

BALLYMAHON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District held Ballymahon Library on Tuesday, 3 June 2025 at 4pm

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Pat O'Toole

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors – Paul Ross, Mick Cahill, Sean Mimmagh and Martin Skelly, Mark Casey.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Service
Mr. Brian McNeela, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Breege Cronin, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer
Mr. Paul Newell, Senior Engineer
Mr. Brian Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer

APOLOGIES: Ms. Lorraine McKee, Meetings Administrator

A/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Gerard Dennigan

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (i) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Sean Mimmagh, the minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 27 March 2025 were adopted.
- (ii) On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the minutes of the Ballymahon Municipal District Committee Meeting held on the 27 March 2025 were adopted

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

The following members declared a conflict of interest regarding item 6 on the Agenda, Community Grants.

Councillor Pat O'Toole, Ballymahon St Patricks Day Parade Committee and Ballymahon Community Group.

Councillor Martin Skelly, Cemetery Committee, Newtowncashel.

Councillor Mark Casey Lanesboro Boxing Club.

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Brian McNeela, Senior Executive Engineer, presented the management report to the members. The members noted the report.

5. PART VIII – LANESBORO DEVELOPMENT

Director of Service, Samantha Healy provided the members with an update on the Part VII-Lanesboro Development. The members raised a number of queries around the development to which Samantha responded to.

The members noted the importance of continued communication as the development advances through the relevant stages.

Councillor Mark Casey expressed his concerns regarding the proposed development, stating that he was not in favour of the project. He outlined his reservations during the discussion and highlighted specific issues.

On the proposal of Councillor Sean Mimmagh seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill the Part VIII – Lanesboro Development was approved.

Councillor Mark Casey made a counter proposal not to approve the Part VIII. The counter-proposal was not seconded.

6. COMMUNITY GRANTS

Breege Cronin presented the members with a comprehensive report on the 2025 Community Grant applications. The report included a detailed overview of all applications received, the nature and scope of the proposed community projects, and the corresponding funding requests.

The members reviewed the applications, considering the merits, community impact, and alignment with the grant criteria. Following deliberation, the members unanimously agreed on the allocation amounts for each application, ensuring a fair and balanced distribution of available funding across the various initiatives.

The members expressed their appreciation for Breege Cronin's significant work in managing the grant process. They acknowledged her efforts in compiling and presenting the report, as well as her continued commitment to supporting community development through the effective administration of the 2025 Community Grants Programme.

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the 2025 Community Grants were approved.

7. PART VIII NO. 128 PEDESTRIAN & CYCLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME ON THE R 392

Senior Engineer Paul Newell and Senior Executive Engineer Brian Kelly delivered a detailed and informative update to the members on the Part VIII Pedestrian and Cycle Improvement Scheme proposed for the R392. Key elements of the scheme, including design considerations, pedestrian and cyclist safety, and the anticipated impact on local traffic flow.

Particular attention was given to the Moy Crossroads, where members noted the potential need for the installation of a box junction to enhance traffic management and ensure safe and efficient movement through the intersection.

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill seconded by Paul Ross, the Part VIII No. 128 was approved.

8. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Mick Cahill and seconded by Councillor Paul Ross

I call on Longford County Council to consider the provision of a walkway/cycle path on the L1173-0 (old N4, C&D) and the L5163-0 to avoid people having to use the N4 in the interest of road safety.

Response:

The proposed site lies outside the NTA's (National Transport Authority) criteria for prioritisation of Active Travel schemes being in a rural location and within a 100km/hr national primary road zone.

Other funding sources can be explored on what is a viable proposal.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Martin Skelly and seconded by Councillor Paul Ross

I call on Irish Water to conduct an immediate review on the water power and capacity on the approach roads to Ballymahon that feed our industrial units that we are just outside the town. As the recent fire at the agricultural stores on the Lanesboro side has shown us, we must have a sufficient supply of water if we are to deal with a fire emergency.

Response:

Uisce Éireann operates a Local Representative Service Desk (LRSD) specifically for local representatives, which can be contacted on a direct land line number. at 0818-178-178. This dedicated line must be used to record any complaints or motions.

Alternatively, if any member of the public wishes to voice their concerns directly, they can contact Uisce Éireann's call centre at 1800 278 278. This will allow them to raise a ticket and ensure their issues are formally logged and attended to.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sean Mimmagh and seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly

I call on Longford County Council to develop the Town Park in Lanesboro for Residents and Tourists and also improve access to the Shannon for Swimmers / Triathlon, Canoe/Kayak and Fishing.

There are 4 areas of the project that could be developed which include:

1. The Town Park - The local tidy towns committee engaged a Landscape designer to prepare a plan and this is completed.
2. The lower path along the Shannon from the bridge towards the slipway is damaged and needs to be replaced.
3. Provision of dedicated permanent access for Swimmers/ Triathlon into the Shannon.
4. Provision of a Wheelchair accessible Canoe/Kayak platform.

I call on the Council to prepare a Part 8 planning application as a combined planning application, and complete the necessary environmental reports given its location to the Shannon and Lough Ree. Once the planning is received, this will make it eligible for funding applications to deliver the project.

Response:

As the most impacted community in County Longford resulting from the Just Transition process, it is imperative that Lanesborough receives focus in terms of design and implementation of new projects that bring economic benefit and prosperity to the South Longford area.

A holistic approach as suggested by Cllr Mimmagh would mean that planning if approved would be in place for the 4 items above. Planning is a requirement of applying for grants to build this project. Cllr Mimmagh and the Community are very active in improving the attractiveness of Lanesboro Park and they have already developed a plan. The next steps is to take this plan , complete the environmental screening and then apply for planning.

The project is ambitious with an estimate cost of €1.5 million. The planning process may take some time due to its location on the banks of the River Shannon so planning is the first step. After planning, we will need to apply for funding to deliver the different parts of the project.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sean Mimmagh and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill

Further to the motion I submitted on the 20th of March 2025 at the Ballymahon Municipal Meeting, in which I called on Longford Co Council to secure an alternative site in Kenagh village for a children's playground.

Following ongoing engagement and collaboration with the relevant staff of the council, agreement has been reached to utilise a vacant council-owned site within the village. This site has the potential to serve not only as a location for a much-needed playground, but also for the development of a Men's/ Women's Shed and a broader Community Hub - offering inclusive facilities that will benefit residents of all ages in Kenagh.

I am now calling on Longford County Council to progress this project without delay. I reaffirm my full commitment to assisting in any way necessary to ensure this initiative moves forward swiftly and successfully.

Response:

The next steps are to meet with the community.

1. Decide which community group will take the lead on the project
2. Develop Cllr Mimmagh's plan
3. Apply for planning permission and then funding.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly

I call on Longford County Council to investigate the possibility of installing a cycle lane on the old Dublin road, Edgeworthstown to facilitate the large volume of people who work and live on the road.

Response:

This proposal will be assessed in terms of priority and added to the list of potential Active Travel schemes for application submission when additional funding comes available.

The current Active Travel budget allocation to Longford for 2025 is already fully committed.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill

I call on Longford County Council to seek funding to upgrade and improve the public realm and streetscape outside The Maria Edgeworth Literacy Centre which is the county's only museum.

Response:

Paul Newell said he would meet Cllr Ross in Edgeworthstown to see the extent of public realm works and the possible funding streams available.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill


That a pedestrian crossing be installed at Church St, Edgeworthstown at the main street junction in the interest of public safety.

Response:

The roads section will assess this location for traffic calming measures and measures to improve pedestrian safety and will consider this location for low-cost safety funding in 2026.

9. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District will take place on Monday, 3 June 2025 at 11am in the Council Chamber. This will be the AGM for the Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting.

Signed: 
Gerard Dennigan
A/Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 24 July 2025.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach