

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT GMIT, DUBLIN ROAD, GALWAY**

**MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020 AT 11:00AM**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. James Charity  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway.

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

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

**Oifigh:** Mr. K. Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim); Messrs. J. Cullen, E. Ruane, L. Hanrahan, Directors of Services; Mr. A. Farrell, Acting Director of Service; Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; Mr. M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; Ms. I. Martyn, A/Senior Staff Officer; Ms. U. Ní Eidhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge; Ms. B Ryan, A/Staff Officer and Ms. S. Elwood, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

**Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, Mr. Jim Fennell, Vice President for Finance & Corporate Services, GMIT welcomed Galway County Council to GMIT. The Cathaoirleach was joined by Cllr. Maher in conveying their appreciation to Mr. Fennell and GMIT for hosting the June meeting of Galway County Council.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Cllr. Aisling Dolan on her recent nomination to Seanad Éireann. He wished her well in her new role, noting that she is a great representative for Galway County and the West in general. The Members offered their individual congratulations, acknowledging her enthusiasm and noting that her drive will serve her well as an Oireachtas Member. The Members acknowledged the importance of maintaining a close working relationship with Oireachtas Members.

The Chief Executive joined with the Members in congratulating Cllr. Aisling Dolan.

As a mark of respect to the late Detective Garda Colm Horkan who died in Castlerea, Co Roscommon, at the request of the Cathaoirleach a minute's silence was observed.

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

**3596**

(a) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keaveney, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the Minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were **AGREED** by the Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

(b) Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh, **SECONDED** by Comh. O'Curraoin the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were **AGREED** by the Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**ITEM NO. 2 - CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** **3597**

(a) Minutes of CPG meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry the Minutes of CPG meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 were **AGREED**.

(b) Minutes of CPG meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane the Minutes of CPG meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were **AGREED**.

**ITEM NO.3 - FILLING OF A VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF FORUM CONEMARA**

**CLG** **3598**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020 was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Mac an Iomaire, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Mannion be appointed to the Board of Forum Connemara CLG.

**ITEM NO.4 - FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY SPC** **3599**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020 was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Kinane be appointed as a member of the Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC.

**ITEM NO.5 - FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRANSPORT / INFRASTRUCTURE SPC** **3600**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020 was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Albert Dolan be appointed as a member of the Transport /Infrastructure SPC.

**ITEM NO.6 - FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PLANNING ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE & EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC**

**3601**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020 was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh it was **AGREED** that Cllr. M. Connolly be appointed as a member of the Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC.

**ITEM NO.7 - FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SPC**

**3602**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020 was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Canning be appointed as a member of the Community & Cultural Development SPC.

**ITEM NO.8 - FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PLANNING ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE & EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC**

**3603**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020 was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh it was **AGREED** that Cllr. M. Connolly be appointed as Chair of the Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC.

**ITEM NO.9 - FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SPC**

**3604**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020 was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade, **SECONDED** by Cllr Walsh it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Canning be appointed as Chair of the Community & Cultural Development SPC.

**ITEM NO. 10. (A) - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE A LOAN FACILITY OF €6.2 MILLION FOR THE PUBLIC LIGHTING LED RETROFIT PROGRAMMME IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)**

**3605**

Report and draft Section 85 Agreement was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

Mr. Cullen outlined the background to the National Energy Efficiency Public Lighting Retrofit Programme as follows:

- Following a national review of the public lighting network the Road Management Office (RMO) developed a business case for the upgrade of the public lighting network on a national basis.
- The RMO recommended that all public lighting be retrofitted to LED lanterns and further recommended that the project be executed as a Regional Design and Build LED Retrofit Contract with each region appointing a lead authority. Mayo County Council is the nominated lead authority in the North West Region.
- The RMO has secured €17.5 m in grant supports from the Climate Action Funds on National basis towards the LED Retrofit Programme.
- The estimated cost of the LED Retrofit Programme for Galway County Council is €6.2m. The estimated annual repayments on a 15-year loan for the full project cost of €6.2m would be €480,000.

Mr. Cullen recommended Council approve a loan of €6.2m repayable over 15 years to implement the programme. He also recommended approval of the Council to enter into an agreement with Mayo County Council, under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) for the management and implementation of the programme on behalf of Galway County Council. A draft agreement was circulated to Members.

The following queries and points were raised by Cllrs. M. Connolly, McClearn, Thomas, Maher, Roche, Welby, McKinstry, Cronnelly, Hoade, Mannion, Geraghty, Canning, King, and C. Keaveney:

- The proposed programme was welcomed from an environmental perspective and considered a positive move for Galway County Council towards meeting energy and carbon reduction targets.
- The combined savings from the reduced running costs and reduced maintenance costs were also welcomed.
- A scheme to expand public lighting to include unfinished estates, footpaths to schools, area outside villages etc. would be welcomed.
- Concerns over the financing of the project were raised, including that interest of €1m over 15 years was substantial.
- Clarification sought on the timeframe for project delivery - start and finish date.
- Expressed hope local companies would be successful in the tendering process.
- Clarification sought on the programme implementation in terms of roll out in the Municipal District areas.
- Clarification sought regarding the type of LED's which will be used in terms of brightness and temperature which can affect sleep patterns of nocturnal wildlife.
- Concern expressed over the current public lighting maintenance contract, noting that costs have increased significantly and the unit cost of providing a light is considered high.

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

- All existing public lighting not already replaced by Galway County Council will be included in the programme. There is no provision for new additional lighting.

- The programme will be funded without a significant increase in the revenue budget provision over the next few years. Provisions are already included in the budget for LED upgrade on Public Lighting. These provisions together with savings from the energy and maintenance costs that will accrue as the lights are installed will mitigate against budget increases.
- The contract value is estimated at €6.2m by the RMO. The Housing Finance Agency said finance will be made available at 1- 1½% interest. Best value for money will be achieved through regional procurement.
- It is expected that the procurement for the North West Region would commence early in the next year with a 2-year timeline for project delivery.
- The Contract is a regional contract. There are 3 lead authorities on a national basis and 9 participating Local Authorities in the North West Region.
- The contractor will prepare an implementation programme for the regional area. It will not be carried out on basis of the Municipal Districts. The implementation will be driven by the most efficient way to deliver the scheme in the region.
- In most cases the type of lanterns used will replace like with like. Further clarification will be sought in respect of temperatures and brightness etc.
- The current public lighting maintenance contract is due for renewal at the end of this year.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connolly, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney, a loan facility of €6.2m for the Public Lighting LED Retrofit Programme in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **AGREED**.

**10(B) - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) - FOR THE PUBLIC LIGHTING LED RETROFIT PROGRAMME FOR THE NORTH WEST REGION.**

Report and draft Section 85 Agreement was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keaveney, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Canning it was **AGREED** to enter into an agreement with Mayo County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) for the Public Lighting LED Retrofit Programme for the North West Region.

**ITEM NO. 11 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE  
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 22 OF THE HOUSING MISCELLANEOUS  
PROVISIONS ACT 2009 AND THE SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION  
REGULATIONS 2011(S.I. No. 198 of 2011) AS AMENDED**

3606

Report and draft Housing Allocation Scheme were already circulated to each Member.

The Cathoirleach welcomed the newly appointed Director of Service for Housing, Mr. Hanrahan to the meeting. Mr. Hanrahan summarised the proposed principle amendments to the Draft Housing Allocation Scheme as follows:

- **Section 3.8** changes the determination of family composition for a vacant dwelling.
- **Section 4.2** provision to allow for a particular number of dwellings to facilitate the implementation of Housing First, Homelessness Action Plan, Traveller Accommodation Programme, Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities, Slaintecare - My Home MHCIS, and others
- **Section 7.3** provision that the failure to reply to an offer of accommodation within a period of 7 days may be deemed a refusal after reasonable steps have been taken to check the offer was received.
- **Section 7.5** provision that a reasonable offer of accommodation includes accommodation available via the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).
- **Section 8** provision to allow for Approved Housing Body dwellings to be allocated via Choice Based Letting (CBL), subject to agreement of the relevant AHB.
- **Section 16** provision for an appeals process to operate instead of the current appeals process available under the Quality Customer Services Strategy.

The following queries and points were raised Cllrs. Byrne, Herterich-Quinn, Maher, M. Connolly, D. Connolly, Canning & Thomas:

- Acknowledged the Housing SPC for addressing issues raised by the Members and producing a progressive policy document.
- Request for an action plan for when issues arise with tenants.
- Need to enforce policy when a house is damaged by tenants and no further allocations should be made to those responsible.
- The issue of succession of tenancy needs to be examined as difficulties often arise for families when proper arrangement has not been made.
- The issue of tenants in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) stopping rent payments was highlighted. When the tenant stops paying rent, HAP payments to the landlord are automatically stopped. Taking the case to the RTB or Courts often takes months and the result is often that the tenant has no funds, they move on and the landlord is left at a huge loss.
- The turnaround time from the vacation of a property to re-allocation to a new tenants is not fast enough. Highlighted the need to take long term view and ensure properties are future proofed to meet the needs of tenants.
- Consider the model of 'Multi-Generational Adaptable Homes'.
- Highlighted the lack of supply of apartments in the county area which would be suitable for young couples and families as starter homes and noted that the residential vibrancy of town centers needs to be encouraged.
- Need to work more closely with Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) to ensure coordinated approach to housing tenants.

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

- The Council's Tenancy Handbook sets out the rights and responsibilities of tenants. The handbook is currently being updated. Housing Liaison Officers assist and mediate where issues arise with council tenants.
- Confirmed that a house will not be allocated to a person where a previous house allocated to them was damaged. Noted that it often takes a significant amount of time and budget resources to remedy damage to property, sometimes requiring Department approval.

- Acknowledged it is a significant issue for landlords when tenants on HAP or RAS schemes stop paying rent. Agreed that cases going to RTB and Courts takes time. The Housing Department's focus remains on the arrears program in an attempt to avoid issues getting to the Court stage.
- Regarding multigenerational use and future proofing housing stock, the importance of universal design principles, good architectural design and energy solutions was acknowledged. It was noted that these principles can often only be applied in the case of new builds, turnkey developments and deep retrofits.
- Apartments, 1 & 2 bedroomed, are beginning to become available in the county area and noted that town centers were good location for apartments.
- Confirmed that a meeting has been arranged with AHB's regarding allocation schemes and the importance of working closely with AHB's was accepted.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh it was **AGREED** to adopt the Galway County Council Draft Housing Allocation Scheme in accordance with Section 22 of The Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2009 and the Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 198 of 2011) as amended.

**ITEM NO. 12. (A) - TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT - MAY 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)** 3607

Report dated the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr C. Keaveney, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh, the Management Report – May 2020 in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **AGREED**.

Referring to the 57 vacancies across the organisation, Cllr. Curley requested priority be given to filling of outdoor vacancies. Noting the epidemic of dumping in recent weeks Cllr. Byrne welcomed the implementation of the Waste Presentation bye-laws and confirmation that Council staff will begin calling door to door to determine waste collection services when deemed safe to do so.

Referring to the installation of audio devices at Bring Banks, Cllr. Carroll suggested audio devices were ineffective and CCTV cameras were required to deter people from illegally dumping at these locations. In response the Chief Executive clarified that the use of CCTV for the purpose of monitoring illegal dumping at Bring Banks was currently the subject of review by the Office of the Data Protection Commission and notification of the outcome is awaited.

**12(B) - TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – JUNE 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)**

Management Report of June 2020 was available on the Extranet and was previously circulated to each Member.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade, the Management Report – June 2020 in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **AGREED**.

Cllrs. Herterich-Quinn, Carroll and McClearn referred to the design options recently published relating to the redevelopment of a 21-acre at Sandy Road, Galway, a portion of which is in the ownership of Galway County Council

- Concern was expressed that it appeared that the City Council is making plans for lands owned by Galway County Council.
- Noted that the Galway County Council Archives are also located in Sandy Road, which holds valuable documentation, proper storage facilities for these archives need consideration in the event of relocation.

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

- The Design Review of Sandy Road and approach taken by Galway City Council was with the full knowledge of Galway County Council. The CPG were informed of the approach and previously a sub-group of Members was formed at Councils request to discuss the potential of the Galway County Council lands at Sandy Road and the site/car park located at the rear of County Hall.
- The understanding was that the City Council would work with the Land Development Agency (LDA) to review the potential development of the lands.
- Any proposal for the use of lands will revert to Galway County Council for discussion and approval at the appropriate time.
- The land has a value to Galway County Council which will need to be realised and the cost of relocating Council facilities would need to be addressed.

Cllr. Cuddy raised the issue of a property purchased by Galway City Council in the County Area of Kiltullagh, Oranmore. He said the Members of Galway County Council had not been informed of the correspondence received by the Council in relation to the matter. He referred to Section 109 subsections (2)&(3) of Housing Act 1966 and noted the specific reference to the reserved function of the Elected Members.

Cllr. McKinstry noted that as of May 2020 Galway City Council had 327 tenancy agreements under the HAP scheme in the County area, a practice which is ongoing since 2016. He stated that they had similar tenancies in many other counties including Mayo, Waterford, Clare and Cork. He outlined that this approach was cost effective and offered value for money as accommodation was available at rates lower than that in the city. In the particular case in question he noted the family was being moved from one area of the county to another.

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

- Clarified that Members were provided with all correspondence received.
- Noted that what were considered appropriate steps were taken to advise of the issue utilising the LTACC which includes Elected Members.
- The LTACC were advised of the communication from the City Council the day after its receipt by the Council.

- Clarified that to date there was nothing to suggest that the City Council did not have the legal authority to acquire the property.

Cllrs. D. Connolly and M. Connolly voiced their concerns over reports of the possible closure of APTAR Ballinasloe. As a significant employer in the area they called on all State Agencies and Galway County Council to intervene in any way they can to salvage the situation.

In response the Chief Executive said while he had no direct knowledge of the proposed closure any further loss of jobs in Ballinasloe was significant. He noted the local authority was limited in what it could do but confirmed he would engage with the IDA/Enterprise Ireland and take part in any forum or discussion with the aim of preventing job losses.

**ITEM NO. 13 - CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE** 3608

The Chief Executive informed Members that Galway County Council to date, have paid out €1.9m on applications made under the Restart Grant approved by the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation. Eligible business may receive a grant of €2,000 to €10,000 under the scheme. It is expected that applications may treble current numbers. He underlined the importance of highlighting the availability of the grant to eligible businesses.

Regarding Town Centre Enhancement the Chief Executive noted the Council are in the final stages of developing a pilot Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Athenry and Ballinasloe. The scheme is being funded by the Rural Regeneration Development Fund for Athenry. He noted that there is also a longstanding commitment to Ballinasloe following the Town Enhancement Scheme. The Council will be finalising the scheme and advertising same shortly.

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

- Letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020, received from Chief Executive, Galway City Council in reply to query re Galway City Council housing function.
- Letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020, sent from County Secretary to Galway City Council re query on Galway City Council housing function.
- Letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020, received from Carlow County Council re resolution adopted.
- Email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 received from AILG enclosing AILG Plenary Members Activity Report May 2020

**ITEM NO. 14 - CATHOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

**3609**

**The following Motions were submitted**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hynes, the members **AGREED**: *"that as per the Waste Management objective of the County Development Plan 2015 -2021 that a recycling centre be provided and maintained in Gort town area, South Galway area of the County."*

The Chief Executive advised that the provision in the County Development Plan was an enabling provision and that the barrier of the cost of developing and operating a recycling centre remained to be addressed in the context of a challenging financial position.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kinane, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn, the members **AGREED**: *"that due to the fact the main reason for seeking a joint meeting of both the City and Council CPG was to establish a forum to enable the installation of a Park and Ride Service on lands at Ardaun /Oranmore. I am seeking that this matter be top of the agenda on the day of said meeting for discussion"*

The Cathaoirleach outlined that a provisional date of Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 was proposed for a joint meeting of the Corporate Policy Groups.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sheridan, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Albert Dolan, the members **AGREED**: “*that Galway County Council outline and clarify the “Cost Centre Administrative” protocols and procedures as to fiscal and physical management of electric vehicle charge points within the Galway County jurisdiction and forward it to all Members of the chamber*”

Following discussion in relation to the arrangements and duration of the meeting being limited to a 2-hour timeframe, it was agreed, following discussion, to refer the matter to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration prior to the July meeting.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **Notice of Motion No. 15 – Shelly Herterich Quinn**

**3610**

Cllr. Herterich Quinn submitted the following motion prior to the meeting: “*that Galway County Council request the Minister (Employment Affairs and Social Protection and/or Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) to undertake the removal of the stillbirth register; and that stillborn children receive a birth and death certificate like every citizen of this State. Babies who are stillborn should be registered on the birth and death register and should receive the same state records of their existence as everyone else. Parents whose babies are currently listed on the stillbirth register should be given the opportunity to have their babies placed on the birth and death register and to receive a birth and death certificate for their babies.*”

The meeting concluded prior to Notice of Motion No. 15 being reached on the clár.

#### **Notice of Motion No. 16 – Geraldine Donohue**

**3611**

Cllr. Donohue made the following proposal: “*that Galway County Council formally agrees to write to the leaders of all political parties in Dáil Eireann requesting supports “to assist in the halt of the economic and social decline of rural Ireland by implementing a new programme for government that will include specific objectives to support the suckler beef sector, that will support the viability of the family-farms particularly in areas where other enterprises like Dairying are not feasible and will commit to:*

(a) initiating a new agri-environmental scheme whereby a qualifying farmer can draw down payments equivalent to those that were available under the old REP Scheme, except that under the new scheme such payments will be available on the first 32 Hectares of a holding, and

(b) providing within the same scheme for an optional suckler cow welfare measure that will allow the qualifying farmer to draw down €300 on each cow up to a maximum of 17 cows, 17 cows being the average suckler cow herd size in the country."

The meeting concluded prior to Notice of Motion No. 15 being reached on the clár.

**Notice of Motion No. 17 – Andrew Reddington**

**3612**

Cllr. Reddington submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting: "that Galway County Council set up a pilot visiting service for the elderly in our community especially those who live alone."

**The following written reply was issued to Cllr Reddington:**

As you are aware, the Community Response Helpline has been in operation since 30<sup>th</sup> March to assist older and vulnerable individuals with requests for practical supports such as collection and delivery of shopping, prescriptions, pensions and other essential household items. One of the other aims of the helpline was to offer social engagement and support for individuals who were feeling isolated or anxious during this difficult time, either through direct linkages with the helpline staff or linking them in with local groups who were willing to offer this support via regular telephone contact with the individual. In addition, An Garda Síochána has been in regular contact with hundreds of older persons who are particularly isolated and are on the registers maintained in the local Garda Stations. Our Community Department are finalising Resource Packs which will be distributed to all individuals on the Garda Registers, as well as those who have been in receipt of practical supports, as it is felt that these are the most vulnerable members of our communities. The aim of these packs is to provide information and advice on all available local supports, as well as encouraging individuals to interact with us through a range of competitions and activities. The need for ongoing social supports for older and vulnerable individuals is one of the primary issues identified by Partner Organisations involved in the Community Response Forum and the provision of

targeted Resource Packs and Befriending Initiatives were one of the priorities in the initial round of funding under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund. There will be a second tranche of funding under this scheme where there will be an opportunity to create a legacy of supports through local befriending initiatives and other social supports for older people. This may not take the form of a visitation service as this should only be carried out by tried and trusted members of Care Organisations, who are all suitably qualified and Garda-Vetted. However, the LCDC (Local Community Development Committee) will examine all options for sustained social supports for older people through existing structures and networks such as the Age Friendly Alliance and Disability Federation of Ireland who have been central to the community response to COVID-19.

**Notice of Motion No. 18 – Alistair McKinstry**

**3613**

Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting: *"that for better management and oversight, I call on the council to prepare a "live list" of upcoming funding calls, with deadlines, whether GCC is applying , staff member responsible and status, and that the Municipal Council use this to review status at MD meetings".*

**The following written reply was issued to Cllr. McKinstry:**

There are a plethora of funding calls for which the Council is eligible to apply in its own right, or in partnership with other stakeholders. These calls for proposals are across the various directorates, and applications are generally managed within each of the directorates with one directorate taking a lead coordination role where staff across the organisation must feed in. It has become common practice for a number of competitive call calls, which involve the Council applying, or inviting interested stakeholders to be party to an application, that details are circulated through a range of means including notifying the Elected Members, notifying registered Community Groups and Organisations through the PPN, publication on online digital platforms and through local media as appropriate. Examples of schemes which are circulated on this basis include Town & Village Renewal, CLÁR, Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) and the Community Enhancement Programme.

In order to ensure the Elected Members are aware of funding calls, the Council will review the current systems across the various directorates and consider the available

options in terms advising the Members of funding calls, deadlines and the relevant staff member responsible. For the moment it is likely that the means of communication will be by email or through the extranet. Where a schedule of dates for funding schemes becomes known, this will be circulated this to the Elected Members, however, given the volume, complexity, resources available and time pressures associated with the administration and submission of funding applications, it may not be possible or appropriate to review the status of individual funding schemes at Municipal District Meetings.

**Notice of Motion No. 19 – Shelly Herterich Quinn**

3614

Cllr. Herterich Quinn submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting: "*I would like to propose that - Galway County Council make car parking spaces available in public car parks to facilitate and expand the number of 'EV Fast Charging Points in the County. In light of the effects of the Coronavirus on our Country, the need to facilitate the domestic EV traveller has never been more important. There is a particular deficit of EV Fast Charging Points in the Athenry/Oranmore area and indeed in our County. The Climate Action Plan launched in 2019 by Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton, commits to a target of "936,000 electric vehicles on Irish roads by 2030". Ensuring there is the necessary infrastructure in place to support this step is crucial. Several grants have been made available through the Government and the SEAI in the past year. Has Galway County Council availed of these grants to provide more EV fast charging points in our County? Can Galway County Council provide me with information on how much has been invested and in what locations? Would Galway County Council know if the ESB has renewed any existing chargers in County to date on foot of the €10m funding it was given in 2019. It is imperative that priority is given to supporting domestic EV 'Drive Tourism' in the short term and foreign EV 'Drive Tourism' in the long term".*

**The following written reply was issued to Cllr. Herterich Quinn:**

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has announced funding to support the rollout by local authorities of up to 1,000 on-street public charge points for electric vehicles over the next 5 years.

Capital supports of 75% of the cost up to maximum of 5,000 euro per charge point will be provided to Local Authorities for the development of up to 200 on-street charge points per annum across the whole local authority sector not per individual local authority. The Local Authorities will operate the charge points subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, who will manage the scheme, and the Department are currently finalising the terms and conditions that will apply. Charge points may be located where public parking is provided on-street or in Local Authority car parks. On-street charge points may also be integrated with street lighting in a single lamppost as has been trialled in the Dublin Local Authorities.

In addition, under the first call for applications from the Climate Action Fund, approved funding of up to €10 million has been allocated to ESB eCars to develop a nationwide, state-of-the-art electric vehicle fast charging network. The project includes the installation of 90 high-power chargers each of which will be capable of charging two vehicles simultaneously, upgrading 50 existing standard chargers to fast chargers and replacing over 500 existing charge points with next generation high reliability models. There is no current information available in respect of proposed locations in County Galway.

Galway County Council is currently reviewing the current network of existing charge points throughout the County to determine the most suitable potential locations on our own lands. The most appropriate business model for the roll out of any such network is also being considered having regard to the upfront capital investment and long-term maintenance that will be required. There are also additional issues which require further analysis including fee structure, contractual arrangements with ESB and the potential ramifications of being considered an “energy supplier”.

**ITEM NO. 20 – VOTES OF SYMPATHY /CONGRATULATIONS**

**3615**

**Resolutions of Sympathy:**

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

- Margaret McDonagh, Coismeig Mór, Co. Galway
- Maureen Geoghan, Tiernee Lettermore, Co Galway
- Colette Coughlan, The Demesne, Monivea, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Denise Cooley, Cantaney, Turloughmore, Co Galway
- Tommy Murray, Coole, Gort, Co. Galway
- Fraser Donaldson, Ballycahalan, Kilbeacanty, Gort, Co. Galway
- Breda Fox, Moanbaun, Athenry, Co Galway
- Mary Glavin, Canteeny ,Turloughmore, Co. Galway
- Teresa O Brien, Barnaboy , Turloughmore, Co. Galway
- Sean Glavin, Monard, Turloughmore, Co. Galway

**Resolutions of Congratulations:**

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

- Senator Aisling Dolan

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

**Submitted Signed and Approved:**

**Cathaoirleach:**

James Cheezy

**Date:**

27/7/20