

---

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council  
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on  
Wednesday, 11 February 2026 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, David Cassidy, Turlough McGovern, Mark Casey, Kevin Hussey, Martin Monaghan.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive  
Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services  
Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services  
Mr. John McKeon, Director of Finance  
Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Service  
Ms. Mary Gouldsbury, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Breege Cronin, Senior Staff Officer  
Ms. Edel Hackett, Clerical Officer  
Mr. Mark Noble, Outdoor Recreation Officer  
Ms. Sarah Mulligan, Sports Partnership Co-ordinator  
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Sean Mimmagh

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:** Ms. Lorraine McKee

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, it was agreed to suspend standing orders for fifteen minutes in light of recent events in Longford town.

The Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members expressed their deep concerns regarding the criminal activities in their county town.

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Niall Gannon, it was agreed that Longford County Council would write to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan and to the Garda Commissioner, Justin Kelly, inviting them to a meeting with the Elected Members of Longford County Council.

**1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross, seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole the minutes of the monthly meeting of Longford County Council held on 14 January 2026, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None

**4. MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Elected Members noted the management report.

**5. TO NOTE CE AND DELEGATION ORDERS**

Noted

**6. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2025**

Noted

**7. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**(i) Section 183 – 55 College Park, Longford**

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole Section 183 – 55 College Park, Longford was approved.

**(ii) Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan**

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 was approved.

**(iii) Cúirt an Easpaig**

Director of Services, Samantha Healy gave a detailed presentation to the Elected Members updating them on the Affordable Housing Scheme and answered any questions raised.

The presentation included the following:

- Affordable Housing – Cúirt an Easpaig – Site Plan

- Affordable Housing Update
- Affordable Housing – Next Steps
- Affordable Housing – Pricing
- Steps to your Affordable Home
- Affordable Housing – Contact

The Members unanimously welcomed the launch of the Affordable Housing Scheme in Longford. Director of Services Samantha Healy thanked her team for getting the project off the ground. Samantha confirmed that the estimated delivery time for the affordable housing scheme was Q2 2027.

(iv) **Notice of Motions**

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Pat O’Toole and seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi**

I call on Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to increase the income thresholds for social housing applicants and for applicants for the Housing Assistance Payments scheme.

**Response:**

Longford County Council agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in this regard.

**8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**(i) Appointment of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi to the Governance SPC for Year 3-5**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi was appointed to the Governance SPC for Year 3-5.

**(ii) Appointment of Councillor Mick Cahill to the Physical Development SPC for Year 3-5**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, Councillor Mick Cahill was appointed to the Physical Development SPC for Year 3-5.

**(iii) Appointment of Chairpersons, Year 3 to Strategic Policy Committee 2024-2029 Social Development SPC – Pdraig McNamara**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, Councillor Pdraig McNamara was appointed Chairperson of the Social Development SPC for Year 3.

**Physical Development SPC – Turlough McGovern**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, Councillor Turlough McGovern was appointed Chairperson of the Physical Development SPC for Year 3.

**Governance SPC – Uruemu Adejinmi**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi was appointed Chairperson of the Governance SPC for Year 3.

**Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development SPC – Mark Casey**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Mark Casey was appointed Chairperson of the Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development SPC for Year 3.

**(iv) Appointment of Councillor Gerry Hagan to the Social Development SPC for Year 4-5**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Gerry Hagan was appointed to the Social Development SPC for Year 4-5.

**(v) Appointment of Councillor Sean Mimmagh to the Governance SPC for Year 4-5**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Sean Mimmagh was appointed to the Governance SPC for Year 4-5.

**(vi) Appointment of Chairpersons, Year 4 to Strategic Policy Committee 2024-2029  
Social Development SPC – Gerry Hagan**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Gerry Hagan was appointed Chairperson of the Social Development SPC for Year 4.

**Physical Development SPC – Peggy Nolan**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Peggy Nolan was appointed Chairperson of the Physical Development SPC for Year 4.

**Governance SPC – Sean Mimmagh**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Sean Mimmagh was appointed Chairperson of the Governance SPC for Year 4.

**Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development SPC – Mark Casey**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Mark Casey was appointed Chairperson of the Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development SPC for Year 4.

**(vii) Appointment of Councillor Niall Gannon to the Social Development SPC for Year 5**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Niall Gannon was appointed to the Social Development SPC for Year 5.

**(viii) Appointment of Councillor Pádraig McNamara to the Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development SPC for Year 5**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Pádraig McNamara was appointed to the Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development SPC for Year 5.

**(ix) Appointment of Chairpersons, Year 5 to Strategic Policy Committee 2024-2029 Social Development SPC – Niall Gannon**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Niall Gannon was appointed Chairperson of the Social Development SPC for Year 5.

**Physical Development SPC – Turlough McGovern**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Turlough McGovern was appointed Chairperson of the Physical Development SPC for Year 5.

**Governance SPC – David Cassidy**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor David Cassidy was appointed Chairperson of the Governance SPC for Year 5.

**Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development SPC – Mark Casey**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Mark Casey was appointed Chairperson of the Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development SPC for Year 5.

The Cathaoirleach declared the nominees and Chairpersons be appointed to the Strategic Policy Committees.

**9. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

**(i) To Note Planning Applications Received**

Noted.

**(ii) Notice of Motions**

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Kevin Hussey**

I call on Longford County Council to undertake a full review of all road line markings across County Longford and to progress a programme of refresh works where required, ensuring that all local and regional roads meet a safe, visible and consistent standard.

Faded or missing markings significantly increase the risk of accidents, particularly in low-light and adverse weather conditions. Clear and consistent line markings are a proven, low-cost road-safety measure, especially for young and newly licensed drivers who rely on strong visual guidance.

Enhanced markings will also improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and the wider community, in line with national road-safety objectives.

**Response:**

It is acknowledged that Road Markings are essential for Traffic Safety providing clear visual instructions and warnings to drivers.

Municipal District employees arrange for road line markings to be maintained and replaced as and when resources and funding allows. Road markings are also replaced and refreshed on roads improved or maintained through the Annual Roads Programme. However, this task is just one of many tasks assigned to Municipal District Staff and priority is given to the funded programmes of work in the Annual Roads Programme.

However, if Members become aware of road line markings that is a significant issue or danger, they can bring them to the attention of the relevant Municipal District team who will endeavour to resolve them as soon as resources allow.

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

I call on Longford County Council to only install high speed public EV Chargers in the future and consider same in any private planning applications intended for public use.

**Response:**

Longford County Council's Climate Action section has reviewed the Notice of Motion and agrees that public chargers should not be installed with a rating below 7kW. They have also provided the following advice.

Chargers in the 7-22kW range are suitable for longer stays or overnight use. They work well for locations such as guesthouses, hotels, workplaces, neighbourhood charging hubs, and train stations.

Chargers in the 50-70kW range are appropriate for destination charging, where drivers want to top up their vehicle during short activities such as shopping.

Chargers of 100kW and above are best suited for enroute charging along national roads.

However, it is important to note the following:

1. Many electric vehicles cannot accept very high charging rates (e.g., 100kW or more) and will only charge at the maximum rate their onboard system allows, regardless of the charger's rating.
2. Higher powered chargers are significantly more expensive to install, operate, and maintain.

3. Chargers of 50kW and above require three phase electricity, and the necessary power supply is not available in all locations.

In summary, EV chargers should be sized according to the expected usage pattern. A one size fits all requirement would not be appropriate.

Longford County Council Development Management section has taken note of this request and will align EV planning conditions to state that EV chargers installed on sites are high speed EV Chargers going forward.

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole**

I call upon Longford County Council going forward, to add all TFI local link bus routes in the county in their full entirety to be included on the Winter Maintenance Program for gritting in icy conditions.

**Response:**

Longford County Council's Winter Maintenance Programme for 2025/2026 is already in place and operating.

As confirmed at the recent Granard Municipal District meeting, Longford County Council is currently salting in excess of 23% of the road network in the County and does not have the capacity to take on any additional salting works.

The objective of the Winter Maintenance Programme is to provide so far as is reasonably practical for the safe movement of road users on the National Roads and other strategic routes identified, during adverse weather conditions. As it not feasible to treat all public thoroughfares, it is necessary to create a schedule of route prioritisation. Routes are designed a priority rating of between 1 and 3 based upon the road classification, the traffic volume carried, public transport usage etc and the importance of the route on a national, regional, or local level.

This request can be considered for the 2026/2027 Winter Maintenance Programme but only if additional resources and funding are made available by the Elected Members as part of the 2027 budgetary process.

**10. GENERAL**

**(i) Notice of Motions**

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Niall Gannon**

I call on Longford County Council to support the establishment of a post primary Gaelscoil in Edgeworthstown as it is the only large town in the county without a second level education facility.

**Response:**

Longford County Council agreed to write to the CEO of Longford Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) with a view to progressing this Notice of Motion.

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Kevin Hussey**

I call upon Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and all Oireachtas members in the constituency of Longford/Westmeath to demand provision of at least 5 additional Palliative care beds in St. Josephs Care Centre, Longford.

**Response:**

Longford County Council agreed to write to the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and all Oireachtas members in the constituency of Longford/Westmeath.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- (I) **Correspondence from Sligo County Council**  
Noted
- (II) **Correspondence from Tipperary County Council**  
Noted
- (III) **Correspondence from Offaly County Council**  
Noted
- (IV) **Correspondence from Minister of State John Cummins**  
Noted

**12. TRAINING FOR APPROVAL**

None

**13. VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

None

**14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Longford County Council will take place on Wednesday, 11 March 2026 at 4pm in the Council Chamber.

**Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on 11 March 2026.**