**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

**held via Microsoft Teams on**

**Wednesday, 8 December 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, Turlough McGovern, Uruemu Adejinmi, 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. John Brannigan, Director of Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Gerard Farrell and PJ Reilly

**A/MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Claire McNabola

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 10 November 2021, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor John Browne seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, the Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 19 October 2021, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, the Minutes of Committee Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 19 October 2021, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady, the Minutes of Finance Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 15November 2021, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady, the Minutes of Budget Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 22 November 2021, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

Councillor John Browne confirmed that he had made representations in relation to Agenda Item 8(c) - Consideration of the disposal of property at 102 Gleann Riada, Strokestown Road, Longford.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

The Chief Executive Report, as circulated, was noted.

Councillor John Browne raised an issue relevant to the Chief Executive Report. He highlighted concerns in relation to serious dumping in Ardnacassa. The Chief Executive agreed to follow up with John Brannigan on this matter and revert to John.

**MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 12 OCTOBER- CIRCULATED**

The adopted Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 12 October 2021, as circulated, were noted.

**COMMUNITY, CORPORATE AND ENTERPRISE**

**Chief Executive Annual Progress Report on Implementation of the Corporate Plan – as circulated**

Chief Executive Paddy Mahon gave the Members a high-level overview of the achievements for 2021 in relation to the implementation of the Corporate Plan. A summary was provided to the Elected Members and a comprehensive report is available on request. The report recognised the contribution of employees and Elected Members to delivering on the strategic objectives of the Corporate Plan during very challenging times.

On behalf of the Elected Members, the Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive update. She complemented the Executive on the delivery of services to communities and citizens and said they are stronger together.

**POLITICAL DONATIONS**

**(i)** **Political Donations - Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999, as amended - Members of Local Authorities.** – Noted

**(ii) Political Donations - Local Elections (Disclosure of Donation and Expenditure)**

**Act 1999, as amended - Third Parties**. – Noted

A summary was provided to the Elected Members and the importance of adhering to the deadlines was emphasised by Barbara Heslin.

**DATE OF JANUARY 2022 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING.**

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill, seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh the members unanimously agreed to hold the January meeting of Longford County Council on the 19th January 2022.

**DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICE CIVIC CENTRE IN LONGFORD TOWN.**

Chief Executive Paddy Mahon briefed the Members on proposals for the development of new civic centre to incorporate corporate buildings. He explained that this is one of the strategic objectives in the Council’s Corporate Plan. Paddy provided contextual background regarding the expression of interest process for Connolly Barracks. The proposal to develop the new civic centre at Great Water Street was previously considered at the Regeneration Meeting and CPG meeting. The proposal is that the Centre would be developed on the existing Council lands on Great Water Street which incorporates the existing office building. The new building will be developed to NZEB standard. As part of the regeneration of the area it is important that the Council utilises the lands at its disposal.

Councillor Seamus Butler explained that the possible location was discussed at the Longford Municipal District which considered the Longford Town Plan. He asked that consideration be given to the development of a linear park to surround the civic centre and open up access to the river Camlin.

The Members all welcomed the news and were supportive of the development. They stressed the importance of progressing with the delivery of the Camlin Quarter masterplan, the regeneration of the area, opening up access to the river Camlin, addressing derelict buildings on Great Water Street as part of the plans for the area, exploring future plans for Connolly Barracks, and developing timelines for delivery of the civic centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock the members unanimously agreed to proceed with the development of a new civic centre on Council lands on Great Water Street.

**CONSIDERATION OF CIVIC RECEPTION - FARRELL CLAN**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady the members unanimously agreed to host a Civic Reception for the Farrell Clan on 18th July 2022.

**STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE, REGENERATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Planning Applications**

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

**LIST OF ATTENDEES – TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND (TII) DEPUTATION**

A total of 8 Elected Members will attend the meeting with TII, including the Cathaoirleach. On the proposal of Councillor Colm Murray, seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock, it was agreed that each Municipal District will propose 2 Elected Members and, in order to ensure that there is balance across the political parties, the 7th space would be held in reserve.

Each Municipal District to revert to Ann Marie McKeon with names of attendees by 10th December. It was also agreed that they agenda will focus on key strategic projects

**FINANCE**

**NOAC LOCAL AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT 2020 – AS CIRCULATED.**

John McKeon gave the Members a detailed and informative presentation on the results of the 2020 NOCA Local Authority Performance Indicators Report. John answered any questions raised by the Members. He explained that the indicators allow performance to be tracked over a period of time and comparison against Local Authorities of similar size. He also said that they are used by Government Departments when making decisions about future funding. John highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on certain indicators.

Councillor Seamus Butler requested clarification on testing of private water supplies. The Chief Executive agreed to discuss with John Brannigan and revert to Seamus.

Councillor Paul Ross queried the turnaround times of Local Authority houses, costs of associated with bringing them back in to stock and rental income lost. The Chief Executive agreed to discuss with John Brannigan and revert to Paul

Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi queried the number of social houses owned by the Council and asked about the opportunity for tenants to buy out their houses and what can the Council do to encourage tenants to do so. John McKeon confirmed that there is no performance indicator on the number of houses purchased by tenants and that there is currently no tenant purchase scheme in place. He also explained that the costs associated with the bringing houses back into stock can depend on the frameworks in place and availability of contractors.

It was agreed that “Turnaround of Housing Stock” and associated issues would be included as an item for the January meeting of the Council.

Councillor Paul Ross queried the number of environmental complaints. Councillor Paraic Brady said that there is a major issue with dumping in the County and suggested that the fines need to be increased. The Chief Executive explained that Longford County Council has a very effective enforcement section with significant resources allocated to resolving and closing complaints. He agreed to discuss the issues with John Brannigan and revert to Paul and Paraic.

**Consideration of the disposal of property at Esker South, Ballinalee, County Longford**

**(under the shared ownership scheme), in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of**

**the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 22 November 2021**

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, it was unanimously agreed to dispose of the property at Esker South, Ballinalee, County Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 22November 2021 - as circulated.

**Consideration of the disposal of property at 102 Gleann Riada, Strokestown Road,**

**Longford (under the shared ownership scheme), in accordance with the terms of Section**

**183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 22 November 2021**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, it was unanimously agreed to dispose of the property at 102 Gleann Riada, Strokestown Road, Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 22November 2021 - as circulated.

**NOTICE OF MOTION – URGENT BUSINESS**

In compliance with section 25 of the Adopted Standing Orders, the Cathaoirleach considered and agreed to accept a Notice of Motion for the purpose of dealing with urgent business related to a function of the Council. The Notice was submitted in writing to the Cathaoirleach and Meetings Administrator before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

On the proposal of Councillor Colm Murray and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill, it was unanimously agreed to consider the following Notice of Motion:

“Longford County Council calls on Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Eamon Ryan to reappoint Kieran Mulvey to the role of Just Transition Commissioner before his term ends early in the New Year. Just Transition stands at a pivotal point for communities who have been greatly affected by the cessation of peat harvesting by Bord na Mona. It is imperative that there is continuity on the role of Just Transition Commissioner in order to ensure that of the stakeholders involved meet their obligations and provide support to our communities.”

It was unanimously agreed that a letter, on behalf of the Elected Members, would be urgently issued to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Eamon Ryan requesting that he reappoint Kieran Mulvey to the role of Just Transition Commissioner before his term ends early in the New Year.

**OVER-VIEW OF CIRCULARS:**

* LG 04-21 Increase to Annual Remuneration of Elected Members –Noted as circulated
* LG 05-21 Allowances and Expenses of Elected Members – Noted as circulated
* LG 05-21 Appendix 1 Allowances and Expenses of Elected Members – Noted as circulated

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh it was agreed that a Special Meeting of the Council to outline the requirements of the new Circulars, would be held on 12th January 2022. The meeting will facilitate dealing with the above circulars and LG 03/2021 Elected Members Expenses and Public Registers and provide clarity for Elected Members on the contents and changes which will impact the Elected Members. John McKeon agreed to present at the meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence dated 11 November 2021 received from the Minister of Health - Palliative Care Beds at St. Joseph's Care Centre, County Longford – as circulated was noted.

The Cathaoirleach expressed disappointment with the response from the Minster and asked that the Minister rethinks the decision in relation to the delivery of palliative care beds in St Joseph's Care Centre.

Correspondence dated 26 November 2021 received from the Minister of Health –

Re Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Garry Murtagh on Home Supports

- as circulated was noted.

Correspondence dated 17 November 2021 received from ESB – Re Deputation

from Longford County Council – Noted as circulated.

The Cathaoirleach provided feedback from the recent MRTT meeting and raised serious concerns about the commitment of ESB to delivering supports to the community impacted by the closure of the power station.

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, it was unanimously agreed that a Special Meeting of Longford County Council will take place on 19th January 2020, in advance of the Council Meeting, to facilitate a meeting between Longford County Council and ESB to consider and address the major concerns raised by Elected Members at the Council meeting.

**10. Votes of Sympathy**

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Claire Mc Nabola**

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

**Claire McNabola**

**Acting Meetings Administrator.**

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

**19 January 2022.**

**Peggy Nolan**

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

**Cathaoirleach.**