

**LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held in the Council Chamber Aras an Chontae and via MS Teams on Wednesday, 25 January 2023 at 3.30pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Gerry Hagan

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Martin Monaghan, Uruemu Adejinmi, John Browne, Seamus Butler, Peggy Nolan and Gerry Warnock

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

Mr. Eamonn Bennett, Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Lorraine Mc Kee, Administrative Officer

Mr. Brian Faughnan, Executive Engineer

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:**  Ms. Claire McNabola

**APOLOGIES:**  None

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated**

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District Committee Meeting held on the 23 November 2022.

1. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

1. **MANAGEMENT REPORT - circulated**

The Management Report, as circulated, was noted.

Director of Services John Brannigan responded to questions on the following:

* Litter Management Plan
* Works on St. Mels Road
* Pedestrian Lights Outage
* Traffic Congestion at St Michaels Boys National School
* Restoration and repair of Water Features

The members unanimously agreed that the Taxi rank should be moved back up to the square as soon as possible.

1. **Consideration and adoption of Draft Municipal District Report for inclusion in**

**Longford County Council 2022 Annual Report – enclosed.**

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Warnock, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Municipal District Report for inclusion in the Longford County Council 2022 Annual Report.

1. **Consideration of Part VIII No. 102 St. Rita’s –** **Demolition 1 No. existing single storey dwelling and the construction of 6 No. 1, 2 and 3-bedroom semi-detached single storey houses. It will also include boundary walls/fences, car parking, pedestrian entrances, landscaping, connection to existing services and associated site works at St. Rita’s Park, Park Road, Co. Longford – as circulated.**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Part VIII Number 102 - Demolition 1 No. existing single storey dwelling and the construction of 6 No. 1, 2 and 3-bedroom semi-detached single storey houses. It will also include boundary walls/fences, car parking, pedestrian entrances, landscaping, connection to existing services and associated site works at St. Rita’s Park, Park Road, Co. Longford, as per report circulated.

1. **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.

1. **Consideration of the formation of a Festival Committee within the Municipal District**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock it was unanimously agreed by members to form a Festival Committee for the Main Festivals which are organised and hosted within the Municipal District.

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

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi**

1. That Longford County Council will request TII to delist the N63 as a National Route from the N4 roundabout to the Ballyminion roundabout on the Athlone Road after all the current and pending works are finished on the Longford Town section. The new N63 would then be designated along the N4 and N5 and across Ballyminion. The previous Longford Town section would then convert to ‘R’ status. This, combined with the HGV prohibition signage, will be a generational change improvement for the betterment of Longford Town.

**Response**

Brian Faughnan responded to the motion by saying Longford County Council will consider requesting the reclassification of National Roads in Longford Town when all the proposed works on the National Roads have been completed.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan**

1. That a number of permanent all day taxi rank positions be put in place on Ballymahon Street. The number of spaces should be at least the equivalent of the number reduced on the Market Square by the new build out. Furthermore, they should be clearly marked and policed by both the Traffic Wardens and the Community Warden, as should control of double parking and illicit use of disabled and loading bay spaces generally. Illicit parking has become a chronic problem in Longford Town as it is currently believed that there is no control or penalties, excepting sporadic Garda interventions. The issuing of ticketing fines should not just be confined to unpaid parking.

**Response**

John Brannigan’s response was:

* Taxi drivers have not used the designated parking spaces at the Market Square since Urban Regeneration works began. They have been operating from the taxi rank on Ballymahon Street.
* If additional taxi parking spaces are required on Ballymahon Street then the Parking bye-laws will have to be amended. This will include a public consultation process~~.~~

Currently LCC have 2 full time Traffic Wardens employed for Parking Enforcement in Longford Town.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler**

1. I call on Longford County Council to remove the boulders and temporary fence along Great Water Street and clean up the rubbish trapped between the temporary and palisade fences to keep the area tidy.

**Response**

John confirmed to the members that the Environment Department would co-ordinate clean ups of this area on a regular basis for the moment as the temporary fences cannot be removed due to Health & Safety concerns.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler**

1. I call on Longford County Council to purchase Compact equipment that cleans and disinfects our open spaces and other areas which are not accessed by the road sweeper machine.

**Response**

John Brannigan response was that “ the matter will be investigated, subject to the availability of necessary resources. Litter in open spaces and areas which the road sweeping machine can’t access, are managed on an ongoing basis, through a combination of clean ups by Council Employees, the Probation Services and the Tidy Towns Committee.”

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Gerry Warnock and seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan**

I'm requesting that Longford Municipal District commence the Part 8 Process to provide for the development of soccer facilities including an eleven-a-side pitch (to cater for Senior & Youth Football to specifications in accordance with FAI Guidelines), changing rooms and dugouts on part of the former Longford Greyhound Stadium site.

**Response**

John Brannigan responding by saying “Prior to commencing a Part 8 planning process, a feasibility study would be required. Consideration would also need to be given to other uses for the space. Once the feasibility stage is completed, this will inform the design stage and subsequent Part 8. Funding streams for the feasibility stage, design stage and construction stage will need to be identified”

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Martina Monaghan and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan**

1. I call on the Roads department repair the potholes in the Abbeycarton Lane and repaint the current walkway as it is in poor condition and badly faded in places.

**Response**

John Branngan responded by saying “the potholes will be patched and repaint current pedestrian walkway will be carried out when the contractor is in later this year”

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Martina Monaghan and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler**

1. I call on Longford County Council to review the current Taxi Ranks in the town

**Response**

John Brannigan has issued a response to this earlier in the meeting.

It was agreed a Review of the Bylaws be given at the next meeting of Longford MD

It was also agreed a that a representative from the Environment Section would attend the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**Claire McNabola,**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 22 February 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach.**