

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

**held via Microsoft Teams on**

**Wednesday, 9 November 2022 at 4pm**

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**PRESIDING**: Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, Cathaoirleach

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors –John Browne, Seamus Butler, Mick Cahill, Colin Dalton, Mark Casey, Gerry Hagan, Paul Ross, Pat O’Toole, Colm Murray, Garry Murtagh, Peggy Nolan, Uruemu Adejinmi, PJ Reilly, Gerry Warnock, Martin Monaghan and Paraic Brady

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

Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

Ms. Fema Farrell, A/ Head of Finance/Director of Services

Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services

**APOLOGIES:** Mr. John McKeon, Head of Finance/Director of Services

Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services

Councillor Gerard Farrell

**A/MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Gerard Dennigan

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 12 October 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 was Noted.

Councillor John Brown expressed his concern over the railing outside the Post Office and can it be removed? John Brannigan to follow up with employee from Environment.

Councillor PJ Reilly and Councillor Turlough McGovern requested a timeline on the progress at Colmcille Terrace. John Brannigan provided an update on progress.

Councillor Peggy Nolan expressed her concern in relation to the possibility of modular homes being identified for the Connolly Barracks and two other sites in Longford. Peggy suggested that the OPW refurbish the existing building in the barracks for Ukrainian refugees. Acting Director of Services, Michael Nevin provided an updated to the Elected Members in relation to the identification of possible sites in Longford, engagement with the OPW, identification of a preferred site and site investigation works.

Councillors Mark Casey and Paraic Brady requested an update on road works at the Ballinalee road and in Longford town. Senior Engineer, David Tubridy responded that works on Ballinalee Road are expected to be completed by early December. John Brannigan confirmed that works in the town are expected to be substantially completed before Christmas.

**MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 13 SEPTEMBER 2022 - CIRCULATED**

The adopted Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 13 September 2022, as circulated, were noted.

**FINANCE AND IT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Governance Strategic Policy Committee held on the 19 July 2022 – as circulated**

The adopted Minutes of Governance Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 19 July 2022, as circulated, were noted.

**Consideration of disposal of property at 17 Oakvale, Longford, County Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 5 October 2022**

On the proposal of Councillor John Browne, seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler, the members unanimously agreed to dispose of the property at 17 Oakvale, Longford, County Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 5 October 2022.

**Consideration of disposal of property at 25 Oakvale, Longford, County Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 6 October 2022**

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock, the members unanimously agreed to dispose of the property at 25 Oakvale, Longford, County Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 6 October 2022.

**Consideration of disposal of property at 22 Congress Terrace, Longford, County Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 25 October 2022**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, the members unanimously agreed to dispose of the property at 22 Congress Terrace, Longford, County Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 25 October 2022.

**COMMUNITY, CORPORATE AND ENTERPRISE**

**Minutes of Meeting of Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee held on the 18 July 2022 - as circulated**

The adopted Minutes of Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 18 July 2022, as circulated, were noted.

**PLANNING AND PROJECT DELIVERY**

**Planning Applications**

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

**Minutes of Meeting of Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on the 20 July 2022 – as circulated**

The adopted Minutes of Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 20 July 2022, as circulated, were noted.

**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 write to the Minister for Housing to exempt Zoned Residential Lands in Longford for the incoming Residential Zoned Tax due to be implemented in 2024. The reason being is the dysfunctional nature of Longford’s housing market.

**Response**

The members unanimously agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien.

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

I am calling on the Members of Longford County Council to agree to formally write to the Minister and Secretary General of the Department of Housing & Local Government to inform them that we will not be approving any future Part 8 Planning Application for Social Housing Developments within County Longford until a scheme allowing for Affordable Housing Schemes to be developed in County Longford is officially ratified and approved by the Minister and the Department of Housing & Local Government.

**Response**

The members unanimously agreed to write to the Minister and Secretary General of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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

I am calling on the Department of Housing to allocate Resources to Longford County Council to enable the Planning department prepare and publish the maps identifying land within the scope of the Residential Land Zones Tax to meet the tight deadlines imposed by the Department.

**Response**

The members unanimously agreed to write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill**

I am calling on the Department of Housing to approve Affordable Housing Schemes for County Longford to incentivise build on land zoned as being suitable for residential development.

**Response**

The members unanimously agreed to write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

**INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND INNOVATION**

**Minutes of Meeting of Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held on the 21 July 2022 – as circulated**

The adopted Minutes of Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 21 July 2022, as circulated, were noted.

**GENERAL**

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

I call on Longford County Council to write to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine looking for the closing date for the new Agri Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) to be extended as it didn’t give enough time for farmers to engage planners to survey their farms and devise meaningful farm sustainability plans, as required in the application.

**Response**

The members unanimously agreed to write to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

**TRAINING**

Report from the Corporate Policy Group on training was noted.

**SYMPATHY**

Votes of Sympathy to be emailed to the meetings administrator.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Ann Marie Mc Keon**

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

**Gerard Dennigan**

**A/Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 14 December 2022.**

**Turlough Mc Govern**

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

**Cathaoirleach.**

