

GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in Granard Library on Monday, 23 March 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. Sean Savage, Senior Executive Technician Mr. Joseph Gorman, Executive Engineer Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer
<u>APOLOGIES</u>	None
<u>MEETINGS</u>	
<u>ADMINISTRATOR:</u>	Ms. Lorraine McKee

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 26 January 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 26 January 2026.

On the proposal of Councillor Pádraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting held on 3 March 2026.

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:

- Libraries and Archives
- Age Friendly
- Storm Packs
- Bosca Beo
- Archives
- Healthy Ireland at Your Library
- Radon Monitor Launch
- One Mystery, One Town Book Project
- Ireland Reads
- Regeneration
- Town Centre First
- Vacant Homes Unit
- Housing
- Affordable Housing Scheme

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

- Bituminous Macadam Contractor
- Budgets 2026
- Community Involvement Schemes 2026
- Low-Cost Safety Schemes
- Local Improvement Schemes

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

The Members unanimously expressed their gratitude to the Library Services for their hard work and welcomed initiatives that have been rolled out this year, in particular the Storm Packs and Bosca Beo.

Councillor Pádraig McNamara raised concerns about the numerous vacant properties in Granard Town in particular two properties on Market Street. He requested that this matter be investigated and an update provided at the next meeting. Barbara said she would contact the Town Centre First team for an update.

Councillor Turlough McGovern asked for an update to be provided at the next meeting regarding the derelict houses in Colmcille Terrace and four houses at the back of Tromra Road. Barbara said she would contact the Housing team for an update.

5. COMMUNITY GRANTS

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern €500 was awarded to Granard Town Twinning Association.

On the proposal of Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, €1,000 was awarded to Colmcille Development Group.

On the proposal of Councillor David Cassidy seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh €5,000 was awarded to St. Patrick's National School, Ballinamuck.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara €500 was awarded to Granard Town Twinning Association.

6. OFFICIAL WELCOME

Councillor Turlough McGovern invited the Elected Members to an Official Welcome of East Rouen which will take place in Granard on Friday, 19 June 2026 at 7:30pm.

7. TO NOTE AMENDMENT MADE TO ANNUAL REPORT 2025 SUBMISSION

Noted and approved by the Members

8. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE ROADS PROGRAMME 2026

Senior Executive Engineer, David Coppinger, made a detailed presentation to the Elected Members on the Roads Programme for 2026 and he answered any questions raised.

The projects discussed in the roads programme are as follows:

- Restoration Improvement
- Local Roads Restoration Improvement
- Restoration Maintenance and Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grant
- Local Road RM and Supplementary RM
- Discretionary Grant
- Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works
- Safety Improvement Works Granard
- Bridge Rehabilitation Grant
- Drainage Grant Total Allocation
- Community Involvement Scheme
- Specific Improvement Grant

David highlighted to the Members that the roads programme and budget for 2026 was based on current costs and he informed them that if the cost of materials and

fuel continues to rise, certain projects outlined may not be completed until the 2027 programme.

The Elected Members unanimously thanked Director of Services Barbara Heslin, David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer and all the Team in Roads for their excellent work. Barbara confirmed that the roads programme for 2026 will depend on financial constraints.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara, the Roads Programme 2026 was approved.

The Elected Members discussed the possibility of speed camera signs. It was agreed that Longford County Council would write to An Garda Síochána regarding this matter.

9. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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

I call upon Longford County Council to install solar powered litter bins to replace existing bins in the village of Drumlish due to ongoing issues with wildlife, birds and rodents ravaging through the existing bins.

Response:

Longford County Council acknowledges the ongoing concerns raised and the importance of keeping our towns and villages tidy. Drumlish Village is currently well served by a minimum of seven, public litter bins.

The proposal to convert these to solar powered, compactable bins is considered unsuitable for the following reasons:

1. **Procurement cost.**

Existing bins already in-situ and fit for purpose. Replacement with solar powered compacting bins would result in an additional capital cost in excess of €2,000 per unit (i.e. €14k+ Total).

2. **Ongoing cost.**

Increased service, operational and maintenance costs, under a separate third-party contract, with additional monitoring and upkeep requirements.

3. **Health and Safety**

An internal Health and Safety assessment has recommended avoiding future installations of compactable bins due to the risks associated with manual handling of excessive collection weights.

4. **Waste Collection Schedule**

The routine emptying of litter bins in Drumlish forms part of a robust litter bin collection schedule operated by the Granard Area.

Inappropriate use of these litter bins for domestic waste has been observed, however converting the existing bins is not the solution.

Longford County Council will continue to address unauthorised dumping across the county through ongoing public education and awareness campaigns, together with enforcement measures where appropriate.

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

I call upon Longford County Council to write to Uisce Éireann to request that a non-return valve be installed urgently by Uisce Éireann at No.26 Glasheen, Drumlish, due to ongoing issues with raw sewage protruding from a manhole cover in spells of heavy rain covering the properties entire car parking area and entering a nearby stream adjacent the property which is a serious health and safety issue and a serious environmental problem.

Response:

Barbara provided an update on the inspections carried out by Longford County Council. It was agreed that Longford County Council would write to Uisce Éireann to ask them to review the capacity of the pump sump in the Glasheen Estate. It appears that the capacity is not large enough to cater for all the storm water/ground water during periods of heavy rainfall. As the Pump-Station at Glasheen is in the Charge of Uisce Éireann, it was suggested that they try and resolve the issues in the estate by either increasing the capacity of the foul pump sump or increasing the size of the pumps in the sumps or increasing the size of the pumped rising main or all three.

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

I call upon Longford County Council to rectify missing lettering signage and replacement of signage where appropriate in the village of Drumlish.

Response:

It is not considered practical for Municipal District staff to replace missing letters on signs as it would involve significant resources including Traffic Management for each sign. Each sign would have to be cleaned thoroughly and prepared to receive the new letters and even trying to get these letters aligned with the existing lettering would be difficult.

It was suggested that a survey of signage across the whole Municipal District would be required to determine what signs need repairs/replacement. A tender contract could be drafted, tendered and awarded to a contractor to replace the defective signs. However, this would require a substantial budget together with the allocation of the staff resources.

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

I call on Longford County Council to write to the Minister with responsibility for National Broadband Plan NBI Patrick O'Donovan.

Now that County Longford has successfully rolled out and completed its NBP, we the members of Granard Municipal District would like a review of the NBP in County Longford and in particular a number of light blue areas which we have identified as problematic. Villages such as Aughnacliffe and Ballinamuck that were identified as been in light blue areas have insufficient broadband speeds, to the point of it being non-existent. In hindsight, these areas would have been better served had they been placed in the amber area, thus proving it extremely difficult for commercial operators and people to work from home.

Overall the rollout of the programme in Longford was a huge success and we the Elected Members feel that a full review/test of the broadband speed throughout the county would not only be beneficial to the county's citizens, but would also provide a comprehensive report of the NBP and the data on record to support the success and rollout of the initiative.

Response:

It was agreed that Longford County Council would write to Minister Patrick O'Donovan in this regard. In addition, concerns about the vulnerability of the overhead fibre lines and telecom poles would be included in the correspondence. The infrastructure was severely compromised and damaged during storms and continue to be at risk of further damage.

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

I call on Longford County Council to look at school zoning marking and pencil bollards at Scoil Samthann National School, Ballinalee.

Response:

The Active Travel section will submit a grant application to the National Transport Authority requesting funding to add appropriate school zone features in the environs of Scoil Samthann National School, Ballinalee.

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 raised pedestrian crossing to walkway on road R194.

Response:

In the Grant application referred to above the Active Travel section will include a request for funding to construct a raised pedestrian crossing on R194 road in line with the forest trail entrance.

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

I call on Longford County Council to put in a tabletop junction on the main road R194 at Stags Head Hill of Ballinalee.

Response:

Longford County Council will consider appropriate traffic calming measures in Ballinalee village and will apply for funding for this work in future grant applications.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM UISCE EIREANN

The Members acknowledged the correspondence and expressed their appreciation for the progress achieved through effective collaboration.

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Granard Municipal District will take place on 25 May 2026.

The members extended their congratulations to the County Longford Football Team, and County Longford Hurling Team on their recent success in the Allianz Leagues. They also extended their congratulations to the Cnoc Mhuire Senior Football Team on winning the All Ireland B Football Final.

Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 11 May 2026.