

GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in The 98 Hall, Ballinamuck on Monday, 28 July 2025 at 5:30pm

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Turlough McGovern

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Garry Murtagh,
Pádraig McNamara, David Cassidy, Colin Dalton

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Ms. Claire McNabola, Administrative Officer
Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. David Plunkett, Clerical Officer
Mr. Richard Smith, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Martha Kelly, Administrative Officer

APOLOGIES None

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – AS CIRCULATED

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on 27 May 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting held on 27 May 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District Annual Meeting held on 23 June 2025.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT INCORPORATING AREA ENGINEER'S PROGRESS REPORT

The members noted the Management Report.

David Coppinger and Barbara Heslin gave a detailed update on the Area's Engineer Progress Report and responded to queries raised by Elected Members.

5. COMMUNITY GRANTS SUPPORT SCHEME 2025

An update was provided on the Community Grants Scheme. To date 35 (50%) of the Granard MD Community Groups have accepted their offers and funds have been paid out accordingly.

Claire and David asked the Members to speak with their relevant groups and encourage them to accept the offers made, and the applications can then be progressed to drawdown.

Claire advised the Members that an application was also received from Kilcoursey Group Water Scheme by the Ballymahon MD. This Group is in the Granard MD, however the application does not meet the criteria of the Community Grants Scheme – The Group will be advised.

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS:

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara, seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, it was agreed to cancel grant payment to Granardkille Graveyard as previously approved and give the €1,000 from Padraig McNamara's Special Project Grants to Granard Tidy Towns in the joint names of Councillor Padraig McNamara and Councillor Turlough McGovern.

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton, seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was agreed to give €2,000 to Sean Connolly's GAA from Councillor Colin Dalton's Special Projects Grants.

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton, seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was agreed to give €1,500 to Killoe Development from Councillor Colin

Dalton's Special Projects Grants.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was agreed to give €2,000 to Colmcille Area Development from Councillor Garry Murtagh's Special Projects Grants.

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara It was agreed to give €2,000 to Ballinalee Community Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara it was agreed to give €500 to Kileen National School.

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton it was agreed to give €500 to Abbeylara Active Retirement Group.

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh

I call upon Longford County Council in collaboration with the Regeneration Department to construct a footpath and install public lighting from the Glasheen estate, Drumlish on The L-1009 to connect with the existing footpath to the village of Drumlish on the R198.

Response:

The Members were advised that the Glasheen estate and the L-1009 Junction with the R198 are in the Longford Municipal District. It was agreed by the Members that request will be forwarded on to Peter Brady, SEE in Longford MD and also to Paul Newell, SE, Regeneration Section for their attention.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton

I call upon Longford County Council to write to Transport for Ireland (TFI) Local link for Longford and the National Transport Authority (NTA) to request an 11pm service to operate on Friday's and Saturdays on Route 975 Longford-Arvagh with an additional request to increase the 6 day service to also include a Sunday for 7 day service on all routes within Co Longford.

Response:

It was agreed at the meeting that Longford County Council will write to TFI and NTA in relation to the Notice of Motion outlined above.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern

I call on Longford County Council to investigate maintaining the Ballinalee walkway which is all overgrown.

Response:

This walkway along with the others in the Granard Municipal District will be examined after the end of the Bird Nesting Season to determine which schemes require the most urgent maintenance. There is a budget of €18,000 available for Paths and Trails Maintenance and this will be allocated according to a prioritised needs assessment. It was noted by the Members that the Regeneration Team were carrying out some initial work on the walkway.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern

I call on Longford County Council to investigate traffic calming measures in the village of Ennybegs, Killoe, alongside Killoe Development Group, who have plans drawn up.

Response:

The MD technical staff have been working collaboratively with Killoe Development Group for a number of years now and they have drafted a preliminary plan that is still being further developed. Once fully developed, this plan may require planning permission and Longford County Council will provide whatever assistance possible in that area. Funding will be the major issue as Roads Section have no direct funding for Traffic Calming Measures. Proposals will also be forwarded to the Active Travel Section as they may be able to assist with identifying possible funding.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern

I call on Longford County Council to investigate extra traffic calming measures in the village of Ballinalee from the school to the village and also at the traffic lights, and I am also seeking a pedestrian crossing to the walkway.

Response:

Road Design section will examine this proposal together with other similar requests when resources allow. When their examination is completed, the results will determine if any further action is warranted. It was noted that the Gardai are actively conducting speed checks in this area. It was also noted that the Regeneration Section are also seeking funding for a crossing point at the Forest Trail.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Padraig McNamara and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern

I call on Longford County Council to formally write to the Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien, to urge the TII to carry out a comprehensive road safety assessment at Creevy Junction, Granard (off the N55) and also at Toneywarden (53.7470397, - 7.5332058). This is in response to the ongoing and repeated occurrence of motor accidents at Creevy Junction and the potential of an accident at Toneywarden, highlighting the seriousness of the situation and requesting urgent intervention and funding to implement appropriate safety measures. This issue has previously been raised through motions on numerous occasions and it is vital that a coordinated response now be prioritised.

Response:

It was agreed at the meeting that Longford County Council will write to the Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien, outlining the request from the meeting.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Granard Municipal District will take place on Monday, 22 September at 3:30pm

Signed: Lorraine McKee
Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 22 September 2025

Signed: Turlough McGovern
Cathaoirleach