

# Limerick City Council

## Special Minute Books

L/SMIN

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## **Introduction**

Minutes of Limerick City Council Special Committees were maintained in tandem with the minutes of the City Council (L/MIN) and committees were established to deal with the detailed management of many specific functions including Finance, the Watch, Sewerage, Water, Improvement, Presentments and Public Health. The collection also includes minutes of meetings held to discuss contemporary or ad hoc issues and such committees often held only once or a small number of meetings.

From 1934, all the issues and concerns dealt with by the different committees were amalgamated under the 'General Purposes Committee'. This includes lighting, supplies, expenses, improvement, fire brigade, waterworks, relief scheme, planning, People's Park, health, cleansing, housing, and Corkanree.

These volumes provide a detailed insight into the manner in which the City Council carried out a host of functions and are a useful source for the study of political, social and economic issues that arose in Limerick City throughout the period including the operation of the City Council itself.

**Special Committee Minute Books (1841–1964)**

**Formation of the Finance, Lease and Property, Wide Streets and Markets  
and Bye Laws Committees (1841-1842)**

1. 18 November 1841-7 June 1842 Minute book constituting four committees, Finance, Lease and Property, Wide Streets and Markets, and Bye Laws, setting out their functions and the manner in which their meetings were to be conducted. The back of the volume also contains a Corporation Rental 1833, 'No.20 Reps. D. Bourke (House in Mungret Street) 5 15 5'; three pages titled 'Auction of Tolls and Customs' (1842), the Accounts of the Commissioners of Public Works as Receivers in account with Funds of the Limerick Corporation (1842), and copies of out going letters (1842-1854).

c.50 pp

**General Special Minute Books (1858-1934)**

Minutes of meetings of a number of standing committees including special meetings of the whole council and meetings of smaller sub-committees considering specific issues. The standing committees generally met once a month and the majority continued to meet for many years; some committees transferred their minutes to a separate minute book, for example the Watch Committee used an exclusive minute book from May 1877 (L/SMIN/6).

The standing committees included the Railway Committee, which first sat on 14 June 1859, (L/SMIN/2/1); The Lunatic Asylum Committee which first met on 21 June 1859, (L/SMIN/2/1), the Corkanree Committee which held its first meeting on 25 August 1859, (L/SMIN/2/1), and merged with the Watch and Lighting Committee c.1900 (L/SMIN/6); the Sewerage Committee which first sat on 10 January 1860, (L/SMIN/2/1), the Whole House Committee which held its first meeting on 27 October 1860, (L/SMIN/2/1), the Fire Brigade Committee which first sat on 25 August 1868, (L/SMIN/2/1) and which met with the 'Watch and Lighting Committee', from 3 of April 1901 (see L/SMIN/6/2). Includes the minutes of Market Trustees Committee which first met on 3 May 1869, (L/SMIN/2/1), the 'Estimates Committee' which first met on 7 July 1872, (L/SMIN/2/1), the Watch Committee which first met on the 14 March 1877, (L/SMIN/2/2), the Irrecoverable Rates Committee which sat from the 16 March 1875, (L/SMIN/2/2), the Lighting Committee, which first sat on 28 October 1875, (L/SMIN/2/2) and from 12 March 1889 joined with the Watch Committee, (L/SMIN/6/1); People's Park Committee (18 August 1877, L/SMIN/2/2, and merged with the 'Watch and Lighting Committee' c. 1900 (see L/SMIN/6); Water Works and Supplies Committee (23 August 1878,

L/SMIN/2/2), Housing of the Working Class Committee (7 September 1896, L/SMIN/2/4), Law Agents Salary and Cost Committee (20 May 1897, L/SMIN/2/4), Officer's Salaries Committee (22 March 1899, L/SMIN/2/4), Proposal Committee (13 July 1899, L/SMIN/2/4) and City Distress Committee (from L/SMIN/2/9). These committees used to hold meeting monthly, but irregularity is the characteristic feature. Ad-hoc sub-committees were created to deal with specific issues and usually only met once or a small number of occasions. These include the 'Bathing Committee' (31 July 1872, L/SMIN/2/2), the 'George Hotel Committee' (23 June 1865, L/SMIN/2/1), 'Borough Boundary Extension' (20 March 1872, L/SMIN/2/2), 'Barrington's Hospital Committee' (31 January 1887, L/SMIN/2/3), Technical Committee (30 January 1902, L/SMIN/2/4), Committee for the Shop Hours Act (23 February 1905, L/SMIN/2/6)

13 volumes

2/1	25 August 1858 – 13 January 1871	c. 160 pp
2/2	27 January 1871 – 11 December 1884 This volume includes the minutes of two special meeting of 'Number 1 (Finance) Committee', 23 December 1874 and 18 January 1878.	c. 260 pp
2/3	8 January 1885 – 24 July 1896	c. 290 pp
2/4	7 September 1896 – 2 October 1902	c. 430 pp
2/5	24 September 1902 – 25 July 1904 Includes meeting dealing with the Jewish Question (20 April 1904).	c. 405 pp
2/6	3 August 1904 – 24 April 1906	c. 450 pp
2/7	8 May 1906 – 29 May 1908 Includes notices for the Whole House Committee meetings.	c. 490 pp
2/8	5 June 1908 – 21 May 1909 Includes notices of meetings.	c. 420 pp
2/9	27 May 1909 – 1 November 1910	c. 440 pp
2/10	10 December 1910 – 28 April 1913	c. 450 pp
2/11	13 May 1913 – 25 July 1918	c. 450 pp
2/12	8 September 1918 – 6 April 1923	c. 460 pp
2/13	13 April 1923 – 8 October 1934	c. 440 pp

**Number 1 Committee (Finance Committee) (1854-1900)**

Minutes of the Number 1 Committee, later Finance Committee (from L/SMIN/3/5). Meetings were usually held once or twice a month and dealt with financial matters including bills of costs, payments to contractors, estimates of expenses and salaries.

4 volumes

3/1	15 February 1854 – 16 January 1861	c. 175 pp
[2]		
3/3	3 March 1869 – 25 August 1875	c. 160 pp
[4]		
3/5	21 August 1888 – 7 November 1893	c. 230 pp
3/6	29 November 1893 – 2 July 1900 Also includes funds.	c. 275 pp

**Number 2 Committee (1854-1899)**

Minutes of Number 2 Committee. Meetings were usually held once a week and dealt with a variety of general concerns including planning, repairs of streets, improvement, sewerage, contracts, complaints against nuisances and watchmen. In 1899, the improvement issues dealt with by this committee were transferred to 'Cleansing, Repairing, Improvement and Artizan's Dwelling Committee' (see L/SMIN/7/3-8 and L/SMIN/6/8-10).

7 volumes

4/1	20 February 1854 – 20 November 1855	c. 150 pp
[2]		
4/3	23 February 1858 – 6 November 1860	c. 150 pp
[4]		
4/5	17 September 1861 – 13 October 1863	c. 140 pp
[6]		
4/7	13 November 1866 – 10 January 1871	c. 150 pp
[8]		

- |      |   |           |
|------|---|-----------|
| 4/9  | 29 December 1874 – 15 March 1881  | c. 280 pp |
| 4/10 | 22 March 1881 – 14 May 1895<br>From 19 of March 1888 this Committee was known<br>as the 'Improvement Committee' | c. 470 pp |
| 4/11 | 24 May 1895 – 22 November 1899  | c. 185 pp |

**Presentments Committee (Number 3 Committee) (1854-1872)**

5. 15 February 1854 – 4 June 1872
- Minutes of Presentments  
Committee. Meetings were  
usually held one or twice a  
month and dealt with the payment of outstanding presentments, schedules,  
applications of presentments to local inspector or judge of assizes,  
recommendation of presentments for adoption, including two meetings dealing  
with water supply 'Mr. Ryan be requested to communicate with the Directors of  
the Water Works Company in London, representing the views of this Committee  
on the present in adequate supply of water for use of the poor of this City.' (26  
March and 19 June 1866) and three minutes of the Limerick Lunatic Asylum (8  
July, 19 July and 19 August 1869).
- c. 140 pp

**Watch and Lighting Committee (1877-1934)**

Minutes of meetings of the Watch and Lighting Committee, usually held twice a month. Between 1877 and 1889, the meetings only relate to the Watch Committee. Before May 1877, the meetings of the Watch Committee were written in the General Special Minute Book (see L/SMIN/2/2: 14, 20, 28 March and 12, 19, 26 April 1877). From 12 March 1889 the Committee is called 'Watch and Lighting Committee'; before that date, the meetings of the Lighting Committee were kept in the General Special Minute Book (see L/SMIN/2/2 – from 28 October 1875 – and L/SMIN/2/3).

From c. 1900, the Committee also dealt with Fire Brigade, Corkanree, People's Park, Hackney Cars and Explosives issues; before that date these subjects were comprised in the General Special Minute Books (see L/SMIN/2/3-4).

From 23 July 1924 this series also includes the meetings of the Cleansing, Repairing, Improvement and Artizan's Dwellings Committee.

The cover of volumes 4, 5 and 6 are entitled 'Number 4 Committee'.

Volumes 8, 9 and 10 are typed.

9 volumes

- |      |  |           |
|------|--|-----------|
| 6/1  | 3 May 1877 – 22 June 1897  | c. 320 pp |
|      | On 3 May 1877, ‘a separate minute book to be kept in which to record the proceedings of this (Watch) Committee’.   |           |
| 6/2  | 13 July 1897 – 30 December 1903<br>From 3 April 1901, ‘Watch, Lighting and Fire Brigade Committee’.  | c. 370 pp |
| [3]  |  |           |
| 6/4  | 17 October 1906 – 6 April 1910   | c. 440 pp |
| 6/5  | 13 April 1910 – 25 November 1912   | c. 450 pp |
| 6/6  | 11 December 1912 – 19 April 1916<br>Two separated Committees were established, but with the same members in attendance for both and meetings held consecutively: one dealing with Watch and Fire Brigade issues, the other with Lighting, Corkanree, Parks, Hackney Cars and Explosives. | c. 450 pp |
| 6/7  | 26 April 1916 – 31 October 1923<br>As L/SMIN/6/6 (see above). From 1921, Watch issues disappeared and that Committee just dealt with Fire Brigade concerns.  | c. 490 pp |
| 6/8  | 14 November 1923 – 6 November 1929<br>From 12 May 1926, all the committees (Fire Brigade, Lighting, Corkanree, Parks, Hackney Cars and Explosives) met together again.   | c. 350 pp |
| 6/9  | 15 January 1930 – 14 December 1932   | c. 300 pp |
| 6/10 | 11 January 1933 – 14 November 1934   | c. 340 pp |

**Cleansing, Repairing, Improvement and Artizan’s Dwelling  
Committee (1881-1924)**

Minutes of meetings, usually held twice a month, of Committee dealing with cleansing, repairs, improvement, and artizan’s dwellings.



For the first months, the Committee dealt only with cleansing issues; from 31 January 1888, Cleansing, Repairing and Artizan's Dwellings are amalgamated. From 5 July 1899, the Committee also dealt with improvement concerns, but 'improvement' only appears in the title from 20 February 1901.

From 1924 the meetings of this Committee were written in the same minute book as 'Water and Lighting Committee' (see L/SMIN/6/8-10).

7 volumes

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 7/1 | 11 January 1881 – 28 November 1893  | c. 380 pp |
|     | The 11 of January 1881, the Cleansing Committee was assembled at the special request of the Mayor due to the condition of the city.<br>There is a gap between 27 September 1881 and 8 November 1887. For information about cleansing issues in that period see L/SMIN/2/2-3 |           |
| 7/2 | 19 December 1893 – 12 April 1898  | c. 300 pp |
| 7/3 | 19 April 1898 – 7 October 1903  | c. 400 pp |
| 7/4 | 21 October 1903 – 16 October 1907   | c. 400 pp |
| 7/5 | 30 October 1907 – 23 November 1910  | c. 450 pp |
| 7/6 | 21 December 1910 – 22 October 1913  | c. 460 pp |
| [7] |   |           |
| 7/8 | 2 May 1917 – 9 July 1924  | c. 450 pp |
|     | Includes one meeting of 'Lighting, Parks, Corkanree, Hackney Cars and Explosives Committee' (15 May 1918)<br>Last three meetings are typed  |           |

### **Public Health Committee (1885-1930)**

Minutes of Public Health Committee. Meetings were usually held twice a month and dealt with sanitary services, including the inspection of dairies and water supplies, sanitary conditions of the houses, and medical work.

Minutes of meetings from 1900 (L/SMIN/8/4) appear very structured, comprising fixed categories such as 'number of members on the Committee', 'numbers of members present', 'record of sanitary work performed since the date of the last meeting',

‘communications from the Local Government’, ‘accounts laid’, ‘report of Medical Officers of Health’, ‘monthly report of the Medical Superintendent Officer of Health’, ‘report as to the inspection of Common Lodging House’, ‘report of the inspection of dairies, cowsheds and milk shops’ and ‘other business’.

5 volumes

- [1]  
8/2 7 July 1885 – 16 March 1893 c. 250 pp
- [3]  
8/4 14 February 1900 – 30 January 1907 c. 240 pp
- [5]  
8/6 18 October 1911 – 28 April 1915 c. 280 pp  
Minutes of meetings between 6 August and 17  
September 1913 are missed.
- 8/7 12 May 1915 – 18 December 1918 c. 270 pp
- [8]  
[9]  
8/10 29 June 1927 – 22 January 1930 c. 230 pp

### **Clothing Committee (1908-1932)**

Minutes of Clothing Committee. Meetings were usually held twice a month and dealt with contracts, bills and provision of clothes and equipment for Limerick City Council staff and the different bodies related to it. That includes City Night Constables, Fire Brigade, People’s Park Officials, Caretakers, etc.

2 volumes

- 9/1 13 October 1908 – 28 March 1914 c. 100 pp
- 9/2 19 May 1914 – 30 November 1932 c. 80 pp  
There is a gap between 3 February 1925 and 2  
February 1927.  
From 1927, there is written just one annual  
summarising all year activities.

**Water Works Committee (1883-1934)**

Minutes of Water Works Committee. Meetings were usually held twice or three a month and dealt with water works issues such as applications for supply of water, bills and costs, improvement of water works, complaints from customers, waste of water reports, licenses and notes of proceedings, matters relating to staff employed at the Waterworks. Also recorded is summary of pay sheet and summary of money collected and lodged since last meeting. Includes also copies of Waterworks reports read out at quaterly meetings of Limerick City Council.

4 volumes

- |      |  |           |
|------|--|-----------|
| 10/1 | 24 December 1883-324 March 1896                        | c.280 pp  |
| [ ]  |  |           |
| 10/3 | 22 February 1911-2 January 1924<br>Includes index      | 500 pp    |
| 10/4 | 15 November 1911 – 3 January 1917<br>Rough Minute Book | c. 125 pp |
| 10/5 | 16 January 1924-24 October 1934<br>Includes index      | 378 pp    |

**University and Secondary Scholarships Committee (1915-1934)**

- |    |                                  |   |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 11 | 6 August 1915 – 19 October 1934. | Committee created to organize a scheme for university scholarships for Limerick students. It also dealt with secondary school scholarships. The Committee was appointed on the recommendation of the Public Health Committee (3 April 1913). Meetings held two or three times a year. |
|    |                                  | c. 110 pp   |

**General Purposes Committee and Tenders Committee (1934-1969)**

Minutes of General Purposes Committee. Meetings were held one or twice a month and dealt with miscellaneous subjects.

From 1934, all the issues and concerns dealt with by the different committees were amalgamated under the 'General Purposes Committee'. This includes lighting, supplies, expenses, improvement, fire brigade, waterworks, relief scheme, planning, People's Park, health, cleansing, housing, and Corkanree.

From 30 August 1937, the volumes also include the meetings of the 'Tenders Committee'.

From 12 February 1965, the volumes also include minutes of the Planning Committee.

4 volumes

- |      |   |            |
|------|---|------------|
| 12/1 | 4 December 1934 – 27 November 1941  | c. 275 pp  |
| 12/2 | 16 December 1941 – 5 December 1947<br>Includes meetings of the 'Special Committees', i.e. 'Swimming Bath Committee', 'Town Planning Committee', 'Fuel Committee', 'Special Corkanree Committee', 'Public Lighting Committee' and 'Special Committee re: proposed Motor Assembly Factory'. | c. 270 pp  |
| 12/3 | 16 February 1948 – 22 October 1956<br>Includes meeting of the 'Special Swimming Facilities Committee'.  | c. 365 pp  |
| 12/4 | 28 January 1957 – 26 November 1962<br>This General Purposes Committee dealt with Shannon Airport issues.  | c. 140 pp  |
| 12/5 | 25 February 1963-5 December 1969  | c. 240 pp. |

#### **Street Naming Sub-Committee (1958-1975)**

- |      |                              |   |
|------|------------------------------|---|
| 13/1 | 14 July 1958-13 October 1975 | Minutes of the Street Naming Sub-Committee. Meetings were generally held two or three times a year. Committee decided upon street names and names for entire housing schemes which were submitted to Limerick City Council for approval. Sub-Committee also passed recommendations regarding naming of roads, roundabouts, slips, car park, public amenities such as swimming pools and burial grounds and also made recommendations regarding signage to be erected and bi-lingual naming of places. Also included are extracts of the City Council meetings which refer to the business of the street naming sub-committee. |
|------|------------------------------|---|

c. 25 pp.

**Cultural and Environmental Committee (1983-1991)**

14/1

17 January 1983-20 May 1991

Minute Book of the Cultural  
and Environmental  
Committee. At each meeting

the minutes of other related committees were read and considered including the minutes of the Library Sub-Committee, the Museum Advisory Committee, Art Gallery Advisory Committee, the Limerick Sports Council, Committee for Recreational and Sporting Activities, An Grupa Stiurtha Faoine Gaeilge Sa TSeirbhís Rialtas Aitiúil and the Cemeteries Committees. Other matters discussed include departmental report from Fire Service, and Environment Department, reports on derelict sites, reports on monuments which were generally referred to the National Monuments Advisory Committee, recommendations made by Archeologist in relating to building works and correspondence received from groups and individuals regarding sporting and cultural facilities in Limerick. Also discussed is the granting of financial assistance to various groups under the Arts Act 1973, the work carried out by employees under the social employment scheme, and environmental activities such as tree planting, street cleaning, recycling services, and public lighting. Includes topics such as new library building, the City Museum, restoration of St. John's castle, cost of relocating the treaty stone, sporting activities and achievements in Limerick, various Arts projects and public facilities and amenities in Limerick. Meetings were generally held once a month and committee members included the mayor, elected councillors, city manager, senior engineers from roads and planning sections, city librarian, finance officer, chief fire officer, and individuals from the environment and planning sections. Minutes are signed by committee chairman.

c. 350 pp