

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL**

**Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 11.00am**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Cathaoirleach Carroll

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, T. Ó Curraoin, A. Dolan, G. Donohue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, M. Hoade, P. Keaveney, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, G. King, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, S. McHugh, A. McKinstry, PJ. Murphy, Dr. E. Francis Parson, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

**Baill ar líne:** Comh./Cllr. S. Curley, S. Herterich Quinn.

**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, Mr. Alan Farrell, Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Head of Finance, Ms. J. Brann, 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.**

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

4253

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Curraoin the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were **AGREED**.

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and stated that he unreservedly condemned the alleged criminal destruction of The Ross Lake House Hotel in Rosscahill on Friday night.

Cllr. McKinstry asked if webcasting would be ready for the January meeting. The Chief Executive responded there is considerable work being carried out in the digital content area, including the updating of the website, webcasting, communications, electronic payments and all such interactions with the public. These changes will be implemented as quickly as possible in 2024.

Cllr. Broderick asked for an update on the Galway Airport query, raised at the November meeting. Mr. Hanrahan informed him that a meeting was held between the Gardai and the HSE the previous week. Questions were put to the promoters MCD, which included the areas of fees, costings and ticket prices, to which responses are due in early January. Cllr. Broderick said he could not understand why the fees were not decided on in advance of the concerts being agreed.

**ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS** 4254

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. P. Keaveney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the minutes of the Community and Culture SPC held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 were **NOTED**.

It was queried why the minutes of the meeting were on the December plenary agenda when the meeting was held in February. Concern was raised regarding the beach bylaws submissions as the summer season will soon be upon us.

Cllr. Dermot Connolly assured the Members that a lot of work is being carried out in the background. Mr. Farrell confirmed that there had been two further meetings since February. He assured the meeting that a lot of work has been carried out by the groups

and committees of the SPC and that the beach bylaws will be before the council in due course.

**ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOR THE GRANTING OF TEMPORARY LEASEHOLD AND LICENCE ON LANDS AT THE FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT AT CARNMORE, CO. GALWAY TO GALWAY FLYING CLUB FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 23RD, 2023 TO DECEMBER 22ND, 2024.**

4255

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan it was **AGREED** to grant a temporary leasehold and licence on lands at the former Galway Airport at Carnmore, Co. Galway to Galway Flying Club for the period December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 to December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE LEASE OF LANDS (4.67 HECTARES) AT POLLBOY, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY.**

4256

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick the lease of 4.67 hectares at Pollboy, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 for a period of 3 years was **AGREED**.

Cllr. Peter Keaveney explained that extensive discussions had taken place between all the Ballinasloe Municipal District Elected Members with Eibhlin Byrne Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Michael Owens, Director of Service. It was proposed that the number of units be reduced from 92 to 64. He said

that the family units should be built by June, in plenty of time for the start of the new school year and that connectivity in the form of footpaths and pedestrian crossings will follow thereafter.

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

- The Ballinasloe MD Members were complimented on the great work carried out by them and their commitment to compromise was commended.

- The Community wish to establish a welcoming committee.
- It was queried why the contractor was on site in advance of the Section 183 being agreed at plenary.

Cllrs. Parsons & P. Keaveney responded the OPW knew that there was a risk in starting works in advance of the Section 183 being brought before the Council.

- Query on how a temporary wastewater system has been allowed to be installed in this development.

Cllr. Geraghty stated that the lands had not been earmarked for Affordable housing.

- After three years the units may be available for tenants wishing to downsize.
- It can take four to five years to deliver housing under normal conditions, under this Section 183 these houses could be occupied within 3 years.
- The department should engage with all Elected Members in relation to these matters in the future.

- The importance of engagement with the community.
- The project must be managed correctly going forward.
- Ms. Eibhlin Byrne and Mr. Owens were thanked for their help and engagement over the last four weeks.
- The HSE need to address the deficiencies in services provided in Ballinasloe.
- The need for step down housing and retirement villages in the County was raised.
- Further resources such as education and health are now required in Ballinasloe.

The Chief Executive commended the members on their decision to pass the Section 183. He confirmed the wastewater system will be connected to the mains. The water will temporarily be supplied from a well until Uisce Éireann connect it to the mains supply. He complimented Ms. Byrne and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for the level of consultation. It highlighted what can be achieved where consultation occurs in an open manner and with a hands-on approach. He also thanked Mr. Owens and the Housing team.

Ms. Evelyn Byrne of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth addressed the meeting. She outlined that this rapid build program is a new way of providing housing, which may revolutionise the provision of housing in the community. She commended the MD Members on their commitment and work. She invited the Members to contact her in the future if required.

**ITEM NO.5 TO CONSIDER REPORTS UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES AS FOLLOWS:**

**4257**

- (a) To consider report under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 on the disposal of property at Coppanagh, Kylebrack, Co. Galway – 0.279hectares/0.690acres
- (b) To consider report under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 on the disposal of property at Creggauns, Creggs, Co. Galway – 0.472hectares/1.166acres
- (c) To consider report under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 on the disposal of property at Croaghhill, Williamstown, Co. Galway – 0.125hectares/0.309acres
- (d) To consider report under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 on the disposal of property at Kiltrogue, Claregalway, Co. Galway – 0.113hectares/0.279acres
- (e) To consider report under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 on the disposal of property at Abbeylands, Dunmore, Co. Galway – 0.014hectares/0.035acres
- (f) To consider report under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 on the disposal of property at Loughatorick, Woodford, Co. Galway – 0.186hectares/0.459acres

- (g) To consider report under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 on the disposal of property at Doonreaghan, Cashel, Co. Galway – 0.270hectares/0.667acres
- (h) To consider report under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 on the disposal of property at Brierfort, Williamstown, Co. Galway – 0.198hectares/0.488acres

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and reports dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

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

- In reference to (e) would the road remain a public road.
- Council tenants should be informed of the option to buy the house, to avoid the upset of losing the family home after a tenant passes away.
- It was highlighted that many of the sites are less than half an acre and questioned if the purchasers would encounter difficulty if applying for planning permission.
- Disappointment that the houses have ended up in a derelict state and hope that in the future houses would be better maintained to avoid them going into a derelict state and subsequently sold.
- If alternative uses rather than disposal have been investigated, such as planting trees, shrubs and biodiversity on the site.
- An enquiry on the changes in eligibility for the Tenant Purchase scheme, from one year to ten years occupancy.
- It was said that the house in Williamstown was built on the edge of a Turlough.
- The changes in the Tenant Purchase scheme which has reduced the level of funding required from €15,000 to €12,500, was welcomed as those whose income is dependent on the pension can now qualify.

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

- As regards (e) the plot has been split into a and b, he confirmed that the road will remain a public road.

- Regarding the change in the Tenant Purchase scheme, an applicant must now be in receipt of social housing support for 10 years to be eligible, this is an increase from 1 year. These terms are set out by the Department and not the Local Authority.
- Houses would have complied with planning permission at the time they were built, they may not meet the current regulations. Purchasers were advised of this in advance.
- Preventative measures have been introduced to reduce the number of houses going into a derelict state.

The Chief Executive thanked the Elected Members for approving this item. He added that the Council were not receiving any value from the assets and a significant investment was required to get them back into use. The income received from the sales is welcome and the purchasers obtained value for money.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kelly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.279 hectares/0.690 acres of land at Coppanagh, Kylebrack, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.472 hectares/1.166 acres of land at Creggauns, Creggs, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. P. Keaveney it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.125 hectares/0.309 acres of land at Croaghhill, Williamstown, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Collins it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.113 hectares/0.279 acres of land at Kiltrogue, Claregalway, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sheridan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.014 hectares/0.035 acres of land at Abbeylands, Dunmore, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Canning it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.186 hectares/0.459 acres of land at Loughatorick, Woodford, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. King **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.270 hectares/0.667 acres of land at Doonreaghan, Cashel, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Cllr. P. Keaveney it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.198 hectares/0.488 acres of land at Brierfort, Williamstown, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**ITEM NO. 6 (A) TO REVOKE RESOLUTION 4171 OF 26th JUNE 2023, WHICH APPROVED THE DISPOSAL OF 21.9647 HECTARES AT MIDDLEQUARTER, INISHBOFIN, CO. GALWAY.**

4258

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. King it was **AGREED** to revoke Resolution 4171 of June 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 which approved the disposal of 21.9647 hectares at Middlequarter, Inishbofin, Co. Galway.

**ITEM NO. 6 (B) TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 21.9336 HECTARES OF LAND AT MIDDLEQUARTER, INISHBOFIN, CO. GALWAY.**

4259

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. King it was **AGREED** to dispose of 21.9336 hectares of land at Middlequarter, Inishbofin, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**ITEM NO.7( A) TO CONSIDER AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR  
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT SERVICE  
STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT TO GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR YEAR  
ENDED DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

4260

*Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Audit Service Statutory Audit Report dated the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion the Audited Annual Financial Statement for Galway County Council and Local Government Audit Service Statutory Audit Report to Galway County Council for year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 was **NOTED**.

**ITEM NO.7 (B) TO CONSIDER THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE 2022  
AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT (AFS) AND STATUTORY  
AUDITORS REPORT (PURSUANT TO SECTION 60 OF THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ACT 2014).**

4261

*Audit Committee Report on the 2022 AFS and the Statutory Auditor's Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty the Audit Committee Report on the 2022 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) and Statutory Auditors Report pursuant to section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014 was **NOTED**.

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

- Queried if the 36 loans in arrears over 3 months are recent loans (page 4 of the Audit Report 3.4 Housing Loans)
- It was asked why it is envisioned that the collection of monies would be a challenge this year.
- How the Council are dealing with monies received from the concerts in Galway Airport and if the matter will come before the Members.

- Query on the €4.7m in specific doubtful arrears in Appendix 7 on page 38 of the Audited Annual Financial Statement.
- What the outstanding debt on the airport site is.
- If the City Council will contribute to the masterplan.

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

- She will revert with the figures on the breakdown of aging loans.
- There is a significant challenge on collection of monies resulting from the cost of living and as some loans were paused during the pandemic. However, focus will continue on the collection of loans and rates.
- There will be costs associated with the running of the concerts at the airport. She is not clear if the profit will be put into the capital account or used in the running of the site.
- The airport site was purchased without a loan, it was funded from the capital account. She will revert with the balance of the capital account.
- These are the same accounts that were passed unaudited at the March plenary meeting, no changes have been made since March.
- The doubtful arrears are bad debt provision, predominantly vacant properties.

The Chief Executive clarified that profits received from the airport concerts will fund the Masterplan of the site. Provisions have been made in the budget however these monies will also be required. Negotiations on the rent have not been bottomed out yet.

Cllr. Broderick questioned why the masterplan had not been brought before the Council. He asked if the decision to put the monies received into a masterplan will come before the Council for decision. He added that he proposed at the November plenary that the monies be dispersed between the MDs. He also asked what the projected income from the concerts to be held at the Galway Airport site is.

Mr. Hanrahan respond that negotiations regarding the rent are ongoing. Monies raised will be treated the same as monies received from the Flying Club, HSE and City Council.

The Chief Executive responded that there's no projected income in the 2024 budget. The figures will be presented to the members as soon as they are available. Monies received will be used for the development of the site. He clarified that any income received will be notified to the Members. The site is owned 50:50 between the City and County Councils and that any infrastructural costs will be borne 50:50.

**ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 2023 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).**

4262

*Report dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

The Management Report – December 2023, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

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

- Thanked the Executive for the comprehensive Management Report.
- Thanked the Regeneration team for the work on the Shambles, Tuam.
- Acknowledged the CIS Scheme on the fantastic works carried out on the footpaths at Weir Road, Tuam.
- Complimented works at Millstream Park, thanked the landowners that donated lands and the contractors for the manner in which they carried out the works.
- The need to advertise the good works carried out by the Council.
- Attention was drawn to figures on page 68 relating to sewerage works at Clarenbridge and Craughwell.
- The need for a 5 year plan, the joining up of the County Development Plan and Sewerage Plan.
- Clarification sought on the number of estates currently waiting to be taken in charge.
- If the Conservation Officer position has been advertised.
- Congratulations on the opening of the Moycullen bypass.

- Presentation on prohibited recreation activities on beaches requested at MD.
- Welcomed improvement works at the Pavilion at the Coach Station in Clifden under the Destination Towns initiative.
- If the funding of €20,000 for Mahanagh Bridge is for a study or repair works. It is a very dangerous bridge especially in the frost. Will it be widened, safety measures introduced?
- The further information was welcomed in relation to the N6 Galway City Ring Road.
- An Cheathrú Rua Wastewater treatment plant – request that the team engage in public consultation on the new site selection to avoid the project being tied up with further judicial reviews.
- The Chief Executive, Directors and staff were all thanked for their help during the year.
- Additional staff in the Active Travel team working on the Safe Routes to School scheme was welcomed.
- The increase in grant allocation to the Housing grants was welcomed.
- Acknowledgement of the new mural at the Old Library on Shop Street, Tuam by the local Youtrecht programme.
- Congratulations to all community groups on the Christmas lights around the county.
- Request for a timeline on the Ballinasloe Outdoor Recreation Park project.
- Request for funding to help repair approximately 10-20km of stone walls damaged during Storm Debi in Ballinacourty, Maree and Tawin Island, Clarenbridge.
- Request for update on the N84.
- Residents in Clonboo have requested a meeting with representatives to discuss the number of accidents in the village.
- Urgent maintenance works requested to fix the pothole in Monivea village as five cars have damaged tyres.
- Lack of general maintenance, grids and gulleys have not been cleared in Monivea.
- Update on query regarding the Small Business Support Scheme, from the November plenary meeting.

- A request was made regarding a family that do not have drinking water supply, that it be addressed before Christmas.
- Congratulations to the organisers of the Fair Green Cyclocross races in Ballinasloe.
- A timeline was requested for the accessible water recreation park and when the feasibility report will be ready.
- Request to address the means test under the disability grant scheme.
- If the Briarhill plan is within the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.
- The situation on the L5230 at Cnoc, Leitir Meallain was highlighted, where the embankment has collapsed and there is currently a 13 minute diversion in place. Works are not due to take place until after Christmas.

The members all joined in their thanks to Mr. Farrell for his service and commitment to Galway County Council. His level of involvement with community groups was commended. The members congratulated him on his promotion and wished him every success and happiness in his new post in Clare County Council. His work with the GRD, Gort Tourism Office, Monivea Heritage Association, Bio Innovator in Athenry and obtaining a Tourism Officer for the Council were highlighted.

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

- Craughwell and Clarenbridge have populations less than the population required for Local Area Plans to be prepared. Following changes in the Planning and Development Bill, the villages will be looked at during the review of the County Development Plan.
- Public consultation regarding the RRDF funding in Tuam will be held in the month of January. The members will be contacted to organise a special MD meeting and the closing date for applications is in February.
- Contracts are being prepared for the accessible water recreation park. The feasibility study will be carried out and the tender process will then commence, the timeline is Q1 and Q2 of 2024.

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

- The figures on p68 were an error, he gave the correct figures of 1.1 kilometer and 0.78 kilometers. Two of only eight schemes awarding nationally were awarded to Galway County Council. He acknowledged the work of Michael Sheil, Senior Executive Engineer.
- He will revert with the number of estates to be taken in charge.
- The works to be carried out at Mahanagh Bridge are routine maintenance works.
- An Cheathrú Rua Wastewater treatment plant – Uisce Eireann have been invited to a Conemara MD meeting in early 2024.
- There is an update on the N84 on page 54 of the Management Report.
- He will refer the matter of the pothole in Monivea to the MD.
- He will revert later to the query on the family without water.
- He acknowledged the impact of the diversion on the L5230. He explained that the works have been hindered due to the requirement for an Ecologist Screening Report. Works will be carried out as soon as possible.

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

- He will talk to the Tourism Officer regards addressing the Conemara MD on the prohibited recreation activities on beaches.
- An implementation plan is being drafted for the Tourism Strategy.
- He thanked the Members for their words. He explained that he gave the offer of the position in Clare County Council a lot of thought, after serving over 30 years in Galway County Council it was a big decision for him. He began his career here as a Clerical Officer and worked his way to Director of Services, bar a short time to Meath County Council. He outlined that Galway County Council and the experience he has gained has helped him personally, professionally and academically. He thanked the current and previous Chief Executives and management teams for their superb support over the years. He acknowledged the tough job that Elected Members have, working constantly to improve their communities. The achievements of the PPN are due to the incredible work done at local level. He acknowledged all the groups and

departments that he has worked with. He thanked the incredible staff in the Council and hopes to foster further co-operation between Clare and Galway in his new position.

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

- The Chief Executive informed that he updated An Taoiseach on the Galway City Ring Road progress. Further Information has been received from An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and the design team have already carried out significant work updating the planning application pack. It will be resubmitted to ABP by Q2/3, 2024.
- Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy is being prepared. He ensured the meeting that the ring road is the number 1 transport infrastructure priority in the plan from the standpoint of the County Council.
- He acknowledged the work carried out on the housing improvement grants and welcomed the increase of funding with an expectation it will increase further.
- He will raise the stone wall concern with Ms. Mannion, Heritage Officer. He could not give any commitment that funding could come from that area but acknowledged the heritage importance and need to look at all avenues of funding support but advised that the Department of Agriculture was the most likely source.
- He confirmed that Briarhill forms part of the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.
- Regards the Small Business Support Scheme, a response is not available to the query.

**ITEM NO. 9 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 4263**

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

- Letter dated 08.12.23 to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Resolution – Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)

- E-mail dated 08.12.23 from Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Resolution – Affordable Housing Fund (AHF). Acknowledgement.
- Letter dated 08.12.2023 to Mr. Alan Farrell Director of Services Community, Rural Development & Corporate Services. Resolution – Facilities at Rinville Park, Oranmore.
- Letter dated 08.12.2023 to Ms. Eileen Ruane Director of Services Environment, Climate, Human Resources, ICT & Digitisation. Resolution – Acquisition of St. Brigid's Hospital Nurse's Home from the HSE.
- Letter dated 08.12.2023 to Mr. Michael Owens Director of Services Housing & Ukraine Response. Resolution – Acquisition of St. Brigid's Hospital Nurse's Home from the HSE.
- Letter dated 08.12.2023 to Mr. Liam Hanrahan Director f Services Economic Development & Planning. Resolution - Galway Airport.
- Mayors for Peace News Flash November 2023.

**ITEM NO.10 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

4264

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion:

*'In the light of the actions this weekend I propose the following motion:*

*That this council affirms its support for 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.*

*We utterly condemn the criminal damage of property.*

*We call on the Department to improve their method of engagement and consultation with communities.*

*We call on all community leaders to lead by example and alleviate fears not stoke them.'*

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 amended motion.

*'In the light of the actions this weekend I propose the following motion:*

*That this council affirms its support for 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.*

*We utterly condemn the alleged criminal damage of property.*

*We call on the Department to improve their method of engagement and consultation with communities.*

*We call on all community leaders to lead by example and alleviate fears not stoke them.'*

It was agreed by the members to amend the wording of the proposed motion.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the motion was carried.

#### **ITEM NO.11 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS**

4265

**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 semi-final.
- Kilkerrin Clonberne Ladies Football team on winning their third Ladies Gaelic Football All-Ireland Senior Championship in a row.
- Sarsfields Senior Camogie team on reaching the All-Ireland Senior Club Championship final.

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

- Aileen Newell, Baranny, Annaghdown, Correndulla, Co. Galway
- Ann Higgins, Coteenty, Correndulla, Co. Galway

- Eamon Moran, Breedagh, Headford, Co. Galway

The Cathaoirleach thanked the press for their work throughout the year. The Chief Executive closed the meeting by thanking Mr. Farrell for his service, on behalf of himself and the Executive he wished him well. He also thanked the Members, Cathaoirleach Carroll and Cllr. Maher and the executive and management teams for their assistance to him this year. He then wished everyone a peaceful, healthy and happy Christmas.

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

**Submitted, Signed and Approved**

**Cathaoirleach:**



**Date:**

