

**LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held in the Council Chamber Aras an Chontae and via MS Teams on Wednesday, 25 May 2022 at 3.30pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Seamus Butler, Martin Monaghan,

John Browne, Peggy Nolan, Gerry Hagan 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

**APOLOGIES:**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held on the 26 April 2022.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

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

Senior Executive Engineer, Eamonn Bennett highlighted the works in the area since the last meeting and noted the upcoming works. Councillor Seamus Butler requested an update on the works at Park Close and Eamonn committed to emailing Councillor Butler with an update.

**PROPOSED PROJECTS/EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**POLLING SCHEME REVIEW**

Administrative Officer, Ann Mulligan gave a presentation on the polling scheme and

informed the 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)

• Extends 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

• shall publish a notice on the Council website

Current Numbers at Polling Stations:

• St. Joseph’s N.S. 9 Booths - 4,343 • St. Michael’s N.S. 4 Booths – 1,860 • Teagasc 3 Booths – 1,642 • St. John’s N.S. 1 Booth – 321

Proposed new Polling Districts:

• Longford Central North (1,554) • Longford Central West (1,634) • Longford Central East (1,797) • Longford Central South (2,499)

The members welcomed the presentation and thanked Ann for the detailed information.

**UPDATE ON MAJOR WELL’S ROAD SCHEME**

Senior Executive Engineer Con Diffley updated the members on the works schedule for the

Ballinalee road. Some of the elected members expressed their disappointment with the time

frame involved in completing the works and Con explained that a construction contract is in

place and works need to be completed to the proper standards.

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

The members unanimously agreed that applications be capped at €2,000, all sports applications be referred to Longford Sports Partnership and Longford ICA and Cruthu Arts Festival be referred to the County Wide Fund and funding be committed to Longford Tidy Towns Committee. On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan it was unanimously agreed to adopt the 2022 Community Grants Support Scheme applications, as outlined and circulated.

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**Bike Sharing Scheme**

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

That Longford Municipal District look to implement a bike sharing scheme in key locations in our county town.

**Response**

Consultants are appointed to prepare a Local Transport Plan and also prepare a separate County Cycling Strategy in Quarter four this year and this will include a bike sharing proposal. Active travel will seek funding approval for a shared bike initiative in its next funding application to the National Transport Authority.

**Twinning**

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

“We call on Longford County Council to inaugurate a process to explore twinning possibilities between Mullheim Am Main in Germany and Longford Town”.

This is in response to an invitation to connect at Municipal level and explore opportunities mutually beneficial to both towns. The attached document refers.

**Response**

Correspondence from Cllr. Bernd Falk from Mühlheim am Main, Germany with a Town Twinning request was received by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi. The request was considered at the April meeting of the Corporate Policy Group. The following is an excerpt from the adopted minutes of the CPG meeting which outlines the decision of the CPG:

CONSIDERATION OF TOWN TWINNING – AS CIRCULATED.

The members unanimously agreed that the executive would carry out a review of the existing Town Twinning arrangements that are currently in place in the Municipal Districts and identify whether or not they are still active, inactive or lapsed. In addition, they agreed the importance of having a local committee in place to support and manage the work associated with town twinning and ensure that links are sustained and deliver on the twinning objectives.

The Corporate Policy Group acknowledged the valuable contribution and work carried out by Mary Reynolds in supporting town twinning arrangements.

It was recognized that personal relationships have been established over the years, however a more structured system needs to be implemented going forward in order for these arrangements to work. The role of the Municipal Districts in supporting and monitoring twinning arrangements was discussed and the importance of having proper governance structured in place was highlighted.

On the proposal of Cathaoirleach Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill the members unanimously agreed to carry out a review of the existing agreements and to develop a protocol for considering new agreements and this protocol will be reviewed by the Placemaking/Governance Strategic Policy Committee before being presented to the Council for consideration.

The Corporate Policy Group agreed that no new twinning agreements would be considered or entered into until this process is completed.

**Existing Longford Town Twinning Arrangements**

Longford Town has over the years developed a number of formal twinning arrangements which proved valuable in creating and sustaining the links between the participating communities and have provided unique opportunities to share experiences of civic, cultural and commercial life.

Noyal-Châtillon sur Seiche (1998) Composition of community group to be confirmed

[Sparks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sparks,_Nevada), Nevada, United States of America (1976) Inactive

**Next Steps**

The Placemaking SPC together with the Governance SPC will consider the development of a Town Twinning policy and protocol. This will inform future Town Twinning proposals and develop criteria on which any proposed twinning will be assessed. The role of the Municipal Districts and communities in supporting twinning’s will also be considered and defined.

The members unanimously agreed that the review should proceed with speediness.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter dated 12 May 2022 from Ballymahon Twinning Group – as circulated was noted.

African Day

Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi acknowledged the assistance received for African Day and the hospitality shown to the Morocco Ambassador on his visit to Longford. The day was a great success.

Community Warden/Skate Park

Councillor Peggy Nolan welcomed the new Community Warden and requested an update on the Skate Park. Director of Services, John Brannigan informed the members that he met with the skaters committee, and they are working on identifying a site and seeking funding.

Best Wishes

Councillor Gerry Hagan and all the elected members wished former member Christy Warnock a speedy recovery.

The elected members recognised that this was Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi’s last meeting as Cathaoirleach of Longford Municipal District they thanked her for a brilliant year and wished her the best.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Ann Marie Mc Keon

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

**Ann Marie Mc Keon**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 22 June 2022.**

Uruemu Adejinmi

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

**Cathaoirleach.**