**LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held via MS Teams**

**on Wednesday, 24th March 2021 at 4.30 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Peggy Nolan

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Seamus Butler, Martin Monaghan,

John Browne Uruemu Adejinmi, Gerry Warnock,

Gerry Hagan

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services.

 Mr. Eamonn Bennett, Senior Executive Engineer.

 Mr. Brian Faughnan, Executive Engineer.

 Ms. Ann Marie Mc Keon, Administrative Officer.

 Ms. Lorraine Mc Kee, Administrative Officer.

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:**  Ms. Anne Lee

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated.**

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Warnock seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 24th February 2021.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.**

None.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS.**

Councillor Martin Monaghan declared an interest in Item No. 7, Part 8 construction of Greenway at Newtownforbes. Ms. Ann Marie McKeon declared that she made a submission on the Part 8 at Newtownforbes.

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

The Management Report, as circulated, was noted.

St. Rita’s, Park Road

Councillor Seamus Butler requested confirmation on the development at Park Road and if it was apartment blocks that was going to be constructed. John Brannigan confirmed that the development consisted of houses and not apartments. The Councillors welcomed this news.

Royal Canal Greenway

Councillor Peggy Nolan welcomed the launch of the Royal Canal Greenway 130km of a walk/cycle from Kildare to Clondra and Councillor Nolan asked that everyone present today would recognise the members of the original Canal Amenity Group that was in place and brought this project to fruition. Councillor Nolan said that these people fought long and hard to get this project where it is today in particular Noel McGeeney, Michael Gaffney and Tommy Campbell. A day for them to celebrate and be proud that they were involved in this project.

**2021 COMMUNITY GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME – LIST ATTACHED**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the 2021 Community Grants Support Scheme applications, as outlined at Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 24th March 2021.

**SCHEDULE OF LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS**

The Schedule of Longford Municipal District Works, including the Footpath Replacement

Programme as circulated, was considered by the members.

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Warnock seconded by Councillor John Browne, it was

unanimously agreed to adopt the Schedule of Longford Municipal District Works and Footpath

Replacement Programme, as circulated.

**Part 8 No. 83 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 in respect of the construction of a Greenway at Newtownforbes, Co Longford – As circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Part 8 No. 83 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 in respect of the construction of a Greenway at Newtownforbes, Co Longford as circulated.

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

Parking Meters

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler.

“It was brought to my attention that high use-buttons on pay parking meters in the town can increase the spread of infection and there’s no sanitising facility close by so machines can be sanitised after each use. In addition, they lacked flexibility in available payment methods, being restricted to coin payments only and people often get caught short for change for pay parking meters whilst parking in the towns.

I am calling on the Council to implement pay parking meters with contactless payment options, credit card payment facilities as well as the option through a pay parking app.”

Reply

John Brannigan stated that the council intend on exploring this further, initially some meters will be installed in the Car Park areas of the town and this would happen in the third quarter of 2021 in parallel with the revision of the parking byelaws. However, there is a substantial cost per meter associated with this work and therefore it will be implemented on a phased basis.

Footpath at Knockloughlin

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerry Hagan and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan.

I call on Longford MD to Install a footpath along the Knockloughlin road to Kiernan’s Cross. There is a large number of houses in this area and with the current restrictions there is a lot of people using this road for walking and exercising, which is hazardous with the large volume of traffic using this road. Located here also is Brookfield house with special needs people who go out walking everyday with staff”.

Reply

Eamonn Bennett replied that the project involves the installation of 400m of footpaths including cycle path with public lighting. We will need to obtain lands for road widening and relocate one entrance. This project will require funding of approximately €100,000 to €120, 000. This scheme would be considered for an active travel funding application in due course.

Road Safety at Kelleter Road

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerry Hagan and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan.

“I call on Longford MD to fill in the drain on the Kelleter Road towards the Aughagar Cross end. This is a narrow road with substantial traffic and the open drains on both sides of the road present a very significant health and safety hazard, for pedestrians and motorists”.

Reply

Longford County Council will include these works on the L-5060-0 from Killeter cross to Aghagar cross in the roads drainage programme in 2022. The works involve installation of piping and filling in approximately 340m of drains with drainage stone on both sides of the road. This work is a multiple year drainage project. We can priorities a section of the roadway as needed.

Dangerous Bend at Lamagh

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Martin Monaghan and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

 “That Longford County Council look at the removal of the bad bend on the L-1005 at the junction of Lamagh and Curryline, Newtownforbes. The junction is extremely hazardous to vehicles and pedestrians (mostly School Kids) as it is a blind corner whatever way you approach it. There is a school within 300 meters of this point along with a substantial volume of commercial vehicles presenting to the nearby DOE Centre and a very busy Physio’s practice on this stretch of road along with 2 sporting clubs”.

Reply

Longford County Council have had numerous requests for the removal of this bend on the L-1005 at Curryline. Consequently, we carried out a low-cost safety scheme at this location in both 2019 and 2020. In 2019 we installed a footpath on the Lismore road (L-5004-0) at the junction and improved sight distance at the junction on the Lismore road side. In 2020 we removed trees and cut back the ditch on the other side to improve the sight distance on the bend of the main road L-1004-0. The only funding stream available for removal of a bad bend and realignment of a road is a community scheme. The landowners on both sides of the road would normally donate their lands for realignment in a community scheme in order to minimise the community group contribution to the costs of the scheme.

Speed Restrictions at Farneyhoogan

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Martin Monaghan and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler.

“That Longford County Council look at implementing speed restrictions in the Farneyhoogan estate. This area is now populated with young families and young children, the apparent danger of vehicles has now become a major issue and I urge that we look at this issue as a matter of urgency”.

Reply

Longford County Council will carry out speed surveys at this location. If a speeding issue is confirmed, Longford County Council will notify the Gardai who are responsible for enforcement of the speed limits. In addition, Longford County Council will review this location to determine if any measures can be put in place to reduce speeds and should there be an appropriate treatment, Longford County Council will apply for funding under Low cost Safety Scheme. Speed Limits and signage are in place in all housing estates.

Traffic Calming Clondra

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Martin Monaghan and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

“That Longford County Council look at installing raised platforms or similar to reduce speed in the village of Clondra”.

Reply

Longford County Council will carry out speed surveys at this location. If a speeding issue is confirmed, Longford County Council will notify the Gardai who are responsible for enforcement of the speed limits. In addition, Longford County Council will review this location to determine if any measures can be put in place to reduce speeds. Should there be an appropriate treatment, Longford County Council will apply for funding under Low cost Safety Scheme.

Parking

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan

 “That Longford Municipal District allows the issuing of all-day season ticket parking in the back carpark (off St Mel’s Road) at the Longford Shopping Centre”.

Reply

John Brannigan replied that the car park referred to is a designated short term stay car park. We do want to allow people to get easy access to the shopping centre or other businesses on the Main Street and we want to ensure that these places aren’t taken up by people parking all day and this is something we will have to address. People coming to town will have no where to park if people are parking in these spaces all day. We will look at the long stay parking in the town and it can be reviewed as part of the review of the Parking Byelaws and I would imagine that we will get submissions in relation to longer stay parking for the town and facilitating that.

Longford is Back in Business

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan

“That Longford Municipal District draws up an imaginative, ready to go plan in anticipation of the opening of non-essential retail, including parking charge concessions and advertising outdoor dining among other measures. Marketing the plan, with widespread publicity, will be crucial to create increased footfall and the successful reinvigoration of our town post Covid-19. The message should be **Longford is Back in Business”.**

Reply

Longford County Council are here to support all businesses and encourage people into the town to do business. Permits to support outdoor dining is a given. If a business wants to have early engagement with us, there is a short application process to be completed and we will be facilitating as many businesses as possible.

Footpath Repair

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor John Browne and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan

“I call on Longford County Council to have new footpaths put in place in Earl Street and in particular at the railway station end. Compensation claims may arise from falls, due to the current state of the footpaths”

Reply

Eamonn Bennett stated that these works would be included in the Footpath Replacement Programme.

Community Warden Scheme

Councillor Peggy Nolan requested an update on the Community Warden Scheme. John Brannigan informed the members that there was a process to go through and agreed that this would be put on the list as a priority.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

 **Ann Marie Mc Keon**

 **Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 28th April 2021.**

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

 **Cathaoirleach.**