

**GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

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

**via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 24 May 2022 at 3.30pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Paraic Brady

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Garry Murtagh, Colin Dalton,

and Turlough McGovern

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

 Ms. Linda Higgins, Administrative Officer

 Mr. Joe Gorman, Assistant Engineer

Ms. Pamela Martin Rath Mhuire & Dolmen Community Services

Ms. Jacqui Kennedy Rath Mhuire & Dolmen Community Services

**APOLOGIES:** Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer Councillor PJ Reilly

**MEETINGS**

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

**Presentation by Rath Mhuire & Dolmen Community Services Ltd**

Pamela and Jackie introduced themselves to the meeting and gave an outline of the Rath Mhuire & Dolmen Community Services LTD which was established in 1986 and is a community-based organisation in North Longford, where one of our main areas of work is with older people. Our aim is a commitment to maintaining and supporting, the dignity, quality of life and independence of older people in the North Longford Region.

Main Objectives:

* Support the independence of older people.
* To enable older people to remain living in their own homes.
* To support older people to participate and have a strong sense of belonging in their

 own communities.

Issues discussed included:

* Possible duplication of resources and work with Resource Centres
* Opportunity for colocation
* Funding for staffing
* Integration with Slaintecare

The Elected Members were asked for support in bring the issues raised to the attention of the HSE and to the Minister and Department of Health. Councillor Brady indicated that he would put forward a Notice of Motion regarding resourcing for the next HSE Regional meeting. He also suggested that the group link in with Una Darcy – Local Link support.

On the proposal of Councillor Murtagh, it was unanimously agreed that the Members would write to the Minister for Health. The group are to provide information and data to be incorporated in the correspondence.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton, seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 22 March 2022.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 22 March 2022.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

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

**REPORT – circulated**

The Management Report, incorporating the area engineer progress report as circulated, was noted. The elected members thanked Joe for attending and acknowledged the work completed in the area to-date. Councillor Brady requested an update on Local Improvement Schemes and Joe explained that there are with David Coppinger for assessment.

Joe explained that they are keeping costs under review as there is a tendency for increased costs. While this has not. as yet, impacted on works, it might do so on the future programme of works.

**POLLING SCHEME REVIEW**

Director of Services, Barbara Heslin explained the background to the review and complimented the team on the work done on getting the polling scheme to this stage and welcomed Ann Mulligan to the meeting.

Administrative Officer, Ann Mulligan explained to the elected members that the Electoral (Polling Schemes) Regulations 2021, were issued in December 2021, and it was suggested that all Local Authorities consider carrying out a review of their existing Polling Schemes. These Regulations provide for updated procedures in the making of a polling scheme, the main changes being:

* The revoking of the Electoral (Polling Schemes) Regulations, 2005 (S.I. No. 108 of 2005)
* Extending the methodology that the Council may use to publicise the making of a draft scheme “give public notice, by any method which the local authority thinks necessary or desirable” of the preparation of the draft Scheme and
* Provision that we shall publish a notice on the Council website

Proposal to reduce the number of Polling Districts from 26 to 13

* Polling booths to serve 700 to 800 electors
* Ease of reference on polling day
* Electors can be re-distributed between booths if numbers increase
* Aim to have full Electoral Divisions within a Polling District
* Avoid, where possible, electors moving to a new Polling Station

Councillor Brady asked Ann if she would check Oghill, Drumlish as this is in the Longford area not the Drumlish area. Councillor Murtagh queried moving Drumhauldry from Aughnacliffe to Moyne. Ann explained that the public will have an opportunity to make submissions on the proposed changes. Citizens moving to a new polling station will be informed in writing once the scheme is adopted by the Council.

The elected members welcomed the presentation and changes. The draft Scheme will now move to public consultation and depending on submissions received it will be presented to the Council meeting in July for adoption.

**COMMUNITY GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME 2022 – AS CIRCULATED**

Barbara Heslin briefed the members on the 2022 Community Grant Support Scheme.

It was recognised at the meeting that several new groups submitted applications, and this was welcomed.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Turlough the Community Grant Support Scheme applications 2022 were adopted by the members - as per attached appendix.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS/DISCRETIONARY FUNDS 2022**

**Councillor Garry Murtagh’s Projects**

**Purth Development Group**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, it was unanimously agreed that €1,000.00 be allocated to Purth Development Group.

**Councillor Colin Dalton’s Project**

**Ballinalee Connemara Pony Show**

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady, it was unanimously agreed that €750 be allocated to Ballinalee Connemara Pony Show.

**Councillor PJ Reilly’s Projects**

**Abbeylara Tidy Towns**

Councillor Reilly requested that the elected members deal with these applications on his behalf.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Paraic Mc Govern, it was unanimously agreed that €1,000 be allocated to Abbeylara Tidy Towns.

**Granard Community Centre Committee**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady, it was unanimously agreed that €1,000 be allocated to Granard Community Centre Committee.

**Councillor Turlough Mc Govern’s Projects**

**Abbeylara Tidy Towns**

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough Mc Govern seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, it was unanimously agreed that €1,000 be allocated to Abbeylara Tidy Towns.

**Granard Community Centre Committee**

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough Mc Govern seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, it was unanimously agreed that €1,000 be allocated to Granard Community Centre Committee.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**Lighting Drumlish Village**

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

“I call on Longford County Council to contact Electric Skyline to up-grade the lighting in Drumlish village as the marquee is on again in August and there will be thousands of people attending this festival”.

**Response**

Longford County Council has sought costings for the supply and installation of LED Public Lighting on the R198 from the Garda Barracks/Church to the Centra Supermarket.

Subject to the availability of funding, Longford County Council will endeavour to have this work completed by mid-August in advance of the festival but cannot commit to this in advance of confirmation of supply of the lighting units.

All public lighting in Drumlish village is regularly maintained, patrolled, and repairs carried out in a timely manner and there has already been extensiveupgrading of public lighting in Drumlish. Several housing estates in the village have been upgraded and areas of the main streets have also been progressed.

**O’Hara’s Building**

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

“I call on Longford County Council to carry out essential repairs and maintenance to O’Hara’s building on Main Street Granard purchased since 2018 by Longford County Council”.

**Response**

Longford County Council’s Housing section has engaged with the Department on this property, their officials have visited the site and their response is awaited.

**Driver Feedback Signs**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern and seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady –

“I call on Longford County Council to install solar Driver feedback signs (DFS) for

maximum effect on driver behaviour on the N55 approach into Granard town and on the

R194 approach from Ballinalee into Granard town”.

**Response**

There is already a Driver Feedback sign in place on the Cavan approach to Granard town. However, it is not envisaged that any additional Driver Feedback signs will be installed until all other traffic calming solutions have been looked at. As the N55 is a National Road any proposals would have to be approved and funded by the Transport Infrastructure Ireland. As regards the R194, a number of traffic calming measures have been completed in recent years and these have seen some improvements on this road.

**Derelict Building**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh –

“I’m calling on Longford County Council under the Rural Development funding to

conduct a visibility study of the derelict building on the former Matthews site with the

view to purchasing and developing the unit for an Exhibition/Gallery Centre with

Museum space to hold the collection of historical & Heritage items currently held in

Office and storage space. I believe it would be ideal due to the size of the

building and adequate space for parking around it.  Granard has been hailed as a

destination town and we believe this would be a positive step in the rejuvenation of a

derelict site, job creation and positivity for the key town in North Longford”.

**Response**

Rural Development funding has been approved for Granard Town for a project valued at €1,320,000 which includes the following elements;   the acquisition of land, preliminary design, and environmental assessment up to Part VIII for an inner relief road, multi-use space, which may include coach parking and campervan parking supporting the nearby Granard Motte Heritage Park, Baker’s Fort parkland and enhancement of laneways and paths connecting the newly opened up back lands with the Main Street and car parking.   The terms of the funding agreement, requires Longford County Council to delivery on those project elements outlined above. Following the implementation of this current project consideration will be given to apply for Rural Development funding for the location outlined in the Notice of Motion. In the meantime, Longford County Council intend to engage with the current owner of the property to explore potential future options for the site.

The Elected Members indicated that they would raise this at the next Regeneration Meeting.

**Change of Venue for AGM in June**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern,

it was unanimously agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting on the 28 June in the “98

Hall” in Ballinamuck at 3pm.

 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**

**25 July 2022.**

Paraic Brady

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

 **Cathaoirleach.**