

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE WESTERN HOTEL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY
ON MONDAY 9th DECEMBER 2024 AT 10.30am.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. McHugh Farag

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Cuniffe, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. Killilea

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGIGH: Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., SE, Mr. John Coyle – SEE (Remote access),
Mr. Sean Kennedy – EE, Mr. Tom Regan – EE, Ms. Geraldine Byrne, -
Meetings Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

In the absence of the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District, Cllr. McHugh Farag as Leas Cathaoirleach assumed the Chair and commenced the meeting by congratulating former Councillors Pete Roche, Albert Dolan, and Louis O'Hara, together with Deputy Sean Canney on their recent success in the general election. She also expressed gratitude to former Cathaoirleach Cllr. Roche for his dedicated service representing the people of Tuam since 2009, acknowledging him as an asset with extensive knowledge.

Cllr. McHugh Farag acknowledged Councillors Declan Geraghty and Noel Thomas and extended the MD members sympathies also to Cllr Thomas on the passing of his father Noel Senior.

Each elected member took a moment to congratulate Cllr Pete Roche on his success, noting that his experience and work ethic would be greatly missed. They all wished him the best in his new role in the Dáil.

Cllr. Killilea noted that having 3/4 TDs in the immediate area near Tuam MD presents an opportunity. He suggested inviting them to a meeting at least once a year to encourage support and seek funding. Cllr. Turner agreed, highlighting that Galway County Council is severely underfunded and urging local representatives to address this issue. Cllr. McHugh Farag concurred, stating that meeting the representatives annually would be a proactive approach.

Director of Services, Michael Owens congratulated everyone that put forward their name on the ballot paper and said that all the experience and knowledge Cllr. Roche gained over this period as a Councillor including as Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway and as Cathaoirleach of the Tuam MD would be to his benefit and that of his constituency and he looks forward to working with Deputy Roche in his new capacity.

MDT240076

1. – Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 11th November 2024

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 14th November 2024 were **agreed**,

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Matters Arising:

Cllr. Reddington thanked Rachel Lowe, SE for engaging with him regarding active travel funding in Headford and Cllr. Hoade also thanked Ms. Lowe for her assistance.

Cllr. Reddington suggested that Galway County Council's website should include a list of required courses for General Operatives. This will help applicants determine if they meet the necessary experience requirements before applying. He noted that many capable individuals are eager to work but may lack the required experience or certifications.

Cllr. Hoade requested that upon the retirement of a General Operative (GO) replacement GOs be appointed immediately and enquired if there is a current panel in place. Additionally, she asked if unsuccessful job applicants receive feedback on why their application was not successful.

Mr. Owens explained that the qualifications for positions are generally established by the Department and are adhered to by each local authority when advertising posts. He mentioned that he will consult with the HR Department to determine if any additional information can be provided regarding desirable skills, in addition to the required qualifications. He also stated that any candidate is entitled to interview feedback, and if they are unsuccessful following a desktop shortlisting exercise, there will be a marking scheme available, allowing them to view their scores for future reference.

Mr. Coyle stated that upon learning of a retirement, it is promptly reported to HR and a replacement is requested. He expressed hope that they will secure all necessary replacements.

MDT2400077

On the proposal of Cllr. Reddington seconded by Cllr. Killilea the following motion was agreed I propose; -

To ask GRETB to set up a pre-General Operative course covering the essential requirements needed to be successful as a panel of any Local Authority.

MDT2400078

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade seconded by Cllr. Turner the following motion was agreed I propose; -

That we ensure that the panel is kept in place for GO employees, and halfway through the panel timely recruitment campaign is initiated to ensure continuity of a live panel.

A discussion arose in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Palace Fields and clarification was provided that a fallen branch was removed from the grounds.

MDT2400079

2. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Owens, Director of Services, announced that a Consultant would be appointed for the Station Quarter in Tuam in the first quarter of 2025. He also mentioned that there would be a presentation to Tuam MD in 2025, and an opportunity to apply for funding under the Thrive programme.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed the update and asked for a timeline for events and asked if it would be possible for the consultants to have a meeting with Tuam Community Training Centre (TCTC) the owners of the adjacent building and said he would welcome an update from the team in the January meeting. Cllr.

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Reddington agreed and referred to the poor condition of the building and any meeting would be welcomed.

Mr. Owens advised that once a programme was agreed with the consultant, he would be happy to share it with Tuam Municipal District and there was a map drawing detailing the extent of the area within the remit of the Thrive funding and that he would circulate to all the Councillors.

He advised that the Active Travel Presentation was deferred to the January meeting.

Mr. Coyle advised that the next meeting would feature the Three-year roads programme and invited proposals for next year's surface dressing programme, advising the councillors that if there were any roads they felt should be included to let him know and they would investigate same. He advised that Climate Action and Low-Cost Accident projects have now been forwarded to the Department.

All the elected members thanked John Coyle and all the outdoor workers and crews for their great work throughout Storm Darragh, saying how important their role and the work that they do is and Cllr. Reddington suggested that a letter of thanks should issue to all outdoor staff in each hub to show appreciation and thanks for all done.

MDT2400080

On the proposal of Cllr. Reddington seconded by Cllr. Killilea the following motion was agreed.

I propose; -

That a letter of thanks be sent to the General Operative's team in the Tuam Municipal District for work they did during storm Darragh.

Mr. Coyle also thanked all the outdoor staff and crews for the work done throughout and after Storm Darragh, he said it was a multi-agency response that worked very well and utilising the using SWEMS and Map alerter also helped.

Cllr. Killilea requested an update on the Part 8 planning for the Shambles in Tuam. Mr. Owens advised that the Part 8 was approved and that when the next opportunity to apply for funding arises, it is intended to apply, and he would include a Town Hall update at the next meeting.

MDT2400081

3. - Municipal -District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business

Cllr. Cunniffe stated he was approached from members of the Muslim community in Tuam to investigate the possibility of burial arrangements. Mr. Owens advised that they had contacted the Environment Department, and they were open in principle to burial of various denominations, but this was not operationally feasible at this time as it was not possible to provide a separate area in Tuam.

Cllr. McHugh Farag said this issue had been raised some years ago and asked that if there is expansion in the future that a facility is made available and said she is aware of cases of repatriation where local burial is not available.

Cllr. Cunniffe requested an update in relation to engagement with the GAA regarding Brownsfield. Mr. Owens said there was a commitment to meet on both sides and hoped a meeting would be held within

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the next two weeks. Cllr. Turner referred to the Galway County Board convention taking place that evening and said it would be beneficial for a delegate from Tuam Stadium to raise this issue under AOB.

Cllr. Killilea said that he understood a lease agreement had been sent twice and returned not signed and this was a very valuable space, that the county board have delayed the process and if progress can be achieved, that Galway County Council should consider giving it to someone else. Mr. Owens advised that initially it was a Section 183 but that he was of the understanding that the finance was not available to meet the various conditions of the lease.

Cllr. Cunniffe requested that Action Tuam be invited to Tuam Municipal District Meeting. Ms. Byrne advised invitations have been issued. Mr. Owens advised that Action Tuam had been invited but to date they had not received a positive response to the invitation and would send a further follow up to them regarding same.

Cllr. Hoade enquired if free parking was in place in Tuam. The meeting was advised that it was in place from 8th December 2024 to 31st December with free parking after 11.00am. Cllr. Killilea enquired if the 30-minute set down on shop street still applies during this time and Mr. Owens advised that the concession is on the paid parking only all other parking restrictions and rules continue to apply.

Cllr. Killilea referred to free parking in Clifden between 9am and 11am and called for examination of the parking laws overall so that there is consistency county wide.

Mr. Coyle said that a new Traffic Management plan was required in Tuam Municipal District.

Cllr. Hoade also asked if verge trimming was ongoing as was aware of some roads that were still not completed. Mr. Coyle advised yes it was still ongoing and asked that she provide him with the specific details, and he would talk to the General Services Supervisor (GSS) in that area.

Cllr. Reddington commended all the community groups involved in the Christmas lights and fares in the towns and gave thanks and best wishes to all involved for their great work.

Monday 13th January 2025 was agreed by all as the date for the next Tuam MD Meeting.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 11.23

Approved by:

 Date: 13/01/2025.
~~Cllr. McHugh Farag.~~
Cllr. Andrew Reddington