

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held via Microsoft Teams
Monday, 25th April 2022 at 10.00am

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Peter Keaveney
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, L. Carroll, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, S. Curley, T. Ó Curraoin, Albert Dolan, G. Donohue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, C. Keaveney, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, E. Francis Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Oifigh: Mr. J. Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services, Ms E Ruane, Director of Services, Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services, Mr. M. McGovern, Management Accountant, Ms. J Brann, Meetings Administrator, Ms L. Sharkey, Administrative Officer, Ms. B. Ryan, Staff Officer, Ms C. Walsh, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. E. Hoffman, Clerical Officer, Mr. P Scannell, Clerical Officer,

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

Prior to the Commencement of formal business Members joined with Cllr. Herterich - Quinn in extending condolences to the family of Kate Moran RIP following her tragic death. Condolences were also expressed to her boyfriend, teammates and friends. The Cathaoirleach expressed his sincere sympathy to the Moran family on the tragic loss of Kate. On behalf of the staff and on his own behalf the Chief Executive extended his sympathies to Moran family.

Cllr. Welby addressed the Members regarding the amendment of the minutes of Special Meeting held the on 17th December 2022. On his own behalf, he apologised to the Cathaoirleach and Staff for any distress caused. Cllr. Welby reiterated he had merely asked a question which he was entitled to do. He said he had resigned himself to the outcome.

ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

3956

(a) Minutes of Special Meeting held on 6th, 10th, 13th, 17th, 20th December 2021 and the 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th January 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick an amendment to the minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 6th January 2022 was proposed to insert the following text in relation to GLW C10-686:

"Cllr. Walsh started a discussion regarding a derelict site that was visually unsightly on the outskirts of Spiddal and that he wished to zone a section of land beside it.

He said he believed it was owned by Hyman Properties and he stated - and I don't know them".

Cllr. Welby noted that on a number of occasions Cllr. Walsh said he did not know Hyman Properties. Cllr. O 'Cualáin informed Members that no one from Hyman Properties contacted or approached him in relation to zoning. Cllr. C. Keaveney stressed the minutes should be a record only of decisions taken at the meeting. He said there should be no reference to anything that happened outside the meeting.

As agreement could not be reached on the proposed amendment to the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 6th January 2022, the Cathoirleach called for a vote to be taken. The amendment was displayed on screen for ease of reference.

The following was the result:

For – 10

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Carroll
Cllr. Charity	Cllr. Cuddy	Cllr. Kelly
Cllr. McClearn	Cllr. McKinstry	Cllr. Reddington
Cllr. Welby		

Against – 4

Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. Sheridan	Cllr. Thomas
Cllr. Walsh		

Abstain - 18

Cllr. Canning	Cllr. Collins	Cllr. Cronnelly
Comh. Ó 'Cualáin	Comh. Ó 'Curraoin	Cllr. Dolan
Cllr. Donohue	Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. Hoade	Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. Killilea	Cllr. Mannion	Cllr. McHugh Farag
Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Dr. Francis Parsons	Cllr. Roche

Absent for vote - 7

Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. Curley	Cllr. Finnerty
Cllr. Kinane	Cllr. King	Comh Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. Maher		

The Meetings Administrator confirmed the Minutes of the Special Meeting of 6th January 2022 were adopted with the amendment inserted.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry the minutes of the of Special Meeting held on 7th January 2022 were **AGREED**.

Mr. Owens confirmed the full set of minutes for each date of the Special Meeting were agreed and advised the Minutes of the Special Meeting were adopted.

(b) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 28th March 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killillea **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry the minutes of the of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 28th March 2022 were **AGREED** subject to the following amendment by Cllr. McKinstry on page 14:

"that this council will record meetings for the purpose of minute taking. For private meetings the recordings will be held until after the minutes have been agreed and voted on, and then destroyed. For public meetings the recordings will remain available."

Cllr. Welby sought clarification on the result of the vote recorded regarding an amendment to the minutes of the Special Meeting on the 17th December. In response, Cllr. Canning advised Members he had been contacted by the Meetings Administrator following the March Plenary meeting to inform him that he wasn't present at the meeting of the 17th December, as a result he wasn't eligible to vote. Cllr. Canning said the matter regarding the amendment had been discussed at a Fianna Fail party meeting and he had voted in line with his party colleagues.

Cllr. Broderick expressed disappointment that Cllr. Canning who was not present on the 17th December had voted for an amendment to the minutes based on a discussion at a party meeting. Cllr. Broderick said he stated at a number of meetings that he did not make reference to Cllr. Walsh having an interest in Roscahill which was ascribed to him in the amendment to the Minutes of the Special Meeting on 17th December. Cllr. Broderick said Cllr. Canning had disregarded his repeated statements and had taken his party colleagues word over his by voting for the amendment.

The Meetings Administrator clarified that Cllr. Canning was not present at the Special Meeting on 17th December. She noted that as per Standing Orders only those present can determine the accuracy of the Minutes. For this reason, Cllr. Canning wasn't

eligible to vote on the minutes for the 17th December. The record was amended to reflect this.

ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 3957

(a) Minutes of Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 29th September 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly the minutes of Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 29th September 2021 were **AGREED**.

(b) Minutes of Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee held on 2nd December 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade the minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee held on 2nd December 2021 were **AGREED**.

(c) Minutes of Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee held on 14th December 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee held on 14th December 2021 were **AGREED**.

(d) Minutes of Climate Change & Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee held on 19th January 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the Climate Change & Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee held on 19th January 2022 were **AGREED**.

(e) Minutes of Housing Strategic Policy Committee held on 2nd February 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee held on 2nd February 2022 were **AGREED**.

(f) Minutes of Corporate Policy Group held on 14th February 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 14th February 2022 were **AGREED**.

A number of Members raised concerns about the future of Derrybrien Windfarm following An Bord Pleanála's refusal of an application for Substitute Consent by ESB. In response to queries raised Mr. Owens noted the ESB had indicated they would not be challenging the decision. He advised Members that Galway County Council would now consider the status of the Derrybrien site. He noted it was a complex issue with no precedent and advised it required careful and detailed consideration regarding the next steps. He advised Members that Galway County Council could only operate within the legislative framework. He informed Members that legal advice had been sought and confirmed preliminary legal advice based on the current legislation had been received. He noted any required change in legislation would come from the Oireachtas. In any case, he advised before taking any action, further advice both of a legal and technical nature would be required due to the complexity of the issue.

Mr Owens acknowledged the concerns raised by Members regarding pre-planning meetings. He advised Members that while the process to recruit additional staff had commenced the Planning Department was still operating below a full staff complement which impacted the delivery of services. Hard decision had to be taken to prioritise statutory functions such as planning applications which had statutory timelines. This had impacted on other areas of the Planning Department including the pre-planning meetings. Mr Owens reassured Members that the process regarding pre-planning for applications with enterprise or employment potential were prioritised and handled in a separate pre-planning stream. Mr Owens acknowledged the commitment of the planning staff particularly in recent weeks when the goodwill of staff was heavily relied on during a very demanding period.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the additional recruitment of staff authorised for the Planning Department would allow for a reset of the function to provide a better service to the public in general and to planning applicants. He

acknowledged the work of staff and noted the service they provide is heroic for the pressure they are under.

(g) Minutes of Corporate Policy Group held on 25th March 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 25th March 2022 were **AGREED**.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.0374 HECTARES OF LANDS AT CASTLEHACKET, BELCLARE, TUAM, CO. GALWAY.

3958

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 12th April 2022 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.0374 hectares of lands at Castlehacket, Belclare, Tuam, Co. Galway, in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 12th April 2022.

Cllr. Killilea acknowledged the cooperation and contribution of a number of families in Belclare area facilitating the provision of a footpath from Belclare village to Castlehackett and Knockma Hill. He thanked the Higgins family in particular for their part in allowing the Village Renewal Scheme in Belclare to progress so smoothly. He also acknowledged the cooperation of the Monaghan, Canning and O'Grady families. Cllr. Killilea acknowledged the professionalism of the engineering staff involved.

Cllr. McKinstry suggested the council consider adopting a policy that any strips of land left over from lands acquired for road widening or other works should be retained for woodland. Members said that the use of these parcels of land would need careful consideration in terms of the impact on adjoining landowners and on general road safety. It was also noted that, in a situation where land had been acquired by CPO, any land not required should be offered back to the landowner. Cllr. McKinstry agreed a commonsense approach was required. He reminded Members of the current biodiversity crisis and of our dependence on wildlife. He noted the important role hedgerows had in building up biodiversity.

ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEMES 2022 (CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT - IRISH LANGUAGE) PROPOSED LIST OF APPROVALS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 67 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED.

3959

Report dated the 28th March was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Hanrahan informed Members that the Galway County Council Community Support Schemes 2022 had been agreed at the March Plenary Meeting with an allocation of €5,000 assigned under the Support Scheme for Cultural Development for the promotion of the Irish Language. Mr. Hanrahan presented the proposed list of works for the promotion of the Irish Language for approval.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mac an Iomaire it was **AGREED** to approve the Galway County Council Community Support Schemes 2022 (Cultural Development - Irish Language) proposed list of approvals, in accordance with the performance of its functions under section 67 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

ITEM NO.5 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, APPROVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 WHEREBY ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL AGREES TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER ARTICLE 7 (2) OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (DRINKING WATER) REGULATIONS 2014. 3960

Report dated the 11th April was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby it was **AGREED** to approve Galway County Council entering into an agreement with Roscommon County Council under section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 whereby Roscommon County Council agrees to carry out the functions of Galway County Council under article 7 (2) of the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014.

ITEM NO.6 REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES AND OPERATION OF BODIES ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 141 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ACT (AS AMENDED BY SECTION 53 OF THE 2014 ACT). 3961

Report dated the 19th April was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED** to approve reports on the activities and operation of the following bodies for the period June 2020 to May 2021 inclusive, in accordance with section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 Act (as amended by section 53 of the 2014 act):

- (a) Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees
- (b) Northern & Western Regional Assembly
- (c) Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd
- (d) Association of Irish Local Government
- (e) Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd
- (f) Loughrea Heritage Committee
- (g) Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)
- (h) Western Inter-County Rail Committee
- (i) Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board
- (j) Regional Health Forum Representation, West
- (k) Galway Rural Development Company
- (l) Forum Conamara Ltd
- (m) Comhar na nOileán Teoranta
- (n) Governing Authority of National University of Ireland Galway

In response to a query raised Mr. Owens confirmed a number of reports were still outstanding and due to be submitted.

ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). 3962

Report dated the 12th April was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Sheridan and Hoade to attend AILG - 'Annual Training Conference 2022' at Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal on 23rd to 24th March 2022. (Retrospective Approval)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. McClearn, Hoade, Herterich-Quinn, Maher, Curley and Roche to attend LAMA - 'Spring Training Seminar 2022' at Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny on 11th to 12th April 2022. (Retrospective Approval).

The Chief Executive indicated he had to leave the meeting. Mr. Hanrahan deputised.

ITEM NO.8 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – MARCH 2022 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

3963

Report dated the 22nd April was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

The Management Report – April 2022 was **NOTED** in accordance with section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The following queries and points were raised by Cllrs. Carroll, McKinstry, Byrne, C. Keaveney, Charity, Reddington, M Connolly, Hoade, Mac Iomaire, Cuddy and Welby

- Acknowledge and thank both the Oranmore Park Committee for the use of the Community Centre and the Principal of Calasanctius College for the use of the school as reception area for the Ukrainian Refugees. Acknowledge the huge efforts of Liam Hanrahan and Nuala Heffernan and the Civil Defence teams in the preparation of these facilities for refugees. Suggest we invite the Ukrainian ambassador to address the Plenary Council at the May meeting and if possible visit some of the Ukrainian refugees resident in Galway.
- The Ukrainian Refugee situation is not being treated seriously at a national level. Additional resources are required to manage the situation.
- We are facing a huge challenge in relation to housing. There is a huge crisis in the rental sector. The level of support people are getting on HAP is inadequate. The challenge is that an increase in HAP may result in an increase in rents.
- Staffing levels in the Housing Department are inadequate. There is a backlog in the assessments for social housing.

- Welcome funding for LIS scheme. Concern that only 24 roads are being considered for LIS this year. Has an application for extra funding being made?
- We need to work through the schemes currently on the LIS schedule of works before advertising another scheme.
- We need more funding for LIS and we need an annual allocation which would allow the Council plan better. With the current funding levels, it will take 10 to 12 years to clear the backlog.
- LIS applicants need to be informed when they are applying how long the process takes. They need to understand it may take 4-5 years.
- Banks are refusing mortgages to people because roads are not taken in charge.
- People who have been granted planning permission and paid development contributions often find the Council are not taking their roads in charge.
- Planning applicants should be aware that mortgage providers must consider the ease of selling a property in the case of a default. If access to a property is over private land, where a road has not been taken in charge, mortgage providers may be reluctant to provide mortgages in such cases.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Hanrahan:

- Monthly updates on the Ukrainian Response will be provided via the Management Report. The Department have requested the Council's assistance with the technical assessment on longer term properties required for refugees.
- For social housing applications the Council have 12 weeks to assess a valid application when all relevant information has been provided. The majority of applications received are missing some information. This delays the assessment process. No decision on an application has even fallen outside the 12-week timeframe.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender:

- A supplementary list of 165 additional LIS schemes has been submitted to the Department. It would require an additional funding of €8m. We will continue to liaise with the government to see if any additional funding is available.
- Agree the timelines for the LIS process should be clearly set out for applicants.

- It is not accurate to say Council won't take roads in charge – the taking in charge of roads is a Reserved function. However, it is difficult to manage what we have.
- The LIS process is not a mechanism for taking a road in charge.

ITEM NO.9 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 3964

The following items of correspondence which were published on the Extranet prior to the meeting were NOTED:

- *Letter dated 25.01.22 to Minister for Rural and Community Development and Social Protection, Heather Humphreys T.D. Resolution - Epilepsy Ireland re. Free Travel and Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations.*
- *Letter dated March 2022 from David O'Callaghan, Pensions Policy and Free Scheme Unit. Response - Epilepsy Ireland re. Free Travel and Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations.*
- *Letter dated 31.01.22 to Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications & Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D. Resolution - Connecting Ireland Proposals for County Galway.*
- *Email dated 31.03.22 from Naoise Grisewood, Private Secretary to Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications & Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D. Response - Connecting Ireland Proposals for County Galway.*
- *Letter dated 11.03.22 to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien T.D. Resolution - Social Housing Income Thresholds.*
- *Email dated 25.03.22 from Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien T.D. Acknowledgement - Social Housing Income Thresholds.*
- *Email dated 07.04.22 from Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien T.D. Response - Social Housing Income Thresholds.*
- *Letter dated 22.03.22 from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. Resolution - Specific Planning Policy Requirements.*
- *Letter dated 06.04.22 to All Local Authorities. Resolution - Low-Cost fees for OAP's.*

- *Letter dated 06.04.22 to Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohue T.D. Resolution - Low-Cost fees for OAP's.*
- *Email dated 07.04.22 from Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohue T.D. Acknowledgement - Low-Cost fees for OAP's.*
- *Letter dated 06.04.22 to Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee T.D. Resolution - Low-Cost fees for OAP's.*
- *Letter dated 06.04.22 to Minister for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke T.D. Resolution - Proposed Zoning Changes.*
- *Email dated 06.04.22 from Minister for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke T.D. Acknowledgement - Proposed Zoning Changes.*
- *Letter dated 06.04.22 to Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D. Resolution - Compensation Scheme.*
- *Mayors for Peace. March 2022 Newsflash.*
- *Letter dated 05.04.22 from Kerry County Council. Resolution – Stardust Fire.*
- *Letter dated 11.04.22 from Limerick City & County Council. Resolution – GDPR Consent Form.*
- *Letter dated 13.04.22 from Clare County Council. Resolution – Ukraine.*
- *Letter dated 13.04.22 from Clare County Council. Resolution – National Ambulance Service.*
- *Letter dated 13.04.22 from Clare County Council. Resolution – Ennis General Hospital Gynaecology wait times.*
- *Email and letter dated 13.04.22 from Mayors for Peace Secretariat. Resolution – Protest against Nuclear Testing.*
- *Letter dated 13.04.22 from Westmeath County Council. Resolution – Bord na Móna.*
- *Letter dated 13.04.22 from Westmeath County Council. Resolution – Request for further reduction of taxes on fuel.*
- *NOAC Annual Report 2021*
- *Letter dated 21.04.22 from Jean Brann, County Secretary. Response – Water Safety motion.*

ITEM NO.10 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS.

3965

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan the Members **AGREED**:

'Galway Co Council call on the Government to direct the ESB to recommence operation of the Derrybrien Windfarm, and in doing so provide whatever legislative requirements that are necessary to ensure it may not be contested legally.'

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue:

'We the members of Galway Co. Co. request the OPR to immediately start the review of the function of the planning section as part of their statutory power's.'

Mr. Owens advised Members that the OPR had to date completed a review of the planning function of four local authorities. He said he had reviewed the three published and noted many issues identified were in common with the issues identified in Galway County Council. He stressed that identifying the issues was only a first step. He advised that issues had already been identified in Galway County Council which required putting structures and staff in place. He noted this was already underway in the Planning Department. He considered a review by the OPR would require significant resources in terms of staff and time required to engage fully with the Regulator. Mr. Owens said he would welcome a review when the structures were fully in place to provide the resources and time required to get maximum benefit from a review.

Mr. Owens advised Members the Regulator would be undertaking a review of all local authorities and noted it was only a matter of time before a review of the planning function of Galway County Council was carried out.

Cllr. Carroll informed Members that, as a member of the Audit Committee, he had requested the Local Government Auditor last year to make a note in his Annual Report of the serious understaffing of Galway County Council. Cllr. Carroll expressed his disappointment it was not noted.

Following consideration of Mr. Owens' response, Cllr. Welby withdrew the motion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Roche **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn the Members **AGREED**:

'Galway County Council call on our Government (Minister for Environment) to cease plans to "Ban the sale of turf" planned for implementation on September 1st, 2022.'

Cllr. McKinstry noted his objection.

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Kelly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty:

'Calling on Minister Eamon Ryan to immediately halt his plans to introduce a ban on the sale and distribution of turf from September 2022 on account of the abrupt manner in which this regulation was announced and the impact it will have on people in rural Ireland who are already struggling with rapidly rising energy costs. Furthermore, I call on Eamon Ryan to resign as Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications on account of his complete lack of understanding of the anxiety that the announcement of this regulation has generated among people in rural Ireland who depend on turf as their chief fuel supply.'

As agreement could not be reached on the motion the Cathoirleach called for a vote to be taken. The following was the result:

For – 19

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Canning	Cllr. Charity
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. Cronnelly	Comh. Ó 'Cualáin
Comh. Ó 'Curraoin	Cllr. Dolan	Cllr. Donohue
Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. Hoade	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. Kelly	Cllr. Killilea	Cllr. King
Cllr. McHugh Farag	Cllr. Dr. Francis Parsons	Cllr. Roche
Cllr. Thomas		

Against – 5

Cllr. Carroll	Cllr. Collins	Cllr. McClearn
Cllr. McKinstry	Cllr. Reddington	

Abstain - 6

Cllr. Cuddy	Cllr. Curley	Cllr. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. Mannion	Cllr. Sheridan	Cllr. Walsh

Absent for vote - 9

Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. Finnerty
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. Kinane	Comh Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. Maher	Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Welby

The Meetings Administrator confirmed the motion was carried.

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by the Members of Ballinasloe Municipal District – Cllrs. Broderick, Geraghty, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, P. Keaveney, Dr Parsons.

'We the elected members of the Ballinasloe Municipal District of Galway County Council seek the support of our colleagues in Galway County Council to direct the Executive of the Council to reconsider the acquisition of Garbally College House and Garbally estate and to bank it as an asset, which in the short term can be further considered as to what direction should be taken with this magnificent piece of heritage. The opportunity that is being presented by acquiring this "jewel" is far too good an opportunity to be missed and by further pursuing this project we the Council are displaying real commitment to the town of Ballinasloe (The Gateway to the West).'

Mr. Hanrahan informed Members the acquisition of Garbally House and possible uses for the site was still under consideration. He confirmed he was due to meet with representatives of Garbally House with Council staff on Tuesday to explore options. He stressed the acquisition had not been ruled out. He advised Members that the Council could not direct the Executive to purchase property.

The Members of Ballinasloe Municipal District agreed to withdraw the motion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Comh. Mac an Iomaire the Members **AGREED**:

'I am asking the executive to write to Minister Heather Humphrey and ask for a second allocation under the Local Improvement Scheme across Galway, there are hundreds of private roads on the existing list and a second allocation would benefit many rural areas.'

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the Members **AGREED**:

'Proceed with standing orders and hybrid meetings at the same time'

Cllr. Hoade queried the possibility of holding a hybrid meeting for the June Plenary meeting. In response Mr. Owens confirmed the technology and equipment had been identified and ordered. He noted the supplier had advised the expected timeframe for delivery of the equipment was June. He advised that a range of issues regarding hybrid meetings had been identified to be considered by CPG. Standing Orders would need to be updated. Following the drafting of amended Standing Orders, they would be brought back to CPG and Plenary for final approval.

ITEM NO.11 VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

3966

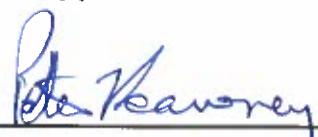
A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Cathal and Mary Moran, Glenagloughan, Monivea, Co. Galway
- Mary Corcoran, Lough Atalia Road, Galway
- Sean Flannery, 83 The Glade, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Sean and Mary Murphy, Bishops Street, Tuam, Co. Galway
- The Kelly Family, Drumavoughane, Moycullen, Co Galway

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:



Date:

23/5/2022

