



Áras an Chontae, Sráid Mhór Na hAbhann, Longford, N39 NH56
County Buildings, Great Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56

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**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on
Wednesday, 9 July 2025 at 4pm**

PRESIDING: Councillor Garry Murtagh

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Paul Ross, Niall Gannon, Peggy Nolan, Gerry Hagan, Padraig McNamara, Martin Skelly, Colin Dalton, Seamus Butler, Uruemu Adejinmi, Mick Cahill, Pat O'Toole, Sean Mimnagh, Kevin Hussey, Martin Monaghan, David Cassidy, Turlough McGovern, Mark Casey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive
Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services
Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services
Mr. John McKeon, Director of Services
Ms. Mary Gouldsbury, A/Director of Services
Ms. Kathryn Hosay, A/Senior Planner
Ms. Patricia Forde, Sláintecare Local Development Officer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Meetings Administration

APOLOGIES: Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Service

MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(i) On the proposal of Councillor Martin Monaghan seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the minutes of the monthly meeting of Longford County Council held on 11 June 2025, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

(ii) On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern the minutes of the Annual meeting of Longford County Council held on 20 June 2025, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

The members noted the Management report.

5. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2025

Noted

6. FINANCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(i) LOCAL PROPERTY TAX UPDATE

Director of Services, John McKeon provided an update to the Members on the Local Property Tax. It was agreed that the upward variation of 15% as agreed in 2023 for five years should remain in place from 2026-2029. The members separately had a discussion on the recent Longford MD paid parking decision under the Strategic Business Plan. John responded to all queries raised, and the Elected Members noted the update and the responses provided.

(ii) CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF LOAN FUNDING OF €2,000,000 TO FUND 3-YEAR FOOTPATH PROGRAMME 2025-2027

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Hagan, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, the loan funding of €2,000,000 to fund the 3-year footpath programme 2025-2027 was approved.

7. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) UPDATE ON FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Patricia Forde provided an update to Elected Members on the Family Resource Centre in Longford Town. The presentation covered the following:-

- What is a Family Resource Centre
- The Necessity
- Needs Assessment
- Steering Committee
- The Application
- The Next Steps

The update concluded with Patricia outlining that they are awaiting correspondence from Tusla Commissioning Office on response of the application submitted in May.

(ii) SECTION 183 NOTICE – FREEHOLD INTEREST OF 23 THE DEMESNE, LONGFORD.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, Section 183 Notice – Freehold Interest of 23 The Demesne, Longford was approved.

(iii) SECTION 183 NOTICE – FREEHOLD INTEREST OF 4 THE DEMESNE, LONGFORD.

On the proposal of Councillor Kevin Hussey, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, Section 183 - Notice Freehold Interest of 4 The Demesne, Longford was approved.

(iv) LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEME OF PRIORITY FOR AFFORDABLE DWELLING PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS, ARD MICHAEL, LONGFORD.

Councillor Paul Ross, as Chair of the Social Development SPC, introduced Longford County Council's Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements, which was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting. He explained that the Social Development SPC and Corporate Policy Group had considered the proposed scheme. The CPG recommended it for adoption by the Council with the following amendment.

6.3. Priority shall be given to eligible households in the following order:

Live within 10km of the affordable housing development and whose current address as given in the application form is within the Municipal District (Link to map showing MD to go here) of Longford.

Work within 10km of the development and whose current residential address

is within County Longford.

6.4 Where the number of eligible applicants within either of the above categories exceeds the number of dwellings available, priority shall be determined based on the date and time order in which applications were received (first-come, first-served).

Councillor Gerry Hagan proposed, and Councillor Paul Ross seconded the proposed Scheme together with the proposed amendment and the updated Scheme was unanimously adopted by the Elected Members.

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(i) CONSIDERATION OF NAMING RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOLLOWING FROM THE PLACE NAMING COMMITTEE:

A meeting of the Place Naming Committee was held on 9 July, during which the following naming recommendations were made and subsequently approved by the Corporate Policy Group at its July meeting.

- Sensory Playground Approved Name: The Sunflower Playground
- Greyhound Track Approved Name: Longford Peoples Park

The Elected Members unanimously agreed to the naming of both amenities.

9. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) TO NOTE PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Noted

(ii) TO CONSIDER THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 37E (4) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED), IN RELATION TO A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION BY BORD NA MÓNA TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA, FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 22 NO. WIND TURBINES AND 1 NO. 110KV ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION AND ALL ASSOCIATED WORKS WITHIN THE TOWNLANDS OF AGHAMORE, ANNAGHBEG, ARDS, BALLYNAKILL, BARNACOR, CLOONBEARLA, CLOONTABEG, DERRAGHAN BEG/MORE, DERRYAD, DERRYNASKEA, GRILLAGH, KILMAKINLAN, KILNACARROW, LYNEEN, MOSSTOWN, MOUNT DAVYS, RAPPAREEHILL, AT LANESBOROUGH, CO. LONGFORD, AND WITHIN THE TOWNLAND OF BALLYPHEASAN, CO. ROSCOMMON

The meeting was attended by the following Elected Members

Cathaoirleach Councillor Garry Murtagh, Councillor Seamus Butler, Councillor Pat O'Toole, Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, Councillor Sean Mimnagh, Councillor Kevin Hussey, Councillor Turlough McGovern, Councillor Mark Casey, Councillor Colion Dalton, Councillor Padraig McNamara, Councillor Martin Skelly, Councillor Niall Gannon, Councillor Peggy Nolan, Councillor Paul Ross, Councillor Mick Cahill, Councillor David Cassidy, Councillor Martin Monaghan, Councillor Gerry Hagan.

The Elected Members considered and noted the Chief Executive's report on the planning application by Bord na Móna to An Coimisiún Pleanála, for the proposed development of 22 no. Wind Turbines and 1 no. 110kV Electrical Substation and all associated works.

Details of the proposed development, the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) process, obligations to consider in the assessment of the proposal, the role of the Elected Members and An Coimisiún Pleanála were outlined to the Members. Some Members spoke on the application while others asked for clarification on certain matters.

Councillors Mark Casey, Martin Skelly, Paul Ross and Sean Mimnagh raised some concerns regarding the application and the potential impact on the environment, residents and communities. Contributions included:

- Disappointment that Bord na Móna resubmitted the proposed development given the previous history on the site following a judicial review.
- Belief that the proposed development contradicts certain policies in the Longford County Development Plan.
- Concerns over health and safety, loss of peatlands for other uses, possible impact on wildlife and protected species and the potential impact on water quality.
- Visual impact of the proposed development on the landscape.
- Impact on the residents within the area and the proximity of the turbines to surrounding dwellings.
- Devaluation of properties in the area.
- View that the proposed development does not align with the ambition for tourism in the area.
- Reference made to the history of Bord Na Móna in the area and the expectation of communities as to the future use of the bogs.
- The proposed development was not considered to be in line with the ethos of the area.

Clarifications were sought by Councillors Garry Murtagh, Mark Casey and Paul Ross. These included:

- Is the proposed development in accordance with the policies of the Longford County Development Plan?
- Is there provision for a community benefit fund in the application?

- Is the duration of a ten-year permission for the proposed development normal?

The Planning Authority confirmed that:

- The proposed development is compliant with the policies of the Longford County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.
- The planning permission duration is for a period of ten years and is normal practice for a development of this nature.
- A community benefit fund has been proposed in the proposed application. The Chief Executive's report includes a recommendation to An Coimisiún Pleanála for the inclusion of a community benefit fund.

It was agreed that feedback from the Members would be included with the Chief Executive's report as presented to the Members.

10. THE UKRAINIAN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE, INTEGRATION, ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM

(i) NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

I call on Longford County Council to write to Failte Ireland, EMRA and our MEPs to seek an extension to the completion date for the EU Just Transition Fund of March 2026, due to the complexity of this grant and the delays in the process, applicants are finding it difficult to get finished in time. If applicants could have an extension this would ensure that the full funding would be drawn down and that the EU should recognise this fact.

Response: Longford County Council will write to Failte Ireland, EMRA and our MEPs seeking an extension to the completion date for the EU Just Transition Fund due to the complexity of this grant.

11. GENERAL

(i) NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan

I call on Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll McNeill and her Department to implement a stand-alone Care & Repair programme with sufficient start-up capital and labour budget to support the elderly and people with disabilities in Longford and to use the County of Longford as a pilot programme, under the programme for government.

Response: Longford County Council will write the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll McNeill outlining the proposal as outlined in the Notice of Motion.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **CORRESPONDENCE FROM CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**
Noted
- (ii) **CORRESPONDENCE FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**
Noted
- (iii) **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER DARA CALLEARY**
Noted

13. TRAINING FOR APPROVAL

Noted

14. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

None

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Longford County Council will take place on Wednesday, 23 July 2025 at 3.30pm in the Council Chamber.

The Elected Members extended their congratulations to Councillor Gerry Hagan on the success of the Longford Agricultural Show. It was noted that this year's event was the first show held without the presence of Councillor Hagan's late mother, and the Members expressed their empathy and support to him during this time.

Signed: Lorraine McKee

Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on 10 September 2025

Signed:

Cathaoirleach