

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on
Wednesday, 15 January at 3:30pm**

PRESIDING: Councillor Mark Casey

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Paraic Brady, Niall Gannon, Garry Murtagh, Gerry Hagan, Pdraig McNamara, Turlough McGovern, Martin Skelly, Seamus Butler, Uruemu Adejinmi, Peggy Nolan, Mick Cahill, Pat O'Toole, Sean Mimnagh, David Cassidy, Kevin Hussey, Martin Monaghan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive
Mr. John McKeon, Director of Service
Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services
Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services
Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services
Ms. Janine Bartley, Community Safety Co-Ordinator
Mr. Seamus Boyle, Chairperson Local Community Safety Partnership
Ms. Louise Kiernan, Senior Planner
Mr. David Tubridy, Senior Engineer

APOLOGIES: Councillor Paul Ross

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

Community Safety Partnership Presentation

Seamus Boyle, Chairperson Local Community Safety Partnership and Janine Bartley, Community Safety Co-ordinator updated the members and made a presentation on creating safer communities. The presentation outlined the following:-

- History of Longford LCSP
- The Priority Areas, Objectives and Actions
- The Visibility of the LCSP
- Projects Funded
- The Priorities for 2025
- How we work together

The members thanked Seamus & Janine and their team for their presentation and the great work that is being done.

It was proposed by Councillor Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler that the standing orders are suspended for fifteen minutes due to the death of Paddy McNamara RIP, father of Councillor Padraig McNamara. The members unanimously agreed.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (i) On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on 15 January, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Chief Executive Paddy Mahon confirmed that the update for December & January would be provided in February.

5.

(i) TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2024

Noted

(ii) TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2024

Noted

6. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

i) **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT SPEED BYLAWS**

Barbara Heslin, Director of Services gave a detailed update to the members on the Draft Co Longford Road Traffic (Special Speed Limit) Supplementary Bye-Laws No 1 of 2024. Barbara outlined that presentations were made to the three Municipal Districts regarding the Draft Speed Bylaws. On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, it was agreed to adopt the bylaws.

ii) **TO NOTE PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Noted

iii) **CE REPORT SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT LONGFORD TOWN LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031**

Louise Kiernan, Senior Planner updated the members with a presentation on the Draft Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031. The presentation consisted of the following:-

- Content of Chief Executive's Report
- CE Recommendations and Considerations
- Key Stages in the Local Area Plan – Making Process
- Action Required by Elected Members

It was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejimni and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler for the Plan to go to Public Consultation – 2nd Phase.

iv) **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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

We call on Longford County Council to write to the minister with responsibility for Uisce Eireann and the CEO Niall Gleason of Uisce Eireann regarding the unsatisfactory service after the recent storm Darragh. Requesting that all pump stations/water treatment plants should have back up generators or solar power supply.

As our elderly people are house bound without water and notwithstanding most farmers (under the guidelines of the Department of Agriculture) have cattle in sheds without water for days.

Response

If the Notice of Motion is adopted by the Elected Members, Longford County Council will write to the relevant Minister and Chief Executive Officer of Uisce

Éireann regarding the concerns of the Elected Members as outlined in the Notice of Motion.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi

I call on Longford County Council to put in place, in all three Municipal Districts, a permanent programme for signage on all roads and public spaces under the aegis of Longford Co Co to include the following:

1. To remove any extraneous signage, poles and any other unnecessary objects.
2. To clean, refurbish or replace any signage on a regular basis, including damaged, faded signs and poles or signs with outdated information.
3. To correct any signage, including signs pointing in an incorrect direction or with leaning poles.
4. To monitor and promptly remove any unauthorised flags, posters or other materials.

As all the above are in the public realm, they reflect our care and attention to detail and will, in turn, enhance our pride of place for our citizens and visitors to our County.

Response:

Longford County Council's Municipal District Engineers arrange for signs to be cleaned, maintained and replaced on a regular basis. This work forms part of the substantial workload assigned to Municipal District employees. However, these works are reliant on the availability of funding and resources.

At present Longford County Council are prioritising the installation of Speed Limit Signs as required under Phase 1 of the Speed Limit Review.

The proposal outlined in the Notice of Motion is noted and will be forwarded to the Municipal District Engineers for their attention.

In addition, Members who are aware of signage issues can bring them to the attention of Municipal District team.

The regulation of 'temporary' signage falls under the remit of the Environment and Climate Action Section of Longford County Council and in its application of the 'Policy Paper Relating to the Erection Advertising and Signage' (2007). This policy is currently under review and proposed changes will be brought to the Physical Development SPC for consideration.

The Environment Section currently administers the 'Temporary Sign Permit' application process. In 2025 the permit preconditions will be strengthened,

and plans are being developed to extend its accessibility to include online submissions.

During daily Litter Warden inspections, or in response to a complaint, any temporary signage found not to be in receipt of a permit is removed. The Environment Section commits to reinforcing the responsibility of this practice within the team.

The introduction of Community Wardens will also support Longford Council's response to the unauthorised signage, flags, posters or other material.

7 FINANCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

TO APPROVE THE RAISING OF A LOAN OF €3,930,000 FROM THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY TO FINANCE APPROVED LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING LOAN APPLICATIONS, AS AUTHORISED BY THE HOUSING ACTS.

It was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan to approve the raising of a loan of €3,930,000 from the Housing Finance Agency as outlined above.

8 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(I) SECTION 183 – LAND BETWEEN HOUSES AT 75 ST MICHAELS RD AND 47 LANNA AOIBHINN

Samantha Healy updated the members. Section 183 - land between houses at 75 St. Michaels Rd and 47 Lanna Aoibhinn was proposed by Councillor Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejimi.

(II) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan

I call on the members of Longford County Council to write to Minister Darragh O'Brien, with responsibility for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, regarding the changes and implementation of the Housing Adaption Grants for older people and disabled people.

- Highlighting the lack of transitioning time from the current terms and conditions to new.
- Removal of oil boilers as a source of instant heat for pellet stoves or storage heaters.
- Introduction of electric periodic inspections.

Response:

Longford County Council will write to Minister O'Brien in relation to this Notice of Motion

9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(i) POLITICAL DONATIONS – LOCAL ELECTIONS (DISCLOSURE OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURE) ACT 1999, AS AMENDED – MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

(ii) POLITICAL DONATIONS – LOCAL ELECTIONS (DISCLOSURE OF DONATION AND EXPENDITURE) ACT 1999, AS AMENDED – THIRD PARTIES

John Brannigan updated the members on Political Donations – Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure)

10 TRAINING APPROVED

Noted

11 CIVIC RECEPTION PROPOSAL

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler, it was agreed to hold a Civic Reception on 7 February in Aras An Chontae in honour of Longford Minor Football Team who won the Leinster Championship 2024.

12 VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The members unanimously expressed their sympathy on the deaths of Connie O'Farrell RIP, Alex O'Sullivan RIP and Brendan Mimmagh RIP.

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Longford County Council will be held on Wednesday, 12 February 2025 at 4pm.

The Members wished everyone the best of luck in the forthcoming Seanad Election.

Signed: Lorraine McKee

Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 12 February 2025.

Signed: P. A. G. Allen

Cathaoirleach