

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on
Wednesday, 9 April at 3:30pm**

PRESIDING: Councillor Garry Murtagh

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Paul Ross, Niall Gannon, Gerry Hagan, Padraig McNamara, Martin Skelly, Seamus Butler, Uruemu Adejinmi, Mick Cahill, Pat O'Toole, Sean Mimmagh, Kevin Hussey, Martin Monaghan, David Cassidy

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive
Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services
Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services
Mr. John McKeon, Director of Services
Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services
Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Ms. Martina McGrath, Senior Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mark Casey, Councillor Peggy Nolan,
Councillor Turlough McGovern

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

Mona Considine, Artistic Director of Backstage Theatre, made a presentation which received glowing praise from the members. Backstage has made a cultural impact on Longford during the past three decades. It delivers artist supports, job opportunities, a strong community focus and it has a positive support from stakeholders including Longford County Council and the Arts Council.

The members noted the absence of Cathaoirleach Councillor Mark Casey and Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Peggy Nolan. On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross and

seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler, the members unanimously agreed Councillor Garry Murtagh would chair the May meeting of Longford County Council.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (i) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on 12 March 2025, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

3. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Noted

4. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2025

Noted

5. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 183 - FOSTRA, AUGHNACLIFFE

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, the members reviewed and agreed the Section 183 Fostra, Aughnaccliffe.

(ii) CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 183 – DISPOSAL OF PARCEL OF LAND AT CHURCH VIEW, LANESBORO, LONGFORD

On the proposal of Councillor Sean Mimmagh seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, Section 183 – Disposal of Parcel of land at Church View, Lanesboro, Longford was agreed.

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(i) ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Senior Executive Officer Martina McGrath provided the members with an update on the Annual Report 2024. The members reviewed and acknowledge

the comprehensive report. On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Annual Report 2024.

(ii) CATHAOIRLEACH AWARDS 2025

It was agreed to hold the Cathaoirleach Awards on Wednesday 14th May at 6pm.

(iii) PROTOCOL FOR DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST ELECTED MEMBERS OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Noted

(iv) PART VIII NO 126 – UPGRADE/CONSTRUCTION OF WALKING TRACK AT LISSARD RINVANNY AND CRANALAGH MORE, EDGEWORTHSTOWN

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill, seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, the members reviewed and agreed Part VIII No 126 – Upgrade/construction of walking track at Lissard, Rinvanny and Cranalagh More, Edgeworthstown.

(v) CONSIDERATION OF THE FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 19 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF PARAIC BRADY TO SEANAD ÉIREANN

Following the Election of Paraic Brady to Seanad Éireann, it was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan to appoint Colin Dalton to fill the casual vacancy in the membership of Longford County Council in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001.

On behalf of Fine Gael, Councillor Paul Ross welcomed Colin back to the membership of Longford County Council. On behalf of Fianna Fail, Councillor Seamus Butler also welcomed Colin back to the Council. They both wished him well in his role as an Elected Member.

Councillor Colin Dalton spoke to the Executive and Staff expressing his happiness of being back in the membership of Longford County Council and the Granard Municipal District.

7. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) TO NOTE PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Noted

8. FINANCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(i) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Noted

(ii) CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF LOAN FUNDING OF €10,000,000 TO FUND THE DEVELOPMENT OF 93 HOUSES, INCLUDING 25 AFFORDABLE HOUSES ON THE BALLINALEE ROAD

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the loan funding of €10,000,000 to fund the development of 93 houses, including 25 affordable houses on the Ballinalee Road, was approved.

(iii) TIDY TOWNS INSURANCE

Correspondence from Irish Public Bodies in regard to Tidy Town Insurances was outlined to the members by Director of Service John McKeon. Tidy Towns committees within certain criteria will be covered under IPB Insurance Policies and arranged and paid for by Longford County Council.

9. GENERAL

(i) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Paul Ross

I am calling on Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Communications to express concern over the ongoing failure to restore telephone lines, fibre broadband in certain areas affected by Storm Éowyn, several weeks after the event.

This disruption has left many, including vulnerable and elderly individuals, without a vital means of communication in some cases, panic buttons used by older people to summon help in emergencies are inoperable due to the lack of a functioning landline.

This situation is putting lives at risk, as people are unable to contact family members or emergency services to ensure their safety and well-being.

Response:

Currently, there are still premises in county Longford without broadband connectivity. The progress in repairs has been extremely slow and frustrating. The quality of communication is practically non-existent.

We need a solution from our broadband infrastructure providers to provide real time information about restoration like ESB. The lack of communications has been highted with the national response team and the department.

Longford County Council will write to the Minister of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in relation to the above notice of motion.

The members unanimously commended Christine Collins, Broadband & Digital Officer with Longford County Council on her great work and congratulated Christine on her recent achievement on winning a prestigious women in digital award.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER HEALY-RAE**
Noted
- (ii) **CORRESPONDENCE FROM ESB**
Noted
- (iii) **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**
Noted
- (iv) **CORRESPONDENCE FROM CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL**
Noted

11. TRAINING FOR APPROVAL

Noted

12. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The members unanimously expressed their sympathy on the sad passing of Jim McGoldrick. May he rest in peace.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Longford County Council will take place on Wednesday, 14 May 2025 at 3:30pm in the Council Chamber.

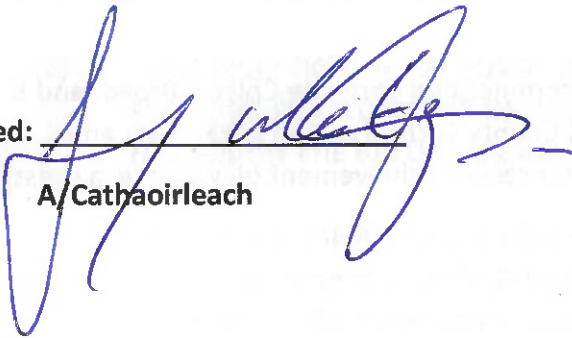
Signed: Lorraine McKee

Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 14 May 2025

Signed: _____

A Cathaoirleach

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke at the end.