

Galway Rural District Council

Archives Collection

1899 - 1925

G01/9

A Descriptive List Prepared by Galway County Council Archives

Galway Rural District Council Archives Collection

1899 - 1925

G01/9

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Introduction

This archives collection consists of an incomplete series of Galway Rural District Council minute books (1904 - 1925), and two contracts for minor road maintenance work (1899-1902).

Rural District Councils

Rural District Councils were set up under the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898. Their powers were conferred upon them by Section 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.¹ 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.

¹ Department of Environment

Guidelines for Local Authority Archives Services,

1996



Galway Rural District Council

The Rural District Council meetings, held in the boardroom of the Workhouse, Galway, were generally held monthly and then only if the required quorum of Councillors attended. There were usually 55 elected and/or co-opted members of Council; from about the 1920's this number was reduced to 24. Lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Slaters or Pigots, or indeed may often be found in local contemporary newspapers.

The Council's geographical area of responsibility included the electoral divisions of Annaghdown, Aghrim (Galway), Ballinacountry, Ballintemple, Barna, Belleville, Cammore, Carrowbrowne, Claregalway, Clarinbridge, Colmanstown, Deerpark, Furbough, Galway Rural, Inishmore, Killanin, Lackaghbeg, Liscananaun, Lisheenavalla, Moycullen, Oranmore, Selerna, Slieverna, Spiddle, Stradbally, and Tullokyne.

This incomplete collection consists of two volumes of minutes recording the proceedings, with gaps, of Council meetings held between 1904 and 1925. Unlike the minutes for other Rural District Councils (such as Loughrea, G01/8, and Ballinasloe, G01/6) the minutes of quarterly minutes that dealt specifically with roads and the physical infrastructure of the district are recorded in a separate volume to the minutes of Council's monthly meetings. The latter includes minutes relating to all other areas of concern. They record general and financial business proceedings, together with the proceedings of the Burial Board and Sanitary Authority, together with proceedings conducted under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts. The minutes illustrate the range of issues dealt with by the Council and its concern with a variety of issues from contemporary political and social matters, both local and national, to public health and sanitary issues.

The Council devoted a substantial amount of its time to dealing with matters relating to the Aran Islands, such as the provision of water and latrines at Killronan Pier. Following an appeal in 1913 from the local parish priest, Rev. Farragher, the Council in co-operation with the Congested Districts Board became involved in the provision of labourers' cottages on the North Island.

In response to a suggestion from Rev. Farragher for the Council to avail of an offer from the Congested Districts Board of free sites for, together with a contribution towards the cost of, erecting cottages on the Islands the Council responded advising that *'...they would be glad to avail themselves of the Congested Districts Board offer, but they fail to see how a Scheme can be adopted for Aran Islands, without giving the residents of other parts of the Rural District an opportunity of also applying for cottages. The costs incurred in connection with the last Scheme, were so prohibitive, that the Council cannot see their way to embark on a second one'*



(G01/9/3, p444-445). Prior to that time the Council had, under an Improvement Scheme sanctioned by the Local Government Board in 1908 (G01/9/3, p453), erected only nine labourers' cottages in the district.

However, following communication with and encouragement from the Local Government Board the Council requested further information from Rev. Farragher on the number of cottages required and the likely rent the tenants would be prepared to pay (G01/9/3, p453). The minutes of a special Committee, comprising of Rural District Council and Congested Districts Board members, and Rev. Farragher convened to discuss the provision of cottages are included in the Rural District Council minutes of February 1914. As a result of their discussions and further investigation the Council in June 1914 approved a draft scheme submitted by the Congested Districts Board for the erection of 43 labourers cottages in the North Island of Aran (Inishmore District Electoral Division) (G01/9/3, p549). In August that year the Council resolved to adopt the Improvement Scheme for the erection of 43 cottages (G01/9/3, p576). By November 21 cottages were ready for letting to labourers at a weekly rent of one shilling each for cottage plot (G01/9/3, p623). The Local Government Board sanctioned a loan of £1,950 for the carrying out of the Scheme (G01/9/1, p645).

In June 1915 the Council advised the Congested Districts Board that 10 additional cottages, rather than the initially anticipated 22, would be required. Following the Board's suggestion the Council requested that the new houses be larger than the first 21 already built on Aran. An additional grant of £100 was required from the Local Government Board to cover the extra cost involved in building the slightly larger cottage (G01/9/3, p712). The additional 10 cottages were completed by December 1915.

Therefore by the early 1920s Galway Rural District Council had provided a total of 40 labourers' cottages. Under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts 1883 (46 & 47 Vict. C.60) & 1885 (48 & 49 Vict. C.77)² Clifden Rural District Council had at the time provided 12, Loughrea provided in excess of 140 cottages, Mountbellew 45, and Portumna 131.

Another project which preoccupied the Council was the construction and maintenance of water pumps, in particular at Corrandulla and Caherateemore. In December 1912, the Council procured

² 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)



a Deed of Mortgage of £800 for the sinking of wells in these townlands in the Barony of Clare, in the Turloughmore Dispensary District (G01/9/3, p337). Through progress in the sinking of the wells was slow, it was nearing completion towards with the end of 1913, when the Labour strike of 1913, particularly in Dublin, delayed the procurement of parts to enable the completion of the required work (G01/9/3, p465).

Though the Corrandulla pump was finally in working order in May 1914, in July the supply of water had fallen off (G01/9/3, p560). A report submitted by Mr G. Lee, Engineer, to the Council in September 1914 advised that the pump was defective due to a shortage of lining pipe thus resulting in unprotected clay falling into the bore-hole. It was reported that several of the Contractor's, Campbell & Sons, workmen had removed the original pipe measuring 8ft, cut away 5½ feet of it and reinserted the remainder (G01/9/3, p588-589) when they learned that another individual, John MacDonald, had acquired the contract for the supply of the pump (G01/09/3, p621). In May 1915, following replacement of the piping, the Engineer reported that the well was in '*...a very satisfactory condition, the pump being easily worked, and there was a good supply of clean water...*' (G01/9/3, p94)³.

Meanwhile work on the Caherateemore well was still ongoing in June 1914. By June 1915 only 52ft had been excavated causing the Engineer, Mr Lee, to comment that '*At this rate of progress it is doubtful that the work will be finished within the next 5 years*' (G01/9/1, p710). However, in October 1915 the contractor, John Coen, had completed the sinking of the well. As he was not responsible for the placing of the pump he advised the Council he '*is not the cause of the delay*' (G01/9/3, p754).

The Rural District Council also provided wells in other townlands in the district, such as at Islandeddy in Oranmore dispensary district, and in Caherlea, and Coolorna in the Turloughmore dispensary district.

The Council acting as the Burial Board was also responsible for the care and maintenance, such as ensuring the good repair of boundary walls, and the appointment of caretakers, of many graveyards in the district.

The Quarterly Minutes (G01/9/6) deal exclusive with roads. They record, for instance, that the total road expenditure for 1904 was £2,281 (G01/9/6, p19); and that twelve years later (1917) the County Surveyor estimated expenditure at £4,931.0.4, with £3,028.18.0 for the maintenance of the Main Roads and £1,902.2.4 for the District Road (G01/9/6, p188b). In 1921 the estimated

³ See also pump & well files GC/W/S/PW/057 and 0914



expenditure for the ensuing year was £8,125 (G01/9/6, p239). The Minutes of Galway County Council record that, in February 1904, they called the attention of the Galway Rural District Council to the *'bad state'* of the roads in Aran, and that *'Owing to the neglect of the roads in Aran Island a strike against the payment of rates has been threatened and has been partially carried out in the Middle and South Islands.*

Should the District Council decline to exercise the powers vested in them the County Council must appear to the Local Government Board under the powers vested in them by the Local Government Board Act 1989⁴.

During the period of the Civil War the County Surveyor reported (in January 1922) on the *'...deplorable condition of the important roads in the District, no work having been done on many of them during the past quarter. ...'* (G01/9/6, p243). The following year he advised that he was *'...compelled to defer money on a considerable number of your Contractors'* (G01/9/6, p253); a shortage of material prevented contractors from completing their works to the required specification. The Surveyor also reported that a substantial number of bridges were damaged in the district. By January 1924 the Surveyor reported *'...a substantial improvement in the work of the Contractors...'* (G01/9/6, p264a).

The Council was not overtly outspoken on national political issues, though it did adopt several politically orientated resolutions forwarded to them from other Rural District Councils. One such resolution was one received from the Portumna Rural District Council condemning the action of the authorities in shooting the leaders of the Easter Rising without any form of trial (G01/9/1, p839). The Galway Rural District Council later, like other local authorities, resolved to *'...acknowledge the authority of Dáil 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...'* (G01/9/3, p1,354).

The physical condition of the two volumes in the collection is fair. G01/9/3 is a large bulky leather bound volume that has been slightly damaged by mould. The second volume, G01/9/6, has suffered more severe mould damage with the resultant loss of some text, particularly in the first quarter along the outer vertical edge. However, for preservation and security purposes the collection was microfilmed in 2002, and readers are asked to consult the microfilm rather than the original material if at all possible.

Overall this collection illustrates various aspects of local administration and democratic government during one of the most significant periods in Irish republican history. Commencing

⁴ Galway County Council Minutes GC1 /1, p501



with records created when the authority, and county, was under British rule, and ending with records recording the authority's recognition of Dáil Éireann. It should therefore 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 Galway district's infrastructure, together with the provision and growth of various public and health related services, such as the provision of water and sewerage schemes.

The item reference number (e.g. G01/9/15) 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 G01/9/15).

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

Readers are also requested not to view as definitive the appended list of District Councillors. Lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories, such as Slaters or Pigots, and in contemporary local 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.

Patria McWalter
Archivist



Related Collections

Records held by Galway County Council Archives (GCCA):

- Galway Poor Law Union Collection
- Galway County Council, Minutes, GC/1/
- Galway County Council/ Water Services / Pump & Wells, GC/WS/PW/
- County of Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance, GC5/

Archives held at the National Archives of Ireland

- Archives of the Office of Public Works, OPW

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[Appendix A](#)**List of some of the members of the Galway Rural District Council**

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

Cannon, Patrick	Joyce, E.
Caufield, P.	Kavanagh, W.
Clancy, J.	Keaven, M.J.
Cloonan, T.	Kelly, Peter
Coen, W.	Killanin, Lord
Concannon, P.	King, M.
Concar, J.	King, P.
Connell, J.	King, T.
Connelly, P.	Kyne, J.
Costello, P.	Kyne, M.
Cunniffe, James	Kyne, P.
Curley, Patrick (Stradbally ED)	Lardner, W.
Curran, P.	Lawless, P.
Davoren, M.	Lydon, M.
Delaney, James	Madden, T.
Donnellan, M.	McDonagh, Patrick (+1911)
Donohoe, John	McGrath, J.
Fahy, S.	McNeill, Michael [Chairman 1910 – 19]
Feeney, William	Melia, Michael
Fegan, D.	Moloney, D
Ffrench, R. [Chairman 1908]	Moloney, M.
Forde, M.	Morris J.
Francis, J.	Mullin, J.
Grealish, Michael	Murphy, J.
Grealy, M.	Murphy, M.
Harney, M.	Murphy, Walter
Hession, Patrick	Murray, Patrick
Hickey, T.	Naughton, P.
Higgins, R.	O'Brien, John



O'Donohoe, Sir James [Chairman 1904-07]

Rooney, Thomas (Stradbally ED)

Ruane, S.

Ruane, Thomas

Ryan, P.

Silke, P.

Thornton, Patrick

Toole, A.

Traynor, M.

Turke, Patrick

Walsh, Edward

Walsh, W.

Clerk of Council

Mullery, Robert

Lally, Peter



[Appendix B](#)

Electoral Divisions covered by the Galway Rural District Council

Annaghdown
Aughrim (Galway)
Ballinacountry
Ballintemple
Barna
Belleville
Carnmore
Carrowbrowne
Claregalway
Clarinbridge
Colmanstown
Deerpark
Furbough
Galway Rural
Inishmore
Killanin
Lackaghbeg
Liscananaun
Lisheenavalla
Moycullen
Oranmore
Selerna
Slieverna
Spiddle
Stradbally
Tullokyne



[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



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A. Minutes of Galway Rural District Council, 1910-1921

(1.)

(2.)

3. 27 August 1910 - 16 April 1921 Volume of minutes of proceedings of Council's monthly meetings. The handwritten minutes record attendance, details of correspondence received, generally from the Local Government Board and from the early 1920s from the Local Government Department, and actions required thereafter, together with proceedings of Council business conducted under various legalization relating to the administration of the district under a range of headings such as general, financial, sanitary authority and labourers' cottages. The proceedings of the Council acting as the 'Sanitary Authority', or from circa 1920 under the Public Health Acts, relate to health and sanitary conditions, such as the prevention of disease, and the care and management of burial grounds, sewerage systems, and water supply. The proceedings under the 'Labourers Acts' relate to the provision and maintenance of labourers' cottages and rent and rates collection. The proceedings 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.

Minutes are generally signed or initialed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Clerk.

Size 1,420pp.

- 'Orders under the L.G. Board's Seal, determining that the Turloughmore Dispensary District shall be the area of charge on which all expenses incurred or which may be incurred by reason of the extension of the Post Office system of Telegraphs to the Post Offices at Claregalway and Dring office, the District Council guaranteeing a sum not exceeding £8.6.8 a year for sever years in the former case and £5 in the latter case...' (p12).
- 'The pumps in Inishmann and Inishere are out of order. The Council beg to observe that they sent an Engineer to put these pumps in order but the Islanders would not allow him to land on the Island' (p48, see also p111, p152).
- 'The Engineer reported re. Labourers Cottages, those at Frenchfort and Carrowmeneash are not satisfactory and under the circumstances he has not taken them over from the contractors and he proposes to give them notice under Clause 15 of the Specification....' (p68).



- Special meeting convened for the 'purpose of making final arrangements for opposing the Criminal Injury Claims made by tow members of the R.I Constabulary (Royal Irish) amounting to £1,700 for injuries received at Galway Races' (p156); the case was withdrawn sometime thereafter (p169).
- Letter from the County Surveyor reporting that 'the built drain in the village of Spiddal has become stopped, with the result that the drainage from some houses has been affected, that the drain should be cleaned and out in working order. This is not the work of the road contractor. Recommending that a sum to exceed £10 be spend in doing the work...' (p159).
- 'Orders under the seal of the Local Government Board determining that the Turloughmore Dispensary District shall be the area of charge for the special expenses which may be incurred for the purpose of sinking a well at Corrandulla, and another at Caherateemore South in the Galway Rural District' (p190).
- 'Resolved – That we rejoice at recovery of the National Leader, J.E. Redmond, MP. At such a crises in our Country's history, his council and advice are most essential in the Home Rule Cause. We again place on record of unalterable demand for National Self Government, and declare that nothing short of a full measure of Home Rule will satisfy the aspirations of the Irish people' (p200).
- Letter 'From the Secretary to the Galway County Council pointing out that nearly 200 maintenance road contracts in the County were sent up without contracts being declared by the District Councils. That it is impossible to place such a large number of roads in the direct charge of the County Surveyor with any hope of having the roads efficiently repaired. The County Council request that the District Councils will re-advertise the roads not tendered for....' (p242).
- 'Resolved – That we strongly condemn the action of Lord Killanin in voting against the Home Rule Bill for Ireland in the House of Lords and criticising the action of the Irish People as being incapable of managing their own affairs, that apparently, he has less belief in the abilities of his fellow countrymen than the English Government, and his opinions are directly contrary to those of his [] brethren in foreign lands. That we call upon him to resign his seat on this Council and make way for a man who is in accord with and will voice the opinions of his constituents...' (p362).
- Report from the Sanitary Sub-officer O'Kyne advising that he '...made a thorough inspection of the Spiddal Dispensary District and found it in fair sanitary condition. Twelve dwellings in the townland of Bohoona needed lime washing and the removal of manure heaps...' (p374).
- Letter from the Congested Districts Board stating that 'in compliance with the request from the Council, they will contribute towards the execution of road making in the South and Middle Islands of Aran, one-half of the cost – the estimated total cost being £330, providing that the works are carried out by the County authorities in accordance with plans and



- specifications to be approved by the Board before the works are commenced...'(p394-395, see also p538).
- Details of letter from the Rev. M Farragher, P.P., Aran Island referring to previous correspondence in connection with the erection of cottages in Aran, when he 'suggested that the matter might be kept over pending the purchase of the Islands by the Congested Districts Board [from the Lady Guinness Estate]. The sale is now complete, and the Board are arranging to improve the condition of the inhabitants of the Island. A most important step in this direction is the proving of sanitary dwelling. A Committee of the Congested Districts Board has informed him that they are prepared to give the Council sites for cottages with plots, free, also to give a small contribution towards the cost of erection and act as contractors under the Council for the building of the cottages....' (p445).
 - Council adopted resolution forwarded by the Limerick County Council stating that 'owing to the recent political events, and particularly to the attitude of the army in the Ulster Question, we consider that the time has come when every effort should be made to organise the Irish Volunteer Force in every parish in Ireland. We are convinced that such a force, wisely led by men in whom our indomitable leader Mr J. E. Redmond would have confidence, would prove to the world that the manhood of Ireland are ready to do their part in defence of their homes and liberties, and if need be to protect our fellow Nationalist in Ulster from insult and attack' (p523).
 - Circular letter from the Local Government Board 'on the subject of the extensive outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in this country, recommending strict supervision being exercised by Sanitary Authorities, over the meat supply with a view to the detection of meat or offal showing signs of the disease...'(p531).
 - With reference to a letter from the Local Government Board to the Council regarding provision of a water supply in Cloonboo, the Council advised that 'As the well in question only supplied few families the Council cannot see their way in spending probably £400 to provide a water supply for their use' (p572).
 - Letter from the Congested Districts Board 'stating that they are informed that the larger plan of cottage would be preferred in the case of the remaining cottages to be built in the Aran Islands. The Board will, if so desired, build the remaining 22 cottages at an additional cost of £10 each, although this amount will not nearly meet the additional cost involved...'(p711-712).
 - Letter from Messrs. A.G. Campbell & Sons in reference to their claim for payment of the sum of £53.2.4 for cleaning out and setting right the well at Corrandulla, stating that they are willing to reduce their claim to £41.9.10, being the actual amount of the out of pocket expenses' (p720)..



- 'Resolved – That we beg to tender to the family of O'Donovan Rossa, sterling patriot and ardent lover of his country all through his life, our deep and sincere sympathy in the affliction that has come upon them through his death in America' (p722).
- 'From the Portumna Rural District Council forwarding a copy of a resolution adopted by them condemning the action of the Authorities in shooting innocent people without any form of trial during the recent disturbance in Dublin. Further, condemning them for depriving the county of the youth and manhood by deportation and whose sympathies were heartily in accord with the wishes of the Government as far as recruiting is concerned. That the whole Council be appointed a Committee to collect funds for the dependents of these noble Irishmen who were shot-during the disturbance' (p839).
- 'Resolved : That this Council desires to associate itself with the movement for the completion independence of Ireland, and congratulates the leaders and organisers who are restoring the self respect of the Nation which had been lowered through the treachery of the mis-called Irish Party.
That congratulating the members for North Roscommon and South Longford and the electors who won these Irish victories, we look forward to the representation of Galway by men equally faithful to the fighting cause of Ireland.
That desiring to honour the brave men now in Lewes Jail who are suffering for Ireland, we must express our detestation of their inhuman treatment and we call upon the English Government to treat these brave soldiers not as criminals but as Prisoners of War' (p973).
- 'Letter from Dr Loftus, Medical Health Officer, Spiddal Dispensary District calling attention to the appearance of 35 cases of influenza, with chest affections, in his District within a few days. Probably source of infection, introduction of the disease by some Teachers who had been visiting in Tuam....'(p1,159).
- Letter from 'the Secretary of the County Council transmitting the following copy of a resolution adopted by that body'Resolved: That in view of the recent revelations in regard to the County Hospital Accounts, brought to light by a Dublin Firm of Chartered Accountants and seeing that the accounts of same institution have been audited for some years past by the District Local Government Auditor, Mr Ellis, and passed as satisfactory, and whereas it now appears that over £2,000 has been received and unaccounted for, we call on the Local Government Board to hold a sworn inquiry and demand a satisfactory explanation from Mr Ellis...'(p1,238-1239).
- 'Resolvedhereby acknowledge the authority of Dáil Éireann as the duly elected Government of the Irish People and undertake to give effect to all decrees duly promulgated by the said Dáil Éireann in so far as same affects this Council...'(p1,354).
- 'The Acting Clerk (J Gallagher) reported having been arrested on 3rd instant, and released on parole on 20th instant (January 1921), pending trial by Field General Court Martial on 25th instant, on the charge of circulating a letter from Dial Emirian. He was previously arrested



on the same charge on 30 September last, and released after 26 days imprisonment, without trial' (p1,405).

- 'Resolved :- That as a mark of respect to our late colleague, Mr John Geoghegan [Acting Clerk], who was taken from his bed during the past week and shot outside his own door, we adjourn this meeting...' (p1,415).



B. Quarterly Minutes of Galway Rural District Council, 1904-1925

(4 – 5)

6. 16 January 1904 – 10 October 1925 Volume of minutes of proceedings of Council's quarterly meetings. The minutes record attendance, details of correspondence, generally from the Local Government Board and from the early 1920s from the Local Government Department, and actions required thereafter, together with proceedings of Council business relating to the construction and maintenance of the physical infrastructure of the district, namely its roads, bridges, piers and harbours. Such business included applying for, reviewing and approving tenders for works. The proceedings usually incorporate printed reports, or details of reports, from the County Surveyor, together with printed schedules of works. The schedules describe the road requiring attention together with details of the period of contract, tons of metals per annum, price per perch per annum, and total or annual cost of maintenance.

Minutes are generally signed or initialed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Clerk.

Size c. 390pp.

- 'Resolved: That we again express our approval of the scheme (a 22 mile stretch of road running from Galway to Costello) on condition that half of the cost be contributed from the Imperial Exchequer Surplus Fund (the Chief Secretary for Ireland having given an assurance that the matter will be favourably considered) one fourth from the County-at-large, and one fourth from the Galway Rural District'. (p10)
- Report from the County Surveyor, James Perry, advising that there is 'little of importance to report. The Maintenance Contracts are in their normal condition. John Mullen, a contractor in Aran, has considerably neglected his Contract since he got it and there appears to be nothing for it but to prosecute himself and his sureties... There are a number of roads which radiate from Galway on which the traffic is so considerable that in my opinion it would be advisable to use a Steam Roller. The cost of keeping these roads is about £1,000 a year...' (p12).
- Extract from schedule of works, 'To maintain for 5 years 475 perches of road from Moycullen to Killagoola, between Clydagh bridge junction and the house 475 perches from said junction' (p28c).
- 'The Schedule of Works applied for by the County Surveyor and appended to his report was examined and the works were approved' (p43).



- 'Read letter from the Local Government Board addressed to the Galway County Council in which the Board state that re. the application of the County Council for sanction to a loan of £175 for the improvement of an old road leading from Monivea to Tuam, the Board do not consider that the general character of the work, especially in so far as it would be a work of maintenance – is such as would warrant money being borrowed for carrying it out and that any necessary repairs on the old road should be defrayed from revenue in the ordinary manner' (p105).
- 'Resolved : That we the Galway Rural District Council believing that transit facilities are of the utmost importance for opening up and developing the populous, remote, extensive and congested district along the sea board west of Galway have greed to contribute a considerable amount of money towards the improvement of the main road in that district from Galway to Costello, but at the same time we beg to bring under the notice of the authorities the hardship it is to ask a district of this sort where rates are so high and nearly all the ratepayers are very small farmers, to undertake such a burden...' (p124).
- 'Resolved: That the County Surveyor be requested to adopt the following course in future, when on inspection he finds a road is not being kept in good order, he shall give notice to the contractor at once to comply with the terms of his contract; failing to comply the County Surveyor to employ other persons to carry out the necessary work at the expense of the contractor' (p153).
- 'Special application from the County Surveyor to steam roll the road leading from entrance to Military Camp near Oranmore to the village of Oranmore. Probable cost of the work £600, the Road Board being prepared to contribute £400, the remaining £200 to be raised by way of a loan, the effect on the rates being infinitesimal, whereas a very substantial and useful work will be completed at very little cost to the ratepayers...' (p217).



C. Contracts for Road Maintenance, 1899 - 1902

7. 21 August 1899 - 26 April 1902 Bond and Contract for the repair and maintenance of roads and footpaths, detailing the area to be maintained in perches, the contractor's name and address, annual cost, period of contract (5 years), specification of work, conditions of contract, signed by Contractor, Sureties, and Witness.

2 items/6pp