

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

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

**Wednesday, 14 June 2023 at 4pm**

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**PRESIDING**: Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, 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, Gerry Warnock, Colm Murray and Paraic Brady

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

Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services

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

**APOLOGIES:** None

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Gerard Dennigan

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
2. On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 10 May 2023, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
3. On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, the Minutes of Committee Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 27 April 2023, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
4. On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, the Minutes of Committee Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 28 April 2023, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

Councillor Seamus Butler declared in interest in his motion in relation to the County Development Plan.

1. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Noted.

Councillor Peggy Nolan requested correspondence be issued to the Minister supporting Fire Services employees in their industrial action and asking him to review the Government’s report on the future of the service and address the recommendations in the report. While acknowledging that this is a national issue, the members unanimously agreed to support Councillor Nolan’s request to support the Fire Services.

The members unanimously acknowledged the success of the recent Microsoft Dream Space Showcase event and complimented everyone involved.

The members unanimously wished Donall Mac An Bheatha best wishes in his retirement and acknowledged his support and assistance over the years. The members also wished Rita Connaughton best wishes in her new acting post as Acting Senior Planner.

1. **MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 11 APRIL 2023 – AS CIRCULATED**

The adopted Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 11 April 2023, as circulated, were noted.

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. **Consideration of disposal of Property – Ground plot at Church View, Lanesborough, Co Longford, in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 9 May 2023 – as circulated.**

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O’Toole, seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill, the members unanimously agreed to dispose of the property - Ground plot at Church View, Lanesborough, Co Longford in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 9 May 2023.

1. **Notice of Motions, submitted by Councillors, as listed hereunder**

**Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock**

Noting that the 2022 census is now over a year past, I am proposing that LCC commence the review of the County Development Plan. Special consideration should be given to all categories that are affected by the 14.1% increase in population and the pressing need to provide extensive affordable housing. The revenue should also address all other facilities affected by the biggest national population increase in Co Longford, including health, education, water & sewerage, transport and especially the N4 upgrade. Special consideration should be given to allowing temporary sewage treatment solutions, as they are in other counties in conjunction with Uisce Eireann, in Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon where the currently sewage treatment plants are at full capacity.

**Response**

The CPD has statutory timeframes prescribed by the Act which we are bound by, but the 2-year review of the current plan is coming up in November, so we will be assessing whether or not the objectives have been met so far and this will then feed into the review which will begin 2 years before the end of the current plan. The review will also include all other facilities that you have specified including health, education, water & sewerage, transport and especially the N4 upgrade and Special consideration can also be given to allowing temporary sewage treatment solutions, as in conjunction with Uisce Eireann, in Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon.

1. **COMMUNITY, LIBRARY AND CULTURAL SERVICES, CORPORATE AND HUMAN RESOURCES**
2. **Notice of Motions, submitted by Councillors, as listed hereunder**

**Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Gerry Warnock and Mark Casey and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan**We are calling on Longford County Council to provide a live streaming and play back option of all statutory public meetings (including monthly meetings of LCC and the various MDs). The people we represent need to have more access to observe what is happening at these meetings and to exercise their right to transparent and open local government. We understand that the technology currently in situ is compatible to making this happen and we hope that this can be expediated in as short a timeframe as possible.

**Response**

Longford County Council currently facilitates attendance, in person or on Microsoft Teams, by members of the public at Council and Municipal District Meetings. While this opportunity is publicised on the Council’s social media, the uptake to date has been very small.

However, if agreed by the Elected Members, this proposal will be considered by the Protocol and Procedures Committee at their next meeting. They will review any legal and Data Protection implications, logistics and costs associated with the proposal and revert to the full Council with their recommendation. They will also consider any changes required to the Council’s Standing Orders arising from their recommendation.

**Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Garry Warnock and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan**

I am calling on Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Local Government and ask him to consider the reinstatement of Town Councils for towns with a population over 10k people. The last nine years has shown that despite the very best efforts of the Elected Members, the current model is not working for towns such as Longford, and we are falling behind due to the lack of focus and ambition required to positively impact on the development of our county town. Currently, Longford County Council doesn't have that primary ambition, so the only hope we have in reestablishing pride, confidence and prosperity in Longford Town is to reinstate a local authority where that objective is the sole ambition

**Response**It was agreed that Longford County Council will write to the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage.

1. **Annual General Meetings**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh the date for the Longford County Council AGM was agreed to take place on the 29th June 2023.

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole the date for the Ballymahon MD AGM was agreed to take place on the 22nd June 2023.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern and seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady the date for the Granard MD AGM was agreed to take place on the 27th June 2023.

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Warnock and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the date for the Longford MD AGM was agreed to take place on the 28th June 2023.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

The members noted the recently Passing of Aidan O’Hara, R.I.P

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

**Gerard Dennigan**

**A/Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 12 July 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach**