

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on
Wednesday, 8 October 2025 at 4pm**

PRESIDING: Councillor Garry Murtagh

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Paul Ross, Niall Gannon, Peggy Nolan, Gerry Hagan, Padraig McNamara, Martin Skelly, Colin Dalton, Seamus Butler, Uruemu Adejinmi, Mick Cahill, Pat O'Toole, Sean Mimmagh, Martin Monaghan, David Cassidy, Turlough McGovern, Mark Casey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive
Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services
Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services
Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services
Ms. Fema Flanagan, A/Director of Services
Ms. Linda Beirne, Community Climate Action Officer
Mr. Richard Smith, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

APOLOGIES: Mr. John McKeon, Director of Services
Mr. Kevin Hussey, Councillor

**MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR:** Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (i) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the minutes of the monthly meeting of Longford County Council held on 10 September 2025, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
- (ii) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the minutes of the Special In-Committee meeting of Longford County Council held on 01 September 2025, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
- (iii) On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Hagan seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern the minutes of the Special meeting of Longford County Council held on 15 September 2025, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

The members noted the Management report.

Councillor Peggy Nolan called for a Special Meeting of Longford County Council with the Housing Department to discuss a number of issues. Councillor Gerry Hagan raised concerns about the prices of Longford's Affordable Housing Project stating prices were €40-50k more expensive than other counties and seconded the call for the meeting. Chief Executive Paddy Mahon said that there are challenging times expected and expressed his full confidence in the Housing team in meeting these. Samantha Healy, Director of Services, will revert to the members in relation to the request for a meeting.

Samantha Healy, Director of Services made the members aware that the Social Housing Allocation Scheme is on the agenda for the next meeting of the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

Ms. Healy also outlined that all customers of the Housing Department will be treated with respect and empathy and customer service is of the utmost importance. All representations made to the Housing Department by phone, email and correspondence will be recorded in a central location.

Councillor Martin Skelly raised concerns about the disused piggery in Newtowncashel which is in a serious situation following Storm Amy and the heavy rainfall. Councillor Skelly called for Longford County Council to liaise with the relevant Government Department to resolve the issue. Councillor Paul Ross supported Councillor Skelly on this matter. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services informed the members that a full briefing had been provided to Councillor Skelly on efforts by Longford County Council

to address the issues in Newtowncashel. Paddy Mahon suggested that, if required, a briefing could be provided to the Ballymahon Municipal District.

Chief Executive Paddy Mahon informed the members that his term in Office as Chief Executive will expire in July 2026. John Brannigan, Director of Services has been appointed Deputy Chief Executive to deputise in the absence of Paddy Mahon. Paddy Mahon stated he will be giving his full commitment to work with Longford County Council up until July 2026.

Councillor Paul Ross congratulated Danny Lynch, Head of IT on winning the Digital Inclusion Award at the Ireland eGovernment Awards 2025 which took place in UCD on Thursday 18th September. It was a great achievement for Longford County Council.

5. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2025

Noted

6. FINANCE, INNOVATION, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(i) CONSIDERATION OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION OF €20M FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2026.

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan, the overdraft accommodation of €20m for year ending 31st December 2026 was approved.

(ii) DATES FOR BUDGET MEETINGS:

Ballymahon MD – General Municipal Allocation Meeting – 24 October
Granard MD – General Municipal Allocation Meeting – 28 October
Longford MD – General Municipal Allocation Meeting – 22 October
Budget 2026 In Committee Meeting – 17 November
Budget 2026 Meeting – 24 November

On the proposal of Councillor Martin Skelly seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan the dates for the budget meetings were approved.

7. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) SECTION 183 NOTICE – 29 THE DEMESNE, LONGFORD

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, the Section 183 Notice 29 The Demesne, Longford was approved.

(ii) SECTION 183 NOTICE – FREEHOLD INTEREST OF 1 AMBERLEY LODGE, THE DEMESNE, LONGFORD

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the Section 183 Notice, Freehold Interest of 1 Amberley Lodge, The Demesne, Longford was approved.

8. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) TO NOTE PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Noted

Councillor Mark Casey asked if there were sufficient resources in Planning to deal with the current workload. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services, confirmed that the focus of the team is on meeting the Council's statutory obligations. She described the recruitment of staff for the planning section as a constant challenge and confirmed that the Council has rolling competitions advertised on the website. Longford County Council has not missed any statutory deadlines and always welcome new additions to the team.

(ii) COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME STRAND 1: BUILDING LOW CARBON COMMUNITIES – CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Linda Beirne, Community Climate Action Officer gave a detailed presentation to the Elected Members regarding Community Climate Action Programme Strand 1 and answered any questions raised by the Elected Members. The presentation consisted of the following:-

- Main objectives of the programme
- Longford Athletics Club Solar PV Installation
- Stonepark Community Group Water Harvesting Project
- The themes – Community Energy, Travel, Food & Waste, Shopping & Recycling and Local Climate & Environmental Action
- Lus na Gréine RC, Granard
- Ballymahon Tidy Towns Group
- Clonguish GAA windows and doors retrofit
- Points to note in conclusion

Councillor Seamus Butler outlined that in 2022 during the consultation period of the County Development Plan, all local authority new build homes should

have water harvesting facilities installed. This matter is to be referred to the Director of Services for Housing, Samantha Healy for her attention.

Barbara thanked Linda and all the team in the Environment and Climate Action section for their work. The Elected Members welcomed the announcement of the fund and also thanked Linda for her work and her detailed presentation.

(iii) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi

I call upon Longford County Council in collaboration with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to install Bus Hardstand Signage and retention sockets at all Transport for Ireland (TFI) bus stops throughout County Longford.

Response:

Longford County Council is working in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to carry out improvement works to Bus Stops in County Longford. As part of this work retention sockets will be installed by Longford County Council and the bus stop flagpoles will later be erected by the NTA. This work will commence in Q4 2025 and will continue in 2026.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Resolution received from Sligo County Council 8 September 2025**
Noted
- (ii) Correspondence received from Carlow County Council 12 September 2025**
Noted
- (iii) Correspondence from Minister Browne**
Noted

10. TRAINING FOR APPROVAL

Noted

11. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The Elected Members unanimously paid tribute to Manchán Magan, George McDermott, and Conor Gearty on their recent passing.

All three made significant contributions throughout their lives.

Manchán was a renowned Irish author and a passionate advocate for the Irish language.

George McDermott was a dedicated supporter of Killashee and Longford GAA. Conor Gearty had an international reputation and served as a respected lecturer.

The elected Members extended their condolences to the families and friends of the deceased. R.I.P. It was agreed that letters of sympathy would be sent to the families on behalf of Longford County Council.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Longford County Council will take place on Wednesday, 12 November 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 12 November 2025

Signed: [Signature]
Cathaoirleach