

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2016 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

- Councillor Baker,
- Councillor Bree,
- Councillor Casserly,
- Councillor Clarke,
- Councillor Gormley,
- Councillor Healy,
- Councillor Keaney,
- Councillor Kilgannon,
- Councillor Lundy,
- Councillor Maguire,
- Councillor MacManus,
- Councillor MacSharry,
- Councillor Mulvey,
- Councillor O'Boyle,
- Councillor O'Grady,
- Councillor Queenan,
- Councillor Taylor.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
- Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance
- Mr. John Reilly, Head of Enterprise
- Mr. Bartley Gavin, A/Director of Services
- Ms. Margaret McConnell, A/Director of Services
- Mr. Donal Tinney, County Librarian
- Mr. Tom Brennan, Senior Engineer
- Ms. Marian O'Callaghan, Executive Architect
- Ms. Patricia Guckian, Financial Accountant
- Mr. John Moran, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr. Kevin Colreavy, Meetings Administrator
- Ms. Caroline Conmy, Administrative Officer
- Ms. Dolores McDonagh, Senior Staff Officer
- Ms. Maura Marren, Staff Officer
- Ms. Karen Gallagher, I.S. Technical Support Officer
- Ms. Jo-Anne McGonigle, Assistant Staff Officer

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady, presided.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO FORMER COUNCILLOR EAMON SCANLON:**

The Cathaoirleach, on her own behalf and that of the Members, extended congratulations to Eamon Scanlon on his election to Dáil Éireann.

The Cathaoirleach also commiserated with Councillors Bree and Casserly and commended them for putting themselves forward for election which was recognised as a difficult thing to do.

Councillor Bree thanked the Cathaoirleach and Members for their good wishes.

**1. MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON  
1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY, 2016:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor T. MacSharry**

*"To confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sligo County Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016".*

Councillor Gormley asked that the Minutes be amended at Item 35 to include the reply issued to her, this was noted and agreed.

The Members agreed to the Minutes being confirmed, subject to the correction outlined by Councillor Gormley.

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLYMOTE-  
TOBERCURRY HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2015:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballymote-Tobercurry held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2015".*

**3. MINUTES OF SPC3 MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2015:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

**AND AGREED**

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*"To confirm the Minutes of the SPC 3 Meeting (Planning Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture) held on 1st December, 2015".*

**4. PRESENTATION BY IRISH CELLULAR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (I.C.I.A.):**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the I.C.I.A. Delegation to the Meeting comprising of the following representatives:

Mr. Torlach Denihan of "I.C.I.A.",

Mr. Fergal McCann of "eir/Meteor",

Mr. Brendan O'Reilly of "Three" and

Mr. Michael Brolly of Vodafone.

The Members were advised that the Irish Cellular Industry Association - I.C.I.A - is an alliance of the mobile network providers. It is the IBEC representative body for the mobile telecommunications industry in Ireland and Members include all companies investing in mobile telecommunications network infrastructure nationally and in Sligo.

Issues outlined in the presentation included:

- Industry overview and investment
- Employment
- Investment
- Recent developments
- Innovation
- Contribution to society
- Telecoms service provision in Ireland
- Challenges
- Operators' current coverage and future plans in Co. Sligo
- State intervention
- Broadband provision

Following the Presentation, Members raised a number of queries with the Delegation. In particular, the issues of concern were highlighted as

- Customers' difficulties with commitments to contracts and changing service provider and poor customer care standards.
- Problems with intermittent signals and black spots
- The number and sharing of masts and proposed investment in broadband services
- Concerns were raised in relation to the difficulty of operating "Text alert" systems around the county due to poor signal.
- Comparisons were made by Members between the necessity and provision of broadband with rural electrification in Ireland in the 1940s.
- Mr. Denihan and the representatives of the service providers responded to members' queries and concerns as follows:

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- "Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act" is a complex one and said the only way the companies can provide services is by contract
- Customers should enquire about the signal available in their area and ask that specific question of the Operator. Mr. Denihan said that people should also shop around as there are different signals in different areas. Smartphones are much heavier on the capacity of the network than voice calls. The resultant demands on the network are phenomenal.
- In relation to difficulties referred to being encountered by elderly people relying on mobile 'phones, Mr. Denihan concurred the importance of a landline in the home of an elderly person.
- The National Broadband Plan is going out to Tender and this is a very comprehensive Plan.
- Maps on the Department's website set out areas covered by this major Plan.
- Masts are regarded as essential engineering infrastructure and allow for the creation of employment, and are shared by the Companies in some instances. These companies must be commercially viable. The person running the company in Ireland has to compete with other companies.
- In relation to black spots, it is never possible to guarantee 100% coverage. There is an obligation on Operators set out in their licences. The dispersal of the population in Ireland is a factor.
- In relation to the drive tests conducted by Comreg, they hire a sub-contractor to do these tests.
- Following the presentation, members expressed their concerns in relation to a number of issues;
- Councillor Taylor advised of a family 100 metres from the main N17 route, unable to obtain a service.
- Councillor MacManus said the service provided to rural dwellers was not fit for purpose and observed that the providers should take note of the views expressed by the Councillors.
- They can be informed of particular locations to see whether they want to address that or not.

Councillor Mulvey referred to Item 22 on the Agenda as it was also relevant to the Delegation:

*"To ask Sligo County Council to Contact Eir to find out when the Coolaney switchroom will be upgraded to Fibre Broadband".*

In reply, Mr. McCann from Eir/Meteor indicated that this switch room is included in their Plan and scheduled for June 2016.

The representatives from the three Providers further clarified matters raised in relation to their particular companies. It was agreed that they would also speak with any Member who wished to raise specific matters.

The Chief Executive sought clarification in relation to the rollout of broadband and whether, ultimately, it will depend on the copper line to the house. Mr. Hayes felt that this will have a serious impact on the speeds compared to going fibre to the property.

In reply, the meeting was advised that there are two products – FTTC (Fibre to the cabinet) and FTTH (Fibre to the home) and a discussion took place on the situation in

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relation to both options and the necessity for the FTTH solution to allow sufficient speeds and service.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor O'Grady, thanked the four representatives for their attendance and presentation and the Members for their input.

**9. SLIGO BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BUDGET AND BUSINESS LEVY:**

With the agreement of the Members, item 9 on the Agenda was taken at this point in the Meeting.

Mr. Reilly, Head of Enterprise, referred to the Report which had been circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting.

In particular, Mr. Reilly drew the Members' notice to the insertion by the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act, 2006 of a new Section 129 into the Local Government Act, 2001.

This provides a legislative basis for the setting up of a Business Improvement District or BID, driven by business persons in a town or city working in co-operation with their Council to improve upon the area within the BID.

Mr. Reilly outlined that the BID Company's activities are funded by a set contribution levy from each business, which is collectable by the Council. The Company may also raise funding from other sources. The application to form a BID proposed that the BID levy be set at 3.09 times the rateable valuation and set out information on gross costs to ratepayers.

Section 129J of the aforementioned legislation states that:

1. *Within 60 days after the BID approval date, the board of directors of the BID company responsible for a BID scheme shall –*
  - a. *hold a meeting of those directors, and*
  - b. *at that meeting, prepare and adopt a budget for the first chargeable period under the scheme, setting out the matters described in section 129 L (1) (a) to (c) [129L (1) (a) – (c) relates to funding required to carry out the matters proposed under the scheme; any income other than levies anticipated; and the contribution which the BID company requests the rating authority to collect by way of levy].*

The Head of Enterprise clarified queries raised by Members in relation to Sligo County Council's Christmas lights contribution, Events and Festivals and set up costs in relation to accommodation and staffing of the BID office.

**It was proposed by Councillor H. Keaney  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

**AND AGREED**

*"To approve the budget submitted by the interim Board of the BID Company. The budget includes a proposed multiplier of 3.09 times the rateable valuation".*

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**5. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2015:**

Ms. M. Whelan, Head of Finance, referred to the report previously circulated regarding the Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

In particular, Ms. Whelan referred to the surplus at end of 2015 in the sum of €659,677. In respect of the 2014 accounts, Ms. Whelan had reported that the financial position of the Council had stabilised with a surplus of €174,738 only for the Department to withdraw €750,000 in January 2015 which ultimately resulted in a deficit position.

The €659,677 surplus recorded for 2015 demonstrates the progress made in recent years has been sustained and is due in large part to the Members and staff of the Council. The financial outcome is even more noteworthy given the number of additional expenditure commitments during 2015 over which Sligo County Council had no control.

**It was proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

*"That this meeting resolves to request the incoming Minister for the Environment to ensure that the minimum annual bailout funding of €1 million continues to be set aside for Sligo County Council and further that we request the incoming Minister and the Department to favourably consider increasing the annual bailout figure to the Council".*

The Chief Executive thanked the Members for their comments in relation to the surplus achieved at the end of 2015. He said he wished to publicly acknowledge work of the Executive, Ms. Whelan, the Directors of Services and all the staff. As had been pointed out by the Members, there will be a lot less staff doing a lot more work. There are more changes to be brought to the Organisation in the coming weeks and months. The performance in 2015 has to be repeated and improved on for this year and next year.

Mr. Hayes referred to the deficit incurred by the Council in previous years. To achieve a surplus in the region of €660,000 said that last year's performance was extraordinary. To his knowledge, no other local authority has achieved this. The Members were further advised that Sligo County Council has to achieve over €2 million of a surplus this year. There are now low staff numbers, a low rates base and income sources to draw on.

The Cathaoirleach supported the comments made by the Chief Executive and acknowledged the work of Ms. Whelan and her staff in providing an excellent service with fewer staff resources

The resolution proposed by Councillor Bree and seconded by Councillor O'Boyle was then read to the Meeting. It was suggested that the word "bailout" would be substituted by the words annual grant or increase in Local Government Fund.

Following a further discussion, it was then

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

**AND AGREED**

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*“That this meeting resolves to request the incoming Minister for the Environment to ensure that the minimum increase in the Local Government Fund of €1 million continues to be set aside for Sligo County Council and further that we request the incoming Minister and the Department to favourably consider increasing the Local Government Fund figure to the Council”.*

**6. AUTHORISATION OF OVER-EXPENDITURE:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

**Seconded by Councillor S. Maguire**

**AND AGREED**

*“To authorise over expenditure of €7,341,819 reported in the 2015 Annual Financial Statement of Sligo County Council in accordance with section 104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001”.*

**It was then proposed by Councillor D. Bree**

**Seconded by Councillor S. MacManus**

**AND AGREED**

*“Noting that the sum of €737,478 was included for expenditure in the 2015 Budget under the heading (F05) Operation of Arts Programme and further noting that a sum of €775,159 was actually spent under this heading; this meeting resolves that a detailed breakdown of the expenditure and particularly details of the additional expenditure be provided to the Council”.*

**It was proposed by Councillor D. Bree**

**Seconded by Councillor S. MacManus**

**AND AGREED**

*“Noting that the sum of €382,562 was included for expenditure in the 2015 Budget under the heading (F04) Community, Sport and Recreational Development; and further noting that a sum of €412,081 was actually spent under this heading; this meeting resolves that a detailed breakdown of the expenditure and particularly details of the additional expenditure be provided to the Council”.*

**7. REPORT ON SEVERE WEATHER ROADS FUNDING:**

Mr. T. Kilfeather, Director of Services, gave a Presentation to the Meeting outlining the details of the “Severe weather funding” received.

Mr. Kilfeather advised the Meeting that the Events involved were three storms (Desmond – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December, Eva – 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December and Frank – 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December).

Among the issues addressed in the presentation were:

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- Repair works in respect of roads, bridges and drainage arising from the above storms.
- Preventative works to address flooding on roads particularly those roads subject to repeated flooding in recent years.
- Repair or preventative works undertaken must be completed in 2016 and funds drawn down by 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- Difficult longer term solutions may require analysis, specialist advice or feasibility studies and, with agreement of Department, such external costs will be funded in 2016 even if no physical works undertaken.

Details of the allocation of funding nationally were set out in the presentation where it was noted that the first tranche of funding was in the sum of €85 million. Sligo had received €4,000,000 in this tranche.

A sample of the claim format and detail required was provided for the Members' information together with sample photos of damage caused by the storms.

The breakdown of the allocation of funding locally was also set out:

<b>Engineering area</b>	<b>No. of Schemes</b>	<b>Total value €</b>
Ballymote	18	988,000
Enniscrone	46	1,041,000
Sligo-Strandhill	13	174,000
Sligo-Drumcliffe	11	660,000
Tubbercurry	27	1,137,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>

The 2016 Roadworks Programme details were set out as follows:

\*Local and Regional funding advised on 26<sup>th</sup> January - €7,809,000

\*Severe weather allocation advised 18<sup>th</sup> February - €4,000,000

\*Impact on Roads Programme = +50%

Will stretch our own Outdoor, Machinery Yard and Engineering resources to deliver the Programme.

Mr. Kilfeather advised the meeting that he would liaise with the Mayor of the Sligo Municipal District and Cathaoirleach of the Ballymote-Tobercurry District to agree dates for the Roadwork Programme meetings.



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Members thanked Mr. Kilfeather for the Presentation and update on the current situation. It was recognised that to receive funding in the sum of €4,000,000 was a significant achievement. Members also extended their appreciation to Mr. Tom Brennan, Senior Engineer and the staff in Infrastructural Services for the work they had put in to ensure Sligo County Council received this funding.

A number of Councillors commented on the low numbers of outdoor staff currently in the Engineering areas and the severe pressure employees are under to carry out essential work. Tribute was paid to a number of outdoor staff who were due to retire.

Mr. Hayes, Chief Executive, thanked the Members for their comments in relation to the staff and wished to be associated with them. He noted that the issue of staff resources had to be considered in the context of the Financial Plan and the Department had given a very clear signal that there would be no further recruitment in Sligo County Council. He had reiterated the point to the Department that Sligo County Council had a financial problem not a staffing surplus, and concurred with the Members that the lack of staff with gaps currently in services and expertise available to the Council.

The Director of Services responded to queries raised by Members in relation to

- Local Improvement Schemes, the Habitats Directive, flooding along certain routes, completion date for works and draw-down of funding.
- In reply to an enquiry regarding recruitment following recent interviews, Mr. Kilfeather confirmed that these posts were specifically for employment by Irish Water.
- Mr Kilfeather confirmed that discussions are taking place with the Office of Public Works in relation to drainage schemes to alleviate flooding of roads

Members noted the ongoing difficulty with staff shortages asked that, in light of the recent elections, the Financial Plan should now be revisited

The Meetings of the two Municipal Districts in relation to the Roadwork Programme were agreed as follows:

Sligo Municipal District – 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March and

Ballymote-Tobercurry M. D. – 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March.

The Meeting adjourned at 1.50 p.m. and resumed at 2.50 p.m.

With the agreement of the Members, it was decided to deal with Items 10 and 13 on the Agenda at this time.

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**10. ISSUES FROM PROCEDURES COMMITTEE:**

Mr. K. Colreavy, Meetings Administrator, advised Members that three items had been referred to the Council from the Procedures Committee Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016. These items were

- a. Chain of Office for Chairs of Municipal Districts
- b. Start time for meetings of Sligo Municipal District and
- c. Presentations to the Council.

In relation to item

- a. a report had been circulated to the Members outlining the proposal for a Chain of Office for the Municipal Districts.

**It was proposed by Councillor M. Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

**AND AGREED**

*"The former Leas Cathaoirleach's Chain, provided as an interim measure, be regarded as the Chain of Office for the Mayor of Sligo Municipal District. Further, that a Chain of Office for the Chair of Ballymote-Tobercurry Municipal District be provided as outlined in the report. The cost of same, in the region of €1,500, to be provided for in the Corporate Services budget".*

- b. A start time of 10.00 a.m. for future Meetings of the Sligo Municipal District was agreed. This would allow the business of the meeting to conclude by lunchtime.
- c. In relation to future Presentations, it was agreed that Standing Orders would be adhered to with one Speaker and a ten minute time limit, followed by a question and answer session.

It was noted that the Presentation today had been agreed with the Cathaoirleach to allow for the representatives of ICIA and the three companies to each have an input into the presentation.

**13. DATE FOR SPECIAL MEETING – CO-OPTION OF MEMBER TO VACANT SEAT ARISING FROM ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR SCANLON TO DÁIL ÉIREANN:**

Mr. J. Moran, Senior Executive Officer, advised the Members that under the 2001 Local Government Act, a co-option should take place at the next meeting after 14 days had passed since the occurrence of the vacancy. In order to allow the new Member to have a vote in the Seanad Elections, this would need to take place at a Meeting not later than Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March. This necessitated a Special Meeting with Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March being the earliest date possible.

**It was proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor D. Bree**

**AND AGREED**

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*“That a Special Meeting of Sligo County Council be held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. to co-opt a Member to the vacant seat arising from the election of Councillor Eamon Scanlon to Dáil Éireann”.*

**8. PRESENTATION ON EAST CITY REGENERATION MASTERPLAN:**

Ms. M. O’Callaghan, Executive Architect, presented details to the Members in relation to the “Sligo East City Cranmore and Environs – Regeneration Masterplan – Update for Sligo County Council”.

Key points to note were outlined together with an overview of the Masterplan process, the Social Plan, the Economic Plan, Masterplan projects and themes for change, Regeneration funding, the physical plan and the next steps.

Mr. C. Hayes, Chief Executive, referred to the process involved and the meetings held by the Steering Committee. Extensive consultation had taken place with each of the Residents’ Associations in Cranmore. He acknowledged the extent and level of local consultation that had taken place, noting that the feedback from this engagement allowed the team to firm up on the Residents’ high, medium and low level priorities.

The Cathaoirleach referred to the superb consultation exercise undertaken in the Cranmore area. As a result, people in the area feel valued, respected and listened to.

Councillor MacManus said that, as a member of the Steering Committee, he felt it is necessary to see product on the ground very soon. The people of the area need to now see the benefits. He also wished to salute the work being done in Cranmore.

Councillor Bree referred to issues raised with him in recent weeks by Residents of the Cranmore area and sought clarification as to whether the report was before the Members for adoption, and he requested that a further information meeting would be held in the near future to allay concerns of Residents. Councillor Bree requested that the same presentation should be given to the Residents in the Regeneration area in April and this was agreed.

Mr. Gavin A/Director of Services, and Ms. O’Callaghan clarified that this was an information update only. Ms. O’Callaghan agreed there would not be any difficulty hosting an information meeting. The extensive consultation process which had taken place in recent months was outlined to the Meeting.

Mr. Hayes advised the Members that each development and associated works will be coming back before the Members as Part 8’s at future meetings, and Mr. Gavin A/DOS confirmed that the Masterplan will come back before the Council for adoption.

The Chief said there had been extensive engagement and the belief now was that we needed to see action on the ground.

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**11. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GRANTS SCHEME:**

Ms. M. McConnell, A/Director of Services, referred to this item having been listed on the Agenda for the Council Meetings in January, February and now the March Meeting. At this stage of the year, it was still necessary to advertise the Scheme and seek submissions. Groups have to be allocated and spend their monies.

**It was proposed by Councillor H. Keaney and  
Seconded by Councillor J. Queenan**

“To approve the Community and Voluntary Grants Scheme, 2016”.

A discussion followed where Members discussed the setting up of a sub-committee to examine the Scheme and funding.

The Chief Executive advised the Members of a potential solution to resolve part of the ongoing problem. It is well established, recognised good practice that every organisation, Sports club, Residents' Association, Football Club etc. should have their own insurance cover. Mr. Hayes outlined details of a company that will provide public liability or employer's liability insurance cover – [www.charityinsurance.ie](http://www.charityinsurance.ie) This insurance would cost in the region of €150 per annum and this may resolve the problem for some existing Residents' Associations.

Other problems will not be resolved as it will not be possible to provide the level of funding to Residents' Associations as that which had operated in the time of Sligo Borough Council. Sligo County Council does not have the funds or resources to be able to do so.

In relation to the setting up of a committee to examine the situation, the Chief Executive stated that the appropriate Committee to examine the local authority's policies is the relevant Strategic Policy Committee. A policy has been brought before the Members for consideration and some problems the Council will not be able to resolve.

The question had arisen whether Sligo County Council would cover the insurance costs of Residents' Associations. Mr. Hayes advised that the Auditor could raise issues with why the Council are paying insurance for other Bodies.

In relation to Residents' Associations seeking status under the Local Government Act, there would be various requirements that the Association would be obliged to comply with.

Following further discussions, Ms. McConnell pointed out that the sum of €100,000 had been adopted in the Budget. The sum involved in this discussion is €15,000 or 15% of the budget and problems only arise with the operation of a couple of Residents' Associations. The Scheme has operated successfully to date and everyone is now being held up. Organisations want to get on with their events and the members of staff are trying to progress this scheme.

The Cathaoirleach referred to the proposal to set up a sub-committee and sought nominations for the Committee. The following Members were nominated to examine the Scheme:

Councillor P. Taylor, Councillor H. Keaney, Councillor M. Casserly and Councillor D. Bree.

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It was agreed that this sub-committee would meet at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 in County Hall. This matter would also be added to the Agenda for consideration at the Special Meeting on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.

**12. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT – JANUARY 2016:**

The Members agreed to note the Monthly Management Report for January 2016.

Under this heading, Councillor Healy enquired about an item under number 6

**Showcase** - Four crafts businesses received financial assistance to attend Showcase 2016 in the RDS in Dublin. A LEO staff member also attended. All four Sligo participants secured increased orders and new outlets for their products.

**14. LAUNCH OF MUSIC RISING – 2016 CELEBRATIONS:**

Mr. D. Tinney, County Librarian, advised Members of the details of the "Music Rising" Concert featuring some of Sligo's outstanding musical talent. This event has been organised to be held on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

The Schedule for this Event was set out as follows:

- 2.30 p.m. Reading of the 1916 Proclamation
- 3.00 p.m. Michael Rooney and Sligo Academy of Music Folk Orchestra
- 4.00 p.m. Kieran Quinn and Seamie O'Dowd
- 5.00 p.m. No Crows
- 6.00 p.m. Moxie
- 7.00 p.m. Rackhouse Pilfer
- 8.00 p.m. Dervish
- 9.30 p.m. Fireworks Extravaganza.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor O'Grady, commended Mr. Tinney and his team for their exemplary work to date in planning and overseeing the various activities throughout 2016. She advised the meeting that the key-note event of this year of celebration and reflection is the comprehensive series of activities taking place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Under the banner 'Music Rising', it will be a spectacular, colourful and vibrant musical evening by some of our most notable performer. The Cathaoirleach encouraged the people of County Sligo not to let 2016 pass without making the effort to attend an event, visit and exhibition, study the fascinating documentation, and reflect on the Ireland of 1916.

**15. COMMERCIAL RATES – EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE FACILITIES:**

*"To ask Sligo County Council to remove the burden of commercial rates from early childhood care and educational facilities in Co. Sligo, as is the case with all other educational premises, both public and private throughout the country."*

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With the agreement of the Members, this item was deferred to the Agenda for the March Meeting.

**16. GREENWAY FROM COLLOONEY TO BELLAGHY:**

*"That Sligo County Council write to the Minister for Transport Paschal Donohoe requesting funding for the feasibility study of the disused rail route as a greenway from Collooney to Bellaghy in County Sligo."*

With the agreement of the Members, this item was deferred to the Agenda for the March Meeting.

**17. RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE (REDZ) IN TUBBERCURRY:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy  
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

**AND AGREED**

*"To recognise the importance of the Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) for Tubbercurry and south Sligo and to acknowledge the work of the Chamber of Commerce in Tubbercurry and this Council in promoting this very important initiative for all of south Sligo in the promotion of employment and enterprise".*

**18. VEOLIA CONTRACT WITH SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL:**

*"Ask the County Manager when is Veolia contract completed with Sligo County Council".*

With the agreement of the Members, this item was deferred to the Agenda for the March Meeting.

**19. ROAD JUNCTION 430/N17 – CASHEL GATES:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

*"I will ask if any funding is available in 2016 from the Department or the Council to start works on the very dangerous junction of roads 430/N17, known locally as "The Cashel gates" which is the most dangerous road junction on the N17 between Sligo and Galway".*

Mr. T. Kilfeather reported to the meeting that *Sligo County Council has raised the issue of this junction with TII on numerous occasions in the past but funding was not made available.*

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*Sligo County Councils Road Design Department are currently preparing a design solution for this location that may address at relatively low cost, many of the issues raised. This issue has again in recent weeks been raised with the TII. We understand that the TII is further considering Sligo County Councils submissions and we are awaiting their response.*

**20. CARERS ALLOWANCE:**

*"That Sligo County Council call on the Government to immediately increase the Carers allowance substantially considering carers save the state Billions".*

With the agreement of the Members, this item was deferred to the Agenda for the March Meeting.

**21. TRAFFIC FLOW AT CLEVERAGH/PEARSE ROAD JUNCTION:**

*"That Sligo County Council engineering staff review the Traffic flow at the Cleveragh/Pearse road junction as motorists are experiencing significant delays exiting from Cleveragh".*

With the agreement of the Members, this item was deferred to the Agenda for the March Meeting.

**22. "EIR" SWITCHROOM IN COOLANEY:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey**

**Seconded by Councillor M. Clarke**

*"To ask Sligo County Council to Contact Eir to find out when the Coolaney switchroom will be upgraded to Fibre Broadband".*

Councillor Mulvey indicated that it was not now necessary to contact Eir as he had been provided with the date of June 2016 by the Eir representative during the earlier presentation.

**23. TAKING IN CHARGE OF "ROCKFIELD MANOR" ESTATE IN COOLANEY:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey**

**Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

*"To ask Sligo County Council for an update on Rockfield Manor Housing Estate, Coolaney.*

*What steps have been taken regarding the takeover of this estate?"*

Ms. M. McConnell reported as follows:

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*“Reports had been sought from Roads Department and Water Services Section of the Council which have been received. Additionally, CCTV surveys of the sewer system have been carried out and subsequent repairs have been completed by the Developer.*

*Water Services report identified issues that require remedial measures. Irish Water has given direction on these matters and has outlined their requirements. A meeting took place with the Developer on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 and the complete list of works/issues to have the development brought to a standard for taking in charge was discussed. The Council formally wrote to the Developer outlining the works required including immediate repairs to the public lighting system.*

*The Council understands that the Developer is currently pricing the works.*

*It should also be noted that the Council have made a formal claim on the Planning Bond”.*

Following this report, Councillor Mulvey enquired whether works could be carried out as a matter of urgency on the street lighting in the Estate. At present only two street lights are working in the entire development. Ms. McConnell confirmed that further queries in relation to the Bond would be clarified and an update provided to the Members.

#### **24. PROMOTION OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS ALONG “WILD ATLANTIC WAY”:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey  
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

*“To call on Sligo County Council and Fáilte Ireland to help promote local tourist attractions along the Wild Atlantic Way such as “Eagles Flying”, Ballymote to attract extra customers for the upcoming tour season”.*

Ms. M. McConnell reported as follows:

*“Sligo County Council is currently engaged with representatives for Eagles Flying on revised road signage situated along the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW). Sligo County Council also supports Sligo tourism in its promotion of the range of attractions along the WAW and throughout the county.*

*Eagles Flying in Ballymote are promoted on Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland consumer facing sites at*

*<http://www.discoverireland.ie/Activities-Adventure/eagles-flying-irish-raptor-research-centre/11651>*

*<http://www.ireland.com/en-gb/what-is-available/courses-in-ireland/wildlife-and-conservation-classes/destinations/republic-of-ireland/sligo/ballymote/all/1-11651/>*

*Fáilte Ireland would encourage that these entries are reviewed regularly for accuracy and welcome any update to images etc.*

*Industry Supports and Training are published at <http://www.failteireland.ie/Business-supports/Upcoming-Training-Workshops.aspx>”*



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A number of Members outlined the various activities and locations that are experiencing difficulties in promoting their activities/locations.

Ms. McConnell clarified that the promotion of the "Wild Atlantic Way" is a Fáilte Ireland function and asked that those referred to would link in with them. It was also noted that Fáilte Ireland has indicated they are happy for them to do so. The link above for Industry Support is one that the Members should also pass on to any interested party.

The Chief Executive pointed out to the Members that Hotels ensure there is a link to their details on the website by contacting Fáilte Ireland as suggested by Ms. McConnell. It is not for Sligo County Council to make sure details of the Hotels or anyone else are on the "Wild Atlantic Way" website.

Mr. Hayes further advised the Meeting that he will be coming back to the Members with a Tourism Strategy for Sligo. It will be the May Meeting at the earliest when this is brought before them but, in the meantime, there is work going on behind the scenes at the moment.

Councillor Mulvey, in reply, indicated that the businesses referred to are small, family run businesses that would not have a budget on a par with hotels. However, the details as outlined by Ms. McConnell earlier and the advice to liaise with Fáilte Ireland directly should assist them in overcoming their difficulties.

**25. PROVISION OF POST BOX AT TEMPLEBOY CHURCH:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

**AND AGREED**

*"That this Council will call on An Post to provide a post box at Templeboy Church. Templeboy Post Office closed last year and the residents were promised that a post box would be provided".*

**26. FUNDING FOR SLIGO LEADER PARTNERSHIP:**

*"Ask Director of Services to investigate when funding will be available to Sligo Leader Partnership".*

With the agreement of the Members, this item was deferred to the Agenda for the March Meeting.

**27. WATER SUPPLY AT CARROWREAGH KNOX, CLOONACOOLOO:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley  
Seconded by Councillor J. Lundy**

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*"Consumers in the Carrowreagh Knox area Cloonacool are experiencing very low water pressure and as a result the water coming through the taps for those especially at the end of the line is muddy. I am proposing that Irish water be contacted and that they are requested to address the issue as a matter of urgency".*

Mr. T. Kilfeather, Director of Services, confirmed that the details of the precise location involved had been forwarded to Irish Water as requested by them. On receipt of their reply, it will be circulated to the Members.

**28. AMALGAMATION OF LIBRARY AND FIRE SERVICES IN SLIGO, LEITRIM AND ROSCOMMON:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

**AND AGREED**

*"That this Council declares its opposition to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and the Local Government Management Agency's proposals to amalgamate the library services and fire services in Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon."*

**29. SURVEY OF HOUSING STOCK IN LOWER ABBEY STREET:**

*"To ask the Chief Executive when will details of the survey which the Council carried out on its houses stock in Lower Abbey Street be presented to the Council and to ask what remedial action will be taken to address the difficulties in regard to the level of insulation provided and to ask what additional insulation and upgrading works are required in the housing units"*

With the agreement of the Members, this item was deferred to the Agenda for the March Meeting.

**30. JUNCTIONS ON N17 AND R294 IN TUBBERCURRY:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

*"I will ask for an update report on when works will start and finish on the 2 junctions in Tubbercurry, the N17 and R294. The upgrade of these two junctions is very important in the interest of road safety".*

Mr. T. Kilfeather reported as follows:

*"The TII has provided funding for the construction of the N17 / R294 Junction improvement scheme and tenders were received. John Madden and Sons Contractors have been appointed to construct this scheme.*

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*The works will commence in early April when the resurfacing and footpath works currently underway on the N17 Tubbercurry are completed.*

*It is anticipated that the construction period will be in the region of 14 weeks."*

In reply to further matters raised by Members regarding safety issues in the town, Mr. Kilfeather agreed that staff would examine traffic calming solutions when the scheme is in place, possibly by mid-July. Requests for further works on footpaths in the area were also noted.

### **31. ROSSES POINT PIER AND PONTOON SCHEME:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree**

**Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

*"That the Council be provided with an up to date report on the proposed Rosses Point Pier and Pontoon scheme."*

Mr. T. Kilfeather reported as follows:

*"Sligo County Council applied for funding for this facility this year to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine. We proposed carrying out construction works in the current year. The estimated cost is €149,000. While Planning approval for the Scheme was secured in 2015 the nature of the proposed works at Rosses Point also requires a Foreshore Licence.*

*The Project was shortlisted in correspondence received from the Dept on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. As requested, we made a further detailed submission for this Scheme as well as for a Scheme at Aughris Pier which was also shortlisted on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.*

*By correspondence dated 26th February, the Department have offered funding in respect of the Aughris Pier Project but we have been since advised that until the Foreshore Licence is in place they cannot commit funding to the Rosses Point Scheme.*

*The Foreshore application was lodged with the Dept on 12<sup>th</sup> January and the Department have just completed their validation of the application material and we received on Thursday last the instruction from the Dept to proceed to the public notice stage which will be done immediately.*

*We will engage further with the Dept as soon as the licence is in place which we would hope would be within a couple of months. However while the Department did shortlist the Scheme on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, it remains to be seen if funding can be secured in the current year on the issuing of the foreshore licence".*

Councillor D. Bree indicated that he was disappointed to note the contents of the report. In reply, Mr. Kilfeather outlined the situation with the Foreshore licence and acknowledged the difficulties caused by the delay in applying for the licence has caused.

Members also sought clarification in relation to the Scheme at Aughris and works on an extension to the Pontoon at Hughes Bridge.

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**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:**

**It was proposed by Councillor R. O'Grady**

**Seconded by Councillor H. Keaney**

**AND AGREED**

*"To suspend Standing Orders to allow the business to continue after 5.00 p.m. until all items on the Agenda are dealt with".*

**32. ROAD JUNCTION AT BALLYMOTE RAILWAY STATION:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley**

**Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

*"Irish Rail carried out a detailed survey of the junction at Ballymote Railway Station and the Ballymote/Bunninadden road last year and they also as a interim measure cut back the hedge to improve visibility for motorists exiting the station and the church car park. I ask the Director of Services that following on from the survey what proposals are there for improvement works at this location"*

Mr. Kilfeather advised the Members that the Area Engineer will further examine this location with a view to drafting proposals for improvement works.

**33. TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP):**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy**

**Seconded by Councillor D. Bree**

*"That Sligo County Council declares Sligo a TTIP Free Zone and calls on the Irish Government to:*

- Protect Irish interests in the ongoing Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations between the EU and the US.*
- Take all measures to remove Investor-State Dispute Settlements (ISDS) in any form from the agreement.*
- Take all measures to ensure that the terms of the living agreement cannot breach Irish legislation.*
- Initiate a public debate on the consequences of TTIP on Ireland.*
- Take all measures to protect Irish agriculture, food safety, workers rights, the environment, and all public services in TTIP negotiations."*

Mr. C. Hayes, Chief Executive, sought clarification from the Members what the impact of this resolution would be, if passed. If someone wished to enter into an agreement, the Chief Executive enquired what status this resolution would have and how would Sligo County Council implement the decision.

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**It was proposed by Councillor T. Healy  
Seconded by Councillor S. MacManus**

*"That Sligo County Council calls for a referendum on TTIP with the incoming or outgoing Government".*

Councillor T. Healy asked that this matter would be deferred until a new Government is in place.

Mr. Hayes added that he did not have any difficulty with the motion. The only issue is how Sligo County Council could implement or enforce it. This might cause the Council some difficulty in the future.

**34. SPEED LIMITS OUTSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN COUNTY SLIGO:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy  
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

*"To call on Sligo County Council to use their powers to reduce the speed limit outside all primary schools in Sligo especially Ballintogher, Ballisodare, Collooney and Kilross to address the serious issue of speeding and respond by implementing a reduction."*

Mr. Kilfeather reported to the Members that *"Sligo County Council has installed electronic school warning signs on the approaches to most primary schools in County Sligo. These are activated at school start and finish times and are intended to warn motorists approaching schools at particular times."*

*It should also be noted that many schools in County Sligo are already within urban areas and within existing 50kph speed limit zones including those at Ballintogher, Ballisodare and Collooney.*

*It is considered ineffective to introduce blanket speed limit reductions outside other schools as they would only be needed for very short periods of time. It is unlikely that motorists would observe these limits and enforcement would be a problem.*

*However this issue can be considered at the next Speed Limits Review which will take place in 2016".*

**It was proposed by Councillor T. Healy  
Seconded by Councillor S. MacManus**

**AND AGREED**

*"To write to the Department of Transport, Department of Education and Road Safety Authority to demand proper safety measures at all schools in County Sligo".*

**35. ALLEY WAY AT 14-18 CARTRON ESTATE:**

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**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy  
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

*"To call on Sligo County Council to address the concerns of residents in Carton Estate from numbers 14 to 18 as they request that the Alley Way is closed up and given back to the residents."*

Mr. Kilfeather reported to the Meeting that *"closing of alleys such as this can be an extremely complicated and expensive process involving elimination of rights of ways, consultation with affected residents, carrying out of enabling works etc.*

*This location can be looked at, however given current workloads and the complexity of such an issue it is extremely unlikely that resources are available to pursue this issue".*

In reply to clarification sought by Councillor Healy, Mr. Kilfeather advised the Members that the staff that will need to look at this are the same staff dealing with a range of other issues. This request will involve time, resources and money. When it is possible to do so, it will be examined.

Chief Executive Ciarán Hayes noted that work needs to be prioritised; there is no point in giving the impression that work can be done when the Council clearly do not have the resources to do it.

### **36. IRISH LANGUAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SLIGO:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor J. Lundy**

#### **AND AGREED**

*"Sligo County Council calls on the Department of Education to reconsider its decision to refuse permission for the go - ahead for an all Irish Language Secondary School in Sligo."*

### **37. DREDGING AT MULLAGHMORE HARBOUR:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

*"Sligo Municipal District meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015 passed a motion calling on this Council to carry out Urgent Dredging at Mullaghmore Harbour. I call for a progress report on when this work will be carried out."*

Mr. Kilfeather, Director of Services, advised the Members that *"Sligo County Council has no plans to dredge the approaches to Mullaghmore inner harbour nor at the pontoon. As previously stated, Mullaghmore, like virtually all harbours and piers in Co. Sligo is a tidal facility, and has been so since the first part was built in 1824 and there is no practical solution to change this. Sligo County Council has sought funding in the past to have a study carried out regarding siltation in Mullaghmore bay and the harbour area, but funding has not been allocated to date.*

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*Recently Sligo County Council has had to carry out emergency repairs to the brackets holding the pontoon to its 'fixing' piles.*

*There is some concern that part of the reason for the recent bracket failures relates to the uneven sea bed beneath the pontoon, exacerbated by attempts to dredge there."*

Following a further query from Councillor Kilgannon, Mr. Kilfeather confirmed that Sligo County Council had been refused funding to carry out a study in this area.

**38. AUDIT OF MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE:**

*"Sligo County Council calls on the Department of Communications to conduct an independent nation-wide Audit on mobile phone coverage in the Country and grade what standard of coverage is in place in all regions particularly in Rural County Sligo".*

With the agreement of the Members, this item was deferred to the Agenda for the March Meeting.

**39. VOTES OF SYMPATHY:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Mary Farrell of Sligo County Council, and her family, on the death of her father, Paddy Henry of Kincullew, Aclare.*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Breege Mulholland of Quarryfield, Bunninadden on the death of her sister, Caroline Wallat.*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Tommy Tighe of Ballybrennan, Ballymote on the death of his sister, Mary.*

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**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley**  
**Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Nancy Surlis and family of Ballymote Road, Tubbercurry on the death of her husband, Tommy Joe.*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley**  
**Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Mary Molloy of Derryknockeran, Cloonloo on the death of her mother, Margaret.*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley**  
**Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Sarah Smythe of Doobeg, Bunninadden on the death of her husband, Peter.*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley**  
**Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Bernie Torley of Ballinacarriga, Rathmullen, Ballymote on the death of her husband, Kieran.*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley**  
**Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Alison Taylor of Quarryfield, Bunninadden on the death of her father, Robert Craig.*



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**Proposed by Councillor M. Baker**  
**Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to John Joe McGoldrick of Coola, Sooeey on the death of his sister, Margaret.*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly**  
**Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Catherina Moran and family on the death of her father, Tom Smyth of Shrarevagh, Ballinfull, a former employee of Sligo County Council.*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly**  
**Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Michael Carney and family of Ballinfull on the death of his wife, Marian.*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly**  
**Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Alan Haran and family of Raughley, Ballinfull on the death of his father, John.*

The Chief Executive, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Staff, wished to be associated with these expressions of sympathy.

**40. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly**  
**Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

**AND AGREED**

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*"That a vote of congratulations be extended to Summerhill College Football Team on winning the Connaught Final again St. Attracta's College, Tubbercurry".*

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy  
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of congratulations be extended to Sligo Boxing Club on the success of David Sweeney and Jordan Myers in the recent 2016 Championships".*

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly  
Seconded by Councillor M. Baker**

**AND AGREED**

*"That a vote of congratulations be extended to Tommy Craddock of Sligo Grammar School on the success of the National Cross Country Finals held in Sligo on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2016".*

**41. CONFERENCES:**

**Proposed by Councillor H. Keaney  
Seconded by Councillor J. Lundy**

**AND AGREED**

*"That the list of Conferences, as circulated with the Agenda, be approved".*

**42. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor J. Lundy**

**AND AGREED**

*"To note the summary of proceedings of conferences attended in accordance with Section 142(5) (f) of the Local Government Act, 2001".*

**43. CORRESPONDENCE:**

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Correspondence circulated with the Agenda was noted by the Members.

**44. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

No matter was raised under this heading.

**45. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

No matter was raised under this heading.

**END OF MEETING:**

The meeting concluded at 5.25 p.m.