

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL**  
**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 11.00am**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Michael Moegie Maher

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, L. Carroll, J. Charity, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, T. Ó Curraoin, A. Dolan, G. Donohue, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, C. Keaveney, P. Keaveney, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, E. Francis Parsons, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

**Oifigh:**

Mr. J. Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services, Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Ms. J. Brann, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Laura Sharkey Administrative Officer, Ms. Maryanne Ui Chualain, Irish Officer, Mr. Matthew Hourigan, Communication and Marketing Graduate, Ms. Helen Riordan, 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 Cllr. Hoade and Cllr. Welby joined with Cllr. McClearn in urging all Council members to complete the questionnaire by the AILG. AILG have undertaken a two-year Strategic Partnership with Maynooth University and their International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD). An independent research study on "The 21st Century Councillor in Irish Local Government" is currently underway. The purpose of the study is to gain first-hand insights into the changing roles of the councilors, so that AILG can better respond to members' needs. As part of the research project, every councilor in Ireland was invited to complete a questionnaire.

Cllrs. McClearn, Hoade and Welby pointed out that so far the study indicated that County Councillors work considerably less hours than is accurate. They urged the members to complete the questionnaire as soon as possible as the current graph indicated that Galway County Councillors were slow to respond.

**ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

3991

(a) Minutes of Special Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> April, and 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Carroll SECONDED by Cllr. Cuddy the Minutes of Special Meeting held on 21st & 22nd April, and 4th, 5th, 9th and 11th May 2022 were AGREED subject to the following amendment by Cllr. Dr. Francis Parsons on page 36 of Special Meeting held on 22nd April 2022:

"Cllr. Dr. Parsons pointed out that Galway County Council is the relevant Local Planning Authority in terms of any planning building development and infrastructure application and in certain circumstances is also the grantee of Waste Permit applications and that she held the view that as such Galway County Council has considerable power and agency in determining the inappropriateness and unsuitability of location for Sludge and Waste industries within the county. Cllr. Dr. Parsons stated this is in keeping with Environmental Justice Principles robustly debated throughout

the CDP process and already incorporated into the Draft CDP 2022-28 with full agreement of members”

(a) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Ó Curraoin **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 were **AGREED**.

#### **ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

3992

(a) Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. King the minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were **NOTED**.

(b) Minutes of Housing Strategic Policy Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn the minutes the Housing Strategic Policy Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 of were **NOTED**.

#### **ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO ADOPT THE UNAUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR GALWAY COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

3993

*The Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for Galway County for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

Mr. Mullankey, Head of Finance gave an overview of The Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for Galway County for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, during which he detailed the assets and liabilities of the Council as of year-end and drew attention to the additional information contained in the appendices. He informed the meeting that this is the second set of annual accounts prepared in the context of the pandemic, the effect of which continues to be felt across the local authority sector and wider community. The finances of Galway County Council have been impacted in three areas:

- Rates income

- Goods and services and
- Additional expenditure.

All areas of Council services came under pressure from increased service demands and unexpected higher input costs than had been anticipated. This led to overruns in certain areas, but through expenditure control measures and recoupment of revenue incomes from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, it has been possible to offset the negative impact.

In overall terms the total revenue expenditure for 2021 was €152.6m against a budgeted expenditure of €136.6m. The €16m over budget, was largely accounted for by Government initiatives including the Rates Waiver Scheme of €7.2m, Business Incentive Scheme of €3.6m and Roads Income of €5m.

There were over and under expenditures in service areas which generally compensated each other. Particular difficulty was experienced in Housing, where the Voids and Energy Retrofit Programmes resulted in a significant overspend but this was compensated for elsewhere.

He concluded by saying that he will respond to any Member seeking further information or explanations in respect of the Accounts.

Prior to queries being raised in respect of the Annual Financial Statement, the Cathaoirleach spoke of his sincere and personal appreciation to Mr. Mullarkey as he retires from his position as Head of Finance of Galway County Council, which he has held since 26<sup>th</sup> May 2004 and has steered the 'Finance Ship' of Galway County Council with a steady and calm pair of hands through times of great change. He stated that Mr. Mullarkey has always been extremely dedicated, diligent, and conscientious in his work, supportive to both the Members, staff and the Executive of Galway County Council and is deeply respected by everyone. He continued by saying that his leadership, support and commitment have been exemplary and as he embarks on the next exciting chapter, The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Mullarkey most sincerely for his dedication and hard work over the years and was wished a long, healthy and most of all a very happy retirement. The Cathaoirleach was joined by Cllrs. Byrne, Mannion, McKinstry, Thomas, M. Connolly, Hoade, Geraghty, Welby, Cuddy, P. Keaveney,

Donohue and Broderick in thanking Mr. Mullarkey for his years of service and wishing him well in his retirement.

**The following queries and points were raised by Cllrs. Byrne, D. Connolly, Mannion, McKinstry, Hoade, Geraghty, Cuddy and Broderick:**

- If the Department has made allowances due to the acceleration of costs relating to ground works, as this has a significant impact on delivery outputs of Galway County Council.
- Details of the Capital Account
- As the Annual Budget and Consideration of the Local Property Tax is not too far away, if there was an update on funding for Galway County Council from our Oireachtas members?
- How much funding is required by Galway County Council to carry out the required void and retrofitting works in Housing?
- A call on all public representatives to lobby for more funding for Galway County Council.

**Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Mullarkey:**

- He explained that the revenue account is the day-to-day expenditure and any surpluses are transferred into the capital account to cover the cost of capital projects. The example was given of burial ground provisions transferred to the capital account to pay for extensions to graveyards.

**Members queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:**

- That the Members queries highlighted the importance of maintaining financial prudence and that decisions made by Galway County Council have to be made to ensure we balance the books. Services need to be improved and the financial base for Galway County Council needs to be increased to enable this. The void and retro fitting projects in housing offers a good example of this as the Council should be spending an extra €1m per year. We are continuing to maintain our housing stock, but they deserve a higher standard of improvement.
- In comparison to other similar local authorities on the western seaboard we have a much lower level of funding. A study in NUIG set the figure of under-

funding as €20m and this highlights the level of underfunding we are experiencing.

The Chief Executive also added his thanks to Mr. Mullarkey. Having worked with him since 2002 he acknowledged the tremendous contribution he has made to Galway County Council. He thanked him personally and on behalf of the staff and wished him every health and happiness.

Mr. Mullarkey thanked everyone for their kind comments and thanked Ms. Fenton and Mr. McGovern and the Members for all their assistance throughout the years.

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for Galway County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry it was **AGREED**

- to adopt the figures as detailed in the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for Galway County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to formally close the accounts for 2021.
- to approve the transfers to / from reserves as detailed in Note 14 of the accounts
- to approve the over / under expenditure by division as noted in Note 16 of the accounts.

**ITEM NO.4 REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES AND OPERATION OF BODIES ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 141 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED BY SECTION 53 OF THE 2014 ACT).** 3994

*Report dated 20<sup>th</sup> of June was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

The Report on Activities and Operation of the following bodies was **NOTED** in accordance with section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

- Údarás na Gaeltachta

**ITEM NO.5 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, APPROVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CONTINUING AN AGREEMENT WITH GALWAY CITY COUNCIL UNDER SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE FOOD SAFETY OF IRELAND CONTRACT FOR GALWAY CITY COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE AREA BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL VETERINARY SERVICE**

3995

*Report dated 21<sup>st</sup> June was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Herterich Quinn **SECONDED** by Cllr. P. Keaveney. It was **AGREED** Galway County Council continue an agreement with Galway City Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the delivery of the Food Safety of Ireland contract for Galway City Council administrative area by Galway County Council veterinary service.

**Members queries were responded to by Eileen Ruane, Director of Services.**

The Members raised a number of queries/concerns about the future of the veterinary service in Galway County Council and the potential transfer of the service to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Ms. Ruane clarified that what was before the members today was the continuation of the Section 85 Agreement with Galway City Council relating solely to the operation of the Food Safety of Ireland contract.

Ms. Ruane also confirmed that separate to this, there were discussions ongoing nationally with respect to the future of the veterinary service in the local authorities generally across the country. It was decided that the Councillors would put in writing all their concerns and send it to the LGMA and that the Executive would seek further information about the planned move.

**ITEM NO.6 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).**

3996

*The Report dated 17<sup>th</sup> June was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Ó Curraoin **SECONDED** by Cllr. King it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Roche, Ó Cualáin and Ó Curraoin to attend the AILG Module 4 'Government Legislation Policy Programme 2022 at Allingham Arms Hotel, Bundoran on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 and Cllr. Herterich Quinn to attend at the alternative location at Horse & Jockey Hotel, Thurles on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keaveney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Walsh, Welby, Sheridan, Hoade, McClearn, Ó Curraoin and Herterich Quinn to attend the AILG Annual Training Conference 2022 at Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana on 23rd -24th March 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Herterich Quinn **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Herterich Quinn and Hoade attend the AILG Women's Regional Caucus at the Sligo Park Hotel, Co. Sligo on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. King and Ó Curraoin attend the AILG Module 3 'Finalising your Development Plan – key steps and requirements from the Development Plan Guidelines at Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone on 16<sup>th</sup> June and Cllrs. Roche and Hoade to attend at the alternative location at The Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**ITEM NO.7 TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDING OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECRTON 142 (5F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).**

3997

*Report dated 17<sup>th</sup> June was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

The summary of proceeding of the following conferences attended in accordance with section 142 (5f) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) were **NOTED**

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

3998

*Report dated 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Broderick **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea the Management Report – June 2022 in accordance with section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **NOTED**.

**The following queries and points were raised by Cllrs. Killilea, Donohue, Herterich, Byrne, McKinstry, Broderick, Sheridan, Ó Cualáin, Cllr. Dr. Parsons, King and Cronnelly.**

- If the homeless services currently being provided by Corrib Village will extend beyond the end of August. As there are concerns of the effect this would have on the provision of student accommodation in September.
- An update on a start date of works for the scheme on the R332 in Tuam.
- A list of the Council representatives on the SICAP Sub Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June.
- Gratitude for the inclusion of Athenry Heritage Centre in the Cathaoirleach Awards.
- The next steps in the County Development Plan process, following receipt of the Ministerial Direction.
- When pre-planning meetings under Section 247 would resume.
- Why the new regulations amending fees chargeable for street furniture licences under section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, are only applicable to premises that serve food.
- If there are lifeguards at all blue flag beaches and if levels of recruitment were affected by the low levels of remuneration offered by Galway County Council

- Acknowledgement of the Creative Ireland Cruinniú na nÓg event that was very well attended and to the Skehana Heritage Group for their Bloomsday event which was also a huge success.
- The lack of story books for children in the traveller community and the role of social inclusion in addressing this.
- Acknowledgement of the achievement of the recipients of the Green Coast Awards.
- If there is a provision for NAMA properties in the housing stock.

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

- The current situation in Corrib Village occurs every year. It is used during the summer period to alleviate the pressure on hostels and hotels. This will cease at the end of August in time for the start of the new academic year.
- There is a distinction between voids and our own housing stock. The Vacant Homes officer looks at vacant properties that could meet a specific need where our own stock is unsuitable. A Vacant Homes policy document will be presented to the Housing SPC in September. He invited the Members to submit details of potential properties to the Vacant Homes Officer.
- That there is no NAMA list of properties. Engagement in relation to this is with the Housing Agency at national level.

**Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens.**

- Regarding the Ministerial Direction relating to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, written submissions or observations may be made to the Council between 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Elected Members may make submissions to the Galway County Council and the OPR, these will be copied to the Minister. The observations and submissions will form part of the Statutory Chief Executive's Report which must be submitted to the OPR within 4 weeks. The OPR will then advise the Minister.
- Regards pre-planning meetings, work will begin to schedule the current 40-44 meeting requests. Available resources are directed to fulfil statutory

requirements. Further interviews for planners are scheduled for later this week, this will be the third round of interviews held in 12 months.

- In reply to the request for a point of contact in the Planning Department he explained that when Members make submissions regarding an application, they will receive updates. Written submissions are copied to the file in an open and transparent manner. The new online portal is expected to go live mid-July
- The regulations for outdoor dining are determined by the Minister, Galway County Council cannot change the categories that are included in the regulation. The resulting loss of fees from the change would be small.
- A lifeguard panel is in place. From 1<sup>st</sup> July lifeguards will be on duty 7 days per week at the nominated beaches. There are sufficient lifeguards recruited for the season.

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

- The acquisition of land at the R332 is currently with the Law Agent. Tender documents are being reviewed and it will then be put out for tender. A start date of Q3 or Q4 is envisaged.

A discussion took place regarding Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and outdoor dining. Where the benefit to the night-time economy by extending it to non-food providing service providers and the stated small loss in income from extending the scheme, was discussed.

Another discussion took place regarding the access of Elected Members to County Hall and the contact they currently have with Council staff. Councillors McClearn, Mannion, Ó Cualáin and Geraghty stated their need to communicate with Council staff face to face and that while during Covid, their access had been reduced to County Hall, it is no longer necessary that access continues to be denied. The discussion continued where Members voiced concerns at delays in responses from Council staff from enquiries submitted.

Comh. Ó Cualáin enquired about the City dockland development. That the biggest cruise ship had arrived in Galway but could not dock. That opportunities for tourism revenue are being lost.

Cllr. Cuddy voiced his dissatisfaction at the lack of planning enforcement. Cllr. Broderick questioned if it were possible for there to be one Enforcement section, combining the departments of Planning and Environment.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that he had been in discussions with the Chief Executive and CPG regarding access of Members to County Hall. That he personally hasn't been denied access and assured the meeting that a protocol will be set at CPG and brought before the July plenary meeting. It was confirmed that each department would provide direct contacts for Elected Members to submit queries too.

**Members queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:**

Mr. Cullen fully accepted the need for public representatives to have access to Council officials to operate effectively but uncontrolled access presented difficulty due to Data Protection requirements and that he will ensure that Elected Members will continue to have access to staff to deal with their queries but that this access would be in a controlled manner. He will ensure that there are designated points of contact within each Section and that enquiries are answered and that if there are specific problems in certain areas that this will be addressed.

The discussion continued with Cllrs. McClearn, Ó Cualáin, Geraghty, Kinane, Mannion, Byrne, Hoade, McHugh, Canning. M. Connolly, Thomas, Dr. Parsons again voicing their frustrations at the lack of communication from Council staff and that they as Elected Members already dealt with confidential information on a daily basis.

The Chief Executive agreed with the Members that good communication is very important and that the root of the problem was that the Council requires more staff. He expressed his disappointment at the extent of negative comments, which he felt didn't reflect the extent of the work being carried out by Galway County Council staff. He said the regulations that we are bound by to keep information secure has changed enormously. He said he would liaise with the Cathaoirleach and CPG around a protocol for access that reflected the wishes of the members while reflecting the Chief Executives responsibility towards staff and data protection.

The item concluded with Cllrs. Donohue, Charity and Hoade stating that the problem does not occur in every department. Comh. Ó Cualáin asked if under GDPR, Elected Members were entitled to see information being held, to which Mr. Cullen replied that they were not.

The Cathaoirleach wished the newly elected Cathaoirligh of the Municipal Districts well in their new roles.

**ITEM NO.9 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE DRAFT POLICY ON THE APPROVAL AND PLACEMENT OF ROADSIDE MEMORIALS**

3999

*Report dated 20<sup>th</sup> April was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Ó Cualáin **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy it was AGREED to adopt the Draft Policy on the Approval and Placement of Roadside Memorials.

Mr. Pender presented the Draft Policy on the approval and placement of Roadside Memorials to the meeting. He explained that the draft policy had been brought before plenary in June 2021 and had been referred back to the Transportation and Marine Strategic Policy Committee. Submissions were invited on the proposed policy, the closing date of which was 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The policy brought before the Council today, was agreed at the Transportation and Marine Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022. He outlined that the proposed policy is intended to set out a procedure to deal with requests that the Council receives from families of road incident victims, who wish to erect a memorial at the scene of a road accident. In developing this policy, consultation and liaison was initiated between Galway County Council, An Garda Síochána and Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Regional Safety Engineer. He informed the meeting that this proposed policy will not affect existing memorials, however, should an existing memorial become damaged and / or in need of replacement, the replacement memorial must comply with this policy.

The Elected Members thanked Mr. Pender for the work on drafting the proposed policy and acknowledged the sensitivity of this policy. A query was raised by Cllr. Charity in

the circumstance that not all family members were in agreement of erecting a memorial, Mr. Pender replied that the Roads department would act in a sympathetic manner to all.

**ITEM NO.10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**4000**

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

- Letter dated 05.07.21 to Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D. Resolution - Colouring of disabled parking bays.
- Email dated 08.06.22 from Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D. Response - Colouring of disabled parking bays.
- Letter dated 06.04.22 to Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D. Resolution - Compensation Scheme Roadbridge.
- Letter dated 17.05.22 from Éamonn McCormack, Private Secretary to Leo Varadkar R T.D. Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Response - Compensation Scheme Roadbridge.
- Letter dated 14.05.22 from Minister for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke T.D. – Outdoor Summer Scheme.
- Letter dated 17.05.22 from Cavan County Council. Resolution – Oppose the ban on cutting and sale of turf.
- Letter dated 18.05.22 from Clare County Council. Resolution – to contact Department of Transport to insist that DAA diverts spare capacity traffic to other Irish airports.
- Letter dated 18.05.22 from Clare County Council. Resolution – Basic Income for Artists with Disabilities.
- Letter dated 27.05.22 to all Local Authorities. Resolution – Public Recognition Marker (PRM) for the LGBTQI+ Community.
- Letter dated 27.05.22 to Minister for Tourism, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin T.D. Resolution – Basic Income for Artists.
- Letter dated 14.06.22 from Minister for Tourism, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin T.D. Response- Basic Income for Artists.

- Letter dated 27.05.22 to Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys T.D. Resolution – Basic Income for Artists.
- Letter dated 31.05.22 from Caroline Kilkenny, Private Secretary for Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys T.D. Acknowledgement - Basic Income for Artists.
- Letter dated 27.05.22 to Department of Rural and Community Development. Resolution – Clár Scheme.
- Email dated 02.06.22 from Department of Rural and Community Development Response – Clár Scheme.
- Letter dated 27.05.22 to Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan T.D. Resolution – Solar Panels.
- Letter dated 27.05.22 to Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Resolution – National Information Campaign.
- Email dated 03.06.22 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Response – National Information Campaign.
- Letter dated 27.05.22 to Mr. Derek Pender, DOS. Resolution – Audit of Slipways.
- Letter dated 27.05.22 to Mr. Derek Pender, DOS. Resolution – Disabled parking spaces.
- Letter dated 27.05.22 to Mr. Michael Owens, DOS. Resolution - Sustainable Development Goal Number & Description.
- Mayors for Peace News Flash – May 2022
- Letter dated 13.06.22 from President of Mayors for Peace-International Day of Peace on 21.09.22
- Letter dated 16.06.22 from Clare County Council. Resolution – Review of National Aviation Policy.
- Letter dated 16.06.22 from Sligo County Council. Resolution – Public Passport office in Sligo
- Letter dated 16.06.22 from Sligo County Council. Resolution – National Abhaile Service.
- Email and documents dated 18.06.22 from Mayors for Peace Secretariat - Announcement of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace.

- Email and document dated 19.06.22 from Mayors for Peace UK/Ireland Chapter  
Briefing No 37 - The Manchester Peace Garden

**ITEM NO.11 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS.**

**4001**

The following Motions were submitted:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Dr. Francis Parsons **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue it was **AGREED**:

*"that Galway County Council seek the addition of a Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence Liaison Officer to the Galway County Council's Housing Department. Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence is at an all time high in Galway. Key findings of the review of Accommodation for Victims of Domestic Violence confirms the need for more refuge provision, the necessity for it to be fully integrated with wraparound specialist services and the necessity for a suite of accommodation measures to support adult victims and children access a safe home and be enabled and supported to leave an abusive domestic situation rather than being forced to live with their abuser or choose homelessness"*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kinane **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn it was **AGREED**:

*"that the Director of Roads and Transportation, Derek Pender provide a commencement date for Galway County Council speed limit review, at the July Plenary meeting of Galway County Council"*

Context:

Speed is the biggest contributing factor in road death in Ireland. When a pedestrian or cyclists is hit at 50km/hr they have a 50% chance of living but hit at 60km/hr, sadly chance of survival drops to just 10%. These statistics are so stark that we strongly believe that we as a local authority undertake a speed limit review of our county local roads as a matter of urgency.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. P. Keaveney it was **AGREED**:

*"to write to the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) to inform them of the views and concerns of this Local Authority of the transfer of our Veterinary Service to Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by December 2022"*

A discussion took place, under agenda item number 5 and the following views and concerns were raised by Cllrs. Hoade, Cuddy, Killilea, Geraghty, McClearn, M. Connolly and Herterich Quinn in relation to the proposed plan to transfer Veterinary Services from Local Authorities including Galway County Council to the Department of Agriculture next December.

Points raised by the Members included:

- The loss of support to small local businesses in the food area and the potential impact on the local economy.
- Concerns in relation to the excellent work carried out by the veterinary service on behalf of Galway County Council outside of the Food Safety inspection work programme.
- The further erosion of the local authority sector and diminution of its powers and responsibilities.
- Concerns in relation to future disease outbreak and the absence of a professional veterinary unit to inform the appropriate and immediate response.
- Lack of local support for abattoirs and butchers.
- Concerns in relation to increased bureaucracy and overburdening of paperwork and red tape and the potential for future closures of abattoirs.
- The local veterinary service works very closely with elected members to assist at short notice when issues arise on the ground and in the communities, concerns were expressed that this will not happen if the service transfers from the County Council.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kelly it was **AGREED**:

*"that Galway County Council write to the Dept of Agriculture and the Dept of Local Government seeking a collaboration in providing financial assistance to local authorities, property and landowners who have identified ash die back on their trees and which could be at considerable risk of structural failure especially trees located roadside."*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED**:

*"That the Council write to the relevant Minister to amend Section 254 to include Public Houses that do not serve food."*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED**:

*"That a special meeting of the JPC be convened before the end of July and discuss the proposed changed of the Garda Division for the County"*

**ITEM NO.12 NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4002**

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

*"That this Council calls on the Irish government to ratify, without further delay, The Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs which was adopted by the Council of Europe on 9 July 2014 in order to criminalise illegal organ transplantations. The Irish Government has already signed this convention, but is yet to ratify it.*

*Part 2) This Council calls on the Irish Government, as a matter of urgency to emphatically demand the Chinese Government to immediately cease the persecution and Forced Live Organ Extraction of peaceful Falun Gong practitioners and release*

*all Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience from incarceration and captivity.*

**ITEM NO.13 VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**4003**

**A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:**

Mrs. Ann Sweeney, Ballygarraun North, Athenry, Co. Galway

Mr. Seosamh Ó Laoi, Lettermullen, Co. Galway.

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach: Michael Maher

Date: 25/07/2022

