

**LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held in the Council Chamber Aras an Chontae and via MS Teams on Tuesday, 26 July 2022 at 9.20am**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Gerry Hagan

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Seamus Butler, Martin Monaghan, Uruemu Adejinmi, John Browne, Peggy Nolan, and Gerry Warnock

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

Mr. Eamonn Bennett, Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Lorraine Mc Kee, Administrative Officer

**MEETINGS**

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

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held on the 22 June 2022.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Longford Municipal District held on the 22 June 2022.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

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

The Management Report, as circulated, was noted.

Eamon Bennett responded to questions on the following –

* N63 completion date
* Watermain work

**SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES’ PRESENTATION**.

Local Development Officer, Patricia Forde introduced herself to the members and explained

how she is working to address health inequalities in the most deprived areas. The social determinants of health are conditions in which we are born, we grow and age, and in which we live and work.

Patricia highlighted health inequalities in Longford Town:

* Lack of childcare services & supports
* Need for increased drop in childcare services
* Poor engagement with services in some parts of the town
* Lack of counselling services and need for more supports for those who need counselling
* Lack of fresh fruit and vegetables grown locally and a reasonable rate

LECP high level goal - Improve the safety, wellbeing, physical & mental health, and quality of life in our communities.

* Support work of Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme and other pilot programmes who work to address health inequalities.
* Need for more Community Houses, community gardens and childcare supports.
* Reduce the number of fast-food outlets in our town space.
* Promote more safe and positive spaces in the area’s most deprived and most in need.

Patricia responded to questions raised on the following:-

* Fast-food outlets
* Community House

Patricia made her contact details available to the members and agreed to circulate her presentation after the meeting.

**“Consideration of Adoption of Part 8, Number 95 in Accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (As Amended) – Proposeddevelopment will consist of the following: *(1)* Street and public realm improvement works along the N63 Ballinalee Road between the Junction of Ard Michael estate and the N63/N4 junction for a total distance of approximately 920m. The proposed works will include the provision of a cycle track and footpath contained within the existing verges on both sides of the N63, *(2)* Junction tightening works on both sides along the route, (3) Provision of a new controlled pedestrian and cycle crossing point, (4) The planting of native hedge screening and trees, provision of upgraded street lighting, road signage and markings, landscaping, and all ancillary site works along the N63 (Ballinalee Road), Longford Town.”** – **as circulated.**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Part 8. Number 95 as circulated to the members.

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**Disabled Parking Bays**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock -

That Longford Municipal District redesign the on street and council car park disabled parking bays to accommodate longer vehicles with wheelchair access at the rear. In addition, signage should be erected to warn of the penalty incurred for non-registered users at each bay.

**Response**

It isn’t possible to redesign all of the existing disabled parking bays to accommodate longer vehicles without eliminating existing parking spaces. However, Longford County Council can review existing disabled parking bays on a case-by-case basis. Longford MD will review the disabled parking bay on Dublin Street and agree to look at other bays where there maybe issues and where required, additional signage will be erected, and penalties will be issued to non-registered users.

**Public Lighting and Footpath at Ballymakeegan**

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

That Longford Municipal District agree to extend the existing lighting at Ballymakeegan onto Lisduff Cross and up and down Lisduff Hill to Glebe. This will include a footpath to ensure the safety of residents on this very busy road.

**Response**

The project will involve an extension of the existing public lighting and the installation of a footpath from Ballymakeegan to Lisduff cross as well as the installation of new public lighting with a footpath on the L-3013-0 from the junction with the Ballymakeegan road (L-7008-0) to the Glebe. Major funding would be required for this project and the works would involve land purchase, replacement of fencing, walls, landscaping and the installation of public lighting along the footpath. These works would qualify for funding under active travel scheme. Longford MD will request Brian Kelly in the Planning & Project Delivery Directorate to apply to the National Transport Authority for funding under the Active Travel Scheme.

**Footpaths at Foynescourt**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Martin Monaghan and seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi -

I appreciate that our budget and schedule of works for footpaths and roads are pre- determined from last year, however Foynescourt paths are in very poor condition and there are a number of elderly residents and some of whom have mobility issues and require wheelchair use. With this in mind, if the management could find discretionary funding to carry out remedial works for the time being until such time as they are replaced it would be really appreciated.

**Response**

Longford County Council has an annual programme in place for replacing footpaths. The footpaths at Foynescourt are not included in the current footpath replacement works programme funded by IPB. We can include replacement of the existing footpaths in Foynescourt in the 2023 – 2026 footpath replacement programme subject to IPB approval.

**Pedestrian Crossing Ballinalee Road**

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

There are no provisions for pedestrians to cross on the Ballinalee Road – There was a crossing from Ard Michael Estate to the Major’s Well Road prior to works commencing, however the provision of a temporary crossing to facilitate pedestrians would be a must to ensure the safety of the public when crossing such a major artery into our town.

**Response**

The existing pedestrian crossing near Ard Michael estate was an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing. There is no requirement under the Health & Safety Legislation or under the revised Traffic Management Guidance Manual to provide a temporary crossing in its place. The guidelines require a “designated pedestrian controller” to ensure and assist pedestrians across the road. The contractor has a designated pedestrian controller in place for these works. Also, Charlie Kerr of “Proworks” carried out an independent audit inspection on the Ballinalee road works and the crossing near Ard Michael was not an issue.

**Community Warden**

Councillor Seamus Butler requested an update on the Community Warden role for the next meeting.

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 28 September 2022.**

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

**Cathaoirleach.**