

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

**held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on**

**Wednesday, 12 July 2023 at 4pm**

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**PRESIDING**: Councillor Colm Murray, Cathaoirleach

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

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

Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

Mr. David Tubridy, A/Director of Services

Mr. John McKeon, Head of Finance/Director of Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Gerry Warnock

Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services

Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Claire McNabola

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejnmi the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 14 June 2023, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

1. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None

1. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Noted

Councillor Peggy Nolan updated the members on the ongoing issues and concerns over relating to the Radiology Dept at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Longford. Councillor Nolan informed the members that Senator Carrigy raised the matter in a parliamentary question this week and was delighted to receive a positive response.

Councillor Nolan confirmed that the Radiology Dept. at St. Joseph’s hospital would be upgraded and the provision of 43 beds in the hospital got the go ahead. Further work will also be done on the provision of Mental Health and Disability Services

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly the members unanimously agreed to write to the HSE and request a quarterly update for the Members of Longford County Council on matters mentioned above and other related matters.

The members unanimously supported the issuing of the letter and thanked Councillor Nolan for her perseverance in pursuing the matter over the last number of months and years.

Councillor Colm Murray congratulated all involved in Longford Agricultural Show, it was a very successful day and complemented Councillor Gerry Hagan for facilitating the Show on his Farm in Killoe. Councillor Murray wished Granard Show Committee every success with their Agricultural Show this weekend.

Councillor Peggy Nolan wished Grace Kemple, The Longford Rose every success and best wishes in the Rose of Tralee Competition next month.

1. **MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 9 MAY 2023 – AS CIRCULATED**

The adopted Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 9 May 2023, as circulated, were noted.

1. **FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
2. **Consideration of disposal of property at Currabawn, Ballymahon, Co Longford, in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 31 May 2023 – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, the members unanimously agreed to dispose of the property at Currabawn, Ballymahon, Co Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 31 May 2023.

1. **Statutory Audit Report to the members of Longford County Council for the year ended 31 December 2022 - Local Government Audit Service**

John McKeon provided the members with a high level overview on the Statutory Audit Report or year ending 31 December 2022.

John complimented and thanked, Local Government Auditor Donal Cahill, Internal Auditor Fiona Baskett and the Finance team for all the hard work.

In his presentation John covered the following area’s:

* Introduction – Legislations/Regulations/AFS – Annual Financial Statement
* Financial Standing
* Income Collection (Highlights)
* Transfer of assets to Uisce Éireann
* Capital Account
* Local Authority Companies (Longford Pool & LEDCO)
* Development Contributions
* Governance

John also highlighted the **Financial Challenges** that face Longford County Council for the year ahead 2023-2024

* Local Income Generation – small vulnerable rural county
* Loss of rates including Lough Ree power plant and revaluation of utilities
* Discretionary Expenditure – very little expenditure could be classified as discretionary
* Funding Gaps, particularly in relation to the refurbishment of voids and stranded costs associated with the transfer of water services
* Increase in new initiatives being rolled out to LAs
* Staff & Payroll
* Matched funding

The members unanimously thanked john for his excellent presentation and posed questions around the following: Longford Pool profit, Alleged fraud case, Housing Voids, Staff costs, transfer of assets to Uisce Éireann, Development Contributions, Profit from Digital Hubs and threats for underfunded projects.

John Mc Keon and John Brannigan answered all questions raised by the members.

Following on from the presentation, on the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern the members unanimously agreed that Longford County Council would write to Uisce Éireann and request a monthly update to be provided to the members on transfer/works etc.

The members unanimously paid compliment to John Brannigan and the housing team for all the great work on bring housing voids back into stock. Works to date the number have voids has reduced from 140 to 29 and this is anticipated to reach 20 by the end of the year. These properties have all been renovated to a very high standard obtaining a B2 rating or higher. They agreed that the funding gap needs to be addressed by the Department.

1. **HOUSING, PLANNING, REGENERATION AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**
2. **To note Planning Applications received since last meeting of the Council**

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

1. **Presentation on County Development Plan**

Louise Kiernan provided the members with a presentation on the progress of the County Development Plan and answered any questions raised by the members including

* Increase in population and impact on County Development Plan (CDP)
* Zoned land and the Zoned Land Tax
* The need to review the current objectives.
* The impact on the Local Area Plan for Longford town
* The possible requirement for a variation to the CDP
* Commencement of the process for the next CDP in 2024.

1. **Consideration of disposal of Property at Aughaloughlan, Lanesborough, Co Longford, in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 31 May 2023 – as circulated.**

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, the members unanimously agreed to dispose of the property at Aughaloughlan, Lanesborough, Co Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as issued on the 1 June 2023.

1. **COMMUNITY, LIBRARY AND CULTURAL SERVICES, CORPORATE AND HUMAN RESOURCES**
2. **Approval to the appointment of Ms Rosalind Greene, nominee of County Longford Public Participation Network, to replace Ms. Grace Kearney as a member of Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi the appointment of Ms Rosalind Greene to the Longford Local Community Development Committee was approved.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. The correspondence received on 23 June 2023 from Minister for Health re. Home Help support, was noted.
3. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

The Members wished to extend their sympathies to the family of Mrs Helen Martin, retired employee who passed away last week. Helen worked in the Library Service in both Edgeworthstown & Granard. May she rest in peace

The Members extended their sympathies to Terry Rooney (Housing) on the passing of his mother Bridie Rooney who died yesterday. May she rest in peace.

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

**Claire McNabola**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 13 September 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach**