

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

**held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on**

**Friday, 06 December 2024 at 4pm**

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**PRESIDING:** Councillor Mark Casey

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors Paul Ross, Paraic Brady, Niall Gannon, Garry Murtagh, Gerry Hagan, Padraig McNamara, Turlough McGovern, Martin Skelly, Seamus Butler, Uruemu Adejinmi,

Mick Cahill, Pat O’Toole, Sean Mimnagh, David Cassidy, Kevin Hussey, Martin Monaghan.

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive

Mr. John McKeon, Director of Service

Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services

Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

**APOLOGIES**: Ms. Barbara Heslin

Ms. Samantha Healy

Councillor Peggy Nolan

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
2. On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on 13 November 2024, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
3. On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of Longford County Council held on 25 November 2024, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
4. On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the Minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting of Longford County Council held on 2 December 2024, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None

1. **MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Noted.

The Members welcomed the Christmas Fair and remarked on how well it coincided with the turning on of the Christmas lights.

1. **TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER**

Noted

1. **FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
2. **Consideration under Section 183, of the Local Government Acts of a Lease to The Trustees of the Ardagh Clock Tower Committee, of Ardagh, Longford, of the property at the Clock Tower, Ardagh, Co. Longford having being acquired from the representatives of the Fetherstone Estate, Ardagh, Co. Longford.**

On the proposal of Councillor Mark Casey seconded by Councillor Paul Ross this lease was approved.

1. **HOUSING, PLANNING, REGENERATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS**
2. **To note planning applications received**

Noted

1. **COMMUNITY, LIBRARY AND CULTURAL SERVICES, CORPORATE AND HUMAN RESOURCES**
2. **Chief Executive Report on Implementation of the Corporate Plan (2019-2024)**

Chief Executive Paddy Mahon presented a report on the implementation of the Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024 which highlighted the following:

* Establishment of the New Council in June 2024.
* Successful Local Elections held in June 2024.
* Corporate Plan 2024 to 2029 adopted by the Elected members.
* Budget 2025 adopted.
* The audit of the 2023 AFS by the Local Government Auditor had no significant findings.
* Dreamspace Showcase.
* Longford Town Draft local Area Plan published.
* Implementation of the Art’s Strategy, Development of the Night Festival and Mid-Summer Festival.
* Securing funding under THRIVE for the redevelopment of Connolly Barracks.
* Longford Transport Plan has been completed.
* E-planning currently running at 80% online applications.
* A full programme of works was delivered in each MD including road improvement works, restoration maintenance works, supplementary maintenance works, drainage works, footpath repairs and LISs completed.
* The Just Transition Fund has allowed for the development of several tourism related project ideas, and once delivered should enhance our reputation as a tourism location.
* The ICOB grant was processed by the Rates team in 2024, issuing grants to Longford rate payers. The Power Up grants are currently being processed.
* Recertification to ISO 45001:2018 in 2024 following a two-day audit completed by the NSAI.
* Road Safety Improvement Works throughout the County.
* Adoption of the Climate Action Plan in February 2024.
* Longford County Council in conjunction with EasyGo, installed 20 high speed EV chargers in County Longford.
* Longford County Councils first electric vehicle acquired and used by the Dog Control Service.
* Continuous support to members of the Ukrainian Community through the offer a home scheme.
* Approval received for 25 affordable housing units in Longford town.

The members thanked the Chief Executive for his report and welcomed all the positive work being delivered in the County.

1. **INFRASTRUCTURE, CLIMATE ACTION & INNOVATION**

**Notice of Motions**

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan**

I call on Longford County Council to implement a text alert system whereby vehicles parked illegally in designated disabled parking bays can be reported and fined where the blue badge (Disabled Persons Parking Card) is not displayed. Signage to be erected at each parking bay throughout the county with the text alert number for people to report to Longford County Council. Photographic evidence to be provided to the Council along with registration of the vehicle in question.

**Response**:

The Chief Executive advised the Members that this text alert system will be explored.

1. **GENERAL**

**Notice of Motions**

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady**

I call on the Minister for Education to provide additional ASD units in secondary schools in the Longford catchment area as current demand is greater than the available places and this is causing great stress to families who are seeking places.

**Response:**

Longford County Council agreed to write to the Minister of Education in this regard.

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill**

I call on Bus Eireann to include a daily college bus route from Edgeworthstown to Athlone to assist students who wish to use public transport to college.

**Response**

Longford County Council agreed to write to Bus Eireann in this regard.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

None

1. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Cathaoirleach Mark Casey together with the Elected Members congratulated Senator Michael Carrigy and Councillor Kevin Boxer Moran on their success at the recent Dail Election.

The Members also thanked former TD Joe Flaherty for all his support over his term as TD for Longford/Westmeath.

The Members wished everyone the best of luck in the forthcoming Seanad Election.

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

**Lorraine McKee**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 15 January 2025.**

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

**Cathaoirleach**