

GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in Granard Library on Monday, 27 July 2026 at 3:30pm

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Padraig McNamara

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Garry Murtagh,
Turlough McGovern, David Cassidy, Colin Dalton

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer
Mr. David Plunkett, Clerical Officer

APOLOGIES Ms. Lorraine McKee, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Claire McNabola, Administrative Officer

A/MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Gerard Dennigan

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – AS CIRCULATED

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting held on 11 May 2026.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on 11 May 2026.

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2026.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal

District Committee Meeting held on 22 June 2026.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District AGM held on 22 June 2026, subject to the change noted at the meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

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 and answered questions raised by Elected Members:

- Libraries
- Age Friendly
- Archives Service Donations
- Abbé Edgeworth Exhibition
- Creative Ireland Longford
- Healthy Ireland
- Men Health Week
- Regular Events
- Right to Read
- Children's Photography Competition
- Town Centre First
- Derelict Sites
- Vacant Homes
- Residential Zoned Land Tax
- Granard Town Team
- Regeneration

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

- General Roadwork
- Restoration Improvement Bituminous Works
- Other Road Restoration Works
- Surface Dressing
- Community Involvement Schemes
- Low-Cost Safety Schemes
- Local Improvement Schemes
- Climate Adaption Scheme
- Specific Improvement Scheme (R198 Derawaley)

- Active Travel Schemes Granard Municipal District
- Ongoing other works taking place in Granard Municipal District
- David advised that, due to budgetary constraints and inflation costs rising, funding resources are becoming increasingly limited. As a result, the capacity to undertake additional works within the Granard Municipal District will be challenging, and priorities will need to be carefully managed within the available budget allocation.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara, the members requested that the Regeneration Section of Longford County Council attend the September meeting of Granard Municipal District to provide an update on projects within the Granard Municipal District area.

Director of Services Barbara Heslin informed the meeting that, following the Speed Limit Review, correspondence had been issued to the Department seeking funding to support engineering solutions associated with speed limit implementation and enforcement. In response, the Department advised that no specific funding stream is currently available for such works and indicated that any required engineering solutions should be funded from Longford County Council's own resources. Barbara advised that the Department's correspondence would be brought to the September meeting of Longford County Council for noting.

Councillor Colin Dalton thanked the Roads Section, the Department, and An Garda Síochána for their collaborative efforts in successfully delivering the Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Doherty's Cross. He welcomed the completion of the project and its positive contribution to road safety. He also acknowledged the works undertaken at the Stohil Road Junction and Cornedden Junction, which have enhanced safety and accessibility for all road users.

Councillor Garry Murtagh requested that his suggestion regarding laminating of road signs be referenced in any further requests for funding to the Minister. Councillor Murtagh acknowledged the work of the Libraries across the Granard Municipal District area, highlighting the fantastic work being carried out. He also acknowledged the work of the Roads Department in and welcomed Executive Engineer Eddie Mofitt to the team.

Councillor Garry Murtagh and David Cassidy requested an update on when hedge cutting will begin. Senior Executive Engineer David Coppinger informed the Members that hedge cutting at junctions is to commence today.

Councillor Turlough McGovern welcomed the works carried out in Abbeylara and sought an update on the proposed ramps for Abbeylara and Killasonna National School. Senior Executive Engineer David Coppinger advised that the ramps at Killasonna National School are scheduled for completion in August 2026, while the ramp in Abbeylara is expected to be completed by Summer 2027.

Councillor Padraig McNamara complimented everyone involved in the LEGO sculpture

of St Mel's Cathedral was unveiled in June 2026 at Longford Library. He also acknowledged the work of the Roads Department in the Granard MD.

The Members unanimously expressed their sincere appreciation to Rosemary Gaynor for her dedicated service and contribution to Granard Library over the years. They acknowledged her commitment, professionalism, and the impact she had on the library service and the local community. The Members wished Rosemary a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

The Members unanimously recognised the upcoming retirement of Director of Services, Barbara Heslin, and expressed their sincere appreciation for her dedication, professionalism, and outstanding contribution to Longford County Council throughout her career. They acknowledged Barbara's commitment to the Granard Municipal District and the many initiatives, projects, and improvements delivered during her time in the area. The members acknowledged her leadership, support, and engagement with both elected members and local communities. The Members wished Barbara a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

5. COMMUNITY GRANTS

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern, seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara, it was agreed that the €250 grant awarded to Granard Gun Club would be decommitted and returned to the community grant allocation for the Granard MD.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara, €1500 was awarded to Granard Christmas Lights.

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor David Cassidy, €1000 was awarded to Killoe Development Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor David Cassidy, €700 was awarded to Clonfin Commemorative Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor David Cassidy, €670 was awarded to Abbeylara Drama Group.

Discretionary Fund

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, €500 was awarded to the Ballinalee Connemara Pony Show.

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara

I call on Longford County Council to consider the allocation of the recently announced funding stream by Minister for OPW Kevin Boxer Moran "Remove River Conveyance Blockages" directed towards the Black River, Wren, Lough Oughter – Longford, Leitrim & Cavan. Also to contact the relevant counties to reinstate joint collaboration between the counties to actively prevent flooding.

It's been 25 years since the scheme was in operation and in recent years there has been an increase in flooding year on year to the point crossed the road last winter in Corglass.

Response:

The maintenance of watercourses is not generally a function of Longford County Council. The OPW maintains channels forming part of completed Arterial Drainage Schemes, while responsibility for the maintenance of most other watercourses rests with adjoining landowners. The Council's role primarily relates to drainage infrastructure under its control, including roads, bridges, and culverts.

The Council welcomes the €50,000 allocation under this once-off OPW scheme specifically to address river conveyance blockages contributing to localised flood risk. Potential projects have been identified and are currently being assessed.

The Council acknowledges concerns regarding flooding within the Black River, Wren, and Lough Oughter catchments, including the Corglass area. As these catchments extend beyond County Longford, any potential measures will also involve engagement with neighbouring local authorities.

The Council has already engaged with Leitrim County Council and has agreed to jointly examine watercourses that cross county boundaries and identify locations where localised and shared interventions may be appropriate.

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

I call on Longford County Council to provide disabled parking bays outside:

- Health Centre Smear Aughnacliffe
- St Mary's Legga & St Francis Moyne Church
- St Colmcille Church Aughnacliffe

Response:

Longford County Council will examine these locations to assess their suitability. We can only provide these if we can locate them on public road or in areas under our control. We cannot provide them in private car parks. And at present we have no budget as the Local Roads Maintenance Budget is already overspent for 2026.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Turlough seconded by

Councillor Padraig McNamara

I call on Longford County Council active travel to provide adequate bus shelters for people using public transport to and from Granard. All too often people are waiting for the bus in inclement weather conditions with no protection from the elements or a place to sit down.

Response:

The Active Travel section in Longford County Council is working with the NTA in the upgrading of bus stops throughout County Longford through the Bus stop Enhancement Programme. As part of these enhancements, Bus Shelters will be considered where qualifying criteria is achieved and will be assessed in order of priority for delivery.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton

I call upon Longford County Council to write to Uisce Eireann regarding water outages in Esker, Ennybegs, Bawn, Kilmahon & surrounding areas affected by regular water outages and to take a serious look at this situation for users in these areas.

Response:

Longford County Council will write to Uisce Eireann in this regard. Longford County Council will also seek to clarify about the water pressure at nighttime hours in the area.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh

I call upon Longford County Council to add Gaigue Cross to the 98 bar in Ballinamuck to the winter maintenance program for gritting in adverse weather conditions.

Response:

Longford County Council will be reviewing the Winter Maintenance programme at the end of August, and will look at this as well as other similar requests. However, it is unlikely any additional routes will be added for the 2026/27 Winter Season due to lack of additional resources.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh

I call upon Longford County Council to consider implementation of CCTV at the bottle bank at Drumlish NS due to issues with illegal dumping at this location.

Response:

The Environment Section have received 5 complaints of illegal dumping at the bottle banks at Drumlish in 2026 to date. Each incident has been investigated and the waste removed.

Prior to the erection of CCTV at any location, the Environment Section must prepare a robust business case for the consideration of the Data Protection Officer and the CCTV Oversight Board. A key element of the business case is a detailed review of the necessity for use of CCTV, which includes, the number of complaints received in respect of the specific site, the number of enforcement actions and successful prosecutions associated with the specific site, and the number of reported instances of illegal dumping. It is also a requirement that Longford County Council do everything they can to prevent and detect illegal dumping at the specific location including the erection of no dumping signs and regular patrols of the area, prior to considering the erection of CCTV. NO DUMPING signs will be erected, and the Litter Warden will visit the site at least once per week. The situation will be kept under review and where evidence of dumping is found, Longford County Council will take all necessary action up to and including enforcement action.

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

I call on Longford County Council to look in to putting a program in place to refresh footpaths in Ballinalee village starting from the village to the national school.

Response:

The repair and upgrade of footpaths is funded from Longford County Council's limited own resources, or the Discretionary Maintenance funding provided by the Department of Transport (this latter budget is already spent for 2026). This year, specific funding for footpaths is included in the Own Resources Budget for 2026 for the first time. Therefore, a small programme of works will be put together later in the year. Priority will be given to the paths in the worst condition.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor David Cassidy

I call on Longford County Council for an update on the following old Clonbroney bridge with extra works to be carried out.

Response:

Longford County Council have checked with the Bridge's Section and at present there are no plans for this bridge. It is not practical to widen this bridge.

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

I call on Longford County Council for an update on engagement with Coillte on trees at Glenoughil Ballinalee where forestry was cut where trees had falling on road in windy weather

Response:

Longford County Council have contacted Coillte a few times regarding this site. A meeting with Coillte is scheduled for mid-August, and an update from them will be requested at that meeting. Longford County Council cannot force Coillte or any other

landowner to remove trees unless Longford County Council can prove they are a danger. Almost the entire length of this road is under tree cover, and all the other landowners would need to be treated the same.

7. CORRESPONDENCES

None

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Granard Municipal District will take place on Monday, 28 September 2026 at 3:30pm in Granard Library.

Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 28 September 2026.