      Volume of letters reporting on Council business, and various issues and developments, includes annotated in the margin Council's subsequent instructions and orders, initialed by the Chairman. Includes entries such as ‘
- ‘As directed by you at last meeting I have procured for your information, copies of the Libraries Acts 1855 to 1902, and now beg to submit them. Under sub.sec 1 of Sect 1 of the Libraries Act 1894 a month's notice of intention to put the Act in force in the District must be given to each member of the Council’ (7<sup>th</sup> February 1903);
  - ‘I beg to report that as directed by you at last meeting I wrote to Mr Toole, Solicitor stating that the Council were displeased with his apparent unnecessary delay in completing the purchase of the plots for labourers' cottages and call on him for an explanation...’(29 October 1904) ;
  - ‘I beg to draw your attention to the unsatisfactory state of the Water Rent Collection. Out of a total warrant of £155 for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 1905, only £20 has been collected...’(3 February 1906); ‘Notwithstanding my repeated requests to him, the tenant of the Labourer's cottage at Gurteen (No.2 District) has not since paid any rent. I recommend that proceedings be taken against his surety for the recovery of the amount due’ (29 February 1908);
  - ‘I beg to draw your attention to the fact that a balance of £522.2.6 remains due to the Bank on foot of Loan account for Labourers Acts Scheme No. 3. The whole amount of the loan sanctioned in connection with this Scheme has been received. It will be necessary for you to give directions as to the manner in which the supplemental loans should be raised’ (17 June 1911) ; and
  - annotation from Council ‘Ask Military authorities to pay for this man's maintenance in Hospital, as he served for several years in late war. Inform them the Council refuse to send any more of this class of patient to Hospital, and they consider that the Military alone are liable for their treatment’ (11 August 1921).

The volume was later used by the County Board of Health and Public Assistance as a register of telephone calls (1941-1945), and accounts book (1945-1951).

c. 150pp