

**GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in Granard Library**

**on Tuesday, 25 July 2023 at 3.30pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Turlough McGovern

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Paraic Brady, Garry Murtagh, PJ Reilly and

Colin Dalton

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

 Ms. Linda Higgins, Administrative Officer

 Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer

**APOLOGIES** None

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms Claire McNabola

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated**
2. On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady seconded by Garry Murtagh, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 23 May 2023, as circulated.
3. On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady seconded by Garry Murtagh, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting held on the 23 May 2023, as circulated.
4. On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady seconded by Garry Murtagh, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on the 27 June 2023, as circulated.
5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Linda Higgins advised the members that Crann Iur were unable to draw down allocated funding of €1,750. The Elected Members agreed to decommit these allocations.

The members were also advised that Killoe Ladies GFA have been allocated funding by Longford Municipal District.

The new balances of funds available under the GMA 2023 are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Voluntary Bodies  | €750 |
| Tidy Towns  | €1,689 |
| Town Twinning  | €1,500 |

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

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

Barbara Heslin highlighted the following from the Management Report and responded to the queries raised by the Elected Members:

* Longford Tourism
* Recent & Upcoming Events
* Housing Update
* Derelict Sites & Croi Cronaithe Grants Scheme

David Coppinger detailed the Area Engineer’s Progress Report and responded to the queries raised by the Elected Members –

* General Roadworks
* Local Improvement Schemes
* Granard Town Works
* Wall at rear of Garda Station in Granard
* Barrack Lane Carpark

David Coppinger wished Joe Gorman every success is his new role in the Mid Longford Area and thank him for his valuable contribution and dedication to the Granard Area.

The members unanimously acknowledged the work to date completed in the Granard MD and expressed their thanks to David and his team and jointly wished Joe Gorman every success in his future career in Mid Longford.

Councillor PJ Reilly sought an update on the Barrack Lane Car Park.

Councillor Paraic Brady queried if the contribution of €1,000 towards ISL for the Granard Booktown Festival was paid. Barbara confirmed that it was processed for payment in April.

Councillor Colin Dalton sked for an update in relation to repair works on Cairn Hill walkway. Barbara confirmed that the Regeneration team had previously committed to these works to be carried out. She also suggested that additional funding for maintenance on walkways be considered as part of the 2024 estimates process. In relation to an update on signage at Doherty’s Cross, David confirmed that this will be included in LCS later in the year.

Councillor Turlough McGovern asked for an update in relation to Council owned derelict buildings in Granard. Barbara confirmed that she will ask John Brannigan to contact Turlough in relation to this.

1. **CONSIDERATION OF TAKING IN CHARGE OF BARRACK LANE**

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern and seconded Councillor PJ Reilly it was unanimously agreed that Barrack Lane would be taken in charge by Longford County Council

1. **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM GRANARD TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION TO HOLD AN OFFICIAL WELCOME FOR FRENCH VISITORS ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern and seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly it was agreed to host the Official Welcome on 26th September, following the Granard Municipal District meeting.

1. **CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING REQUEST FROM COUNTY LONGFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY – PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE PRIVATE PATRICK KELLY**

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern and seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly it was agreed to fund the request to the value of €2,000.00. The funding is conditional on Longford Historical Society complying with the terms and conditions of the Community Support Grant Scheme and the Council’s adopted policy on Commemorative Plaques and Monuments. The Society will be advised to contact the Planning Office in relation to planning requirements and Section 254 license.

Payment will be conditional on submission of the relevant supporting documentation, invoices, receipts and evaluation report.

In relation to the GMA allocations, the Elected Members unanimously agreed to transfer funding of €1,250 from sub-service Tidy Towns to sub-service Voluntary Bodies.

1. **GRANARD MD SPECIAL PROJECTS/DISCRETIONARY FUND 2023**

Linda Higgins updated the members on the balances remaining and funds spent as of 25 July 2023:

**Councillor Colin Dalton**

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly, it was unanimously agreed that

* €250.00 be allocated to Lisryan Development Group.
* €500.00 be allocated to Ballinalee First Responders
* €400.00 be allocated to Sean Connolly’s Minor Club
* €400.00 be allocated to Sean Connolly’s Ladies Football Club

**Councillor PJ Reilly**

On the proposal of Councillor PJ Reilly seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern, it was unanimously agreed that

* €500.00 be allocated to Lisryan Development Group.

**Councillor Turlough McGovern**

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady, it was unanimously agreed that

* €500.00 be allocated to Lisryan Development Group.

**Councillor Garry Murtagh**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Paraic, it was unanimously agreed that

* €500.00 be allocated to Colmcille Area Development Group.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Budget** | **Grant approvals** | **Funds Remaining** |
| **Cllr P Brady** | €5,000  | €2,000 | €3,000 |
| **Cllr C Dalton** | €5,000 | €3,550 | €1,450 |
| **Cllr G Murtagh** | €5,000 | €5,000 | €0 |
| **Cllr PJ Reilly** | €5,000 | €3,000 | €2,000 |
| **Cllr T McGovern** | €5,000 | €4,000 | €1,000 |

The Elected Members agreed that the remaining balances be allocated at the September meeting for the Municipal District. Proposals to be submitted to Linda in advance.

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

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly**

1. I call on Longford County Council to write to the Minister of Justice to appoint a Superintendent to Granard Garda Station, as Granard Station has been downgraded and all calls are dispatched to Galway.

**Response**

Longford County Council will write the Minister of Justice outlining the concerns for the Granard Municipal District Members.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh**

1. I call on Longford County Council to increase Litter Fines to double the current rate for reoffending cases as littering is becoming a huge issue

**Response**

Longford County Council takes all instances of littering very seriously. The Council employs three dedicated Litter Wardens, a Community Warden, a Dog Warden, and a Waste Enforcement Team, who have responsibility for enforcing the Litter and Waste Legislation. All instances of litter are recorded on the Council’s Pollution Complaints System and appropriate action is taken in each case. In line with Council Policy where is it possible to identify an offender(s) a litter fine(s) issues. Unfortunately, in many instances there is not identifiable evidence left with the litter and therefore it is not possible to issue a fine.

The rate of litter fines is set in legislation at national level and therefore can only be changed through a new statutory instrument.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh**

1. I call on Longford County Council provide an update in relation to the Pedestrian Crossing in the village of Drumlish

**Response**

This matter was raised at the November 2022 meeting of Granard MD and at that time it was proposed that the matter be referred to Road Design Section to look at Pedestrian Crossings and traffic calming in the village as a whole. Road Design have already started examining the various requirements in Drumlish and are conducting traffic and site surveys at present. They will then be able identifying options for what measures that might be feasible. When they make some specific proposals for crossings and traffic calming, these may require Public Consultation or Part 8 planning depending on their extent. And then of course there will be the difficult step of getting funding. Therefore, it is not possible to give a specific timeline for this work at this stage.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor PJ Reilly and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern**

I call on Longford County Council to consider the taking in charge of Ranaghan Lane, Abbeylara, Co. Longford

**Response**

Granard MD Area staff will commence the Taking In Charge process as soon as possible.

**Votes of Sympathy**

The members sympathised with the families of the late Helen Martin – RIP. Helen was former employee in Granard & Edgeworthstown Library.

A minute silence was held as a mark of respect for Helen. May she Rest in Peace.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

 **Claire McNabola**

 **Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 26 September 2023.**

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

 **Cathaoirleach.**