

GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in Granard Library on Monday, 22
September 2025 at 3:30pm**

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. Joe Gorman, Executive Engineer
Mr. David Plunkett, Clerical Officer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

APOLOGIES

David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer

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 28 July 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 28 July 2025.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The minutes of Granard Municipal District meeting on 28 July requires the addition of the following:

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 Killeen 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.

The Elected Members were provided with an update on grants drawn down by the various groups. They were encouraged to engage with those groups who have not yet accepted or drawn down their grant of funding. Any amounts not drawn down by the next Municipal District meeting will be forfeited.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT INCORPORATING AREA ENGINEER'S PROGRESS REPORT

The members noted the Management Report.

Barbara Heslin, Director of Services highlighted the following from the Management Report and responded to queries raised by the Elected Members:

- Events taking place in Granard Library
- Tourism and Night-Time Economy Report
- Heritage Office
- Regeneration
- Housing

Joe Gorman, Executive Engineer gave a detailed update on the Area's Engineer Progress Report and responded to queries raised by Elected Members –

- General Roadworks
- Low-Cost Safety Schemes
- Community Involvement Schemes
- Local Improvement Schemes
- Hedge Cutting

The Elected Members thanked Barbara and Joe for the recent and ongoing works carried out by them and their teams, and they welcomed the funding that has been

received for various projects in the Municipal District including ORIS, LIS, CIS, safety schemes and bridges.

Councillor Pádraig McNamara provided an update on the Granard Motte project and confirmed that a new manager was appointed. He thanked Longford County Council for its ongoing support for the project.

Councillor Turlough McGovern asked that an update be sought from the Regeneration Team on the old Hourican's building in Granard Town and incorporated in the next Management Report.

Councillor Garry Murtagh reminded the Members of the activities arranged in the library in Granard and the upcoming Pádraic Colum festival on 4 October.

5. 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 conjunction with the Regeneration Department and/or Active Travel to explore the possibility of and seek funding for constructing a public walkway from the village of Ballinamuck to the 98 Bar/Johnny's Cottage whilst retaining as much of the existing hedgerow and tree's as possible along this route.

Response:

The concept of developing a new walkway from Ballinamuck to the 98 Bar/Johnny's Cottage was previously considered by the Regeneration Team following a proposal from the then Councillor Senator Pádraic Brady. However, it was determined that it will not be possible to build a footpath without removing the existing hedgerow as the space available from the road edge to the hedgerow is too narrow for a footpath. It was noted that funding opportunities for 2025 are now closed. If alternative solutions can be found, it may be possible for the Council to look at funding under 2026 scheme for Town and Village or Outdoor Recreation.

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

I call upon Longford County Council to explore the potential of and carry out a Low-Cost Safety Scheme (LCSS) where the L-5092 meets the L-1041 at Esker, Killoe to improve visibility at the stop sign when turning onto the L-1041 where visibility is significantly obstructed for road users to see oncoming traffic.

Response:

Longford County Council will explore the possibility of including this location in the application for Low-Cost Safety Scheme funding for 2026. It will be added to the current list of candidate schemes for assessment in the coming month or so. An

initial examination suggests that this is primarily a matter of cutting back hedges and it may be more a matter for hedge notices to the landowners rather than a Low-Cost Scheme.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh and seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara

I call on Longford County Council to implement a low-cost safety scheme at Gelsha Junction

Response:

Longford County Council will explore the possibility of including this location in the application for Low Cost Safety Scheme funding for 2026. It will be added to the current list of candidate schemes for assessment in the coming month or so. An initial examination suggests it will be difficult and expensive to carry out any works at this location.

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

I call on Longford County Council to seek climate adaption funding for the R198 at the Corrinagh junction to include improvements to sight lines and the widening of the junction.

Response:

This location is already listed on the current draft list of schemes for Climate Action funding applications in 2026 and is considered a high priority scheme in the opinion of Granard Municipal District Technical Staff.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern

I call on Longford County Council when developing the new car park in Derrycassin woods/Mullinaghta to make provision for the relocation of the bottle banks at Purth church. Every area should have a bottle bank in their community to promote recycling.

Response:

Prior to construction works commencing onsite for this carpark at Derrycassin, consideration will be given to locating the bottle bank in the car park. There may be some technical difficulties to be resolved to enable trucks to access the car park to empty the banks. Consultation with the local GAA club will also have to be carried out.

Councillor Padraig McNamara asked that the Environment section research the recycling facilities in Cavan and in particular options for recycling plastic.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh

I call on Longford County Council to carry out an audit on our road signs where they are damaged and need to be cleaned for our road users in the Granard MD, and junction marking to be refreshed where needed.

Response:

This is very similar Notice to the one submitted by Cllr McGovern to the March 2025 meeting regarding the cleaning and maintenance of road signs. Longford County Council Municipal District employees 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 workloads assigned to Granard Municipal District employees and for now they are fully engaged in various funded programmes. There are no immediate plans to commence a programme of sign cleaning in the MD. It may be that later in the year if funding resources allow that we will initiate such a programme. Funding for this work comes from the Council's own resources and the Municipal District would welcome additional funding in the 2026 budget process. The Roads section will investigate the initiative of sign wrapping suggested by Councillor Garry Murtagh. Elected Members were also asked to contact the Area Team with information on particular signs which they are concerned about.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara

I call on Longford County Council to place an advertisement in the paper and on social media to remind our landowners its hedge cutting season again. There has been great improvement on hedge cutting and this will help make our roads safer for our pedestrians and drivers.

Response:

This advertisement and social media reminders have already been placed at the beginning of September and a second reminder will be issued around Christmas. In addition, the Granard Municipal District Technical Staff have issued numerous hedge cutting notices to landowners in the last month or so, requesting them to cut their overgrown hedges.

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

I call on Longford County Council to undertake urgent works at the new cemetery in Granard, which is under the ownership of the Council. Concerns have been raised

regarding the presence of significant rock in the ground, which is impacting the preparation of plots and the overall maintenance of the cemetery.

Response:

Longford County Council is aware of the issues being experienced in Granard cemetery and other cemeteries in the County. It has also been in contact with the local caretakers and undertakers during the consultation phase of the preparation of the new byelaws.

The Council is not currently in a financial position to commence large-scale groundworks at the new cemetery in Granard. Having considered the various options, the Council has determined that extensive groundworks, to remove the rock, are not considered effective without causing alternative complications or problems.

Longford County Council accepts that ground conditions in designated, burial plots vary across its cemeteries, and in some cases prove less favourable than others in burial preparation. The Elected Members could consider allocating funding in the 2026 and future budgets to address some of the issues being faced in the various cemeteries in the county. Alternatively, subject to Elected Member approval, the Environment Section could prepare a revised 'Right to Burial' fee schedule with subsidised rate for adverse ground conditions, as determined by Longford County Council on a case-by-case basis.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Granard Municipal District will take place on 28 October 2025.

Cathaoirleach Turlough McGovern extended his congratulations on behalf of Granard Municipal District to Cian McPhillips on his recent success at the World Championships in Tokyo.

Councillor Garry Murtagh welcomed the recent announcement on the extension of TFI routes.

Signed: Lorraine McKee
Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 24 November
2025

Signed: [Signature]
Cathaoirleach