

BALLYMAHON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District held in Ballymahon Library on Thursday, 4 December 2025 at 12pm

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Martin Skelly

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Mick Cahill, Sean Mimmagh, Paul Ross and Pat O'Toole

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services
Mr. Brian McNeala, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Breege Cronin, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer
Mr. Brian Kelly, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Paul Newell, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Lorraine O'Connor, Town Regeneration Officer
Mr. Matt Farrell

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mark Casey

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

Presentation Maria Edgeworth Visitor Centre from Mr. Matt Farrell which included the following:

- The role played from Edgeworthstown
- Background to story
- Proposal
- Flagship project – The development of the MEC
- What do we want, and when do we need it

Mr. Farrell outlined his vision for Edgeworthstown and Longford to play a central role in the national celebrations marking the bicentenary of Ireland's National School System (1831–2031). He presented maps showing the draft proposal for an extension to the centre and expressed his intention to advance the project with the Council's support. He requested that the Elected Members assist in identifying potential sources of funding to enable the development.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (i) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 2 October 2025 were adopted.
- (ii) On the proposal of Councillor Pat O'Toole seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, the minutes of the Ballymahon Municipal District Committee Meeting held on the 2 October 2025 were adopted.
- (iii) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the minutes of the Ballymahon Municipal District GMA Meeting held on the 24 October 2025 were adopted.
- (iv) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the minutes of the Ballymahon Municipal District Committee Meeting held on the 24 October 2025 were adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Brian McNeela, Senior Executive Engineer, presented the management report to the members. The members noted the report.

Senior Engineer Paul Newell briefed the Elected Members on the progress of the following projects for Ballymahon:

- Pobal le Cheile - €7mln Rural Regeneration Development Fund project Part VIII adopted in September 2025. Detailed design is currently underway. It is hoped to go to tender in April 2026 with construction to commence in August 2026 - Phase 1 Convent site renovation and new community centre.
- Ballymahon Car Park – Preliminary design completed for the site beside SuperValu (former Walsh's Bar) A design team will be appointed in January 2026 for integration with street scape.

- The Inny River Walk - €50,000 was awarded through the Outdoor Recreation Funding for reports, design and planning. Pathway build funding will be sought in 2027 subject to planning and landowner agreement.

Senior Executive Engineer, Brian Kelly provided an update on the following:

- Moigh Road to St. Matthew's school pedestrian and cycle scheme. Detailed design is in progress. There are surveys underway and utility engagement is ongoing. Construction is expected to start at end of Q2 2026.

Lorraine O'Connor, Town Regeneration Officer provided an update on the following:

- Ballymahon UR Impact Integrated Action Plan – Lorraine outlined the goals set out in the plan which include a Mens and Hens shed for Ballymahon. Youth services such as Foroige and better Town connectivity.
- Town Centre First Plan – Studies have been completed. The plan will go to consultation in January 2026. Following this the final draft will be presented to the Elected Members.

5. COMMUNITY GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole €500 was awarded to Ballymahon Christmas Market.

6. DECLARING THE ROAD FROM R392 MAIN STREET BALLYMAHON TO TARA PARK SOCCER GROUNDS (TARA PARK ACCESS LANE) TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD.

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O'Toole seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the road from R392 Main Street, Ballymahon to Tara Park Soccer Grounds (Tara Park Access Lane) was declared a public road.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

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

I call upon Longford County Council to erect safety signs regarding dangerous undulations on two roads that should be on the programme for road upgrades in 2026.

- Ledwithstown Ballymahon to Derrycolumb Newtowncashel
- Corlea to Kenagh Village

Response:

Both the Ledwithstown to Derrycolumb road and the Corlea to Kenagh road are included in LCC 2026 Roads Programme. In the interim, the LCC will undertake

patching works as necessary to maintain the roads in a safe condition until the full upgrade is carried out. Additionally, arrangements will be made to erect temporary warning signage at these locations.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Martin Skelly and seconded by Councillor Paul Ross

I call upon Ballymahon Municipal District to write to the Minister of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister of The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment to procure funding to facilitate the remedial works required at the disused and abandoned Piggery at Elfeet, Newtowncashel. This financial assistance is required to prevent a major environmental disaster in the area which are on the shores of Lough Ree.

Response:

Longford County Council will write to the Minister of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister of The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment regarding this Notice of Motion.

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

I call on Longford County Council to have the grass area on the heritage centre side of Ardagh enhanced to become a more attractive approach to this heritage village.

Response:

I have met with local representatives on site and reviewed proposals from the Tidy Towns group aimed at enhancing the entrance to the village. A fencing contractor has been engaged to carry out the works, which are expected to commence in the coming weeks.

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

That Longford County Council review the drainage and water flow on the R393 between Ballycloughan and Drumming Ardagh as this section of road is very prone to flooding during wet weather and presents a major risk of Aquaplaning and causing a crash.

Response:

Longford County Council will carry out an on-site assessment of the R393 between Ballycloughan and Drumming Ardagh to determine appropriate remedial measures. In the meantime, we are reviewing our drainage programme and plan to issue a county-wide tender for the maintenance of water cuts along National and Regional Roads.

The following Notice of Motions proposed by Councillor Mark Casey were deferred

- (i) I call on Longford County Council to put in a speed ramp in Sli Na Moinear in Moydow.
- (ii) I call on Longford County Council to change the pedestrian crossways at Lanesboro Community College and at O'Brien's corner Lanesboro to raised pedestrian crossways.
- (iii) I call on Longford County Council to place a bus shelter at Magiffs crossroads.

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

I call on Longford County Council to carry out works to alleviate the flooding issue at the Factory in Abbeyshrule.

Response:

Longford County Council staff were recently deployed to address localised flooding at the former boat factory site in Abbeyshrule. As an initial measure, it is proposed to carry out a comprehensive CCTV survey of the existing stormwater sewer network, followed by high-pressure jetting to clear any blockages or sediment that may be reducing hydraulic capacity.

8. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District will take place on Thursday, 22 January 2026 at 3.30pm in Ballymahon Library.

Signed: Lorraine McKee
Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on 22 January 2026.

Signed: Cathaoirleach
Cathaoirleach