

**GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

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

**on Tuesday, 24 January 2023 at 3.30pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Colin Dalton

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

Turlough McGovern

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

Ms. Linda Higgins, Administrative Officer

Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer

**APOLOGIES** Councillor PJ Reilly

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms Claire McNabola

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated**

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 22 November 2022.

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 25 October 2022.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting held on the 25 October 2022.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None

**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 –

* Social Housing
* Housing Capital Programme 2022
* Streetscape Scheme 2022
* Longford Tourism
* Community Support Fund
* Regeneration projects in the Granard Municipal District area

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

* Roadworks
* Local Improvement Schemes
* Community Involvement Scheme.
* Drainage
* Climate Action Funding
* Car Park behind Granard Garda Station

David and Barbara replied to queries raised on the following issues –

* Signage and markings at named junctions
* Railings on Market Street, Granard
* RRDF funding for Destination Granard
* Provision of charging points in new car park

The Elected Members raised serious concerns about Minister Ryan’s comments in Athlone last Friday that the N4 is not a priority for Government. They asked that the Minister be invited to Longford and pressure to be brought to have the preferred route selected.

The Members welcomed the recent announcement of funding for projects in the Granard Municipal District and the commencement of works in Ennybegs.

Councillor Dalton asked that advertisements be placed in the local media and on social media highlighting the responsibility of landowners for hedge cutting and reminding them of the deadline for completion of the works.

The Members congratulated and sent best wishes to

* Joshua Osabuehien and Solomon Eduard from Cnoc Mhuire Secondary School who made history by winning the debut edition of the Junk Kouture World Final and being crowned the first-ever World Sustainable Designer of the Year.
* Longford GAA team on winning the O’Bryne Cup.
* Thomas Hynes, the Operation Transformation leader from Granard who is highlighting the importance of physical and mental wellbeing.
* Brid Shaughnessy is a contestant on the new season of TG4’s Country & Irish music series, Glór Tíre

**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORT FOR INCLUSION IN LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL 2022 ANNUAL REPORT – circulated.**

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady, seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Municipal District Report for inclusion in the Longford County Council 2022 Annual Report.

**NOMINATION FOR CATHAOIRLEACH AWARDS**

There are many groups, organisations and individuals who achieve significant success at county or national level through their achievements in sporting, cultural, academic, scientific, political, creative, innovation, or other areas. They bring honour and pride to their native county and in such instances the Council will recognise their achievement at the Cathaoirleach’s Annual Awards Ceremony.

In accordance with the adopted Civic Protocols, the Elected Members agreed to hold an In Committee meeting in February to consider the nomination from the Cathaoirleach of Granard Municipal for the 2022 Cathaoirleach awards. The nomination will then be sent to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration. The meeting will be arranged on the same day as the meetings to consider the Roads Programme for 2023.

**PROPOSED CIVIC RECOGNITION EVENT FOR BALLYMORE LADIES**

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was unanimously to recognise the Ballymore Ladies GAA Team. The team had a memorable win over Wexford opponents Kilmore in the COVID-19 delayed 2020 Leinster Junior Club Championship Final at O’Moore Park in Portlaoise in June 2021. The team will be recognised at a Civic Recognition event in February.

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

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton**

I am on calling on Longford County Council to include the road from Aughnacliffe to Aughadowry, and Aughadowry to Esker cross in the Winter Maintenance Service Plan.

**Response:**

Senior Executive Engineer, David Coppinger confirmed that, as outlined at the Council meeting in January, the road from Aughnacliffe to Esker Cross will be added to the schedule of Priority 2 roads for the Winter Maintenance Season, Oct 2023 to April 2024.

Longford County Council do not currently have sufficient resources to add this route for the remainder of the 2022 to 2023 Winter Maintenance programme.

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

I am calling on Longford County Council Roads section to implement road markings at Smear Junction and Smear Stores, and road markings at Fr. McGee Park.

**Response:**

David Coppinger confirmed that the Roads section checked the road width at Smear Stores and this road is too narrow for a centreline. There is existing edge of road markings in place here. Chapter 7 of the Traffic Signs Manual covers markings, and it advises that it on roads less than 5.5m wide centrelines should be omitted as drivers might expect a road marked with a centreline to be wide enough for opposing lines of traffic to pass when in fact, they may not be able to do so.

Longford County Council will examine the road at Fr McGee Park (Colmcille GAA grounds) and assess what might be needed and will prioritise the works based on the budget.

**On behalf of Councillor PJ Reilly the following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Turlough McGovern and seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady**

In accordance with the Standing Orders, the motion was proposed by Councillor McGovern motion in the absence of Councillor Reilly as he was authorised in writing to do so.

I wish to put a motion to the meeting for Longford County Council to write to Permanent TSB to consider opening a branch in Granard town. Granard has been left with no banking service since the closure of Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank.

**Response:**

The members unanimously agreed to write to Permanent TSB to ask them to consider opening a branch in Granard town.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Turlough McGovern and seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady**

I call on Longford County Council to consider installing a mini roundabout and other safety measures to improve safety at the junction before Killasonna National School, Granard, grid ref (n3459877696) as there is increased volumes of traffic (more pupils attending this school) on these roads and there is an accident waiting to happen.

**Response:**

This location would not be suitable for a roundabout as it is located on a Local Road with an 80kph speed limit in a very rural setting. The existing junction layout has been in place for quite some time, but the existing road markings are relatively new. The signage is relatively new also and in recent years we installed driver feedback signs on the approaches to the school.

**Sympathy**

The members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Brennan Family on the recent death of former Councillor Michael Brennan (RIP)

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**Claire McNabola**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the**

**24 March 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach.**