

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY
ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 3.00pm.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Keaveney

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. Roche, Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington & Cllr. McHugh Farag

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGH: Mr. Derek Pender D.O.S. - Infrastructure & Operations, Ms. Fiona Holland - Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Paul Connolly – Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan – Executive Engineer, Ciaran Wynne – Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Geraldine Byrne - Meetings Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

Cllr. Keaveney welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MDT220029

1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 13th June 2022.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Roche and **seconded** by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the Annual General meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 13th June, 2022 were **agreed**.

MDT220030

2. – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 13th June 2022.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Hoade and **seconded** by Cllr. McHugh Farag the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 13th June, 2022 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising:

MDT220031

On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney seconded by Cllr. Killilea the following motion was agreed:

I propose;

The retrospective approval be given to both Cllr. Reddington and Cllr. Roche to attend the Straubing Twinning meeting in Germany. This is a long-standing tradition that must be continued from Tuam Town Council to Galway County Council.

Cllr. Hoade enquired if a start date for the General Operative position in Headford had been agreed. She requested it be expedited as quickly as possible to be fair to existing staff in the area who are under extreme pressure. Mr. Pender advised that there is a panel in place, offers have issued and posts have been accepted verbally.

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Cllr. Roche also queried if the Community Warden vacancies were filled in Tuam MD. Mr. Pender advised that the offers of the posts had gone to successful candidates, and he would liaise with HR regarding appointment dates for the General Operative and Community Warden positions.

Cllr. Sheridan queried the availability of extra funding for archaeological requirements on projects. Mr. Pender advised that additional resources and costings needs to be considered at the time of making the original application for the funding.

Cllr. Sheridan and Cllr. Roche requested updates regarding Tinkers Hill and the junction at Grange and Balrobuck. Mr Pender advised that both Tinkers Hill and the Balrobuck and Grange Junction were for discussion at a steering committee meeting with TII and NRPO and he would revert regarding updates by the end of the week.

Cllr. Roche referred to the application to develop the town hall and expressed his disappointment that the application could not be considered currently. He asked what Galway County Council can do in the future to ensure that this would not happen again. Mr. Pender advised that part VIII Planning needed to be in place before GCC applied for funding, which it was not, however the required planning is now in place and the project will be ready to go ahead as soon as the next round of funding is announced.

Cllr Reddington queried what stage the Traffic Management Plan in Headford is at. Mr. Pender advised that GCC are in contract with Systra to carry out any traffic management plans for the County and work is ongoing in relation to same.

Cllr. Reddington referred to other Local Authorities that had a dedicated team working on Active Travel projects. He expressed his concern for GCC's Area Office staff delivering these projects together with the Roads Programme and requested that GCC put a similar team in place to ease their workload.

Mr. Pender advised that GCC had been approved 4 team members under the active travel team and were seeking approval for a further 6 people, expecting to have a new 8/10 person team under active travel dealing with the tendering and procurement process. Mr. Pender advised that there will always be input required for the MD Staff even when the Active Travel teams are up and running.

Cllr. Killilea sought clarification if the Active Travel team was the same team that would be looking after the Quiet Man Greenway. Mr. Pender advised that the Active Travel Team was coming under a separate funding stream and would be funded by the NTA - with the greenway team being funded by working out if NRO in Ballybrit.

Cllr. Killilea queried if it would be possible to have small community groups to have controlled access to the Town Hall as it is proving difficult when they do not have the required insurance. He queried if GCC could have insurance in place that would cover these small groups.

Cllr. Reddington thanked Emily Reynolds for her continued work on the Town Twinning Committee and continued efforts at trying to maintain a strong relationship between Tuam and Straubing.

MDT220032

3. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Pender advised that the second round of funding had been announced for Local Improvement Schemes four of which were in Tuam MD

Mr Pender informed the Elected members of two projects that GCC had recently applied for funding under NTA Pathway funding, a walkway loop proposed by John Coyle and Phase Two of Headfords Ross Errily Walk, with Phase one already complete

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The Elected members thanked Mr. Connolly for a current and completed works update he had circulated prior to the meeting and thanked all Tuam MD staff for all works done.

Cllr. McHugh thanked Tuam MD for works in Palace Grounds advising that she had had a few queries from residents regarding trees in the park and would speak to Mr. Connolly after the meeting regarding same.

Cllr. Roche queried when the historic list that is in place for Local Improvement Schemes will be depleted. Mr. Pender advised that currently with two rounds of funding the list may not be exhausted for a 4/5 year period. He advised that if there are other roads external to this list that are a priority the elected member could sit down and discuss same with him on a one-to-one basis.

Cllr. Keaveney expressed his disappointment with the role of the TII in the maintenance of the approach roads to Tuam town which have been an ongoing concern over the last three years with overgrowth and weeds. He said the role of TII is far from acceptable and suggested that a motion was considered that TIIs function was given to GCC to follow through. He pleaded that Management step in and have a discussion on the urgency of this issue with TII.

Cllr Killilea supported Cllr. Keaveney in his concerns. Cllr. Roche advised the best course of action may be for GCC staff engage with the TII in relation to this issue. Mr. Pender advised this was the first time that this issue was brought to his attention and he encouraged members in the first instance to let him speak directly to the TII on this issue.

Cllr. Keaveney referenced an area with Tuam town centre near Millers House and beside the Bridge Bar which had become overgrown and in need of attention. He stressed the importance of taking responsibility for the town centre before Galway County Council take on new projects. He queried if the bollards in this area are a permanent structure. Mr. Connolly He advised he was not aware of the issue at the mill house and would check the ownership of this property and follow up regarding same

Mr. Pender updated the Elected Members in relation to application submission to an Bord Pleanala regarding the LIS to Abbeyknockmoy Scheme on N63, that an oral hearing was scheduled to take place on Teams on 25th November covering the EIAR and CPO process.

Cllr Hoade queried the current situation on the N84 and observed that many of the reflective green bollards are missing at Limnagh and asked that they would be reinstated. Mr. Pender noted the green bollards and would request that an audit was carried out to replace same where required.

Cllr Hoade queried when verge trimming would commence throughout the County highlighting it was a serious concern along the N84 and a danger for children cycling to school. Cllr. Reddington requested that verge trimming was first focused on national schools with many pupils cycling to school where the verges require attention. Mr. Connolly advised that hedgecutting had begun on the County Roads that morning, with contract for Regional and National roads imminent. He also advised that funding for hedge cutting was an issue as were well down and each year it is a concern.

Cllr. Sheridan raised the issue of Energy conservation and the impact of potential power cuts in the Tuam Area. He queried if there are any policies in place or with our partners around conservation of energy. He suggested a letter may need to issue to Eirgrid in relation to this matter. Mr. Pender advised that further discussions would follow between Elected Members and the Executive in relation to this issue.

MDT220033

On the proposal of Cllr. Sheridan seconded by Cllr. Killilea the following motion was agreed:

I propose;

That Tuam MD undergo an “Executive Summary Energy Sustainability Audit” with regard to plans to enable a smooth transition in the face of potential Energy curtailment in the winter/Spring ahead. Item like CHTP, Remote work, dial down thermostats, peak curtailments, and max demand management

Cllr. Roche referred to the speed limit sign at Carrowmoneen which had been knocked off and requested that it was put back on back in spring. He also raised a concern in relation to families left in without tickets to travel to school on the bus service even though they had the tickets for the previous year. Cllr McHugh Farag advised once a precedent is set to give tickets applicants should also be entitled to same service for the next year. Cllr. Reddington expressed concern that people had applied for tickets but were not using them.

MDT220034

On the proposal of Cllr. Roche seconded by Cllr. Reddington the following motion was agreed:

I propose;

That the Municipal authority plead with Minister Norma Foley to urgently review the school transport to facilitate students who were refused school transport. This current situation is deplorable and needs to be resolved.

Cllr. Killilea advised that the Tuam Allotments had been vandalised recently and that the users that had sewn crops last spring now have nothing to harvest because of vandalism. He urged that the facility be publicised so it can be better utilised, especially in times where people are encouraged to become more self-sufficient and self-sustaining.

The Elected members raised a query in relation to the undertaking of a speed limit review. Cllr. Killilea asked if it would be reviewed in line with the LAP. He would like to see the speed limits moved out extending the town boundary and queried if it was possible to have a clear concise way of doing a proposal for the next Md Meeting. Mr. Pender advised there would be a speed limit review and the start of process would begin with advertising in local papers.

Cllr. Killilea queried if it would be possible to relocate the bottle banks at Tuam Swimming pool to an alternative location as there is ongoing litter problems every Monday morning, He suggested it was moved to a safe and secure and well-lit area.

He also queried why GCC purchased bottle banks outside of Galway when we have a local business producing the product. Mr. Pender advised that the procurement process in place in GCC determined the regulations in relation to purchasing the bottle banks.

Cllr. Hoade requested an update on the Kilbannon scheme. Cllr. Killilea requested that a letter would be sent to the landowners at Kilbannon to let them know what is happening. Mr. Pender apologised for the delay in a letter issuing giving an undertaking that letters signed by himself would issue later in the week to the landowners.

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4. - Municipal -District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business.

MDT220035

Cllr Keaveney requested that the draft dates for the Tuam MD meetings were circulated to the members for agreement and if no one came back requesting a change the dates were agreed. Cllr Killilea requested that the meetings were held in Tuam MD where possible and queried the possibility of using Tuam Town Hall, acknowledging the sound issues but stating it was important to utilise the building.

A discussion then took place between the members in relation to Hybrid meetings and the minimum requirement of attendance. Cllr. McHugh advised that this matter was being discussed through the CPG with regards the Plenary meeting as locally the equipment may not be available but the matter is open to discussion.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 16.35 pm

Approved by:



Date: 14 Nov 2022

Cathaoirleach