

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Longford on Monday, 19th January 2004 at 3.00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Councillor Gerry Brady, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors – James Bannon, Paddy Belton, Seamus Butler, James Coyle, Martin Farrell, Sean O Fearghaile, Donncha Mac Gleannain, Victor Kiernan, Frank Kilbride, Maire Ni Giolla Bride-Harcan, Brian Lynch, Sean O Loingsigh, Luie McEntire, Alan Mitchell, Peadar O Murchu, Michael Nevin, John Nolan, and Barney Steele.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. M. Killeen, County Manager.
Mr. J. Kilgallen, Director of Services.
Mr. J. Clarke, Director of Services.
Mr. F. Sheridan, Director of Services.
Mr. R. Timlin, Director of Services.
Mr. T. McDonald, Head of Finance.

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Anne Lee.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY.

Councillor B. Steele proposed and Councillor P. Belton seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to the Farrell and Dolan families on the tragic deaths of Vincent and Patricia Farrell, Forgney and also to Mrs. Rose Coyle, Councillor Coyle's wife, who is a relation of the family and that the meeting be adjourned for ten minutes as a mark of respect. All members of the Council associated themselves with the vote of sympathy.

Councillor P. Murphy proposed and Councillor S. Lynch seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to the O'Malley family, Newtownforbes on the death of Mick Farrell.

Councillor B. Lynch proposed and Councillor P. Murphy seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to Anne Smith, Ballinalee on the death of James Pat Smith.

Councillor B. Lynch proposed and Councillor J. Coyle seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Johnny Burke, a former employee of the Council.

Councillor B. Lynch proposed and Councillor J. Coyle seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to John Reynolds, Ballinacross, Granard on the death of Deirdre Reynolds.

Councillor J. Coyle proposed and Councillor B. Lynch seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to the Reynolds family, Cranleybeg, Edgeworthstown on the death of John Reynolds.

Councillor J. Coyle proposed and Councillor B. Lynch seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Edward O'Reilly, Cranleymore, Edgeworthstown.

Councillor J. Coyle proposed and Councillor P. Murphy seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to the Connell family, Shantum, Edgeworthstown on the death of Kathleen Connell.

Councillor M. Kilbride-Harkin proposed and Councillor M. Farrell seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to Mrs. Gilligan and family, Abbeylara on the death of her brother, Phil Reilly, Ballygilchrist, Granard.

Councillor S. Lynch proposed and the Mayor, Councillor G. Brady seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to Paul and Frances Kennedy, Cunareen, Aughnacliffe on the death of their six year old son, Shane.

Councillor M. Kilbride-Harkin proposed and Councillor M. Farrell seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to Mrs. Burke and family, Ballymore, Granard on the death of John Burke.

Councillor M. Kilbride-Harkin proposed and Councillor M. Farrell seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to the Martin family on the death of their Aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Kearney, Forgney, Ballymahon.

The Mayor, Councillor G. Brady proposed and Councillor B. Lynch seconded that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Miles Anderson.

The County Manager on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council associated himself with the votes of sympathy. The meeting adjourned for ten minutes as a mark of respect to the deceased.

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS:

Councillor S. Lynch proposed and Councillor P. Murphy seconded a vote of congratulations to the students of Moyne Community School on their success in the Young Scientists Competition. It was agreed to refer this matter to the General Purposes Committee regarding the hosting of an Achievements Award Ceremony for the students.

The Mayor, Councillor G. Brady, proposed and Councillor P. Belton seconded that a vote of congratulations be extended to Declan Nerney on being nominated for a Meteor Music Award.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:-

On the proposal of Councillor J. Coyle seconded by Councillor P. Belton, the Minutes of Monthly meeting held on the 15th December 2003 were confirmed and adopted.

MANAGER'S ORDERS:

The County Manager's Orders, which had been circulated, were noted.

SANITARY SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES:

Update on Clondra Sewerage Scheme.

Mr. R. Timlin, Director Services, informed the meeting that the proposed sewerage scheme for Clondra has been advertised for tender. The closing date for receipt of tenders is the 12th March 2004. The tenders will be opened by the Tenders Committee of the Council and will be forwarded to the Council's consultants for assessment.

On the proposal of Councillor A. Mitchell seconded by Councillor S. Butler it was unanimously agreed that Phase 2 of the Longford Sewerage Scheme be included on the Agenda with the item on Aughnacliffe, Ardagh and Ballinalee Sewerage Schemes.

On the proposal of Councillor P. Murphy seconded by the Mayor, Councillor G. Brady, it was unanimously agreed that the proposed sewerage schemes for Drumlish and Newtownforbes be also included.

On the proposal of Councillor B. Steele seconded by Councillor J. Nolan, it was unanimously agreed that the Council should write to the Department of the Environment and Local Government requesting the Department to increase the funding being allocated for small sewerage schemes.

Notices of Motions.

County Longford L.J.I. Scheme.

It was agreed by the Members of the Council that the following Notices of Motions be considered together:-

Proposed jointly by Councillors M. Kilbride-Harkin, S. Farrell and P. Murphy at the December meeting of the Council:-

“What is the up-to-date position with the application to FAS for the renewal of the County Longford L.J.I. Scheme?”

Proposed by Councillor B. Lynch and seconded by Councillor M. Kilbride-Harkin:

“With the uncertainty by FAS for the maintenance of Cemeteries for the year 2004, I ask Minister Eamon O Cuiv, Minister of Rural Communities and the Gaeltacht, to assign some of the manpower under the new Rural Social Scheme for the maintenance of Cemeteries.”

Mr. Timlin, Director of Services, stated that the local branch of S.I.P.T.U. are now willing to give a letter of consent to the Council’s application for the renewal of the L.J.I. scheme. The Council’s application can now be considered by FAS.

All members of the Council welcomed this information.

With the agreement of Councillor B. Lynch it was agreed that his Notice of Motion be left in abeyance until FAS clarifies the situation regarding the renewal of the L.J.I. scheme.

FAS Community Employment programme and Longford Jobs Initiative Programme in Longford.

Letter dated 23rd December 2003 received from Ms. Aoibheann Ni Shuilleabhain, Private Secretary to Mr. Frank Fahey, T.D., Minister for Labour Affairs, regarding reduction in the number of participants on the FAS Community Employment Programme and Longford Jobs Initiative programme in Longford was noted by the members.

New Fire Station in Granard .

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor B. Lynch and seconded by Councillor M. Kilbride-Harkin:-

“I ask the Minister for the Environment, Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D., to let the new Fire Station in Granard go to tender as it was sanctioned two years ago.”

Mr. Timlin stated that plans and contract documents for the proposed new Fire Station for Granard were prepared and sent to the Department of the Environment and Local Government on the 9th November 2001. The Council is still awaiting approval from the Department.

On the proposal of Councillor M. Kilbride-Harkin seconded by Councillor F. Kilbride it was unanimously agreed that a Fax should be sent to the Minister immediately requesting him to meet a deputation from the Council regarding the necessity to expedite the provision of a new Fire Station in Granard.

Approach Roads to Longford Town.

In response to a request from Councillor S. Butler regarding the need to keep the approach roads into Longford free of litter, especially during the six months of the EU Presidency, Councillor M. Farrell, Chairperson of the Sanitary Services and Environmental Policies Strategic Policy Committee stated that he would take this matter up with the Strategic Policy Committee.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, URBAN AND RURAL RENEWAL,
CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL POLICIES AND CORPORATE
AFFAIRS:**

Presentation by Professor Ciaran O Cathain, Director, Athlone Institute of Technology.

Mr. F. Sheridan, Director of Services, stated that this presentation has been deferred to the February meeting of the Council, on the request of Professor O Cathain.

Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999.

It was noted that the members of the Council are requested to submit a donation statement before the 31st January 2004.

Padraig Pearse Award 2004.

On the proposal of Councillor S. Lynch seconded by Councillor M. Nevin, it was agreed to defer this item to the February meeting of the Council.

Correspondence.

Letter dated 17th December 2003 received from Shannonside Northern Sound regarding permanent frequency and transmission was welcomed by the members of the Council

Letter dated 6th January 2004 received from Limerick City Council regarding the rights of people with disabilities was supported by the members of the Council.

Letter dated 2nd December 2003 received from South Tipperary County Council re:-

- Abolition of Diet Supplement by Minister for Social and Family Affairs.
- Funding of Adult Education Boards of the V.E.C.

was noted by the members.

Letter dated 22nd December 2003 received from Limerick County Council regarding reduction in numbers on Community Employment Schemes was noted by the members.

Letter dated 22nd December 2003 received from Castlebar Town Council regarding 2003 Freedom of Information Act was noted by the members.

Letter dated 15th December 2003 received from Clonmel Borough Council regarding contribution made by Religious Congregations in Ireland was noted by the members.

Letter dated 15th December 2003 received from Waterford City Council regarding the implementation of a course on the "Rules of the Road" to all students in second level education in their transitional year was noted by the members.

FINANCE DIRECTORATE:

Public Liability Claims received during December 2003.

Mr. McDonald, Head of Finance, informed the meeting that one public liability claim had been received during December 2003.

Ethical Framework for Local Government Services.

It was noted that the members and senior officials of the Council are requested to complete the Annual Ethics Declaration before the 29th February 2004.

The Head of Finance circulated a copy of the Draft Local Government National Code of Conduct for Councillors and Employees to the members. It was agreed that this matter would be placed as an item on the Agenda for the February meeting of the Council to allow members to make observations, which would be forwarded to the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

Pay Phases under Sustaining Progress Agreement.

On the proposal of Senator J. Bannon seconded by Councillor M. Nevin it was unanimously agreed to approve of three pay increases, which would apply to all staff in 2004, under the National Sustaining Progress Agreement and to the payment of the second phase of Benchmarking for all staff.

Overdraft Accommodation.

On the proposal of Senator J. Bannon seconded by Councillor M. Nevin it was unanimously agreed to approve of Overdraft Accommodation of €6.3m for half year ending 30th September 2004 in relation to purchase of land for industry.

Decentralisation of Government Offices.

Councillor B. Steele proposed and Senator J. Bannon seconded that Ballymahon be put forward as a suitable location for Decentralisation for the Prison Services.

HOUSING AND SOCIAL POLICY, PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL POLICY

Planning Applications.

The list of Planning Applications, which had been received since the previous meeting of the Council, was submitted and noted.

Draft Development Contribution Scheme – County Manager’s Report:

Mr. J. Clarke, Director of Services, outlined the timescale for the consideration of the Draft Development Contribution Scheme to the members of the Council. He stated that the County Manager’s report would be circulated to the members of the Council and to the members of the Strategic Policy Committee before the 23rd January 2004.

It was noted that the Draft Scheme would be considered by the Housing and Social Policy, Planning and Building Control Policy Strategic Policy Committee on Monday, 26th January 2004.

On the proposal of the Mayor, Councillor G. Brady, seconded by Councillor A. Mitchell, it was agreed that a Special meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 2nd February 2004 at 3.00 p.m. to consider the Draft Development Contribution Scheme.

CONFERENCES:

On the proposal of Councillor V. Kiernan seconded by Councillor M. Nevin, the following Conferences were considered suitable for attendance by Members of the Council:-

- (i) Mid-West Regional Authority.
10th Annual Conference - “EU & National Funding – Current Situation and Future Context. Implications for Ireland’s Regions.”
30th January 2004.
Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
- (ii) Cumann Merriman.
Winter School.
30th January – 1st February 2004.
Fitzpatrick’s Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare.
- (iii) Colmcille Heritage Trust.
15th Winter School
Churchill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
27th – 29th February 2004.
- (iv) General Council of County Councils.
One Day Seminar for Newly Appointed Councillors.
Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore.
12th December 2003.
- (v) Rural Development and the National Spatial Strategy.
Carrick-on-Shannon.
17th October 2003.

Publications.

The list of publications which had been circulated to the members was noted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Anne Lee,
Meetings Administrator.

**Confirmed and adopted at Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held
on the 16th February 2004.**

Signed: _____
Mayor.