**BALLYMAHON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District held in Ballymahon Library on Thursday 25 May 2023 at 4pm**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Paul Ross

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Pat O’Toole, Mark Casey

Mick Cahill, Colm Murray and Gerard Farrell

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  Ms. Samantha Healy. Director of Services

Ms. Claire McDermott, Administrative Officer

Mr. Brian Mc Neela, A/Senior Executive Engineer

**APOLOGIES:**

**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**: Mr. Gerard Dennigan

**JOSEPHINE FARRELL R.I.P.**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paul Ross proposed and the members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting for five minutes and a minute’s silence in advance of the recommencement of the meeting as a mark of respect for the late Josephine Farrell, mother of Councillor Gerard Farrell.

The members extended their sympathies to Josephine’s family and friends.

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
2. On the proposal of Councillor Pat O’Toole seconded by Councillor Colm Murray, the Minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District meeting held on the 23 May 2023, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.
3. On the proposal of Councillor Pat O’Toole seconded by Councillor Colm Murray, the Minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District Committee Meeting held on the 23 May 2023, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

1. **MANAGEMENT REPORT - as circulated**

The members noted the Management report.

1. **COMMUNITY GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME 2023 APPLICATIONS**

Claire McDermott briefed the members on the 2023 Community Grant Support Scheme.

It was recognised at the meeting that several new groups submitted applications. The members complimented the Community Groups on their interest in this scheme and thanked them for the voluntary work they undertake. The grants will be of significant benefit to their communities.

Conflict of interest was noted for Councillor Pat O’Toole, Councillor Mark Casey, Councillor Paul Ross and Councillor Colm Murray

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O’Toole and seconded by Councillor Colm Murray the members unanimously agreed and approved the Community Grant Support Scheme for 2023.

1. **BRIEFING ON THE N55 ATHLONE TO BALLYMAHON PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR**

Donal O’Donoghue from the Westmeath National Roads Office provided a comprehensive and detailed presentation to the Ballymahon MD members on the N55 Athlone to Ballymahon Preferred Route Corridor

The presentation included:

* N55 Athlone to Ballymahon Project team
* Agenda
* Introduction
* Scheme Overview
* Need for Scheme
* Scheme Developments to Date
* National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI)
* Notable Constraints & Considerations
* Re-cap on Phase 2 stage delivery phases
* Summary of OSR: Process
* Results of the 3rd Public Consultation
* Preferred corridor route
* What happened next

On conclusion of the presentation, the members discussed the presentation. Dónal responded to questions raised by the members.

The members thanked Dónal for his briefing.

1. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLORS**

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill**

That Longford Co Council look at the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing at St Mary’s Church, Edgeworthstown on the N55.

**Response**

The provision of a pedestrian crossing on the N55 will be subject to the approval and funding of the TII and as such must comply with their standards and procedures.

It should be noted that a pedestrian crossing will require the removal of parking for a minimum of 8m on the approach to the crossing, as such a crossing point at the Church would eliminate a number of parking spaces.

With regard to this issue the road design section can progress this with the TII in due course subject to availability of resources.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Colm Murray**

That the footpath in Ardagh Village from the village centre down to the convent gate be resurfaced in the interest of public safety.

**Response**

Longford County Council will carry out an assessment and prepare a budget estimate to resurface the footpaths in question. Funding streams for this work will need to be identified to progress this project.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Colm Murray and seconded by Councillor Paul Ross**

That Longford Co Council seek funding to install a dedicated off-road mountain bike trail in Newcastle Forest to cater for this fast-growing sport.

**Response**

Longford County Council will carry out an assessment and prepare a budget estimate to resurface the footpaths in question. Funding streams for this work will need to be identified to progress this project.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell and seconded by Councillor Colm Murray**

That Longford County Council and Ballymahon MD support a new twinning committee in Lanesboro.

**Response**

The Council’s Twinning Policy was adopted by the Elected Members on 14 December 2022.  A copy of this policy is available from the Corporate Section in Longford County Council and will assist any group or committee considering entering into a twinning arrangement.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell and seconded by Councillor Mark Casey**

That Longford County Council appoint a tourism activator for the county to accelerate funding for tourism and business development in the county

**Response**

There is a proposal from Failte Ireland under the new EU Just Transition Fund that a tourism activator be employed in each of the impacted counties in the Just Transition region to include Longford. The role will primarily involve working with individuals, businesses and community groups in the identification and progression of tourism projects that might fall eligible for Just Transition Funding

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Pat O’Toole and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill**

I call on Longford County Council to carry out an assessment at the Junction of the R392 and the L52122 at Forgney with a view to improving the sight lines in the interests of public safety. The improvement works may require a low-cost safety scheme to be carried out.

**Response**

Longford County Council will arrange for additional signage to be installed at this location.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Mick Cahill and seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole**

That Longford County Council have High impact signs installed on the N55 coming down the hill from Carrickboy towards Carrickedmond crossroads indicating no overtaking on this section, in the interests of road safety. That LCC seek funding to carry out safety measures at this junction to make it safer for road users.

**Response**

Longford County Council will review the issues at this location and will discuss the location with the relevant TII inspectors. Improvements at this location will be subject to support and funding of the TII.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**Gerard Dennigan**

**A/Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 27 July 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach**