

LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held in the Council Chamber Aras an Chontae and via MS Teams on Monday, 20 April 2026 at 12:30pm

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Peggy Nolan, Niall Gannon, Kevin Hussey,
Gerry Hagan, Seamus Butler and Martin Monaghan

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services
Mr. Peter Brady, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Anita Doherty, Staff Officer
Ms. Mary Gouldsbury, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Brendan McGourty, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

APOLOGIES: None

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – CIRCULATED

- I. On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held on 25 March 2026 as circulated.
- II. On the proposal of Councillor Kevin Hussey seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Committee Meeting of Longford Municipal District held on 25 March 2026 as circulated.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. ENGINEERS REPORT – as circulated.

Peter Brady updated the members on the Engineers Report, which was noted, and he answered any questions and concerns raised by the Elected Members.

Councillor Kevin Hussey requested that a bin be installed in the Sunflower Playground at the skate park.

Councillor Peggy Nolan requested that the roads department explore the possibility of installing speed ramps in Garvey's Lane.

Councillor Seamus Butler looked for an update on the timeline for the car park on Park Road. Director of Services John Brannigan informed the Members that work would begin in late 2026.

5. UPDATE ON WINDOW INSPECTION IN PARK VILLAS

Senior Executive Officer Mary Gouldsury provided an update to the Members on the window inspections in Park Villas.

Inspections are due to take place beginning the week of 27 April on 4 houses that have been identified in the estate.

In addition to the planned maintenance programme and the energy retrofit programme, Longford County Council's housing department aims to implement a programme for the upgrading of windows and doors over the coming years.

The Elected Members are welcome to make submissions on houses that would benefit from this programme.

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Kevin Hussey

I call on Longford Municipal District to carry out a survey of all road-side and public signage, including street and estate name plates in Longford Town, Newtownforbes, Clondra and general townlands with a view to removing signs and posts that are redundant, correcting incorrectly aligned signs and cleaning/refurbishing all signs. That any underspend on winter gritting and other underspent funds should be utilised for these purposes with a view to instigating an ongoing annual funded programme for all signage maintenance and cleaning.

Response:

Road Signs on National Roads are maintained under a separate contract by the TII. Road Signs on Regional and Local roads are maintained by Longford County Council. There is no specific programme for the ongoing maintenance of these signs, and it is carried out under the ordinary maintenance of Regional or Local Roads where funding allows. In addition, signage at a particular road can be maintained under other works programmes where they are being carried out.

It is our intention to complete improvement works on existing signage within the town centre using the limited budget currently available under the parks and open spaces maintenance allocation. Given the constraints on these resources, we will prioritise works that can be delivered within this funding available. It is noted that there are currently no underspends on winter gritting funds or any other funds.

If elected members are aware of specific signs that require attention whether due to damage, deterioration, misalignment, or other issues, please refer these directly to the Area Engineer. This will allow us to assess each case and ensure that the most urgent signs are completed.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kevin Hussey seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

I call on Longford Municipal District to establish a 'Town Pride' rapid-response system to address issues such as litter, illegal dumping, graffiti, and minor public realm maintenance, including the development of a clear and accessible public reporting mechanism and defined response timelines for addressing reported issues.

Response:

The Environment Section operate a proactive system for addressing instances of litter and illegal dumping in County Longford. This includes uploading all complaints received from citizens, to the Pollution Complaints System. From there complaints are assigned to the relevant Litter Warden, Community Warden or Waste Enforcement Officer. All complaints are actioned in a timely manner having regard to available human and financial resources. Complaints are only closed out when they have been actioned. During 2025 a total of 1,699 Environmental Complaints were actioned and closed.

Longford County Council's Customer Service Charter sets out clear timeline in relation to responding to customer complaints.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kevin Hussey seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

I call on Longford Municipal District to examine and review current on-the-spot fines and enforcement measures in relation to littering and illegal dumping, with a view to strengthening their effectiveness as a deterrent.

Response:

All Waste is investigated for evidence which may identify a polluter. Where a polluter is identified, a litter fine issues. To the greatest extent possible, it is the policy of Longford County Council to pursue all instances of non-payment of litter fines through the courts. Litter fines are set in statue at €150. Should the Council

bring someone to court for non-payment of a fine, the courts can levy higher fines and costs.

Where significant levels of dumping occurs and it is possible to identify the polluter, a decision can be taken by the Waste Enforcement Team, to bring a case before the District or Circuit Court. In those instances, the Courts decide on the level of fines and costs, within the parameters set out in statute.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kevin Hussey seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

I call on Longford Municipal District to ask the Minister for Justice to review how repeat offending and anti-social behaviour are being dealt with, due to the ongoing problems in Longford Town, particularly along the Main Street area from the Post Office to Garvey's Yard. I further call for increased Garda presence in Longford Town and improved enforcement of existing laws to address this behaviour.

There are regular incidents of public drinking, obstruction of footpaths and streets, and intimidating behaviour towards members of the public, which are having a negative impact on local residents, businesses, and visitors to the town.

Response:

Longford County Council agreed to write to the Minister for Justice in this regard. On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler it was agreed to bring this Notice of Motion to the Community Safety Partnership meeting which was taking place later this afternoon.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Longford Municipal District will take place on Wednesday, 27 May 2026 in the Council Chamber.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Confirmed and adopted at Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 27 May 2026.