

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL**  
**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 at 11.00am**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Cathaoirleach Carroll  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, I. Canning, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, J. Cuddy, T. Ó Curraoin, G. Donohue, G. Finnerty, M. Hoade, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, S. McHugh, A. McKinstry, PJ. Murphy, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

**Baill ar líne:** Comh./Cllr. J. Byrne, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, S. Curley, A. Dolan, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, P. Keaveney, M. Kinane, G. King, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, Dr. E. Francis Parsons.

**Oifigh:** Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services, Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services, Ms. Eileen Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. Jean Brann, A/Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Head of Finance, Ms. L. Keady, Meetings Administrator, Mr. M. O'Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha na Gaeilge, Ms. H. Riordan, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. B. Reilly, Clerical Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The sympathies of the Council were conveyed to the families and friends of the late Mr. Tom Hussey and Ms. Kathleen, Quinn, former County Councillors of County Galway.

The dedication and years of service of the late Mr. Tom Hussey in his positions as a Minister of State, TD, Senator and member of Galway County Council were conveyed. The commitment Ms. Kathleen Quinn gave to her community during her two terms as an Elected Member of Galway County Council were commended.

As a mark of respect on the passing of both Mr. Hussey and Ms. Quinn the plenary meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.

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

4271

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were **AGREED**.

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- The staff in the Carraroe office were complimented on the works carried out to the wall in Leitir Móir.
- There has been no water supply in Carraroe since last Monday. Irish Water have not responded to enquiries nor to a request made on Wednesday for water tanks to be provided.
- An update on the provision of webcasting was requested.
- Reference was made to the motion agreed at the December meeting that '*the right of International Protection Applicants to seek asylum in Ireland, and that this right should be exercised without harassment or intimidation or fear thereof.*'
- The low water pressure in the Cooloo area of Moylough was raised. It was stated that the water infrastructure needs upgrading.
- The delay in planning applicants receiving letters from Irish Water that are required to submit with their planning applications was raised.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender:**

- Irish Water are now called Uisce Éireann. He undertook to write to Uisce Éireann regarding their response times and will circulate the correspondence to the Members.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were **AGREED**.

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- That it be noted in the minutes that following representations by the Elected Member the appointment of a caretaker in Renville Park is being progressed.
- The executive was asked to address the anomaly where non rate payers are benefitting to the same or similar degree as compliant rate payers. Also, if any other local authority have asked the department to reconsider the contents of the circular before it is finalised.
- Clarity was sought on the eligibility grounds for the Small Business Support Grant and the definition of 'rates compliant'.
- A request that forms on the council website be updated.
- A request to address the accessibility of graveyards.
- A request to write to the department to increase the threshold for Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) in County Galway.

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

- Regarding the appointment of a caretaker in Renville Park. The Chief Executive confirmed that the recruitment process is underway.
- We are awaiting the Circular to be issued by the Minister on the Small Business Support Scheme. When circular is received, it will be implemented.
- The process to upgrade the Council's website is underway as part of the Council wide Digital Strategy preparation and implementation.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. O'Connor:**

- The County and City Management Association (CCMA) Finance Committee have not met since the December meeting. Her understanding is that signing up to a phased payment plan is considered to be compliant with the scheme, she will however confirm this.
- She is unaware if any local authority has approached the Minister regarding this. The final Circular has not been issued. They hope that the relevant Government Circular will be issued in quarter 1 2024.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Ruane:**

- Auditing of the graveyards is currently being undertaken. The audit includes an accessibility aspect. Once complete, funding will be applied for.

**ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 4272**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the minutes of the Community and Culture SPC held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were **NOTED**.

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- A request was made that the presentations to be given on the draft Beach Bye Laws to the Strategic Policy Committee also be made to the Municipal Districts.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Brann:**

- The request will be facilitated.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea the minutes of the Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Cllr. Canning the minutes of the Community and Culture SPC held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were **NOTED**.

**ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER A CHANGE OF DATE OF THE FEBRUARY PLENARY MEETING TO THE 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 TO ALLOW FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN BY THE MEMBERS AHEAD OF ITS ADOPTION DEADLINE.**

4273

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington it was **AGREED** to hold the February Monthly Meeting of Plenary Council on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 11am.

**ITEM NO. 4 (A) TO REVOKE RESOLUTION 4058 OF 28th NOVEMBER 2022, WHICH APPROVED THE DISPOSAL OF 0.18 ACRES AT BALLYMORE, CRAUGHWELL, CO. GALWAY.**

4274

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Murphy it was **AGREED** to revoke Resolution 4058 of November 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 which approved the disposal of 0.18 acres at Ballymore, Craughwell, Co. Galway.

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- Clarification was sought as to when the monetary value is exchanged, following the passing of a resolution. Concern was raised at the perceived inefficient recovery of money by the Council.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender:**

- The legal transfer of ownership of land cannot occur until the money has been transferred. The final seal will not happen until the Electronic Funds Transfer has occurred.

**ITEM NO. 4 (B) TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.12 ACRES OF LAND AT BALLYMORE, CRAUGHWELL, CO. GALWAY.**

**4275**

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Murphy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.12 acres of land at Ballymore, Craughwell, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.

**ITEM NO.5 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).**

**4276**

*Report dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Welby, McClearn and Broderick to attend LAMA Training 'Building for Success' at The Abbey Hotel, Donegal on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Broderick, Welby and McClearn to attend Association of Irish Regions Conference at The Woodlands House Hotel, Adare on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Welby and McClearn and Comh. Ó Curraoin to attend AILG Annual Training Conference at The Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

**ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – JANUARY 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).**

4277

*Report dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

The Management Report – January 2024, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- Welcomed Garrahuair, Kinvara being shortlisted for LAMA best housing regeneration and urban planning award.
- Request to consider increasing the height of flood gates in Kinvara by 2-3 feet.
- A request for an update from the Council's meeting with the Office of Public Works (OPW) following Storm Debi.
- Request for the Director to meet with business owners in Clarenbridge that were impacted by Storm Debi.
- The submission of applications for capital funding following Storm Debi was welcomed.
- Gort Town Centre First Plan was welcomed.
- Disappointment at the minimal increase in on-the-spot fines for offences under the Control of Dogs Act and query if the rate was set nationally or locally.
- Thanks conveyed to the team that undertook the Milestone marker mapping.
- Query as to when the tenancy agreements will be signed for the housing developments in Tuam.
- Tuam Regeneration Team will be lodging a Part 8 application on 1<sup>st</sup> February for the proposed development in The Shambles.
- Funding is required for works to Tuam Town Hall.

- Query as to why the Council cannot provide the Gardaí with Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) footage.
- Request to write to the Minister to pass the required legislation through the Dáil to enable the use of CCTV footage.
- Thanks to the Roads Team and all staff for their work during Storm Isha.
- The Waste Management notices that have been issued, were noted.
- Concern was raised on the dumping of rubbish on roadsides, specifically on the N84.
- The success of the provision of salt bins throughout the County.
- Due to the rate in increase of population of Claregalway and its inclusion in the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) it was asked if a Local Area Plan could be considered for the town.
- The need for an Ambulance and Fire Station base in Claregalway.
- Request to prioritise the completion of the Athenry Northern Ring Road.
- Acknowledgement of the works carried out in the Community Involvement Scheme outside Headford.
- Clarification on the Housing Inspection Improvement Works for properties and in particular the enforcement letters procedure.
- If Tuam could be included in the Rent Pressure Zone (RPZ).
- Cllr. Parsons wanted it noted that she was not in attendance at the Ballinasloe Municipal District Meeting when a decision was made on the raising of the Palestinian flag at St. Michael's Square in Ballinasloe.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender:**

- A total of €750,000 has been sought under the capital funding submission related to the clean-up costs of Storm Debi.
- Raising the height of the flood gates is the short-term plan to address the flooding risk in Kinvara and Clarenbridge.  
Environmental studies are required to provide a long-term solution. This was on the agenda of the meeting with the OPW.
- The Athenry Fire Station is awaiting electricity connection, the timeline for this is March / April 2024.

- The Athenry relief road will be going to tender.
- The Department have given funding for the acquisition of land to the north.
- He asked members of the public not to attempt to remove fallen trees or poles themselves, due to the possibility of live electric cables possibly imbedded in the trees.
- He acknowledged and thanked all the internal and outside staff for their work during the storm.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens:**

- The eligibility income limits for HAP are set by the Minister and not at the discretion of the Council.
- It is envisaged that the tenancies for the housing development on the Dublin Road, Tuam will be offered in Q1 2024. Weir Road development will be in a phased basis between Q2 and Q3 2024. The Vicarschoraland will be on a phased basis.
- He will e-mail Cllr. Killilea the number of tenancies to be offered.
- The RPZs are decided on data from the average cost of rent in the whole Local Electoral Area or Municipal District, not solely from the Town cost data.

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

- CCTV legislation has been prepared. The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) are preparing the required Codes of Practice.
- The Code of Practice will govern the use of CCTV for use in instances of illegal waste offences only.
- He acknowledged the work of outdoor and indoor staff during the Storm at the weekend and also the work of the Garda Siochána, Electricity Supply Board (ESB) and the other State Agencies involved in the storm clean-up.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Hanrahan:**

- Claregalway will be included on the agenda of the upcoming Joint Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- He will discuss the issue with the Regeneration Officer. Claregalway should be placed on the next list.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Ruane:**

- The rate of increase of the on-the-spot fines for offences under the Control of Dogs Act is not determined by the Council. She will bring the matter to the attention of the Working Group.

**ITEM NO. 7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.** 4278

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

- Letter dated 12.12.23 from Limerick City & County Council. Resolution – Wind Energy Development Guidelines.
- Letter dated 12.12.23 from Clare County Council. Resolution – Multi Annual Rural Water Programme.
- Letter dated 12.12.23 from Clare County Council. Resolution – Request to revisit the current model of policing.
- Letter dated 12.12.23 from Clare County Council. Resolution – Request to review Part V obligations.
- Letter dated 18.12.23 from Limerick City & County Council. Resolution – Retention of dedicated community policing units.
- Letter dated 20.12.23 from Offaly County Council. Resolution – Sale of State Lands.
- Letter dated 05.01.24 to Roderick O'Gorman T.D. Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth. Resolution – Engagement & Consultation with Communities

- Email dated 09.01.24 from Private Secretary to Roderick O'Gorman T.D. – Resolution – Engagement & Consultation with Communities.
- Acknowledgement.
- Mayors for Peace News Flash December 2023.

**ITEM 8. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4279**

**Cllr. Donohue submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council urgently seek funding from Central Government for the putting in place a Dedicated Ash Dieback Team that will also include for the mechanical dismantling of affected roadside trees that are a major risk to human life and also a major risk to the general operatives that may be called out following a storm. A copy of this Motion to be sent to all 31 Local Authorities also.'*

**The following reply issued:**

'The putting in place of a Dedicated Ash Dieback Team that will include for the mechanical dismantling of affected roadside trees that may be a major risk to human life is something the Council can support but would not be able to manage or administer. The expertise for such a team lies in other external agencies who have the relevant knowledge and experience, have the recognised qualifications and expertise in advising on the management of roadside trees. They also need to be able to work to recognised best practice standards. These external agencies would include the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine and possibly the Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte.

The Council would indeed support any external agency tasked with this work in any way it could.

It is worth noting, land ownership normally extends to the centre of the road; therefore, it is the landowner – not the local authority – who is responsible for the trees and hedges beside the road.

The Roads Act 1993 requires owners or occupiers of land to take all reasonable steps to ensure that trees or other vegetation on their land are not a hazard to persons using a public road.'

**ITEM 9. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4280**

**Cllr. Broderick submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'Following on from the recent generous donation of 32,000,000 euros to GAA clubs by J P McManus, for which he is to be commended, I noted some comments made by Minister Ann Rabbite, where the minister feels the donation should be put towards improving disability space at GAA clubs. As a treasurer of my local GAA club, I am acutely aware that in the majority of cases the money coming from JP, is already spoken for, but the minister has the bones of a good idea, and on foot of that I would like to make the following proposal;*

*Call on minister Rabbite's department to provide a 32,000,000 euro fund to enable GAA clubs throughout the country an opportunity to improve existing, or provide much needed disability space in their clubs.'*

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Broderick **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby the above Notice of Motion was **AGREED**.

**ITEM 10. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4281**

**Cllr. Dolan submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That each Director of Services ensure that a digital/online version of all forms that the people may need to access is available, while also providing a paper version for those who may still need to use a hard copy.'*

**The following reply issued:**

'The Council is currently working on the development of our Digital Strategy which will further build on our online access to services across the organisation. Currently online services are available for planning, motor tax, housing repairs, housing needs and the register of electors, with work also underway on other service areas.

We will continue to ensure that paper based forms are available for customers that may require the service delivered in this manner.'

**ITEM 11. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4282**

**Cllr. Killilea submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'The Tuam Municipal District proposes that Galway Co Co send a delegation to meet with minister Heather Humphreys with the aim to secure a one off €5 million payment to clear the back log in LIS schemes. At present it is envisaged that no new application will be made until 2026 as funding is an issue.'*

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- This funding would enable the applications that are currently on hand to be cleared before the new scheme opens.
- It was asked if the Council have the capacity to deliver the works if the monies were received.
- Current applications already submitted should be processed before new ones.
- If it is a requirement that there must be two herd numbers on a road to qualify for the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) or if the criteria has changed.
- That the Chairperson of each MD form the delegation to meet the Minister.
- That this proposal go through the Roads and Transportation SPC.
- If the Council are obliged to take a road in charge if funded by Local Improvement Scheme.
- Can an application that was refused under the old scheme be put on the list under the new scheme.

- If a road has not been taken in charge could this affect a mortgage application.
- If Notice of Motion (NOM) monies could be used to get roads up to the standard for them to be taken in charge.
- It was queried how applications are prioritised.
- That applications on roads where there are dwellings be prioritised over upgrading of agricultural roads.
- The actual demand for upgrading works under the LIS scheme is not fully reflected as the application process is currently closed.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender:**

- Once there are two domestic properties on a road the application will meet the criteria of the scheme. Possession of a herd number is not a requirement.
- He will forward the members the up-to-date Local Improvement Scheme information.
- Previous legislation stated that a Local Authority could not take in charge a road that had received LIS funding. This decision to take a road in charge is a Reserved Function. A road can now be upgraded under the LIS and still be eligible to be taken in charge.
- He will discuss specific cases once he has circulated the current terms and conditions of the scheme.
- He has heard anecdotally of mortgage applications being refused due to the road not being taken in charge by the Council.
- It would take approximately four years to get the end of the current list of applications.
- An undertaking was given in December to re-open the scheme and it will be re-opened.
- We are in a position to spend the €5m if we were to receive it, however there is a MD capacity issue.
- It is a Reserved Function to take a road in charge. However, once taken in charge the executive will be required to maintain the road. The Council do not have enough funding to cover the maintenance of roads that are currently in charge of the Council.

- Applications are prioritised on a first come first served basis.
- Monies received from the Department are not based on the km of roads in the County. It is the Council that distributes the monies to MDs based on km of roadage.
- Existing applications will be processed first. It will take up to four years for new applications to be processed. We will need to manage expectations of new applicants.

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

- The LIS application process will reopen by the end of Q1 2024 as I committed to last October.
- New applications will be attached to the bottom of the current list, Transparency and fairness must apply.
- In acceding to Member's requests to reopen the LIS application process. We need to manage expectation of the new applicants and ensure that they are aware of the wait time.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche the above Notice of Motion was **AGREED**.

It was agreed that the Roads and Transport SPC which has a member from each Municipal District on it would be the appropriate delegation to meet with Minister Humphreys and it was agreed the MDs would coordinate the request.

**ITEM 12. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4283**

**Cllr. Parsons submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'I propose that Galway County Council seek to establish a Projects Management Office (PMO) within Galway County Council, dedicated to overseeing the efficient and effective application and management of capital development projects aligned with the council's strategic plans and to deliver on the GCDP.'*

*Project Management Offices are operational in some other County Councils and the establishment of same has been considered very beneficial in terms of smart effective use of staffing, resources, quality and value for money. The chronic underfunding of GCC would lean towards making maximal effective use of scarce resources.*

*The need for a specialized PMO arises from the increasing complexity of capital projects, the widened range of funding stream applications and the huge draw on existing stretched staff and in particular municipal resources on the ground and the establishment of a dedicated Project Management Office seems imperative to focus on targeted funding applications for the county and enable concentrated alignment with best design and building practices on projects.*

*A PMO would serve as a centralized hub for project management, ensuring consistency, professionalism, and adherence to industry standards. There is a fear that GCC risks missing out on significant opportunities to attract funding and take on ambitious infrastructural projects due to its consistent lack of central funding down the years, and the consequent impacts on staffing and resources. This may be a smarter way to do more with less.'*

**The following reply issued:**

*'Thank you for your correspondence in relation to a Project Management Office for Galway County Council. As discussed at recent plenary meetings the Strategic Workforce Plan (SWFP) is well underway and this will guide the direction of the Council's workforce over the coming years. There are a number of areas that we are prioritising under this piece of work, which will include strengthening of the municipal districts; digitisation of services and the development of a centralised project management office for the efficient progression of key strategic projects across the organisation.'*

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- A timeline for the establishment of a Projects Management Office (PMO) was requested.
- A PMO is vital to ensure plans get off the ground.
- A PMO could help address the underfunded balances.
- A PMO could create another tier of management and lead to projects slowing down.

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

- He acknowledged the requirement to get the best and most efficient use of staff resources.
- PMO model was being considered as part of the Strategic Workplace Planning review which together with Digitisation are a high priority for the organisation.

**ITEM NO.13 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

**4284**

As per Standing Order 28, as the motion was proposed without notice '*it shall be necessary for a majority of the Members present to approve the taking of the motion and it shall be necessary for the passing of the motion that not less than 20 members vote in favour.*'

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan:

*'I propose that we write to the garda commissioner asking them to ensure that in any of their criminal investigations that there can be no political interference whatsoever when it comes to the investigation of any crime.'*

As the motion was proposed without the required notice, the Cathaoirleach referenced Standing Order 28. A vote was taken and a majority of the Members present voted to approve the taking of the motion.

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- The motion needed to be clearly defined, the wording was vague.
- Every case should be dealt with in the same manner irrespective of the attention it may have received either politically or in the media.
- To ensure that the process is dealt with in a fair and transparent manner.
- Concerns were raised that the motion may imply mistrust of the Gardaí by the Council.
- Suggested that the motion be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

A vote was taken on the motion.

The following was the result:

**For 13**

Cllr. Charity	Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. Curley
Comh. Ó Curraoín	Cllr. Finnerty	Cllr. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. Hoade	Cllr. Killilea	Cllr. Kinane
Cllr. S. McHugh	Cllr. Sheridan	Cllr. Thomas
Cllr. Walsh		

**Against 12**

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Carroll	Cllr. Cuddy
Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. Kelly	Cllr. Maher
Cllr. Mannion	Cllr. McKinstry	Cllr. Murphy
Cllr. Reddington	Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Welby

**Abstain 2**

Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. Dr. E. F. Parsons
----------------	-------------------------

**No-Voting 12**

Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Canning	Cllr. Collins
Cllr. Dolan	Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. Cronnelly
Comh. Ó Cualáin	Cllr. Donohue	Cllr. C. Keaveney
Cllr. King	Comh. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. McClearn

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the motion was not carried as it did not meet the threshold set out in number 28 of standing orders (20 members).

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh:

*'I propose that we write to all political party leaders to express the opinion that all elected representatives are unreservedly entitled to attend any peaceful protest concerning the citizens of this country without criticism from any of the said party leaders.'*

As the motion was proposed without the required notice, the Cathaoirleach referenced Standing Order 28. A vote was taken and a majority of the members present voted to approve the taking of the motion.

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- This is not subject matter relevant to the Chamber.
- Everyone has the right to protest.
- The motion is case specific.
- Not everyone in the Chamber has a party leader.

A vote was taken on the motion.

The following was the result:

**For 15**

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Charity	Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. Curley	Comh. Ó Curraoín	Cllr. Finnerty
Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. Hoade	Cllr. Killilea
Cllr. Kelly	Cllr. S. McHugh	Cllr. Sheridan
Cllr. Thomas	Cllr. Walsh	Cllr. Welby

**Against 7**

Cllr. Carroll	Cllr. Maher	Cllr. Mannion
Cllr. McKinstry	Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Reddington
Cllr. Roche		

**Abstain 2**

Cllr. Cuddy	Cllr. Dr. E. F. Parsons
-------------	-------------------------

**No-Voting 15**

Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Canning	Cllr. Collins
Cllr. Dolan	Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. Cronnelly
Comh. Ó Cualáin	Cllr. Donohue	Cllr. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. Kinane
Cllr. King	Comh. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. McClearn

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the motion was not carried as it did not meet the threshold set out in number 28 of standing orders (20 members).

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea:

*"I propose that we write to Minister to finalise Codes of Practice in the necessary legislation to allow us use CCTV images to deal with illegal dumping."*

The Cathaoirleach advised Cllr. Hoade that the Chief Executive will write to the relevant Minister regarding this motion. Cllr. Hoade withdrew her NOM in response to the undertaking by the Chief Executive.

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Sheridan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh:

*"I propose that Galway Co. Co. pay 'Red Alert' standby rates to our Fire brigade 1<sup>st</sup> responders staff to be 'ready to go' upon need in rare but more frequent red alert periods."*

Cllr. Sheridan confirmed that he was happy for his motion to be deferred and be included in the agenda for the February plenary meeting.

Cllr. McKinstry sought an update as to whether Bus Éireann had responded to the request for them to present to the January plenary in respect of the school transport scheme. The Cathaoirleach confirmed that no response had been received to the invitation.

**Members raised the following points and queries under Cathaoirleach's business:**

- Frustration at perceived inconsistent planning decisions.
- What the implications are if a landlord does not comply with an Improvement Notice.
- The problem of overhanging roadside trees that are catching wires which is causing power connections being lost.
- Thanks were conveyed to Cllr. Steven McHugh on his last plenary meeting. Special mention was made of his work on the project to cover The Shambles in Tuam and the assistance he gave the Regeneration Team.
- If the fees in relation to the concerts at the airport had been agreed.
- The executive were complimented on the success of the implementation of the air to water Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) sim cards

that can be accessed remotely. A request to send the tenants further information on how to use them was made.

- Information was requested on the Septic Grant scheme.
- The provision of wastewater treatment in South Galway was raised. Two schemes have been implemented but there are a number of smaller locations that still require a scheme. A request to look for an alternative method of providing waster water treatment aside from Uisce Éireann was requested.
- If free parking could be introduced in towns until 11am to help keep small businesses open in County towns.

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

- The specific planning application queries should be raised with the Director of Planning.
- Negotiations on the concerts in the Airport are ongoing and once finalised the details will be summarised for the Members by the DoS of Economic Development & Planning.
- The executive will respond to the request for information on the Septic Grant scheme.
- Uisce Éireann as the Water Authority have assumed responsibility for wastewater schemes.
- Parking charges can be referred back to the Roads SPC. If this were implemented there would be a significant drop in income to the Council which would result in programmes of works being negatively impacted.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens:**

- The minimum standards are regulated by the Minister and apply to all rented properties, including HAP tenancies. It is the responsibility of the landlord to comply. Where a landlord is not in compliance an an Improvement Notice will issue, Prohibition Notice will follow and if they continue to be in breach of minimum standards then legal proceedings may be taken. This does not impact the tenant or tenancy.

- The Housing Team are happy to re-engage and assist in the management of the GSM cards.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender:**

- The responsibility of roadside trees lies with the landowner. The Council will help where we can, but ultimate responsibility lies with the landowner.

The Cathaoirleach informed the Council that the Padraig Pearse scholarship scheme has opened. Information can be obtained on the Council website and the closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**ITEM NO.14 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS**

**4285**

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

- St. Thomas' Hurling Team on their success in the AIB All-Ireland Club Senior Hurling Championship final.
- Gort / Monivea U16 Girls rugby team on becoming the Division 2 League Champions

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

- Barney McAleer, Oughterard, Co. Galway.
- Josie (Joe) Healy, Portacarrow, Oughterard, Co. Galway.
- Maura Costelloe & Family, Thomastown, Belclare, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- John Dillon, Ballyglass, Kilconnell, Ballinsloe, Co. Galway, H53 D215.
- Michael Kenny, Lisheenvalla, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
- John O'Brien, Waterview, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.
- Tony Badger, Canteeny, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

**Submitted, Signed and Approved**

**Cathaoirleach:**

ieran Carroll

**Date:**

19/2/2024