

LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held in the Council Chamber Áras an Chontae and via MS Teams on Tuesday, 27 May 2025 at 11am

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Councillor Seamus Butler

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Peggy Nolan, Uruemu Adejinmi, Niall Gannon, Martin Monaghan and Kevin Hussey

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Peter Brady, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Anita Doherty, Staff Officer
Mr. Paul Newell, Senior Engineer
Mr. Martin Cassidy, Assistant Engineer
Mr. Eoghan Dwyer, Senior Staff Officer
Mr. David Barden, Administrative Officer
Ms. Fionnuala O'Connell, Clerical Officer
Mr. Conor Devlin, Clerical Officer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR:

Ms. Lorraine McKee

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Gerry Hagan

Mr. John Brannigan

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – CIRCULATED

- I. On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held on 22 April 2025 as circulated.
- II. On the proposal of Councillor Martin Monaghan seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Committee Meeting of Longford Municipal District held on 22 April 2025 as circulated.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Kevin Hussey declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 8 Community Grants

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT – as circulated.

Peter Brady updated the members on the Management Report, which was noted and he answered any questions and concerns raised by the Elected Members.

The members raised their concern in relation to signage on the cycle lane on the Battery Road and at the top of Abbeycartron Lane in the interest of road safety. It was agreed that this matter would be investigated with a view to erecting signage.

The Members requested that the car parking spaces adjacent to the Church Street buildings would be retained.

5. PROPOSED PAID PARKING CHARGES

John McKeon, Director of Finance, gave a detailed presentation to the Elected Members on the proposed paid parking charges.

These charges would come into effect on Monday, 4 August 2025.

An annual income of €170,000 is estimated from these proposed charges, which would be used to fund the footpath programme for Longford Town.

Concerns were raised over the parking meters, and the members called for the upgrading of meters to include card payment to be fast-tracked. The members raised their concern over the enforcement of paid parking and the lack of traffic wardens on the street.

The members requested that the litter wardens would monitor the off-street car

parks regularly.

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler, it was agreed to adopt the new paid parking charges.

On the proposal of Councillor Martin Monaghan seconded by Councillor Kevin Hussey, the proposed paid parking charges would not be adopted.

As there was a counter proposal, a vote was held.

The following members voted in favour of the paid parking charges:

- Councillor Seamus Butler
- Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi

The following members voted against the paid parking charges:

- Councillor Martin Monaghan
- Councillor Kevin Hussey
- Councillor Peggy Nolan
- Councillor Niall Gannon

A resolution was passed not to implement the proposed paid parking charges.

6. NEW PLAYGROUND IN THE MALL

David Barden made a detailed presentation on the proposed new playground in the Mall. The members unanimously were in favour of the proposed works and welcomed this amenity to the town. This would benefit the children and would be an added recreational area.

7. FOOTPATH PROGRAMME

The Cathaoirleach postponed the presentation on the footpath programme to a future meeting of the Municipal District.

8. COMMUNITY GRANTS

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Niall Gannon, the 2025 Community Grants for the Longford Municipal District were approved by the members.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Niall Gannon, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan

I call on Longford County Council to take immediate action to address the following issues. The increasing presence of groups of youngsters who are intimidating local business owners, residents, and visitors in our town centre. Potential measures could include increasing Gardai patrols in the town centre during peak hours, implementing and engaging more with community outreach programs aimed at engaging youth in positive activities, and collaborating with local schools and organisations to address the underlying causes of such behaviour. Other towns and counties have introduced initiatives such as Gym Justice (Antrim), more comprehensive CCTV cover (Rathdown). Early intervention programmes (Ballymun) and many more we could surely learn from.

Response: Community Safety Partnership are preparing a community safety plan for the town and people will have a chance to have their input.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Niall Gannon and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan

I call on Longford County Council to request that safety and traffic calming measures be implemented outside Mean Scoil Mhuire on Convent Road in Longford Town. Hundreds of students from all around the county attend this school. There are serious concerns for the safety of these students as they cross the road to access different parts of the campus. The recent tragic incident on this road, which resulted in the loss of a life, highlights the urgent need for improved safety measures. We kindly request that you consider implementing measures such as speed bumps, pedestrian crossings, or other traffic calming devices. I believe these measures would significantly enhance the safety of the students and the wider community.

Response:

It is important to emphasise that Traffic Speed Enforcement is the responsibility of the Gardai. 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 following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Niall Gannon and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

I call on Longford County Council to deal with the ongoing traffic concerns with people living on the Ardagh Road out of Longford. The speed and behaviour of drivers on this road is endangering the lives of all users.

Response:

It is important to emphasise that Traffic Speed Enforcement is the responsibility of the Gardai. Longford County Council will carry out a speed survey on this section of road. Speed data will be reviewed to determine an appropriate solution.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan

I call on Longford County Council to erect two digital speed warning signs at Stonepark, one for each direction at St Anne's Church of Ireland and c300m the Longford side of Stonepark NS.

It has proven that speeding is endemic on this stretch of road as witnessed at a Children's Court held last year in Stonepark NS supported by the LCSP.

Response:

Longford County Council will carry out a speed survey on this section of road. Speed data will be reviewed to determine an appropriate solution.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kevin Hussey and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan

I call on Longford County Council to undertake improvement works to upgrade the lighting and pedestrian crossing poles at the crossing located in Market Square, Longford Town, in the interest of pedestrian safety and improved visibility.

Response:

Longford County Council will review the current lighting and pedestrian crossing poles at this location. It is noted that this crossing is located on a National Road (N63). If any proposed alterations are required, further consultation will be required with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The members extended their sympathy on the passing of Rose Hagan, mother of Councillor Gerry Hagan.

The members extended their sympathy on the passing of Anne Heslin, mother of Director of Services Barbara Heslin.

The members also extended their sympathy on the passing of Padraig Dolan, brother-in-law of Councillor Kevin Hussey

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Longford Municipal District will take place on Tuesday, 24 June at 11am in the Council Chamber

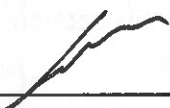
This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: Lorraine McKee

Lorraine McKee

Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 24 June 2025.

Signed: 

Cathaoirleach