

**GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

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

**on Tuesday, 26 September 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

Mr. Ciaran Murphy, Senior Executive Officer

Ms. Maria Hall – Hub Planning (Part)

**APOLOGIES** Mr. David Barden, Administrative Officer – Community

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms Claire McNabola

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated**
2. On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady seconded by Councillor PJ Reily, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 25 July 2023, as circulated.
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

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
* Arts Strategy
* Regeneration Projects

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

* General Roadworks - €234k additional funds received
* Local Improvement Schemes
* Granard Town Works
* Wall at rear of Garda Station in Granard
* Barrack Lane Carpark

The members discussed hedgerow maintenance. David Coppinger advised the members that farmers and landowners should be encouraged to maintain hedgerows, these are not the responsibility of Longford County Council.

In response to Councillor PJ Reilly, David provided an update in relation to LIS and CIS projects.

Councillor Colin Dalton expressed thanks to Longford County Council for providing funding for the completion of the sensory garden in Ballinalee. He confirmed that the local committee are to install the bench which was funded through CLÁR. He complemented the Granard Twinning Committee on the successful twinning events organised in Granard for the visitors from East Rouen. Colin also confirmed that there was delays in relation to the proposed project in Ballinallee (France Road) and that he was following up on any outstanding permissions from landowners.

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady, seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh the Members agreed that all future trips made by Longford County Council to countries like Holland to see Active Travel or other projects should include representatives from the Roads and Regeneration sections. To ensure a coordinated approach to projects they should be included in the delegation so that employees can see for themselves the potential projects that could be made possible by Longford County Council.

Councillor Paraic Brady welcomed the funding for shelters on walkways but expressed disappointment that only one was being installed in Granard MD.

Councillor Turlough McGovern paid tribute to all involved in the Battle of Ballinamuck 225th Commemoration Weekend, it was a huge success and a credit to all involved.

He continued to thank Minister Heather Humphries Minister for Rural and Community Development who visited County Longford on Friday, 8 September 2023. She carried out the Official Opening of Moyne Amphitheatre and launched the Moyne Community School 50th Anniversary celebrations. Then she travelled to Aughnacliffe for the Official Opening of Aughnacliffe Walkway. Next on the agenda was the Official Opening of the LEADER Funded Project at Longford Athletics Club St Mel’s College prior to going to Ballinamuck for the Battle of Ballinamuck 225th Commemoration. To round off her busy visit to our county, the Minister officially opened the Abbeylara Community Garden which was funded under the CLÁR Programme.

Councillor McGovern also thanked Longford County Council for funding the new twinning signs in Granard.

1. **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)**

Maria Hall updated the members in relation to progress on the stages of the LECP and presented the draft plan for consideration and approval. Maria outlined the rationale for the amendments to the High Level Goals and what the desired outcomes should look like and how they would be measured.

Maria outlined the next stages of the development of the LECP and answered any questions raised by the members. She confirmed that the Members will have a further opportunity to consider the final draft following review by EMRA.

Councillor Brady asked that supporting Social Enterprise and Just Transition be key elements within the plan. Maria confirmed that there was an increased focus on capacity building for communities and building on existing structures including in the PPN. Councillor Murtagh said that there was in increased dependency on Community Groups to deliver sustainable projects. Maria explained that one of the main challenges facing the LECP was lack of dedicated budget and that this was common to all Local Authorities. She stressed the need for strong engagement between the LCDC, SPC, agencies and Community Groups and that there was a strong appetite in Longford for collaboration and pooling resources.

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, the members agreed to approve the current draft and the a Statement of Consistency of the Draft Longford Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 - 2029 with the following:

1. The core strategy and the objectives of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027;
2. The Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019 - 2031;
3. The economic and community elements of the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan are consistent with each other.
4. **RECOMMENDATION FROM PLACE NAMING COMMITTEE - PLAQUE IN MEMORY OF GENERAL HUMBERT IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE, BALLINAMUCK**

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady, seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was agreed that a plaque would be erected in memory of General Humbert in the Garden of Remembrance, Ballinamuck.

1. **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLACE NAMING COMMITTEE – PLAQUE IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE PATRICK KELLY**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady it was agreed that a plaque would be erected in memory of Private Patrick Kelly.

1. **GRANARD MD SPECIAL PROJECTS/DISCRETIONARY GRANTS 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

* €500.00 be allocated to Scoil Samhthann NS Ballinalee
* €500.00 be allocated to Sean Connolly GFC
* €450.00 be allocated to Killoe GAA

**Councillor PJ Reilly**

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

* €1,200.00 be allocated to Abbeylara Tidy Towns
* €500.00 be allocated to Granard Tidy Towns
* €300.00 be allocated to Granard Christmas Lights

**Councillor Paraic Brady**

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

* €1,000.00 be allocated to Drumlish Ballinamuck Gun Club
* €2,000.00 be allocated to Drumlish Ballinamuck Area Development (DBAD) Ltd

**Councillor Turlough McGovern**

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

* €200.00 be allocated to Abbeylara Tidy Towns
* €200.00 be allocated to Granard Tidy Towns
* €200.00 be allocated to Mullinalaghta Development Group
* €200.00 be allocated to Ballywillan Area Action Group
* €200.00 be allocated to Abbeylara/Carra Parish Senior Citizens

Linda advised members that upon adoption of the minutes of the July Meeting of Granard MD the agreed allocation of funds from then would be paid out, similarly upon the adoption of the minutes of today’s meeting in November today’s agreed allocation will be paid out.

1. **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM GAELS UNITED FC IN RELATION TO DRUMLISH CHRISTMAS MARKET – AS CIRCULATED**

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh it was agreed to approve the request

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

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady**

1. I call on Longford County Council to erect a sign as Esker Cross and Mallon’s Cross with directions to Cairn Hill.

**Response**

Longford County Council will purchase these signs within the next week or so as funding has been made available through the Amenity Budget. The Council will erect the signs when the current Roads Programme is complete.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady**

1. I call on Longford County Council to look in to refreshing the wooden fence and wooden area in the playground in Ballinalee.

**Response**

Director of Services, Barbara Heslin confirmed that funding for this work was not available as the Council has provided substantial funding for the completion of works in the CLÁR funded sensory garden to ensure that the garden could be opened to the public. Councillor Colm Dalton confirmed that he will arrange for the work in the playground to be carried out by the Community Group in Ballinalee. They will also provide and install the bench in the sensory garden which was funded through CLÁR.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Colin Dalton and seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly**

1. It’s hedge cutting session again so we need to get it out there to land owners to cut their hedges and leave our road safer for all users.

**Response**

As noted in the Engineers report, the bi-annual advertisement was placed in last week Longford Leader and has been circulated via Social Media as well. David Coppinger confirmed that he will speak to the Senior Engineer in Roads regarding possible funding for hedge cutting to specifically address lands with multiple owners (examples were provided at the meeting).

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. The correspondence received from Minister for Justice re. policing in Longford, was noted.

**Votes of Sympathy**

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**Claire McNabola**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 28 November 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach.**