

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on
Wednesday, 9 September 2026 at 4pm**

PRESIDING: Councillor Gerry Hagan

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

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

APOLOGIES: None

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the minutes of the meeting of Longford County Council held on 8 July 2026, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the minutes of the committee meeting of Longford County Council held on 28 July 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 queried how members can access the updated Register of Electors. Director of Services John Brannigan informed the Members that he would provide an update at the next meeting.

Councillor Pat O'Toole extended a warm welcome to Councillor Mick Cahill on his return to Council meetings following a period of illness. The Elected Members unanimously joined in welcoming Councillor Cahill back and wished him continued good health.

5. TO NOTE CE ORDERS

Noted

6. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2026

Noted

7. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) To note the minutes of the Social Development SPC meeting held on 27 April 2026

Noted

(ii) Section 183 – 13 Demense, Longford

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, Section 183 – 13 The Demesne, Longford was approved.

(iii) Section 183 – 18 Main Street, Granard

Section 183 – 18 Main Street, Granard was deferred.

(iv) Section 183 – 81 Teffia Park, Longford

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, Section 183 – 81 Teffia Park, Longford was approved.

(v) Section 183 – 19 The Demense, Longford

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, Section 183 – 19 The Demesne, Longford was approved.

(vi) Notice of Motions

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

I call on Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Housing to drop the requirement for 2 different healthcare professionals to sign a HMD 1 form to help those people who apply for social housing adaption due to a disability or on medical grounds. This requirement is a huge burden on people who have to seek out a second medical professional to sign the form before they can apply for urgent works. This requirement is not needed for those who are applying for private house grants due to medical or disability reasons.

Response:

This review should be carried out through The Social Development Strategic Policy Committee. This Notice of Motion will be placed as an item on the agenda for the next Social Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting which will take place on 19 October 2026.

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(i) Policy – Visits by Groups to the Council

Noted

(ii) To note the minutes of the Economic, Enterprise and Rural Development SPC meeting held on 28 April 2026

Noted

(iii) Notice of Motions

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Casey seconded by Councillor Sean Mimmagh

I call on Longford County Council to reach out to Hoteliers across the country looking for them to develop a Hotel in Lanesborough Town in the interest of maximising tourism in Longford as a whole. Lanesborough has seen an increase in visitors in recent years due to the success of a number of local events. Also, it is estimated that over 200,000 people visit Center Parcs, which is just a short distance from Lanesborough. There has long been a problem with short-term accommodation in the town, and a hotel is badly needed.

Response:

The Local Enterprise Office has recently updated a study outlining the case for a new hotel development for County Longford. While the study is primarily focussed on the need for a four-star hotel in Longford Town it supports the case for smaller boutique hotels in our satellite towns, including Lanesboro. The local authority has now begun to reach out to key stakeholders in the hospitality sector to try and attract such developments to the County.

9. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) To note planning applications received

Noted

(ii) To note the minutes of the Physical Development SPC meeting held on 27 April 2026

Noted

(iii) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillors Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Paul Ross

As we approach the winter maintenance and gritting season, I call on Longford County Council to implement a Community Salt Box programme, where local groups can request salt bins for steep hills or junctions in conjunction with the Longford County Council Road Salting Programme, similar to Leitrim County Council.

Response:

Longford County Council is responsible for the maintenance of over 1600km of National, Regional and Local Roads throughout the County. Longford County Council currently salt 23% of the road network in the County. This is a very high percentage of the network and it is important to advise the Public to use the pre-salted routes where possible during periods of severe winter weather conditions.

The Winter Service Plan provides the framework for dealing with winter weather conditions on the roads and provides for a planned and co-ordinated response by Longford County Council.

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 designated 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. Priority 1 Routes (National) and Priority 2 Routes Regional & some Local Roads are pre-salted. They receive precautionary treatment, where salt is spread following warnings of expected low temperatures, to reduce the likelihood of frost and ice forming on the road.

Priority 3 routes are post-salted as resources allow. This is a response-based service where routes are treated during normal working hours if they become

impassable and where resources are available. During severe weather events Longford County Council provide assistance locally through area staff in dealing with schools , car parks, churches , local black spots , Councillor requests etc where resources permit. This is an additional service provided in parallel to the Winter Service Programme. Longford County Council also provide grit at predetermined locations during prolonged cold weather periods.

A small number of Local Authorities including Leitrim sell salt bins to Community Groups and the General Public. Longford County Council do not sell salt bins or salt and advise Groups and the General Public to make their own arrangements if they require a salt supply. The Council do not encourage Community Groups to spread salt on Public Roads for reasons include Health & Safety, Public Liability, Insurance.

10. FINANCE, INNOVATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

(i) Local Property Tax Update

Director of Finance, John McKeon made a presentation on the Local Property Tax.

The presentation included the following:-

- Financial snapshot – August 2026
- 2026 Decision Timeline
- The Longford Funding Journey
- The Longford Strategy
- Engineering Funding Model of Choice for Irish Local Authorities
- Estimated Potential Additional Income Generation
- Small Ratepayer Support Scheme
- LPT Affordability through 2030
- Local property tax – commitment
- No change

The Members thanked John for his informative presentation and acknowledged the significant work undertaken by John and his team.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

(I) Correspondence from Senator Paul Daly

Noted

(II) Correspondence from Dublin City Council

Noted

- (III) **Correspondence from Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health**
Noted
- (IV) **Correspondence from Louth County Council**
Noted
- (V) **Correspondence from Taoiseach**
Noted
- (VI) **Correspondence from Carlow County Council**
Noted
- (VII) **Correspondence from Leitrim County Council**
Noted
- (viii) **Correspondence from Department of Transport**
Noted
- (ix) **Correspondence from Minister Browne**
Noted
- (x) **Correspondence from Roscommon County Council**
Noted
- (xi) **Correspondence from Minister Carroll MacNeill**
Noted
- (xii) **Correspondence from ESB**
Noted
- (xiii) **Correspondence from Minister Patrick O'Donovan**
Noted

12. TRAINING FOR APPROVAL

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the training circulated was approved.

13. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan a Vote of Sympathy was extended to Benny Nerney, Templemichael Glebe, Ballinalee Road, Longford for the passing of his wife, the late Lynn Nerney.

Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on 19 October 2026.