**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

**held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on**

**Wednesday, 10November at 3pm**

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**PRESIDING**: Councillor Peggy Nolan, Cathaoirleach

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Paraic Brady, John Browne, Seamus Butler, Mick Cahill, Mark Casey, Colin Dalton,

Gerard Hagan, Martin Monaghan, Garry Murtagh, Paul Ross,

Pat O’Toole, P.J. Reilly, Turlough McGovern, Uruemu Adejinmi, Gerard Farrell, Colm Murray, and Gerry Warnock

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive

Mr. John McKeon, Head of Finance/Director of Services

Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

Mr. Tom Murtagh, A/Director of Services

**APOLOGIES :** Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ann Marie Mc Keon

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock, the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 13th October 2021, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, the Minutes of Committee Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 13th October 2021, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

The Chief Executive Report, as circulated, was noted.

Awards

Cathaoirelach Peggy Nolan complimented Longford County Council on the nomination for the 2021 Pakman National Environmental Awards and Peggy highlighted the success of the Health and Safety Section on winning the Regional (Midlands) Award and Continuous High Achiever Award at the annual ceremony which is run by the National Irish Safety Organisation in conjunction with Northern Ireland Safety Group.

Greyhound Track

Cathaoirleach Peggy Nolan announced that a deal to purchase the Greyhound Track was at an advanced stage and acknowledged the work of the Executive and Elected Members in securing the deal.

The members welcomed this news.

ESB

Councillors Casey, Farrell, Ross, Cahill and Warnock issued their concerns about the void left in Lanesboro and surrounding areas following the closure of the power station, members of the community are seeking confirmation on the roll out of the Just Transition Fund for Lanesboro and wider area and this funding is not accessible. These funds were intended to be a resource to help communities and local leaders create an sustainable, equitable, and inclusive future however they are not accessible.

On the proposal of Councillor Mark Casey, seconded by Councillor Gerard Farrell the members unanimously agreed to write to the ESB and BnM requesting that they receive a deputation from Longford County Council consisting of the Cathaoirleach, two elected members and the Executive to address the issues.

Chief Executive Paddy Mahon stated that he understands the frustrations of the members and their concerns were timely given that the next round of Just Transition funding will be under the new Territorial Plan. It does appear that the current funding is not working efficiently, and other local authorities are experiencing the same difficulties. Paddy stressed that future funding mechanisms must be right for and deliver for the Midlands.

**MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 7th SEPTEMBER - CIRCULATED**

The adopted Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 7th September 2021, as circulated, were noted.

**STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE, REGENERATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Planning Applications**

The list of Planning Applications received since last meeting of the Council were noted.

**To note adopted minutes of meeting of Climate Action and Planning Strategic**

**Policy Committee held on the 21st July 2021 – as circulated.**

Noted.

**To note adopted minutes of meeting of Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy**

**Committee held on the 29th July 2021 – as circulated.**

Noted.

**Items referred from Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting**

**held on the 20th October 2021 – as circulated**

**Derelict Sites Policy – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Derelict Sites Policy as circulated.

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole the members unanimously agreed for a quarterly update on the implementation of the derelict sites policy.

On the proposal of Councillor Mark Casey, seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock the members unanimously requested a list of vacant council houses in the county and dates when these would come back into production.

Councillor Turlough Mc Govern raised a query on engaging with Tuath in order to move on the major multimillion-euro refurbishment earmarked in May 2018 for Colmcille Terrace. The Cathaoirleach asked that this issue be referred to Granard Municipal District.

**Dog Pound Fees –as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Dog Pound Fees as circulated.

**Consideration of the disposal of Freehold Interest at 3 St. Patrick’s Terrace,**

**Longford accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001**

**issued on the 4th October 2021**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler, it was unanimously agreed to dispose of the freehold interest of the property at 3 St. Patrick’s Terrace, Longford, County Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 4th October 2021 as circulated.

**FINANCE**

**To note adopted Minutes of meeting of Governance Strategic Policy Committee held on the 26th July 2021 – as circulated**

Noted.

**Consideration of Overdraft Accommodation of €15m for year ending 31st December 2022**

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill, seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler,

it was unanimously agreed to approve the overdraft accommodation of €15m for year ending

31st December 2022.

**NBI (National Broadband Ireland) update**

Danny Lynch and Christine Collins gave a brief presentation to the members on the roll out of Broadband in Longford:

* 8712 premises
* €34million investment
* Facilitate the NBI rollout Section 254
* 53 poles close to services
* 23 poles close to scenic routes
* Total 92 between the three municipal districts
* County Longford Deployment overview
* Software in place in Longford County Council

Christine and Danny responded to the questions raised by the members:

* Timeframe
* Premises (commercial & domestic)
* Ballymahon Broadband
* Re-location of poles
* Impact on rural hubs

The members expressed their disappointment and concerns at the timeframe involved. They thanked the IT section for the work done to-date in supporting the broadband rollout.

Councillor Mark Casey proposed, and Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded that Longford County Council write to the Local TD’s to seek a deputation with the Minister for Communications to highlight the need for broadband to be rolled out earlier in Longford.

Paddy Mahon thanked and acknowledged the work done by IT and recognised that it’s unfortunate that the timeline is not as quick as it should be.

**COMMUNITY, CORPORATE AND ENTERPRISE**

**To note adopted minutes of meeting of Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee held on the 19th July 2021 – as circulated.**

Noted.

**Item referred from Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the**

**18th October 2021**

**Longford County Council Library Development Plan 2021-2025 – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Longford County Council Library Development Plan 2021 – 2025 as circulated.

**Consideration of amendments to Longford County Council Standing Orders – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton, seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock the members unanimously agreed to adopt the amendments to Longford County Council Standing Orders as circulated.

**Consideration to approve grant under the 2021 Intercultural Grants Scheme – as**

**circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, the 2021 Inter-Cultural Grants as circulated to the meeting were approved.

**General**

**Notices of Motions, submitted by Councillors, as listed hereunder –**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh and seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly-

Calling on elected members of Longford County Council to write to the Minister of Health Stephen Donnelly, in relation to insufficient support through the HSE for Home Help. To look within his budget to provided adequate and additional supports for this essential but pressurised service which is at breaking point. Private operators are failing to prop up this system due to min wage and zero subsidies for travel which is absolutely devastating rural Ireland, blocking up hospital beds and forcing people into nursing homes, were its not financially viable for them or the state.  In order to provide the care that is required.

It was agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Health.

**Correspondence**

Correspondence dated 13th October 2021 received from An Garda Siochana

Reply to Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi – as circulated was noted.

Correspondence dated 12th October 2021 received from the Department of Education - Reply to Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi – as circulated was noted.

**Boil Water Notice**

The members expressed their concerns on the lack of information from Irish Water in relation to the Boil Water Notice in Longford Central. The members requested an update be requested from Irish Water on the following:

* Tests completed on water since notice issued
* Timeframe involved
* Map of all areas affected to be made available on website
* Works carried out since boil water notice issued
* Daily updates

Tom Murtagh informed the members that he attended an Irish Water Workshop earlier in the day and Irish Water have designated a resource in the local representative desk to deal specifically with the elected members of Longford, updates will be provided once a week. Councillor Monaghan confirmed that this was the case as he also attended the workshop. Tom confirmed that upgrade works are on-going at the plant.

**Funding**

Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi acknowledged the funding of €250,000 provided by the Minister for Health for the X-ray Department in the County Clinic.

**Transport Infrastructure Ireland Deputation**

The members requested that arrangements be made for the Annual TII Deputation.

**Votes of Sympathy**

To be forwarded to the Meetings Administrator

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Ann Marie Mc Keon**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ann Marie Mc Keon,**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the**

**8th December 2021.**

**Peggy Nolan**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cathaoirleach.**