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Comhairle Chontae An Longfoirt
Longford County Council
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Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 19 October 2026 at 4pm

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PRESIDING: Councillor Gerry Hagan

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Samantha Healy, Chief Executive
Mr. John McKeon, Director of Finance
Ms. Mary Gouldsbury, A/Director of Services
Mr. Paul Newell, A/Director of Services

APOLOGIES: Councillor Garry Murtagh
Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the minutes of the meeting of Longford County Council held on 9 September 2026, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the minutes of the committee meeting of Longford County Council held on 9 September 2026, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Noted

Councillor Seamus Butler raised concerns in relation to accessing the Register of Electors.

Chief Executive Samantha Healy ensured Cllr Butler that this matter will be passed onto the Franchise section and contact will be made with the Elected Members.

5. TO NOTE CE ORDERS

Noted

6. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2026

Noted

7. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2026

Noted

8. **TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 27 JULY 2026**

Noted

9. FINANCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(i) Dates for Budget Meetings

The Members noted the dates for the Budget meetings for 2026.
The dates are as follows:
Ballymahon GMA – 20 October
Granard GMA – 27 October
Longford GMA – 28 October
Council in committee budget meeting – 16 November
Council budget meeting – 23 November

(ii) NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2025

Director of Finance John McKeon made a presentation to the Elected Members on the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2025 and he answered questions raised.
The presentation included the following:

- Service Areas
- Performance Indicators (1-46)
- Performance and regional colour coding
- Revenue Expenditure per capita
- Housing stock and letting
- Housing costs per unit
- Service costs per capita
- ICT costs per whole time equivalent
- Number of whole time equivalent staff
- Percentage of working days lost to sickness
- Collection Performance
- Longford Highlights
- Top 10 financial achievements over last decade

The Members unanimously expressed their appreciation to John McKeon for his dedication, professionalism and valued contribution to Longford County Council over the years and they wished him every success and happiness in the future.
John McKeon reflected on his ten years of service with Longford County Council and conveyed his sincere thanks to the Elected Members and his colleagues for their continued support, cooperation and friendship throughout his tenure.

(iii) Consideration of overdraft accommodation of €25m for year ending 31st December 2027.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton the overdraft of €25 million for year ending 31st December 2027 was approved.

10. <u>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</u>

(i) Section 183 – 18 Main Street, Granard

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, Section 183 – 18 Main Street, Granard was approved.

(ii) Section 183 – Development Site, Market Street, Granard

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, Section 183 – Development Site, Market Street, Granard was approved.

(iii) Approval to the appointment of Ms. Mary Toher, nominee of Longford Public Participation Network as a member of Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, Ms. Mary Toher was appointed as a member of Longford Local Community Development Committee.

(iv) Part VIII No. 141 Bothairin Na Carraige, Ballinalee, Co. Longford

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, Part VIII No. 141 Bothairin Na Carraige, Ballinalee, Co. Longford, it was agreed not to proceed with the Part VIII on the basis of density.

(v) Part VIII No. 142 Market Street, Granard, Co. Longford

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara, Part VIII No. 142 Market Street, Granard, Co. Longford was approved.

11. <u>PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT</u>

(i) To note planning applications received

Noted

(ii) Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler, the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme was approved.

12. GENERAL

(i) Notice of Motions

<u>The following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh was deferred to the November meeting of Longford County Council</u>

I call on Longford County Council to write to the Minister of State with responsibility for the Department of Health with special responsibility for older people Kieran O'Donnell in relation to insufficient support through the HSE for Home Help. People are stressed out and in direr straights with the lack of support on arriving home from hospital. People are being discharged from hospital with the necessary paperwork completed for Health Care Package to arrive home to find inadequate supports available.

Local Health nurses and HSE staff are at breaking point. The reality is the private agencies in rural Ireland that are meant to support HSE/Home Help staff are not available. Private agencies in rural Ireland are not fit for purpose, minimum wage and lack of sufficient subsidies to cover the ever-rising costs of fuel is leaving it impossible for these agencies to retain staff. The HSE must do more in terms of active recruitment to increase Home Help staff, a core support to secure the future of home care for the elderly.

Furthermore, serious consideration must be given to a fully funded care and repair scheme to support elderly people that have insufficient supports and resources, to have the simplest tasks completed in the home like installing grab rails, changing a light bulb, mowing the lawn, to you and me simple everyday tasks yet difficult tasks for the more vulnerable in our society. We in Longford County Council would fully support a Care & Repair pilot scheme rolled out in Longford.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole

I call on Longford County Council to support the establishment of a QQI Level 4 training course in Agriculture and QQI Level 4 training course in Horticulture and to engage with LWETB to facilitate this course in the training rooms in Ballymahon Livestock mart.

This course would be aimed at early school leavers, students with a learning disability or mature students and follows the template of a similar course available in other ETBs.

Ballymahon mart have engaged with Ballyhaise Agricultural college as potential partners and this course would be a great addition to the county.

Response:

Longford County Council will write to the LWETB with regard to this Notice of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Niall Gannon seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan

I call on Longford County Council, in response to local and county wide concerns, report on the steps taken to preserve Carriglass Demesne and outline what further action it will take to protect the estate's historic landscape, built heritage and biodiversity, including engagement with its owners and the local and county wide community.

Response:

Paul Newell A/Director of Services responded to the Notice of Motion in 2 parts

1. Protected Structures
2. Forestry License

Protected Structures

He said that there were 10 protected structures some of national importance including the Gandon Gate and the Gandon Stables and some of Regional importance such as the Bounday Wall and Lodges. He also stated that there was a Proposed National Heritage Area (pNHA) [roviding protection to habitats and wildlife.

He stated that the Council issued Glennon Broths a section 59 under the planning and development Act 2000 (as amended) on the 17*th* December 2024. This notice puts a legal requirement on the owners of the protected

structures to require works to be carried out in relation to endangerment of protected structures.

Since the notice was served, there has been ongoing engagement with Glennons who have appointed Conservation Architects and Urban Planners to prepare a Conservation Management Plan . This plan sets out how Glennon's will comply with the Section 59.

The plan is a 10 year plan – owing to the scale and complexity of the site

Forestry Licence

On the second part, Mr Newell informed the meeting that applications for a forestry licence are made to the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine.

The Department consults statutory bodies where they have a relevant environmental, heritage, archaeological, fisheries or infrastructure interest.

Longford County Council is one of these bodies

The Department of Agriculture Food and Marine make the decision on the Forestry licence. It is not a planning application so Longford County Council are not assessing a planning application, they are making a submission to the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine

The Council has not yet been consulted by the Department on this Foresty Licence application.

13. <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>

(I) **Correspondence from Clare County Council – Public Rep Safety**
Noted

(II) **Correspondence from Clare County Council – CE Scheme**
Noted

(III) **Correspondence from Carlow County Council – Reform the current admission policy for patients presenting at Emergency Departments with suicidal ideation or acute mental health distress**
Noted

(IV) **Correspondence from Leitrim County Council – Review of Eir's telecommunications infrastructure**
Noted

(V) **Correspondence from Metropolitan District of Limerick – additional road budget specifically for bus routes in the city**
Noted

(VI) **Correspondence from Roscommon County Council – Synthetic Cannabinoid Products**
Noted

(VII) **Correspondence from Roscommon County Council – Flooding Review**
Noted

(viii) **Correspondence from Carlow County Council – Betting in licenced premises**
Noted

(ix) Correspondence from Carlow County Council – DEIS status in schools
Noted

14. <u>TRAINING FOR APPROVAL</u>

On the proposal of Councillor Mark Casey seconded by Councillor Sean Mimnagh the training circulated was approved.

15. <u>VOTES OF SYMPATHY</u>

The Members extended their sympathies to the Hawkin and Murtagh families on the passing of Edward (Eddie) Hawkins.

16. <u>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</u>

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

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