**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

**held via Microsoft Teams on**

**Wednesday, 16 February 2022 at 3pm**

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**PRESIDING**: Councillor Peggy Nolan, Cathaoirleach

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors –John Browne, Seamus Butler, Mick Cahill, Colin Dalton, PJ Reilly, Gerard Hagan, Martin Monaghan, Paul Ross, Pat O’Toole, Colm Murray, Uruemu Adejinmi, Paraic Brady 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

Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor, Gerard Farrell, Garry Murtagh, Mark Casey and Turlough Mc Govern

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ann Marie Mc Keon

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor PJ Reilly seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 19 January 2022, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady, the Minutes of Committee Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 19 January 2022, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor John Browne seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, the Minutes of Committee Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 12 January 2022, 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.

Opening hours

Councillor Gerry Hagan welcomed the extended opening hours for public counters from Monday 28 February, however Councillor Hagan requested the executive to consider extending the motor tax opening hours for one afternoon in the week to facilitate those who do not have access to technology. The members unanimously supported this request and John McKeon confirmed that the suggestion by the members would be considered.

Irish Water

Councillor PJ Reilly enquired about the upgrading of the Ballywilliam network and he referred to the article in the Longford Leader. John Brannigan noted that a service level agreement was in place with Irish Water and that capital investment is a matter for Irish Water and the leakage programme sees investment done in a staged way.

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

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

**FINANCE**

**To Note adopted Minutes of meeting of Governance Strategic Policy Committee held on the 19 October 2021 – as circulated**

Noted.

**COMMUNITY, CORPORATE AND ENTERPRISE**

**To note adopted minutes of meeting of Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee held on the 18 October 2021 – as circulated.**

Noted

**Adoption of Service Delivery Plan 2022 – as circulated**

Barbara Heslin stated that the purpose of the Service Delivery Plan is to provide and publish a Corporate document that identifies the principal services the Council propose to deliver across all Directorates in 2022 and the performance standards intended to be achieved.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill, the members unanimously adopted the Service Delivery Plan 2022 as circulated.

Councillor Seamus Butler complemented the comprehensive Service Delivery Plan for 2022 and acknowledged the work involved in the preparation and delivery of this plan for adoption.

**Ethical Framework for Local Government – as circulated**

Barbara Heslin, Director of Services referred to the document circulated and reminded the Members that the closing date for return of Annual Ethics Declaration Forms is Monday 28 February 2022.

**Approval of the appointment of Michael Reilly Revamp Manager to the Climate Action**

**and Planning Strategic Policy Committee to replace Marcella O Connor from Revamp**

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Hagan, seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole the

members unanimously agreed to the appointment of Michael Reilly, Revamp Manager to the

Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

**Consideration to approve grant under the 2022 Intercultural Grants Scheme** **– as**

**circulated**

On the proposal of Cathaoirleach Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan the members unanimously approved the 2022 Intercultural Grant as circulated.

**Agree date for “In Committee” meeting to discuss updates on Draft Civic Protocols**

**December 2016**

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill, the

members unanimously agreed to a “In Committee” meeting on Wednesday 9 March at

1.30pm.

**Date of March 2022 County Council meeting**

Meeting scheduled for 9 March 3pm.

**PLANNING AND PROJECT DELIVERY**

**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 20 October 2021 – as circulated.**

Noted.

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

**held on the 21 January 2022 – “Proposed arrangements including fees associated with**

**the recently constructed Columbarium Wall at Ballymacormack Cemetery” – as**

**circulated**

On the proposal of Cathaoirleach Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Seamus

Butler, the members unanimously agreed to adopt the proposed arrangements including fees

associated with the recently constructed Columbarium Wall at Ballymacormack Cemetery as

circulated.

**INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND INNOVATION**

Cathaoirleach Councillor Peggy Nolan and the members welcomed the new Director of Services, Samantha Healy to the meeting.

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

**Committee held on the 21 January 2022 – as circulated**

Noted.

**Item referred from Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee meeting held**

**on 3 February 2022 – “Policy on signage for children at play” – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O’Toole, seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, the members unanimously agreed to adopt the “Policy on signage for children at play” as circulated.

**Consideration of the disposal of Terraced House at 3 St. Josephs Road, Longford**

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

**the 27 January 2022 – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor John Browne, the

members unanimously agreed to dispose of Terraced House at 3 St. Josephs Road, Longford

in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the

27 January 2022.

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

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerry Warnock and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan -**

I am calling on Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Housing to again,

impress on him the urgent requirement for an upwards review of Income Thresholds to

allow people to access Housing Supports. Given the current high cost of private rents

and the predicted upwards trajectory in this regard, the current thresholds are in no way

adequate to deal with the existing crisis. There are many households where the current

measures taken under Housing for All is simply not an option, and these people need

access to traditional supports.

The members unanimously agreed to write to the Minister for Housing.

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerry Warnock and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan -**

I'm calling on Longford County Council to install Dog Waste Bins and Bag Dispensers at points

on all of our public walkways throughout the County. The issue of dog fouling on our walkways

is getting completely out of hand and extremely difficult to police so we need to have these

facilities in situ so the offenders have absolutely no excuse to justify their inconsiderate actions.

Response

Currently there are 24 dispensers erected around the county (see list below).  To undertake the installation, monitoring and servicing of an extensive increased network of bins and dispensers countywide would have significant financial and staff resource implications for the Council.  It is noted that organisations such as Coillte have a ‘Leave No Trace’ policy where people who use their public walkways are encouraged with a strong public awareness message to bring home their litter and waste.  In this context it is proposed that the SPC is requested to consider this matter and develop a policy which would be appropriate to the network of public walkways that now exists in the county.

**Existing Dog waste dispenser locations**

1. Drinan Ballymahon- on the canal walk
2. Ballybranigan Ballymahon   on the canal walk
3. Clondra – Near the Canal bridge
4. Leebeen Pk. (playground) Aughnacliffe
5. Granard –sports complex
6. Ballymahon –Beside bridge at previous site (Beside River Inny Bridge)
7. Drumlish – on the new pathway to GAA pitch
8. Lanesboro-- at previous site (entrance to car park near bridge)
9. Derrycassin woods – at entrance
10. Newcastle woods –at car park beside bridge
11. The mall—both sides of the main bridge on walkways
12. Canal walkway Longford – both ends
13. Longford bypass - at previous site.   Near red cow roundabout
14. Edgeworthstown on the by-pass between the roundabouts
15. Killashee beside canal
16. Keenagh - at bus stop
17. Lanesboro - Clonbony walkway
18. Ardagh, near the entrance to the park
19. Corlea at entrance to heritage centre
20. Cairn Hill – at entrance to hill
21. Ballinalee at new walkway
22. Newtownforbes – Main St
23. Church St Granard
24. Granard – beside Macken’s shop

Samantha Healy informed the members that a review will be carried out at the locations mentioned to ensure that the appropriate facilities are in place and suggested that a policy could be brought to the Strategic Infrastructure Policy Committee to raise awareness and address behavioural issues and this could include a publicity campaign.

**GENERAL**

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

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor Colm Murray -**

I am asking my colleagues to support the campaign of parents of children with spina

bifida in their demand for timely surgical orthopaedic management this is a situation that has gone on for too long and has greatly affected the development and abilities of these children.

The members unanimously agreed to support Cathaoirleach Councillor Peggy Nolan’s Notice of Motion.

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock-**

“I call on Longford County Council to support the upgrading of the Dublin to Sligo

Railway line to fast track and to support the opening of the closed stations on this line”.

The members unanimously agreed to support Cathaoirleach Councillor Peggy Nolan’s Notice of Motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence dated 13 December 2021 received from the Minister of Health -Re Notice of Motion from Councillor Pat O’Toole on Home Support Services – as circulated.**

Noted.

London Association

Cathaoirleach Councillor Peggy Nolan thanked the Leas-Cathaoirleach Councillor Paraic Brady for attending the London Association Dinner Dance on her behalf. Councillor Paraic Brady complimented the organisers of the event and acknowledged the importance of maintaining relationships with this association.

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 9 March 2022.**

**Peggy Nolan**

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

**Cathaoirleach.**