

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council**

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

**Wednesday, 09 October 2024 at 4pm**

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**PRESIDING:** Councillor Mark Casey

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors Paul Ross, Paraic Brady, Peggy Nolan, 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. John McKeon, Deputy Chief Executive

Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services

Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services

Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

**APOLOGIES**: Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive

**A/MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Mr. Gerard Dennigan

On the Proposal of Cathaoirleach Mark Casey and seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting for 15mins as a mark of respect to former LCC Cathaoirleach and Councillor Adie Farrell, former Longford/Westmeath TD Mary O’Rourke, Mary Burke, mother of current Longford/Westmeath TD Peter Burke and Teresa Caffrey, wife of Tim Caffrey, former County Manager of Longford County Council.

Nominated members from Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and Independent paid tribute and condolences to the deceased. The members expressed their sympathy to the families and acknowledged the contribution they made to Longford County Council and the constituents of County Longford. R.I.P.

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
2. On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council held on 11 September 2024, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None

1. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Councillor Peggy Nolan voiced her concerns at Longford County Council plans to carry out junction realignment and street improvement works at N63 Athlone road at Cartrongeeragh, Farneyhoogan, Ballyminion and Townspark, Longford. A number of members outlined observations and suggestions on behalf of businesses in the area. Director of Services Samantha Healy provided a response and outlined that the development of the road was a Longford MD issue. Samantha indicated that she would liaise with the Roads Design Team and ask them to provide an update at the Longford MD meeting.

John Brannigan provided an update in relation to works on the Battery Road.

Councillor Peggy Nolan raised concerns in relation to no Ophthalmology unit available in County Longford and constituents having to travel outside the county.Councillor Nolan proposed that Longford County Council write to Mr. Joe Ruane, Head of Primary Care Services, requesting his attendance at a Longford County Council meeting to provide an update to the members on these important issues.

Councillor Paul Ross noted the recent prosecution undertaken by Longford County Council under the Waste Management Act at a property in County Longford, commending all LCC staff involved in the process. Councillor Ross highlighted the positive efforts of the staff at Longford County Council in executing this initiative. The members unanimously recognised and acknowledged the work accomplished by all involved.

Councillor Peggy Nolan requested a presentation by the A/Arts Officer on plans for 2025.  Director of Services, Barbara Heslin explained that this can be included on the agenda for the first full meeting of the relevant SPC (Economic, Enterprise and Rural Development SPC).  This is likely to be arranged for January 2025.

1. **MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 10 JULY 2024 – AS CIRCULATED**

Noted

1. **Housing, Planning, Regeneration & Capital Projects**
2. Consideration of Section 183 – Disposal of 25 Main Street, Longford

On the Proposal of Councillor Paul Ross and Seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh the members agreed to defer this agenda item.

1. Consideration of Section 183 – Disposal of 21 Congress Terrace, Longford

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan, seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi the presented Section 183 for Section 183, disposal of 21 Congress Terrace, Longford was approved.

1. Consideration of Section 183 – Disposal of 12 Cnoc na Greine, Granard, Co. Longford

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern, seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh the presented Section 183 – Disposal of 12 Cnoc na Greine, Granard, Co. Longford was approved.

1. Draft Traveller Accommodation Plan 2025-2029

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross, seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the Draft Traveller Accommodation Plan 2025-2029 was approved.

1. Consideration of Part 8 – No.121 Playground upgrade, MacEoin Park, Longford

On the proposal of Councillor Pauls Ross, seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan the Part 8 No.121 Playground upgrade, MacEoin Park, Longford

was approved.

1. Notice of Motions set out hereunder:

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan**

That Longford County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O’Brien to review the Croi Conaithe Vacant Homes Grant Scheme and introduce phased payments to allow persons draw down the grant in a number of payments.

**Response**

Director of Services, John Brannigan outlined that Longford County Council would send correspondence to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O’Brien to review the Croi Conaithe Vacant Homes Grant Scheme.

With the exception of the Cathaoirleach, the members unanimously supported Councillor Ross's motion, expressing their endorsement for the scheme.

Cathaoirleach Mark Casey raised reservations regarding the Croi Conaithe scheme. He articulated concerns that the grant predominantly benefits individuals with multiple properties and those who are financially well-off, and he expressed his disagreement with the motion proposed by Councillor Ross.

1. **COMMUNITY, LIBRARY AND CULTURAL SERVICES, CORPORATE SERVICES**
2. Approval to the appointment of Councillors and Sectoral Representatives to the Strategic Policy Committees.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the members unanimously approved the appointment of the Councillors and Sectoral Representatives, as circulated, to the relevant Strategic Policy Committees.  It was noted that the Council is still awaiting the nominations from a number of bodies and it is intended to bring the remaining names to the November Council meeting.

It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator will contact the Chairs of each of the SPCs and the relevant Director of Services to arrange their first meeting.  It is hoped that these will be scheduled for the end of October.  The meetings will consider the SPC Scheme, standing orders and proposed training programme.

1. Consideration of the Customer Services Charter

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Customer Services Charter.  The Members thanked the team for all their work in developing the charter and those who contributed during the consultation process.

1. Consideration of Revised Protocol - Attendance by Elected Members as Guests at Official Overseas Events

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Revised Protocol - Attendance by Elected Members as Guests at Official Overseas Events.  The revised protocol will be incorporated into the complete Civic Protocols document.

1. **INFRASTRUCTURE, CLIMATE ACTION AND INNOVATION**
2. Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads at Templemichael Business Park, Longford

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi the members unanimously agreed to the Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads at Templemichael Business Park, Longford

1. **FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
2. Consideration of Overdraft Accommodation of €15m for year ending 31 December 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross, seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, the members unanimously agreed to the approval of overdraft

accommodation of €15m for the year ending 31 December 2025.

**10. General**

1. Notice of Motions set out hereunder:

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sean Mimnagh and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan**

**Councillor Sean Mimnagh**

I call on Longford County Council to contact the State Exam Commission to include formal accommodations for students who stammer, in the Reasonable Accommodation at Certificate Examinations (Race) guidelines 2025.

**Response**

Longford County Council will write to the Dept of Education to review the provisions and accommodations included in the Reasonable Accommodation at Certificate Examinations (Race) guidelines, for Students who may stammer.

1. **TRAINING APPROVAL**

The Members noted and approved the training approved by the Corporate Policy Group.

1. **NEXT MEETING**

On the request of Cathaoirleach Mark Casey the members unanimously agreed to reschedule the meeting of the December CPG and LCC meeting to Friday 13 December.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

The members noted votes of sympathy before the meeting commenced.

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

**Gerard Dennigan**

**A/Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 13 November 2024.**

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

**Cathaoirleach**