

**GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in Granard Library**

**on Tuesday, 27th July 2021 at 3.30pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Paraic Brady

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Garry Murtagh, Colin Dalton, P.J. Reilly,

and Turlough McGovern.

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services.

Ms. Linda Higgins, Administrative Officer.

Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer.

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms. Ann Marie Mc Keon

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated.**

On the proposal of Councillor PJ Reilly seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Committee Minutes of Granard MD Meeting held on the 25th May 2021.

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard MD Meeting held on the 25th May 2021.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough Mc Govern seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard MD Annual Meeting held on the 22nd June 2021.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.**

None.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS.**

None.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT INCORPORATING AREA ENGINEER’S PROGRESS**

**REPORT – circulated.**

The Management Report, as circulated, was noted.

David Coppinger briefly outlined some works from the Area Engineer’s Progress Report–

* Climate Action Funding for Abbeylara and Townagh
* Ballymaurice Road at tender stage
* Community Involvement Schemes 2022/2023 advertised – change in criteria
* Additional Local Improvement Scheme Funding received

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady the members unanimously agreed to write to Minster Humphrey requesting an extension to the Local Improvement Scheme expenditure deadline date.

Responding to a query from Councillor Turlough McGovern, David provided an update in relation to two footpaths in Granard town.

**RISK ASSESSMENT RA-CV-031 - ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS BY ELECTED MEMBERS AND COUNCIL OFFICIALS /OTHERS (MEDIA AND PUBLIC) AND ATTENDANCE AT OTHER MEETINGS OR COUNCIL BUILDINGS – CIRCULATED.**

Noted.

**GRANARD PUBLIC ART FEATURES.**

To remain on agenda.

**PROPOSED PROJECTS/EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – CIRCULATED**

Noted.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE 2021 COMMUNITY GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME – LIST CIRCULATED**.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, it was unanimously agreed that €900 be allocated to Leebeen Park Development CLG application.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, it was unanimously agreed that €500 be allocated to the Abbeylara Senior Citizens application.

**PART 8, NO. 87 CONSTRUCTION OF A PATH TO ENHANCE EXISTING HERITAGE AND AMENITY TRAIL IN THE VILLAGE OF AUGHNACLIFFE. REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) AND PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED) – AS CIRCULATED.**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh and seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Part 8, No. 87, construction of a path to enhance existing heritage and amenity trail in the village of Aughnacliffe. Report in Accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (As Amended)as circulated.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**All Ireland Scór Na nOg**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton -

That Granard Municipal District recognise Erin Ross for her achievement on winning the All Ireland Scór Na nOg (singing) in February 2020, when covid restrictions are lifted.

**Reply**

This proposal will be considered when public health restrictions are eased.

**Car Park Granard**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor PJ Reilly and seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern -

What plans have the Council for the area of ground that they purchased from the

OPW for a public car park to facilitate the traffic issues in Granard.

**Reply**

The purchase of this site was recently completed, and development of the site will be dependent on the provision of adequate funding to undertake the project. Longford County Council has estimated that the proper development of this site into a public carpark will require funding in the order of €135,000. At present no funding is available.

**Crash Barrier**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor PJ Reilly and seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern -

I call on Longford County Council to erect crash barriers on the bend where there was a fatal accident recently on the road at Castlenugent, Lisryan.

**Reply**

The accident at Castlenugent was a great tragedy and condolences were extended to the family and friends of the deceased.

It was noted that it is premature to consider any specific action until the completion of the Garda forensic investigation into the accident and the issuing of their report. Longford County Council will examine the report and any recommendations arising from it and will then make decisions on what is the appropriate actions to take.

**Sewerage in Drumlish**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton -

I call on Longford County Council to get in contact with Irish water as a matter of emergency to fix the raw sewerage that is flowing down the street of Drumlish for the last 3 years outside Gallaghers.

**Reply**

Longford County Council will send a request to Irish Water’s Local Representatives Support Desk (LRSD) on behalf of Cllr Paraic Brady requesting Irish Water to address two situations in Drumlish where sewerage flows on to public areas in the event of heavy rainfall. The locations impacted are as follows; adjacent to Gallagher’s Bar and at Barrowlane.

On the proposal of Councillor Brady seconded by Councillor Dalton the members unanimously agreed to write to Irish Water to invite a representative to a meeting of Granard Municipal District.

**Drainage Program**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh –

We request an update on our Drainage program for North Longford regarding the Black River, Lough Uchter and Lough Gowna and have the Council heard from our neighbours in Leitrim and Cavan Council.

**Reply**

An update on the situation as outlined in the previous reply to the January Meeting will be sought from staff in the relevant Municipal District Offices in Cavan and Leitrim County Council.

In January Cavan and Leitrim Local Authorities indicated that scheduled channel maintenance of the rivers or streams at or near the Longford county boundary is not planned however if a blockage of such a channel occurs this should be brought to their attention.

**Dangerous Trees**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton -

I call on Longford County Council to notify all landowners of hazards or dangerous trees on our back lanes and bye roads and especially on lanes where Local Improvement Schemes works are to be carried out.

**Reply**

Each year at the beginning of September at the end of the Wildlife Restrictions period, and again around the following January before the start of the next season in March, Longford County Council issue notices via the local paper, outlining the responsibility of landowners with regard to hazards or dangerous trees on their land. Landowners are also reminded that liability for damage, or injury resulting from such hazards, will rest with them.

Unfortunately, many landowners ignore this legal responsibility and do not cut their hedges/trees when they have become overgrown and hazardous.

Perhaps consideration should be given to a policy of postponing any improvement works on any lane, Public or Private, if the landowners along the lane do not cut back the hedges/tress in advance of the proposed works. Often the state of the hedges and tress have a direct impact on the Council’s ability to work on the lanes as the hazards can also damage plant and machinery.

**Low Cost Safety Scheme**

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

by Councillor Paraic Brady -

I call on Longford County Council to consider a low-cost safety scheme at the junction

adjacent to Annagh Swimming pool. It is presenting as an extremely dangerous junction for

motorists to access the R198, in particular from traffic turning right and from oncoming

traffic from the Arva direction.

**Reply**

Granard Municipal District staff will examine this location and see if a cost-effective scheme can be developed. However, any scheme here is likely to require raising of the junction level itself or else the lowering of the R198 at the entrance to the swimming pool. As this will likely be a high cost scheme it may not be suitable for the Low-Cost Safety Scheme funding stream.

**Dring Car Park**

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

by Councillor PJ Reilly -

I call on Longford County Council to review the entrance into the public amenity at Dring

car park, the sight lines are particularly difficult exiting the car park. Consideration of

signage or road markings on the approach in particular from Granard direction, for motorists

to express caution at a concealed entrance.

**Reply**

Granard Municipal staff will examine this location and see if cost-effective scheme can be

developed. Any solution to the sightlines here will depend on the goodwill of the adjoining

landowners as Low-Cost Safety Scheme funding generally does not cover the purchase of

land. Longford County Council will examine if signage and markings can be improved.

**Signage**

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

by Councillor Colin Dalton -

I request an update from the roads department on a previous Notice of Motion requesting

consideration for the use of laminated signage for the refurbishment of directional signage in

county Longford. This is a cost-effective solution to mindless vandalism of our national road

signage and the cause of untold repetitional damage to tourism in north Longford.  When can

we expect some progress on the issue of signage.

**Reply**

This matter was discussed as a “matters arising” item in a meeting in early 2020 with a commitment given to examine the proposed product. Due to COVID-19 this has not been possible.

While this appears a simple task on the face of it, it would involve a very large workload in locating and recording all the signage, drafting up procurement, Health and Safety and Traffic Management documentation, contractor procurement and assessment and contract administration. The cost of an individual sign might be small but the overall cost, both in time and budget, of such a scheme could be considerable. As there is no specific funding stream for sign replacement and there are insufficient resources available to carry out this task given the current workload of the Granard Municipal District staff it is unlikely that any progress can be made in the near future. However, if a Signage Replacement Grant was to be made available to cover the costs of survey, procurement, Health and Safety and Traffic Management then resources could be sought to carry out this task.

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM IRISH WATER DATED 8TH JUNE 2021** **– As circulated**

Noted.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

Members to circulate their list 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 Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the**

**28th September 2021.**

**Paraic Brady**

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

**Cathaoirleach.**