**BALLYMAHON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District**

**held in Edgeworthstown Library and via MSTeams**

**On Thursday, 25 July 2024 at 4pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Councillor Pat O’Toole

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors – Paul Ross, Mick Cahill, Sean Mimnagh and Martin Skelly

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Ms. David Tubridy, Senior Engineer

Mr. Brian McNeela, A/Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Claire McDermott, Administrative Office

**APOLOGIES**: Councillor Mark Casey

Samantha Healy, Director of Service

**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms. Claire McNabola

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill the Minutes of Committee Members of Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 23 May 2024, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the Minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 23 May 2024, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

1. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**None**

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None

1. **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT STANDING ORDERS FOR BALLYMAHON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Proposed by Paul Ross, seconded by Mick Cahill

1. **MANAGEMENT REPORT – AS CIRCULATED**

Noted

1. **ARDAGH CLOCK TOWER**

Longford County Council have advised that they will help financially support the shortfall of the Ardagh Clock Tower Restoration Project

1. **INTRODUCTION TO NEW LOCAL HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY HEALTHY HOMES CO-ORDINATOR**

Cathaoirleach Councillor Pat O’Toole together with the Members welcomed newly appointed Local Age Friendly Healthy Homes Co Ordinator – Caroline Doyle.

Caroline provided the Members with a brief overview of the Programme and what’s involved, contact details etc.

The Members also thanked Mary Carey for all her hard work and commitment to the Ballymahon MD area during her time in the role and wished her every success in Co. Meath.

1. **CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY MEMORIALS APPLICATION, TO COMMEMORATE BALLYMAHON WORKHOUSE 1852-1921**

Proposed by Paul Ross, seconded by Mick Cahill

1. **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill, seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole the members agreed to award €2000 to St Mary's Childcare Campus CLG.

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross, seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, the members agreed to award Club Ardagh with €1000.

1. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS, SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLORS, AS LISTED HEREUNDER**

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

1. I call on Longford County Council to place bollards on the new footpath outside Ardagh GAA grounds to prevent dangerous parking at match days.

**Response:**

Longford County Council will review this location to see what measures can be introduced to address this issue.

**The following Notice of Motions was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross, and seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole**

1. I call on Longford County Council to work with stakeholders to secure a new suitable site for Ballymahon Playground as the existing site is not fit for purpose and is not a safe place for children to play due to heavy littering and anti-social behaviour at the site.

**Response:**

The Council will support the community and the Ballymahon MD. As any move would require the identification of a suitable alternative site and would involve a significant cost, the community may wish to consider an application under the next round of CLÁR funding. The assistance of the community in reporting any anti-social behaviour to An Garda Siochana would be appreciated.

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

1. Can I have an update on proposed works on the N55 on the Ballymahon side of Fowler’s Bridge to deal with the road subsidence

**Response:**

Longford County Council are in the process of preparing design solutions for consideration and agreement with the TII. However, it is likely that this pavement issue will not be rectified for some time. In the meantime, Longford County Council have put temporary traffic management in place to control traffic movements in the affected area.

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

1. I call on Longford County Council to install flashing speed signs at Taghshinny school in the interests of road safety.

**Response:**

This issue can be considered for submission as a low-cost safety scheme for 2025. In addition, we note that Schools may be able to apply to the Safe Routes to School programme where a broader approach to safety in the vicinity of Schools is taken and where a range of measures can be implemented.

The school should liaise directly with the Green Schools Programme to see what options may be available. The link for the information is:

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/the-programme/projects/safe-routes-to-school/>

**The following Notice of Motions was proposed by Councillor Mick Cahill, and seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly**

1. I call on Longford County Council to install additional traffic calming signs to create greater awareness to motorists in Kenagh particularly at the school

**Response:**

We would note that at the approach to the School/Creche in Kenagh there are already, school warning (flashing) signs, vehicle activated driver feedback sign (on the Longford approach to Kenagh), other school warning signage, road markings and a zebra crossing at the School.

Longford County Council will monitor traffic speeds on the approach to the School. Should there be an issue with speeding traffic at the School we will request the Gardai to carry out enforcement.

In addition, we note that Schools may be able to apply to the Safe Routes to School programme where a broader approach to safety in the vicinity of Schools is taken and where a range of measures can be implemented.

The school should liaise directly with the Green Schools Programme to see what options may be available. The link for the information is:

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/the-programme/projects/safe-routes-to-school/>

**The following Notice of Motions was proposed by Councillor Martin Skelly, and seconded by Councillor Sean Mimnagh**

1. I call on Longford County Council to repair the fencing and upgrade same at Cashel graveyard in the interest of public safety.

**Response:**

We may need further information to respond in full to this NoM.  Longford County Council included Newtowncashel graveyard in last year’s programme of work, comprehensive tree works were completed before end of 2023 which included removal of one large tree following storm damage, removal of branches overhanging footpaths, and significant targeted pruning to reduce windload, potential storm damage and health and safety risks.

Re removal of the large tree, at the request of the local cemetery committee and the caretaker it was agreed to retain the stump which they wished to use to create a feature altar in the graveyard.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Section, visited Cashel Cemetery on Monday last, 22 July, the boundary of the cemetery itself is an old stone wall, which appears to be in good shape with no evident public safety concerns.  Some areas of the stone wall boundary are covered in ivy, but removal of the ivy may lead to destabilisation of the existing structure.

The only fencing in the area with apparent areas of disrepair is located across the road from the graveyard, on lands not currently in the ownership of Longford County Council, known as Cashel Commons and signposted as a special area of Conservation.

This fencing is along a widened area of the roadway utilised for parking.  The Google Maps screenshot below outlines the area in question, the attached photos demonstrate the damage visible on the current fencing.

Not sure where ownership of this issue lies, further information required to establish the level of potential risk to public safety and what steps may be required to progress the repairs highlighted.

**The following Notice of Motions was proposed by Councillor Martin Skelly, and seconded by Councillor Sean Mimnagh**

1. I call on Longford County Council to install traffic calming measures at Cloontagh School and Derryhaun cross as these are prone to speeding traffic.

**Response:**

Longford County Council will carry out speed surveys at this location. If a speeding issue is confirmed, Longford County Council will notify the Gardai who are responsible for enforcement of the speed limits. In addition, Longford County Council will review this location to determine if any measures can be put in place to reduce speeds. Should there be an appropriate treatment, Longford County Council will apply for funding under Low-cost Safety Scheme.

**The following Notice of Motions was proposed by Councillor Pat O’Toole, and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill**

1. I call on Longford County Council to assess the feasibility of carrying out some remedial work on the L1120 in Forgney (The Ballymore Road) with the view to lowering a blind spot on the road and erecting a safety barrier on the same stretch of road. The work to be considered under a Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme or have the work included in next year's roads programme.

**Response:**

Longford County Council will consider this location for inclusion in the Low Cost Safety Scheme application for 2025.

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

**Claire McNabola**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 26 September 2024.**

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

**Cathaoirleach**