

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th May 2021

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY

ON 20th May 2021 AT 11 a.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. Sheridan

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN

Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. McHugh Farag,
Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Roche

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGIGH:

Mr. Cullen, C.E. Mr. Pender D.O.S., Infrastructure & Operations, Mr. Hanrahan, D.O.S. Housing, Economic & Community & Enterprise, Mr. Coyle, A/S.E.E., Ms. Hourigan, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Dunne, A.S.O., Ms. Naughton, Staff Officer

Cllr. Sheridan welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting of Tuam Municipal District.

MDT210018

Vote of Sympathy

The members paid tribute to the late Frank Gilmore, former Director of Service, Tuam Town Manager and employee of Galway County Council. The members acknowledged his contribution on numerous projects, the benefits of which can be seen in Tuam and surrounding areas.

Mr. Cullen, Chief Executive joined with the members in their tributes to Frank, on his own behalf and on behalf of the entire staff of Galway County Council extended his sympathies to the Gilmore family.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, the members offered a vote of sympathy to Frank's wife, Brenda his family, Aidan, Niamh and Aoife and the extended Gilmore family.

The members agreed to a five- minute adjournment as a mark of respect.

MDT210019

Agenda

Cllr. Sheridan resumed the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach requested that Item No. 3 on the agenda be brought forward to enable Mr. Hanrahan, Director of Service to make his presentation in respect of nominations of two members for the Tuam Housing Taskforce.

This was not agreed. Cllr. Reddington said that the Agenda as outlined was not in compliance with the Standing Orders and contravened Item No. 14 which specified that it was the business specified in in the notice requesting the meeting that must be dealt with first and so the item listed at No. 2 on the

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th May 2021

agenda should be taken before any other business. Cllr. Roche agreed that the agenda was not in line with Standing Order No. 14.

The Cathaoirleach indicated his intention to deal with the Agenda as presented and requested item No. 3 on the Agenda be taken first so as not to keep Mr. Hanrahan at the meeting unnecessarily. This was supported by Cllr. Keaveney.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Keaveney and **seconded** by Cllr. Killilea that the Council exhaust today's Agenda as circulated.

Cllr McHugh Farag said that a meeting was requested to deal with one item and the Chair added additional items.

Cllr. Roche proceeded to give the background to the meeting request given that the item for discussion was of a serious nature. He expressed his dis-satisfaction that there were other items on the agenda. He reiterated his request that a one item agenda be addressed. He said that the Agenda is not in order and is in breach of Item 14 of the Standing Orders and would put forward a counter motion.

Cllr. Reddington re-iterated Item No. 14 of the Standing Orders deals with the Agenda and respectively asked that Item No. 2 on the Agenda must be dealt with first and afterwards the remaining items can be dealt with.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. McHugh Farag and **seconded** by Cllr. Roche that in line with standing order 14 and as per the request of Cllrs. McHugh Farag, Roche & Reddington the meeting proceed with Item 2 first and then the remaining items be taken.

Heated verbal exchanges took place amongst the members, with the Cathaoirleach warning the members that the meeting would be adjourned if order was not restored.

Mr. Cullen, Chief Executive provided clarification that there was a proposal before the meeting to deal with the agenda as circulated and an amendment to that proposal to deal with item 2 first, rather than a counter proposal as had been suggested.

Further heated exchanges took place amongst the members. The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for five minutes to restore calm.

Following the five-minute adjournment, the Cathaoirleach requested that both motions be written down, and a vote would be taken.

He indicated that a vote would be taken on Cllr. McHugh Farag amendment that "in line with standing order 14 and as per the request of Cllrs. McHugh Farag, Roche & Reddington the meeting proceed with Item 2 first and then the remaining items be taken".

The vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For **3**

Cllr. McHugh Farag Cllr. Reddington Cllr. Roche

Against **4**

Cllr. Hoade Cllr. Keaveney Cllr. Killilea Cllr. Sheridan

The Cathaoirleach declared that the amendment to the motion was **not carried** and that he would now proceed to deal with the substantive motion of Cllr. Keaveney that "the Council exhaust today's Agenda as circulated".

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th May 2021

The vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For **4**

Cllr. Hoade Cllr. Keaveney Cllr. Killilea Cllr. Sheridan

Against **3**

Cllr. McHugh Farag Cllr. Reddington Cllr. Roche

The Cathaoirleach declared that the motion **carried**.

MDT210020

Item no. 1 - Confirmation of the Minutes of meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 12th April 2021

Cllr. Reddington stated that there was an omission in the draft minutes of meeting held on 12th April, 2021 and that he would like to have them amended.

Cllr. Reddington wrote out the following amendment to the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April, 2021 and handed it to the Cathaoirleach.

“I wish to add to the meeting that on the motion outlined by Cllr. Reddington motion that he added to his motion verbally on the day that seven projects could be delivered to benefit the whole Tuam LEA.”

This amendment **proposed** by Cllr. Reddington was **seconded** by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the members.

Cllr. Killilea also proposed an amendment to the minutes as follows:

“that the second last paragraph on page five on the minutes would also reflect the other projects not just the Palace Grounds”.

This amendment **proposed** by Cllr. Killilea was **seconded** by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed by the members.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Hoade and **seconded** by Cllr. Killilea the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 12th April 2021 as **amended were agreed**.

Cllr. Roche asked the Cathaoirleach on a point for clarification as to why Cllr. Reddington’s motion was deemed invalid on the day. In reply the Cathaoirleach said that the motion did not deal with the substantive item, was not in the common form and was deemed invalid. Cllr. Roche expressed his dissatisfaction with the Cathaoirleach’s reply and indicated that the matter would be raised in another forum.

MDT210021

Item no. 2 – To review proposals under Item 6 of meeting held on 12th April 2021 – To consider and adopt the distribution of Municipal District of Tuam €180,000 allocation.

Cllr. McHugh Farag put forward an **amendment** to the motion advising that by and large much remained the same apart from the removal of the funding for a technical person. The amendment proposed was as follows;

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th May 2021

I propose a motion to amend the proposed allocation of €180,000 funding at the 12th April 2021 Tuam Municipal District.

The allocation of €180,000 public monies to the Tuam MD has been universally welcomed by all members, for the potential transformative effects it will have on the districts population directly enhancing infrastructure and amenities.

The sentiment from the original motion is correct, this is a finite resource and targeted projects will secure the best value for money as was advised by the direct for services.

This motion also borrows a significant proportion of its structure from the original motion.

In an effort to achieve the spirit set out by our Director of Services and in the spirit of putting on the shared jersey of the Tuam MD first and foremost I propose the following method of distribution of the allocation.

- A. Cllr. Mary Hoade allocated €25,720 funding to go to Caherlistrane Village for a controlled Pedestrian crossing, speed activated signs and additional signage and road markings to improve pedestrian safety through the village. As per the original motion Cllr Hoade commended the community in Caherlistrane for their valued input and the area engineers.
- B. Cllr. Andrew Reddington to allocate €4,280 funding to go towards Caherlistrane village for a controlled Pedestrian crossing, speed activated signs and additional signage and road markings to improve pedestrian safety through the village. This will bring the total sum allocated to this project to €30,000 as per the original motion at the April Municipal district meeting. Cllr Andrew Reddington also allocated €5350 for wheelchair accessible benches to the local publicly owned piers Greenfields, Annaghkeen, Kilbeg. The total cost of the benches is €5,350. The Balance of €16,090 is to be allocated to lighting at the Demesne in Headford.
- C. Cllr Colm Keaveney is to allocate €25,720 to go to his NOM bringing to a total notice of motion spend of €45,720 for the purposes of investing in the Tuam MD Area in the following sub sections,
 - Environmental Infrastructure.
 - Shared space infrastructure.
 - Pedestrian infrastructure.
- D. Cllr Donagh Killilea as to allocate €15,000 to Ballygaddy Park, Tuam for the construction of a walkway looping the park and new seating installed. Having consulted with neighbours in the area this is a fine public park that needs upgrading. Cllr Killilea also allocated €10,000 to improving the estate entrance at Millstream Park/Weir Road Tuam, to allow for the safe entrance and exit into and out of the estate. The sum of €720 will also be transferred to Cllr Killilea's NOM, leaving a balance of €15,720 to spend on works and upgrades at the Palace Grounds Tuam, Corofin Village project and Belclare Village enhancements in line with his previous 8 years allocations. It is intended that spending will be taken from the document circulated by John Coyle.
- E. Cllr Joe Sheridan in continuing his support in the Tuam MD area will allocate significant funding that will go to the following sectors:
 - Climate Tourism Amenities & Trails with Mapping & signage
 - Tidy Town/Village/Group and housing Estate Themed Garden Projects.

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th May 2021

All these projects are fast track and will be deployed with community proposers as reward to volunteers and frontline workers in our neighbourhoods and beyond.

To facilitate this important work €25,720 will be transferred to Cllr Sheridan's NOM funding for allocation over the coming weeks.

- F. Cllr Peter Roche is to allocate €25,720 to the Palace Grounds in Tuam for the following projects
1. 50mt of new hand- rail - €5500
 2. €15,000 towards new benches and new picnic tables
 3. €5220 towards a new story time area
- G. Cllr Karey McHugh Farag is to allocate €25,680 to the Palace grounds in Tuam for the following projects.
1. Refurbishment of the cross - €2200
 2. €15,000 towards new benches and new picnic tables
 3. €8480 towards a new story time area.

The joints sum of €15,000 each from Cllr McHugh Farag and Roche will see €30,000 being spent on 6 new benches and 3 new picnic tables. As per the information circulated in the report by the engineers it is intended that the outdoor furniture selected will be wheelchair user accessible.

The allocation of €5220 and €8480 will see €13,700 being allocated towards a story time area which can be universally used by parents, guardians, schools and clubs.

The allocations from Cllrs. Roche, McHugh Farag and Killilea will see an investment in the Palace Grounds to be in the region of approximately €55,000 to €60,000. We have all witnessed the legacy of the investment made by former Town Councillor's into the Palace grounds and we are proud to propose this significant sum to be spent on the further enhancement of this jewel in the towns crown.

This funding also builds on the very successful public event that was held in the Ard Ri Hotel on 27th of November 2018. We have discussed this event many times and significant funding to act on ideas that were forthcoming at this event has not become a reality to date.

While we understand that this motion omits the reference to the allocation for additional staff as per the original motion we hope that as an MD we are able to unite and fight our case with the Minister and his office to adequately fund the MDs and Council and we will have this opportunity when he visits the plenary council in the coming months.

The total figures for the motion are outlined in the table below:

Cllr	Amount	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Total sum
Hoade	25720	25720			25720
Killilea	25720	15000	10000	720	25720
Keaveney	25720	25720			25720
Sheridan	25720	25720			25720
Roche	25720	5500	15000	5220	25720
Reddington	25720	4280	5350	16090	25720
McHugh Farag	25680	2200	15000	8480	25680
	180000				180000

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th May 2021

If the motion is agreeable to the Members, we would like to suggest that it is proposed and signed by every member to show unity across the MD of Tuam.

Cllr. Roche seconded the motion as presented adding that he was particularly pleased if this motion is agreed with the investment at Palace Grounds, a fundamental park, providing year-round facilities and a refuge during level five Covid restrictions. He referenced the need to invest in new infrastructure and amenities that will lift the spirit of the town and appealed to colleagues for goodwill in supporting the motion.

Cllr. Reddington referred to the great work done by Cllr. McHugh Farag with the proposal and indicated that in every other Municipal District in County Galway equity was given to all members.

Heated exchanges again followed amongst the members.

Cllr. Killilea said that the Minutes of the Meeting of 12th April 2021 are adopted and sought clarification on point of order whether the motion proposed by Cllr. McHugh Farag could be considered referencing Section 19 of the standing orders.

In response, the Cathaoirleach said that unfortunately, the motion cannot be considered - referencing Standing Order no. 19 and No. 20 which states "Subject to Standing Order 19 any matter decided by the municipal district members by motion on notice or on the report of a committee shall not be re-opened within 6 months of the date of such decision."

Cllr. McHugh Farag queried whether members can spend NOM monies under Community & Enterprise Headings.

Mr. Cullen, Chief Executive said that any monies assigned to NOM, can only be spent for approved NOM purposes. He said that he had given this advice very clearly at the previous meeting, was reiterating it now and that, that is what will be implemented by the area staff.

Cllr. Killilea outlined his contribution of €68,000 towards works in the Palace Grounds and his support for the application under the Green Flag status. He said that Fianna Fail were not in the majority in the main chamber, but they do have the majority in Tuam MD and for the remainder of the term they will be working in conjunction with each other.

Cllr. Keaveney asked if Cllr. Reddington was recording the events of the meeting to which Cllr. Reddington insisted that he was not and took exception to the suggestion that he was.

Cllr. Reddington asked that the suggestion that he was recording on the phone be withdrawn and asked to have noted in the minutes that under no circumstance would he ever do that. The Cathaoirleach acknowledged and accepted Cllr. Reddington's position.

Reference was made by several Cllrs to recent social media postings, and remarks made which could incite unsavoury actions, and advised of the need to think about what was being said and its consequences.

Cllr. Roche added that he sought a resolution of the situation and made two gallant efforts to repair what he believes is a fundamental breakdown within the MD, that Fine Gael were seeking fair play and equity and want to work with colleagues in Fianna Fail.

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th May 2021

Cllr. McHugh Farag added that she herself has been the victim of unsavoury actions and that the members need to work more with the JPC to have these matters addressed.

Cllr Hoade acknowledged that the proposal brought forward by Cllr McHugh Farag today was excellent, if only it had been made at the last meeting. However, in line with the Standing Orders a second proposal cannot be taken for another six months. She asked that it be noted that she did make an offer to address Cllr. Reddington's project.

Cllr. Sheridan referred to the plan for the Regeneration of the Tuam MD referencing it as a very important document for all members and looks forward to having capital funding available to progress the projects and working with Mr. Cullen and Mr. Pender regarding same.

The Cathaoirleach stated that under standing orders Cllr. McHugh Farag's proposal could not be taken.

MDT210022

Item no. 3. – Nomination of two members to the Tuam Housing Taskforce

The Cathaoirleach welcomed back Mr. Hanrahan, D.O.S. Housing, Economic & Community & Enterprise to the meeting.

Mr. Hanrahan, D.O.S. advised the members of the proposed establishment of a Tuam Housing & Estate Management Taskforce. The membership of the Taskforce to consist of representative(s) from Tuam MD – (2 No.), Approved Housing Bodies, An Gardaí, Social Welfare; Revenue; Community Representatives together with others.

The objective of the taskforce is to examine ongoing issues in Tuam related to Housing & Estate Management, to identify key issues and to develop key actions.

Mr. Hanrahan referenced the Council obtaining its first successful exclusion orders in Loughrea last month and there is no reason this could not be replicated in Tuam in the future, adding that in Craughwell and Ballygar, a Court appointed Mediator was used and it was a huge success.

The members were requested to nominate 2 representatives from the Tuam MD to this taskforce.

The members welcomed the formation of this taskforce.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Keaveney was nominated to Tuam Housing & Estate Management Taskforce.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Keaveney, **seconded** by Cllr. McHugh Farag, Cllr. Reddington was also nominated to Tuam Housing & Estate Management Taskforce.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Hanrahan, D.O.S. and he then left the meeting.

MDT210023

Item no. 4 – Confirmation of AGM Meeting date

The proposed date for the Annual General Meeting for the Municipal District Meeting of Tuam is for 14th June 2021 at 11.30 a.m.

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th May 2021

The members agreed to this date on the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Sheridan.

MDT210024

Item no 5. Outdoor dining & amenity facilities

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to COVID time constraints.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 12.55 p.m.

Approved by:



Cathaoirleach

Date:

14/6/21