

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Held at Corrandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway

Monday 23rd November 2020 at 11:00am

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. James Charity

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Comh./Cllrs. Broderick, Byrne, Canning, Carroll, Collins, M. Connolly, Cronnelly, Ó Cualáin, Cuddy, Curley, Ó Curraoin, Donuhue, Finnerty, Geraghty, Herterich Quinn, Hoade, Hynes, C. Keaveney, P. Keaveney, Killilea, Kinane, King, Mac an Iomaire, Mannion, McClearn, McHugh Farag, McKinstry, Murphy, Parsons, Reddington, Roche, Sheridan, Thomas, Walsh and Welby.

Oifigh:

Mr. Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), Messrs. Cullen & Hanrahan, Directors of Services, Ms. Ruane, Director of Service Mr. Farrell, A/Director of Service, Mr. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Mr. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator, Ms. Martyn, Senior Staff Officer, Ms. Ní Eidhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. Ryan, A/Staff Officer and Ms. Elwood, A/Assistant Staff Officer

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING:

3681

(a) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 19th October 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 19th October 2020 were **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS: **3682**

(a) Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 6th October 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh the minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 6th October 2020 were **NOTED**.

(b) Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 9th November 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh the minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 9th November 2020 were **NOTED**.

Cllrs. Broderick and Dr. Parsons indicated that they did not favour an amendment to the standing orders relating to the filling of a casual vacancy caused by a non-party candidate at the time of their election. The Chief Executive clarified the matter was discussed at the CPG meeting only as a point for consideration. He confirmed it will be considered in due course at plenary and any change in standing orders will ultimately be a matter for plenary.

(c) Minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee held on 30th June 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty the minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee held on 30th June 2020 were **NOTED**

(d) Minutes of the Climate Change & Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee held on 30th July 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the Climate Change & Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee held on 30th July 2020 were **NOTED**.

A discussion took place regarding guidelines for cutting hedgerows & verges.

The following points were raised by Cllrs. Geraghty, Cuddy, O'Curraoin, Donohue, Mannion, King and Kinane:

- Any proposals for further restrictions on the present guidelines for trimming hedgerows and verges were strongly opposed.

- The importance of verge trimming from a road safety perspective was stressed. Local roads must be safe for walking and driving. It was also noted that in line with the Active Travel initiative promoted by government, people are being encouraged to walk and cycle and it should be safe to do so.
- A balance between environmental and road safety issues needs to be struck and a clear message should be communicated to community groups.
- Clarification was sought regarding the budget available for verge trimming.

Cllr. McKinstry clarified the discussion at the SPC meeting referred to the appropriate rules for hedge trimming on safety grounds during the summertime when in principle it is banned. He advised Environment and Roads departments are working to draw up guidance.

Mr. Cullen confirmed there was no proposal to change the existing guidelines. He advised there is a prohibition on hedge cutting during the bird nesting season. He explained that hedge cutting can take place during this season where the local area engineer determines it is required on safety grounds. The extent of verge trimming in general is determined by the budget available. This budget is included in the overall figure for Roads Maintenance funding and is supplemented by NOM monies.

In response to a query regarding the appointment of a Housing Liaison Officer in the Tuam area, the Chief Executive confirmed the position has been offered and an appointment is imminent.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.112 HECTARES AT KILTIERNAN EAST, KILCOLGAN, CO. GALWAY. 3683

Statutory Notice dated the 2nd November 2020 issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and Report dated 2nd November 2020 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue it was **AGREED** to dispose of **0.112 Hectares at Kiltiernan East, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway** in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice.

ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.00239 HECTARES ADJACENT TO NO. 11 PAIRC NA GCAOR, MOYCULLEN, CO. GALWAY. 3684

Statutory Notice dated the 9th November 2020 issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and Report dated 9th November 2020 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Comh. O'Curraoin it was **AGREED** to dispose of **0.00239 hectares adjacent to No. 11 Pairc na gCaor, Moycullen, Co. Galway** in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice.

**ITEM NO.5 TO CONSIDER OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE 12 MONTHS
1 JANUARY 2021 TO THE 31 DECEMBER 2021.**

3685

Report published on the Extranet prior to the meeting

Mr. Mullarkey informed members that while it was not anticipated that the overdraft facility would be required it was important to renew the application and approval in order to ensure the facility was in place in the event that it is required.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne the Overdraft Accommodation for the 12 months, 1 January 2021 to the 31 December 2021 was **AGREED**.

**ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
STRATEGY 2021.**

3686

The Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Hanrahan gave a brief overview of the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2021.

The following points and queries were raised by Cllrs. Byrne, Donohue, Thomas, Reddington, Herterich, Quinn, Killilea, Finnerty, Cuddy, Welby, C. Keaveney, Roche, Carroll and Broderick:

- Members welcomed the report and the SPC was complimented on their thorough work in the preparation of the comprehensive document. The Director of Service, Ms. Nuala Heffernan and the staff of the Housing Unit were also acknowledged for their work.
- The multi-agency approach, and in particular the inclusion of the Revenue Commissioners, was welcomed. It was considered this will strengthen the local authority's position going forward.
- The difficulty in obtaining an Order for possession and thereafter the timeframe and support provided to execute the Order.
- The resources available to the local authority to implement the policy.
- Clarification was sought on the use of CCTV and compliance with GDPR.
- There are ongoing issues regarding dogs and horses in certain estates, including estates with CCTV.
- Members welcomed the removal of the criteria relating to an application for a transfer due to the impact of anti-social behaviour.
- The approach and process for anonymous complaints and the understandable reluctance to be associated with a complaint.
- The vetting process prior to the allocation of a property/tenancy.
- The requirement to undertake repairs and maintenance on multiple occasions due to neglect and vandalism.
- Clarification was sought on who is responsible for a person when accommodation is provided to a homeless person by COPE or Simon etc.

- The importance of reviewing the implementation of the strategy.
- The importance of the strategy in alleviating concerns over anti-social behaviour when building social housing.

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

- Regarding orders for possession he advised the Council pursues the matter up to a certain point, it then enters the court system. In some cases when a court judgement is secured, it may need the sheriff to execute the court order. He noted the sheriff has limited resources and there are further restrictions now due to Covid.
- In terms of council resources, he noted the availability of an in-house Law Agent means advice is available more quickly. He advised that the legal system can be a long process.
- He confirmed there is no issue with the use of CCTV in local authority housing estates. He advised that this is Community CCTV set up in conjunction with the Gardaí. He confirmed it is fully compliant with GDPR and the Council can use the footage or photo stills from it in court. He noted external agencies such as Revenue, Gardaí and CAB can also use our CCTV in criminal prosecutions.
- He advised there was a distinction to be made on the use of CCTV in dumping in an estate and at other locations. In the case where there is an accumulation of rubbish at a council property use of community CCTV helps identify who brings it onto the property. This dumping issue can be followed up under the tenancy agreement.
- He confirmed all issues regarding horses are dealt with under the Control of Horses Act and not the Antisocial Behaviour Policy. He advised that Joint City and County Council Control of Horses Byelaws will be introduced in 2021.
- Regarding anonymous complaints he advised there is a high volume of anonymous complaints making it difficult to follow up on all of them. He reassured Members if a complaint was made by a councillor it would be treated as a legitimate complaint taking into account all due process. He confirmed feedback would be provided to councillors regarding their complaints.
- He clarified that Garda vetting only forms one part of the vetting matrix which also examines the ability to pay rent, family connections in the area, among other things. He confirmed that it was intended to arrange a briefing for the Housing SPC on the vetting process.
- He advised we have a maintenance fund and a planned maintenance programme. He also advised the funding for specific purposes including Traveller accommodation, energy efficiency, voids is also available from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Homeless persons regardless of being housed by COPE or Simon etc are tenants and Galway County Council policies and procedures apply.
- He noted that most tenants are a welcome addition to a community, they will remain in a property for life. He added it is only a small minority who will have issues and come to the attention of the Gardaí, Tusla etc. Some tenants will find

it hard to maintain their tenancy due to addiction or mental health issues. He emphasised that the Council are the landlord of last resort and we have a responsibility to ensure this small percentage don't end up on the street.

- To support tenants an online tenancy pre tenancy programme is being developed for 2021. Prospective tenants will be asked to complete and pass the course prior to taking up tenancy. Tenants will be given the option to complete the course at a family resource centre with assistance if required.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to adopt the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2021.

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

3687

Report dated 13th November was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue it was **AGREED** to withdraw item No.7 to consider and if deemed appropriate authorise the attendance at training in accordance with section 142(5a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

3688

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby the Management Report – November 2020 in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **NOTED**.

The following points and queries were raised by Cllrs. Donohue, Killilea, Mannion, McHugh and Geraghty:

- Regarding the Exit from Peat – Deep Energy Retrofit Programme it was highlighted that there are currently delays of 18-24 months for grants from SEAI.
- It was noted the program appeared more concentrated in one part of the county.
- The question was raised if the Exit from Peat was a similar scheme as the Cash for Ash scheme in Northern Ireland.
- A reliance on electricity in homes may leave people vulnerable in the event of power outages, particularly in terms of heating.
- The concessions for the operation of pay parking for Christmas 2020 were welcomed. It is hoped that the concessions would encourage people to shop local and support local businesses in the lead up to Christmas.

- The additional funding announced by the Department of Transport for Greenways was welcomed.

The Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr Hanrahan

- He clarified that the SEAI delays are in respect of general grants provided to private individuals which is outside the retrofit programme.
- He confirmed the scheme will be concentrated on the East side of the county as it is related to the closure of the Bord na Mona factories in this area.
- He confirmed there is a difference between the Cash for Ash and Exit from Peat – Deep Energy Retrofit Programme.
- In terms of dependence on electricity he advised there was a backup plan as each heat pump has a battery backup. He also noted that the provision of solar power as a further back up was being examined.

With reference to the additional allocation for Greenway projects Cllr McHugh called for the release of the final report on the future of the Western Rail Corridor.

The following motion was subsequently **PROPOSED** by Cllr. McHugh, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea:

“that Galway County Council write to Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport to release the report paid for by the tax payer which was completed over 12 months ago”

Cllr. M. Connolly outlined that as a member of the Western Rail Corridor Committee, he strongly rejected the motion. He stressed it was Minister Eamon Ryan's intention to invest in the Western Rail Corridor and reopen it. He informed Members a report had been submitted by the Minister to JASPERS for consideration. Cllr McClearn concurred. He said in due course all reports should be published but questioned if this was the time to publish it. He said the greenway has been delayed by the insistence it can only be located on the existing rail corridor and added the Minister had clearly stated it will not be a greenway.

The Cathoirleach called for a vote on the motion.

The following was the result:

For 28

Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Canning	Cllr. Carroll
Cllr. Charity	Cllr. Collins	Cllr. Cronnelly
Comh. Ó'Cualáin	Cllr. Cuddy	Cllr. Curley
Cllr. Donohue	Cllr. Finnerty	Cllr. Geraghty
Cllr. Herterich Quinn	Cllr. Hoade	Cllr. Hynes
Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. Killilea	Cllr. Kinane
Cllr. King	Comh. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. Mannion
Cllr. McHugh Farag	Cllr. Dr. Parsons	Cllr. Reddington
Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Sheridan	Cllr. Thomas
Cllr. Welby		

Against 5

Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. McKinstry

Comh. Ó'Curraoin
Cllr. Murphy

Cllr. McClearn

Abstain 0

The Cathoirleach confirmed that the motion was carried.

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

3689

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

- Letter dated 12.11.20 from Carlow County Council - Resolution, The Mother and Baby Homes.
- Letter dated 16.10.20 from Kerry County Council - Resolution, Road Safety Authority.
- Letter dated 6.11.20 from Sligo County Council -Resolution, Post Office Network.
- Email dated 16.10.20 from Private Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform – Funding of Galway County Council.
- Deposition dated Nov /Dec 2020 from the Children's Tree Campaign – Tree Town Charter.

Matters arising:

Cllr Donohue referred to the correspondence from The Children's Tree Campaign. She said both herself and Cllr Curley had spoken to four children behind the Children's Tree Campaign. She informed Members they had previously made a presentation about the idea of a Tree Town Charter and emphasised it was very much in keeping with the Woodland Creation & Public Land Scheme. Cllr. Donohue said she would love to see the idea go nationwide.

Cllr Curley commended the group on their work. He said the idea behind the Tree Town Charter was a simple idea, each town making a commitment to do their best to protect their trees. He said he will bring the matter up at Municipal District level and strongly urged Members to engage with the group.

ITEM NO. 10 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS.

3690

The following Motions were submitted:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Dr. Parsons **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue the Members **AGREED**:

"The Mother and Baby Homes represent a very dark part of our State's history. That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes have legitimate concerns regarding access to personal information. Therefore, that Galway County Council will write to the Taoiseach and Minister for Children, Disability, Integration requesting the following:

That the Final Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation be published soon as possible and include the details of the experiences of survivors in each institution.

That the Government provide a full State response to the finding and recommendations of the Final Report.

That the Government publish new statutory information and tracing legislation without delay.

That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes are given access to their personal records consistent with GDPR.

That the Department of Children and Tusla work with the Office of the DPC to ensure that rights of survivors to personal information about themselves under data protection legislation and GDPR are fully respected.

That the Government urgently put in place a range of supports for survivors and adoptees. That the Government continues to engage in consultation with survivors and their organisations as they establish a national archive of records related to institutional trauma 20th century.

That a copy of this motion should also be sent to every local authority in Ireland, north and south, as correspondence."

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Broderick **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly the Members **AGREED**:

"that our Taoiseach will undertake as early as possible this week, to outline how the hairdressers, barbers, small independent retailers and the hospitality industry are being accommodated with as quick an opening as possible. We must acknowledge that these services are not the problem but can be major players in the solutions. The little people need commitment from the Taoiseach, "open up rural Ireland"."

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Cronnelly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy:

"that any significant planning application received by Galway County Council planning section is sent back to the applicants for rework at the earliest possible time if it is obvious to the planners that the application is not going to be granted.

This will give the applicant the opportunity to withdraw the application and engage with the planners to amend the application and bring it up to the criteria acceptable to the planning section."

The Chief Executive advised that it was not within the remit of the Councillors to pass this motion as this was an executive function. He informed Members a preplanning process was already in place and noted applications can be withdrawn. He noted that if applicants are not happy with a decision of Galway County Council, they have further recourse to An Bord Pleanála for adjudication.

Following a request from Cllr. Cronnelly for further clarification, it was agreed to defer further consideration of the motion to the Plenary Meeting on 14th December.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea the Members **AGREED**:

"Galway County Council write to the relevant Minister in relation to SEAI and delay of 18-24 months in getting to applicants and assess their homes. Does SEAI have the resources to deal with all the applicants."

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

"Going forward that a hard copy of the Draft Budget be furnished to all elected members by Galway County Council executive at least 10 working days before the Budget Meeting"

The Chief Executive advised Members the budget process is a statutory process and the Draft Budget issued within the statutory timeframe. He noted the preparation of it was a difficult process which had to be completed within a tight timeframe, but it would issue earlier in future if possible.

Based on the clarification provided by the Chief Executive, with the agreement of the Members, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Curley **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane and **AGREED** to withdraw the motion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity the Members **AGREED** to invite Ms. Charlotte May, Public Participation Network Support Worker to make a presentation on Public Participation Network to full Council when public health restrictions allow.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Curley **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea the Members **AGREED**:

"That we hold a minute's silence to remember those killed by Crown Forces on Bloody Sunday 1920 at the end of the meeting"

A Minute's Silence was observed at the close of the meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION

ITEM NO. 11 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3691

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

"that in order to clear the backlog of women awaiting a mammogram appointment or follow up appointment, (due to restrictions imposed since the arrival of the Coronavirus) Minister Donnelly seeks to make breast screening in all private hospitals in Galway and around the country free to these women and utilise all available resources to ensure the best outcomes for all women."

ITEM NO. 12 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3692

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

"That the council will henceforth require electronic (PDF) copies of planning submission documents, and that these will be made public within 3 working days of the submission".

The following written reply was issued to Cllr McKinstry:

"While the provision for electronic planning has been provided for in primary legislation amended regulations are also required before its introduction. The arrangements for e-Planning are well advanced and it is anticipated that the pilots will commence in mid-2021. It would not be possible for Galway County Council to introduce its own additional requirements in respect of the submission of planning documentation without the support of regulations and a national approach."

ITEM NO. 13 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3693

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

"To ask the Chief Executive of Galway County Council to set out the terms of agreement that he entered into with the HSE in relation to the Rent Free Use by the HSE of Galway Airport which is in the joint ownership of the Galway County Council and Galway City Council and will the Chief Executive also share with us what discussions he had on this matter with the Galway City Council Chief Executive and the HSE authorities and to furnish details and report on same to the elected Members of Galway County Council".

The following written reply was issued to Cllr: Cronnelly:

“Following on from the Taoiseach’s statements on the response to the national crisis caused by Covid-19 and the unprecedented measures that were necessary to be put into effect, Galway County Council along with the HSE and other public bodies worked together in line with Government policy in an effort to minimise the spread of the disease and the potential for mass fatalities which were being experienced globally as a result of the pandemic. On the 19th March following a request from the HSE, Kevin Kelly, CE indicated that Galway County Council would make the Hangars available if necessary, as part of the HSE Covid-19 testing requirements and this was to be progressed with urgency given the situation. The City Council Chief Executive also confirmed his agreement to making the site available as part of the response and staff from the City Council worked with County Council staff to assist with the process of getting the HSE in situ.

Given the urgency of the situation staff in both authorities were asked to provide access to the facility in the quickest way possible and prepare an agreement for sign off so as not to delay planning and implementation of the response to the emergency. The HSE were advised that the site hadn’t been operational/in use for some time. A site visit was requested by the HSE on 19th March 2020 and this request was facilitated, following which the HSE confirmed the need for the use of the facility to enable them to have enhanced capacity for testing, with the site forming part of the major emergency response effort. It was agreed at the time that the HSE would be responsible for the cost of utilities associated with their use of the facilities and that they pay costs for the works and services necessary to enable their use of the site.

As part of the Public Health Emergency effort, it was agreed to expedite a Bare Licence as a matter of urgency, to enable this service to get up and running without delay. The HSE have been in occupation since then on foot of the licence and have undertaken necessary repairs and maintenance of the site with costs falling to them. While this has been an evolving situation and they have expressed the need for continued use of the site, the agreement can be terminated at any time. At the peak there were 500 tests per day being carried out at the facility and it continues to play an important role as seen with the recent rise in cases and the need for testing capacity. Staff are continuing to liaise with the HSE on operational matters and the potential continued use of the facility.

In line with the recent request of the Members of the CPG, the Chief Executive checked if the HSE were paying for use of properties owned by other local authorities or state bodies and he confirmed to the Corporate Policy Group that it is his understanding that facilities were being made available without charging a rent. At this point the HSE have been advised by the executive that it should be possible to make the site available up to June 2021 and that it would be reviewed then as there are other processes in train relating to the future uses of the site, however no formal agreement has been put in place in this regard yet. The HSE have confirmed their desire to remain in place and indicated that they may need the site to the end of 2021 depending on the position with the public health emergency. As indicated to the Members the issue of charging the

HSE can be progressed if this is their desire. Following a request from the Members at a recent CPG meeting, staff in the County Council have liaised with their counterparts in the City Council to query if the City Council wished to charge the HSE for the use of the facility and it is understood that this is not currently proposed."

Matters arising:

Cllr. Cronnelly sought clarification regarding Galway Flying Club. He noted they were the only paying lease holder in Galway Airport and again queried why there was no financial compensation from the HSE.

The Chief Executive clarified the response given was in reply to the Notice of Motion which made no reference to the Galway Flying Club. Regarding the financial contribution from the HSE he restated the HSE are covering all associated costs and advised that it was open to the Members to consider the imposition of a charge as part of the budget process for 2021 at the budget meeting.

In response to a query as to why Members were not consulted on use of the airport by the HSE in March the Chief Executive clarified that the HSE were using the property under a license agreement and advised that this is an executive function.

ITEM NO. 14 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3694

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

"I propose that Galway County Council through it's Planning Department, submit an objection against the construction of a Part C, Nuclear Powerstation at Sizewell, Suffolk, England. I would remind members that this facility is less than 400 miles from the Irish Shore. We do not want to be the next Chernobyl. The closing date for submissions is the 28th October 2020 next."

The following written reply was issued to Cllr. Killilea:

"The role of the Planning department was to facilitate the public consultation process in respect of the proposed nuclear power station, Sizewell C. The documentation was made available for public inspection, we accepted submissions and forwarded these to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and to the UK Planning Inspectorate at the requested times"

Cllr. Killilea noted that the closing date for submissions had passed and expressed his disappointment that the matter had not been dealt with at the previous meeting.

ITEM NO. 15 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3695

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

"I purpose Galway County Council send a letter from the CEO on behalf of management and staff and elected representatives of Galway Co. Co. to the proprietors management of the nursing homes and long stay residential care hospitals like St. Brendan's hospital Loughrea. Congratulating them on the extreme efforts of management and staff on minimizing the spread of Covid - 19 within residential care centers for the elderly. Galway County has excelled in it's care and efforts in curtailing the spread of this deadly infectious disease and huge credit must go to their management and staff who have gone beyond their care of duty in making huge sacrifices on behalf of their families and their own behaviour on curtailing the spread. For those who were unfortunate to contact the virus through no fault of their own, did trojan work on eliminating it and curtailing the spread, and losses within this County were low within these care centers".

ITEM NO. 16 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3696

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

"That the council prepare a "live list" of funding opportunities that it is aware of with relevant Council Officer responsible and deadlines and whether the council intends to apply. This list may, until the council website is ready, be done via email and sent weekly to councillors".

ITEM NO. 17 – VOTES OF SYMPATHY /CONGRATULATIONS

3697

Resolutions of Sympathy:

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Moira Lohan, Ard Aoibhinn, Oranhill, Oranmore, Co. Galway
- Angela Hanley, Clonco, Woodford, Co. Galway
- Carol Aherne, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway
- Martin Hughes, Summerfield, Claregalway, Co. Galway
- Angela Rooney, Tonegurane, Corrandulla, Co. Galway
- Colman O'Shaughnessy, Rinerush, Gort, Galway
- Anne Loughnane, Rindifin, Gort, Co. Galway

Resolutions of Congratulations

Cllr. Byrne wished the Galway hurlers all the best in the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship.

Cllr. McClearn congratulated Mr. Christy Cunniffe on winning the National Heritage Hero Award at the National Heritage Awards 2020.

In recognition of his achievement an online reception was **PROPOSED** by Cllr McClearn, **SECONDED** by Cllr Charity. The Members **AGREED** for the matter to be considered further by the Corporate Policy Group.

Cllr. Mannion was joined by the Members in congratulating Cllr. Hoade on being elected as the first female President of the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG).

A minute's silence was observed in commemoration of all those killed by Crown Forces on Bloody Sunday 1920.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved:

Cathaoirleach: James Charly

Signed: 14/12/2020

