

## GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in Granard Library on Monday, 24 March 2025 at 3pm

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**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Councillor Garry Murtagh

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors Turlough McGovern,  
Pádraig McNamara, David Cassidy

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services  
Ms. Claire McNabola, Administrative Officer  
Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer

**APOLOGIES** None

#### **MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:** Ms. Lorraine McKee

#### **LUS NA GRÉINE PRESENTATION**

Eileen Finan updated the members on the Lus na Gréine resource centre. She informed the members that the centre serves a huge range of people. It is located in a disadvantaged area. The centre builds relationships with the people living in the community. Each resource centre is unique and responds to the needs of the community, for example, mental health, physical health and well being etc. Eileen thanked the local politicians and the council for their support. The new premises has enhanced the town. Eileen outlined the financial position of the centre and sought funding from the Council amounting to €25, 000 per year for a period of 5 years. The members commended Eileen on her work to bring this project to its current status and thanked her for her dedication to the centre.

#### **1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – AS CIRCULATED**

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Pádraig McNamara, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on 27 January 2025

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None

**4. MANAGEMENT REPORT INCORPORATING AREA ENGINEER'S PROGRESS REPORT**

Barbara highlighted the following from the Management Report and responded to queries raised by the Elected Members:

- Heritage Projects
- Integration
- Community Recognition Fund 2024
- Local Enterprise Awards
- Active Travel
- Town Centre First:
  - Town Centre First Measure 1
  - New Funding Applications
  - Residential Zoned Land Tax
  - Derelict Sites
  - Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Derelict Sites
  - Vacant Homes Unit
  - Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Croí Cónaithe)
- Housing:
  - Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme
  - Social Housing Applications 2025 County Longford
  - Housing List in County Longford
  - New Tenancies Granard MD
  - Housing Stock Granard MD
  - Private Housing Grants for older people and people with a disability

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

- General Roadwork
- Budgets 2025
- Community Involvement Schemes 2025
- Local Cost Safety Schemes
- Local Improvement Schemes

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION FROM GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

On the proposal of Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, the Draft Annual Report Submission from Granard MD was approved.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF PART VIII – CNOC NA GREINE, GRANARD**

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Padraig

McNamara, the Part VIII Cnoc Na Greine was adopted.

**7. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE ROADS PROGRAMME 2025**

On the proposal of Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, the Roads Programme 2025 was adopted.

**8. SPECIAL PROJECTS/DISCRETIONARY GRANTS 2025**

<b>Proposed by David Cassidy</b>	<b>Seconded by Garry Murtagh</b>
<u>Abbeylara afterschool</u>	1,000
<u>Drumlish Christmas Lights</u>	1,000
<u>Ballinamuck afterschool</u>	1,000
<u>Drumlish Community Centre</u>	1,000
Drumlish Tidy Towns	1,000
Ballinamuck Cemetery	1,000
<b>Proposed by Turlough McGovern</b>	<b>Seconded by Padraig McNamara</b>
Higginstown Development Group	3,700
Granard Booktown	1,000
<b>Proposed by Padraig McNamara</b>	<b>Seconded by Turlough McGovern</b>
Granardkille Graveyard – New	1,000
Granard Motte	1,000
<b>Proposed by Garry Murtagh</b>	<b>Seconded by David Cassidy</b>
Dromard Tidy Towns & Rural Development	3,000
Colmcille Area Development	2,000

**9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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

I call upon Longford County Council that the roadway from Smear Stores to the county boundary at Drumhaldry towards Arvagh be made a priority road on the winter service plan for gritting in adverse weather conditions.

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

I call upon Longford County Council to include the following routes to be added to priority roads on the winter service plan for gritting in adverse weather conditions.

- Gaique Cross to the 98 Bar in Ballinamuck
- 300 metre's on the approach road from Aughamore Lower to Martin's Cross in Legga.

**Response to Councillor Garry Murtagh and David Cassidy Notice of Motion:**

The objective of the winter maintenance programme is to provide so far as is reasonably practical for the safe movement of road users on the National Roads and other strategic routes identified, during adverse weather conditions. As is not feasible to treat all public thoroughfares, it is necessary to create a schedule of route prioritisation. Routes are designated a priority rating of between 1 and 3 based upon the road classification, the traffic volume carried, public transport usage etc and the importance of the route on a national, regional or local level.

Priority 1 Routes (National) and Priority 2 Routes Regional & some Local Roads are pre-salted. They receive precautionary treatment, where salt is spread following warnings of expected low temperatures, to reduce the likelihood of frost and ice forming on the road. Priority 3 routes are only treated post event in periods of extreme cold weather.

In general, all houses are within approximately 4km of a salted Priority 1 or 2 road.

Longford County Council is currently salting in excess of 23% of the road network in the County and do not have the capacity to take any additional salting works.

These requests can be considered for the 2025-2026 Winter Maintenance Programme should additional resources and funding be made available by the Elected Members as part of the 2026 budgetary process.

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

I call upon Longford County Council to explore the possibility of installing Road Safety barriers at Gaique, Ballinamuck (53.85405'N, 7.71464'W) and in Monaduff, Drumlish (53.83269'N, 7.74908'W) where there is a significant drop off the roadway in close proximity to the existing Monduff Walkway.

**Response:**

Longford County Council's Road Design Section asked a designated Safety Barrier Contractor to carry out an initial assessment of the two locations listed in an effort to explore the possibility of installing Safety Barriers at the two locations listed. The result of this initial assessment is that it would be cost approximately €80,000 for approximately 500m of safety barrier installation at these locations. An additional

€80,000 approximately would likely be needed for preparatory works such as land acquisition and verge widening, so the total cost could be in the order of €160,000.

Clearly current Regional Maintenance Budgets would go nowhere near funding these requirements and therefore the only possibility might be a Specific Improvement Grant from the Department of Transport.

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

I call upon Longford County Council to install raised speed ramps on both sides entering the village of Ballinamuck as a traffic calming measure where there is a significant issue with speeding. And also to install raised speed ramps both sides of the Community Centre & St. Mary's National School in Drumlish where the same issue exists.

**Response:**

It is important to emphasise that Traffic Speed Enforcement is the responsibility of the Gardai. If local communities feel there is an issue with traffic speeds in their community then Longford County Council will relate this concern to An Gardai Siochana who can carry out enforcement of the speed limits in those locations.

Longford County Council is not in favour of installing speed ramps as solutions to driver behaviour issues. LCC policy is to examine all other options available and review the public road and traffic conditions in the area to assess if there are appropriate traffic calming measures such as build outs, footpaths, and signage or road markings that could be implemented, subject to the provision of necessary funding. The provision of ramps should only be considered as a last resort.

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

I call on Longford County Council to seek funding for the development of a dog park (off the leash) in a green space in conjunction with the Walkway in Granard which would be a perfect facility at this suitable location in the town. "Dog owners always struggle with this issue and, to some place in Granard where they could be off the leash, plus it might elevate some of the ongoing problems of dog fouling on our streets. These parks are proven very successful in other towns I.E. Mullingar and Granard could be a pilot project for Longford.

**Response:**

There are no funds to cater for such a project. Director of Service Barbara Heslin carried out some research into the dog park in Mullingar, as well as looking at some in Northern Ireland and the UK. These are fenced off areas where dogs could engage in activities. Barbara contacted Archers in Higginstown in relation to a potential site and regeneration said it wouldn't be too expensive to erect fencing and place a few activities within for the dogs.

Turlough asked that the woodlands area also be considered as a potential location also.

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

I wish to enquire as to when we will see the cleaning of all signage in Granard district. I know one community group who held a function in their village and cleaned all the signage in their area as they couldn't take a risk with signage covered with green branches and dirt. This should not be up to locals to do this.

**Response:**

Longford County Council's Municipal District Engineers arrange for signs to be cleaned, maintained and replaced as and when resources and funding allow. However, this task is just one of the substantial workload assigned to Municipal District employees and for now the GMD staff are fully engaged at the annual Roads programme works. There are no immediate plans to commence a programme of sign cleaning in MD. It may be that later in the year once the Roads Programme is substantially completed and if funding resources allow that we will initiate such a programme.

However, if Members become aware of signage issues that are a significant issue or danger, they can bring them to the attention of the Municipal District team who will endeavour to resolve them as soon as resources allow.

**10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Granard Municipal District will take place on Tuesday, 27 May 2025 at 3.30pm

*Lorraine McKee*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lorraine McKee  
Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 27 May 2025**

*Garry Muntagh*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**