

GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in Granard Library on Monday, 26 January 2026 at 3:30pm

<u>CATHAOIRLEACH:</u>	Councillor Turlough McGovern
<u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u>	Councillors Garry Murtagh, Pádraig McNamara, David Cassidy, Colin Dalton
<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services Ms. Claire McNabola, Administrative Officer Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. David Plunkett, Clerical Officer Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer
<u>APOLOGIES</u>	Ms. Lorraine McKee, Meetings Administrator
<u>A/MEETINGS</u>	
<u>ADMINISTRATOR:</u>	Mr. Gerard Dennigan

Cathaoirleach Councillor Turlough McGovern adjourned the meeting for ten minutes as a mark of respect to former Councillor Maura Kilbride-Harkin and former Councillor Seamus Finnan.

May they rest in peace. Both Maura and Seamus were remembered for their significant service as County Councillors, serving their area with great pride and dedication.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – AS CIRCULATED

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Pádraig McNamara, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting held on 24 November 2025.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on 24 November 2025.

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2025.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Garry Murtagh asked for an update from the Environment Section regarding aerial drainage and maintenance for the Granard Area, which was raised at the last meeting and asked if there was any budget set aside for aerial drainage and maintenance in the Granard Municipal District.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT INCORPORATING AREA ENGINEER'S PROGRESS REPORT

The members noted the Management Report.

Barbara Heslin, Director of Services provided the members with an update on the following from the Management Report:

- Libraries
- Age Friendly
- Right to Read Programme
- Battle of Wits
- Bookmark Competition
- Community
- Pathways to Funding 2026
- Heritage
- Longford Local Place Names Project
- Built Heritage & Archaeological Conservation Grants 2026
- The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026
- The Historic Structures Fund 2026
- Community Monuments Fund 2026
- Regeneration
- Town Centre First
- Residential Zoned Land Tax
- Derelict Sites
- Compulsory Purchase Order
- Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Croi Conaithe)
- Housing
- Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme
- Housing Pre-Let and Voids Programme
- Housing List & Housing Stock

David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer highlighted the following from the Area Engineers Report and responded to queries raised by Elected Members:

- General Roadworks
- Roads Programme 2026
- Financial Expectations

- Local Improvement Schemes
- Granard Link Road (Ulster Bank) is now open with an official opening to follow.

David outlined that the budget allocation for the Granard Municipal District area for 2026 is not finalised at present. David outlined that 2026 would be a challenging year.

David noted that a large number of notices had been issued in relation to hedge cutting and outlined that it is the responsibility of landowners to ensure that hedges are properly maintained.

The members raised the following points:

- Councillor Padraig McNamara: Pathways to Funding – could it be broken down in to 2 sessions as a lot of information imparted at the meeting – information overload.
- Councillor Garry Murtagh: Number of houses in Aughaboy, Killoe – requested an update as there are concerns on the density.
- Councillor Colin Dalton: Road flooding issues at Moatfarrell.
- Councillor Turlough McGovern: Allocation of houses – Local Authority members should have input.

The Elected Members unanimously thanked Director of Services, Barbara Heslin and Senior Executive Engineer, David Coppinger for their continued hard work for the Granard Municipal District.

5. COMMUNITY GRANTS

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara €2,000 was awarded to Abbeylara After School.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara €1,000 was awarded to Abbeylara Christmas Lights

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara €1,000 was awarded to Abbeylara Tidy Towns

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara €1,000 was awarded to Granard Tidy Towns.

6. CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION FROM GRANARD MD FOR 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton the draft Annual Report submission from Granard MD for 2025 was approved.

7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Padraig McNamara and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern

I call on Longford County Council to engage with Uisce Éireann seeking an urgent update and remedial action regarding ongoing and recurring water supply and

pressure issues affecting residents in the following areas, Tonywarden, Leitrim, Ferskil and Ballymacroley. Residents in these areas are continuously experiencing low water pressure, intermittent supply and outages, which are having a significant impact on households and farms.

Response:

Longford County Council agreed to write to Uisce Eireann regarding this Notice of Motion.

It was agreed that the following Notices of Motion would be addressed in a single response:

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Padraig McNamara and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern

I call on Longford County Council to review existing winter gritting arrangements within the Granard Municipal District and give consideration to prioritising approaches and access routes to national schools in Killasonna, Killeen, Bunlahy, Mullinalaghta and Aughnagarron during periods of frost and icy conditions. Doing this will improve safety for pupils, parents, school staff and road users during school drop-off and collection times in freezing weather.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh

I call on Longford County Council to consider adding the Soran Road, Ballinalee to Mallon's Cross on the 2026 gritting programme.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh

I call on Longford County Council to consider adding the Road L1063 from Ballinalee to Mullinalaghta on the 2026 gritting programme.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh

I call on Longford County Council to consider adding the Road L1080 from Clonbroney to Firmount and the Road L1089 from Firmount to Edgeworthstown on the 2026 gritting programme.

Response to Councillor Padraig McNamara and Councillor Colin Dalton Notice of Motions:

Longford County Council is currently salting in excess of 23% of the road network in the County and do 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 is 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.

In general, all houses in County Longford are within approximately 4km of a salted Priority 1 or 2 road.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, it was agreed that the members of the Municipal District would send a letter to the Minister of Transport Darragh O'Brien requesting additional funding for the Winter Maintenance Programme in Granard Municipal District.

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

I call on Longford County Council for an update on the report regarding the ring road/bypass of Granard Town and the allocation of €100,000 towards the same sought by former Councillor PJ Reilly.

Response:

The N55 Granard Bypass scheme is currently in the preliminary design stage. In 2025, Phase 1, Concept and Feasibility, was completed by the Westmeath National Roads Office.

At present the process of appointing consultants to progress the design of the scheme is being completed. Consultant's tenders were opened on the 12th of December 2025. The process of assessing these tenders is currently ongoing.

Once appointed, the consultant team will progress the scheme through Options Selection (phase 2) and subsequently the Design and Environment Evaluation (phase 3) and statutory (planning) process (stage 4). Approval of the TII to progress the scheme is required at the end of each phase.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Granard Municipal District will take place on 23 March 2026.

Director Services, Barbara Heslin outlined that a special meeting of the Granard Municipal District could be potentially take place in February to discuss items as follows:

- Speed limit review
- Roads Programme
- Housing

Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 23 March 2026