

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

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

**Wednesday, 8 November 2023 at 3.30pm**

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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, Mark Casey, PJ Reilly, Gerry Warnock and Turlough McGovern

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

Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services

Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services

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

**APOLOGIES:** None

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms. Claire McNabola

**PRESENTATION FROM WATERWAYS IRELAND**

Brian Treacy – Western Regional Manager & Patrick Harkin – Inspector of Navigation presented to the Members.

Brian Treacy gave the members an update on the Shannon Tourism Masterplan and developments in recent times throughout Co Longford such as:

* Red Bridge Jetty
* Royal Canal Greenway
* Shannon and Shannon Erne Waterway’s Discovery Points
* Visit and Tourism Plan for Richmond Harbour, Cloondara & Tarmonbarry

Patrick Harkin informed the members of the proposed revisions of Bye Laws for Canals and Shannon Navigation. He sought feedback from Longford County Council on the the proposed Bye Laws revision and asked the Members to identify any issues from a Longford County Council perspective.

Patrick provided the members with a background to the current legislation and the Bye Law process and where the consultation process is currently at.

Patrick highlighted the key Bye Laws Revisions

**Shannon:**

* Revised Mooring Periods - introduce 3 day rule in some locations
* Abolish Winter Mooring
* Abolish Lock Passage Fee – hasn’t been collected since Covid
* Fixed Payment Notice
* Annual Registration - to match Canal Fee
* Insurance - Standard across all ROI Waterways

**Canal**

* Permits
* Legalising and managing the live-aboard communities on the canals
* Boat Standards (including holding tanks) & House Boat Standards
* Survey requirements & Insurance of Boats
* 5 Day rule for Shannon Harbour & Richmond Harbour
* 20 Day rule for Spencer and Grand Canal Docks
* Inclusion of environmental legislation, Maritime Safety legislation
* Manage Other User Types (greenway, fishing, events)

Patrick also gave the Members an overview of the Canal Zones & Themes of the Plan

* Black Zone – Urban Serviced Houseboats Communities
* Green Zone – Recreational Activity
* Red Zone – Houseboat Communities & Recreational Activity
* Blue Zone – Navigation, Recreation & Houseboats

The members were then informed of the Next Steps involved in the Consultation process.

Brian and Patrick answered any questions raised by the Members, including

* Winter mooring
* Insurance requirements for vessels
* Revised mooring rules
* Extension to the jetty at Red Bridge and provision of slipway
* Dry dock at Richmond Harbour
* Facilities for camper vans
* Navigation in the River Inny and responsibility for maintaining the riverbank beyond Red Bridge
* Engagement with the Royal Canal Amenity Group on the provision of facilities between Stonepark and Killashee

Brian and Patrick confirmed that Waterways Ireland

* Are preparing a strategy regarding the provision of facilities for camper vans and will engage with Longford County Council as part of the consultation phase.
* Currently looking at improving dry docks.
* Recommend all vessels and boats should be insured and boats greater that 30hb must be registered with WI and require insurance to be in place.
* Are not responsible for the maintenance of the riverbank beyond the Red Bridge on the River Inny.
* Will engage with Inland Fisheries and Longford County Council on providing additional facilities at Red Bridge during 2024.
* Meet regularly with the Royal Canal Amenity Group.

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
2. On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 11 October 2023, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

1. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

The Chief Executive Report for October 2023 was noted.

Councillor John Browne sought clarification around the position of Old Age Pensioners and the Rent Review. John Brannigan confirmed that there would be no increase in rent for old age pensioners.

Councillor Garry Murtagh congratulated all involved in the recent success of the Health & Safety Awards and the Libraries for the recent successful events they hosted, including the Padraic Colum Gathering.

Councillor Paul Ross, together with Councillor Seamus Butler congratulated all involved in the successful “Dead of Night Festival” which attracted over 10,000 people to Longford town, every event across the County was a fantastic experience for all.

Councillor Peggy Nolan raised her concern once again at the failure by the HSE to meet with the Members of Longford County Council. Councillor Colm Murray responded by saying he has personally approached the HSE to request a meeting and is awaiting confirmation of a date from the HSE.

Councillor Colm Murray thanked all involved in the Dead of Night Festival, it was a huge success and something Longford should be very proud of. Councillor Murray also congratulated all involved in the other events hosted recently by Longford County Council, all of which were extremely successful and showcased the County.

1. **MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 12 SEPTEMBER 2023 – AS CIRCULATED**

The adopted Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 12 September 2023, as circulated, were noted.

1. **FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
2. **Minutes of Governance Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 17 July 2023 – as circulated**

The adopted Minutes of the Governance Strategic Policy Committee held on 17 July 2023, 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. **Minutes of Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 19 July 2023 – as circulated**

The adopted Minutes of the Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 19 July 2023, were noted.

1. **Consideration of disposal of Property at 5 St Patrick’s Terrace, Longford Town, Co Longford, in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 20 October 2023 – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor John Browne the disposal of property at 5 St. Patrick’s Terrace, Longford Town, Co Longford was approved.

1. **Consideration of disposal of Property at 45 Teffia Park, Longford Town, Co Longford, in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 20 October 2023 – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi the disposal of property at 45 Teffia Park, Longford Town, Co Longford was approved.

1. **Consideration of Part VIII No. 110 - Solar Powered Lights at Granard Urban Greenway - Report 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) – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Colm Murray, the members unanimously agreed to approve the Part VIII application 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).

1. **Consideration of Part VIII No. 111 - New carpark & safety barriers along the Drumlish to Arvagh Regional Road (R198). Landscaping works around the new amphitheater in Moyne - Report 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) – as circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, the members unanimously agreed to approve the Part VIII application 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).

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

**Notice of Motion proposed by Councillors Colm Murray and seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole**

I call on Longford County Council to initiate a process that will see a town/village plan developed, in conjunction with the local Community, for each village, town and settlement in the County as identified in the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027. The plans should be in line with the County Development Plan and encompass elements such as active travel, green spaces, better use of derelict sites and any other important developments (business, recreational or accommodation) as identified by the Community, Longford County Council and the local Representatives.

**Response**

Longford County Council appointed the Town Regeneration Officer earlier this year who is currently preparing the Longford Town Centre First Plan. A new call for the next Town Centre First Plan will be issued early in the new year. The Regeneration Department has worked with communities across the county over the last number of years in the development of local action plans for a number of towns and the development of projects and will continue to work with and support the local communities to enhance their towns and villages.

1. **INFRASTRUCTURE, CLIMATE ACTION & INNOVATION**
2. **To note adopted Minutes of meeting of Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee held on the 10 July 2023 – as circulated**

The adopted Minutes of the Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee held on 10 July 2023, were noted.

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

**Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton**

I call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine to revert to the previous system of CAP farm payments in which the first ANC payment was made in September. The new delayed payment scheme has put undue stress on both farmers and traders alike and has caused serious cashflow issues for the industry.

**Response**

It was agreed that Longford County Council would write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in this regard.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. The correspondence received from the Ireland East Hospital Group re. updates on matters relating to St. Joseph’s Care Centre, was noted.
3. The correspondence received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine re. Beef Finisher Payment was noted.
4. The correspondence received from the Department of Education re. School Transport Scheme, was noted.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

None

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

**Claire McNabola**

**Meetings Administrator**

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

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

**Cathaoirleach**