

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

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

**Wednesday, 08 May 2024 at 4pm**

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**PRESIDING**: Councillor Colm Murray, Cathaoirleach

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – John Browne, Seamus Butler, Mick Cahill, Colin Dalton, Gerry Hagan, Paul Ross, Pat O’Toole, Garry Murtagh, Gerard Farrell, Uruemu Adejinmi, Martin Monaghan, Gerry Warnock, Paraic Brady, Peggy Nolan

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

Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

Mr. John McKeon, Head of Finance/Director of Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor PJ Reilly, Councillor Turlough McGovern, Councillor Mark Casey

Ms. Samantha Healy – Director of Services

Mr. Michael Nevin – A/Director of Services

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms. Claire McNabola

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Colm Murray proposed and the members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting for five minutes and a minute’s silence in advance of the recommencement of the meeting as a mark of respect for the late Sean Lynch, former Elected Member of Longford County Council.

Councillor Murray, Chief Executive Paddy Mahon, Elected Members from all parties extended their sympathies to Sean’s family and friends. They noted his character, courage and respect among his local community in Aughnacliffe.

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Warnock seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on 10 May 2024, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

1. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Councillor Paraic Brady requested that clarification be provided on a recent article published in the Longford Leader in relation to housing delivery. He asked that the Council’s record of housing delivery and addressing vacancy be outlined to address inaccuracies in the article. Director of Service John Brannigan clarified the current and update figures on Housing Delivery for the County.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None

1. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Noted - Cllr Seamus Butler noted that on page 18 of the report, there was in an inaccuracy in relation to the Derelict Register

1. **MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 19 March 2024– AS CIRCULATED**

Noted

1. **HOUSING, PLANNING, REGENERATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS**
2. Consideration of disposal of property at Deanscurragh, Longford, in accordance with the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 issued on the 28 February 2024 – as circulated.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the disposal was approved.

1. **COMMUNITY, LIBRARY AND CULTURAL SERVICES, CORPORATE AND HUMAN RESOURCES**
2. **National Famine Commemoration 2024**

Martina Needham provided the members with an update in relation to the preparations underway for the forthcoming Famine Commemoration Weekend.

Martina covered completed works and works yet to be done, volunteers, tickets, order of events etc.

The Members paid credit to Martina and her team for all the hard work hat has gone into this very prestigious event in Edgeworthstown.

1. **Polling Information Cards**

Barbara Heslin advised the Members that Polling Information Cards will issue to all categories of electors for the Local Election 2024 to be held on 7 June 2024.

Noted

1. **INFRASTRUCTURE, CLIMATE ACTION & INNOVATION**
2. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS SET OUT HEREUNDER**

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell, seconded by Councillor Colm Murray**

I call on Longford County Council to look at the possibility of erecting bus shelters in towns and villages for travellers using the very successful local link

**Response**

Longford County Council are liaising with NTA regarding the provision of Bus Stops and Bus Shelters.

1. **ENTERPRISE AND UKRAINIAN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**
2. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS SET OUT HEREUNDER**

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh and Councillor John Browne, unanimously seconded by all the Members**

We are calling on members of Longford to write to the Taoiseach Simon Harris & the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Peter Burke, to incentive businesses in small rural Villages such as shops, fuel stations, Pubs etc. supporting them into finically viable, sustainable, and sought-after business, by means of making them Tax exempt on a percentage of their annual turnover.

Thus, preserving the survival of small villages, the fabric of rural life and putting an end to ghost villages where vacant premises have been left to crumble or in more recent times turned into accommodation.

**Response**

It was unanimously agreed that Longford County Council would write to the Taoiseach Simon Harris and the Minster for Enterprise in this regard.

1. **FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
2. **Consideration of Annual Financial Statement for Year ended 31st December 2023.**

Head of Finance John McKeon gave the members a short presentation on the Annual Financial Statement for 2023.

John responded to any questions raised by the members.

1. **Consideration of Approval of Additional Expenditure under *S104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001.***

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock the additional expenditure under S104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 was approved.

1. **To note 2023 Audit Committee Annual Report**.

Noted – The Members together with the Executive thanked the Audit Committee Members of Jams Morgan (Chairperson) Mary Rose McNally, Brid Mimnagh, Luie McEntire and the late Louis Belton together with Fiona Baskett (Internal Auditor) for all their work over the past five years.

1. **GENERAL**
2. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS, SUBMITTED AS LISTED HEREUNDER**

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell, seconded by Councillor Paul Ross**

1. That Longford County council seek a meeting with ESB to set out a road map for future for the Lough Ree power site in Lanesboro.

**Response**

It was agreed that Longford County Council would write to the ESB in this regard and seek a meeting.

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell, seconded by Councillor Paul Ross**

1. That Longford County Council request a meeting with Bord Na Mona to discuss future plans for Mount Dillon workshop and office space in Lanesboro. This facility has great potential to become an apprenticeship college and must be kept within the Community.

**Response**

It was agreed that Longford County Council would write to the Born NaMona in this regard and seek a meeting.

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross & Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler**

1. We call on the HSE and the Minister for Health to put measures in place to ensure the future viability of St Christophers Services Longford

**Response**

It was agreed that Longford County Council would write to the HSE and the Minister for Health in this regard.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. Correspondence received from ESB
3. Correspondence received from Minister Darragh O’Brien
4. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

None

**OTHER MATTERS**

Cathaoirleach Councillor Colm Murray, Chief Executive Paddy Mahon together with all of the Elected Members paid tribute to outgoing Members Councillor PJ Reilly, Councillor John Browne and Councillor Gerry Warnock.

The Members were thanked for the hard work, dedication to the role and to their County. For been ambassadors for their Local Community and for representing the citizens with such professionalism and pride. They will be truly missed and they were wished every success in their future endeavours.

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

**Claire McNabola**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the XXXX 2024.**

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

**Cathaoirleach**