

GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in The Council Chamber on Monday, 24 November 2025 at 2:30pm

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Turlough McGovern

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Garry Murtagh, Pádraig McNamara, David Cassidy, Colin Dalton

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Ms. Claire McNabola, Administrative Officer
Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. David Plunkett, Clerical Officer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

APOLOGIES

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – AS CIRCULATED

On the proposal of Councillor Gary Murtagh seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Minutes of Granard Municipal District Meeting held on 22 September 2025.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District GMA Committee Meeting held on 28 October 2025.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the minutes of Granard Municipal District GMA Meeting held on 28 October 2025.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Councillor Turlough McGovern said there are ongoing problems with the pipes from Granard Reservoir. He pointed out that the issue on the Toneywarden line has still not been resolved. There has been a blockage there for several years, and a proper solution is needed.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara, it was agreed to write to Uisce Eireann outlining the problem and requesting a solution.

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT INCORPORATING AREA ENGINEER'S PROGRESS REPORT

The members noted the Management Report.

Barbara Heslin, Director of Services highlighted the following from the Management Report and responded to queries raised by the Elected Members:

- Age Friendly Events
- Age Friendly Ireland National Recognition Awards 2025
- Events taking place in Libraries
- Battle of Wits County Final 2025
- Regeneration
- Environment
- Town Centre First
- Housing

David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer highlighted the following from the Area Engineers Report and responded to queries raised by Elected Members:

- General Roadworks
- Restoration Improvement Works
- Low-Cost Safety Schemes
- Community Involvement Schemes
- Drainage
- Climate Change Adaption & Resilience Works
- Local Improvement Schemes
- Other ongoing works taking place in Granard Municipal District.

Councillor Padraig McNamara thanked Barbara and her team for their work over the past year. He also thanked David and his team for their excellent work, especially at the Carrickduff exit, which is now a much safer junction for road users.

Councillor Garry Murtagh thanked Barbara and David for the work done in North Longford, especially in the libraries. He asked if there was any budget set aside for aerial drainage and maintenance in the Granard Municipal District. Senior Executive Engineer David Coppinger explained that this falls under the responsibility of the Environment Section and said the issue would be passed on to them.

Councillor Colin Dalton welcomed the funding for walkways in the county. He praised the work that has begun on Phase 1 at Doherty's Cross and thanked the landowners who provided land for the project. He also commended the work carried out under the Community Involvement Scheme in Ballinalee and at Cooney's Cross. He asked for an update on the old Clonbonney Bridge and Moatefarrell Bridge.

Councillor David Cassidy welcomed the completion of the works at Cooney's Cross and asked whether there were any plans to install traffic islands. David Coppinger advised the members that once all the scheduled works are completed, a full review will be undertaken, and the installation of traffic islands will be considered if deemed necessary.

Councillor Turlough McGovern expressed his gratitude to Barbara, David, and their teams for the outstanding work they carried out throughout 2025.

5. COMMUNITY GRANTS

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was agreed to award €500 to Abbeylara Tidy Towns.

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was agreed to award €500 to Granard Christmas Lights.

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was agreed to award €500 to Killeen Bunlahy Community Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was agreed to award €500 to Lisryan & District Community Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern it was agreed to award €500 to Mullinalaghta Community Centre.

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh

I call upon Longford County Council to submit a request to Uisce Eireann to take in charge the Glasseen Housing Estate in Drumlish as a matter of urgency. This falls under Legacy issue estates and I request that this be made a priority estate due to issues with Public Health in the sewerage and wastewater network which has flooded a house in

this estate. Defective fencing and open drains are also a serious concern in the estate for residents particularly families with young children.

Response:

An update was provided on the works which are being progressed by the Regeneration Team in relation to Taking in Charge of the estate. Once Longford County Council takes the estate in charge then a request can be made to Uisce Eireann to address the issue.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh

I call upon Longford County Council to carry out Low-Cost Safety Schemes in the interest of road safety and to improve sightlines at the following:

T junction at Fardrumman, Ballinamuck where the L5035 meets the L1015

T junction at Fardrumman, Ballinamuck where the L5037 meets the L1015

Corner in the townland of Drumbad before bridge on border with Fardrumman. Co-ordinates 53.85678'N 7.74456'W

At the County Bridge in the townland of Kiltycreevagh, Ballinamuck to improve sight lines approaching bridge. Co-ordinates 53.87904'N 7.72981'W

Response:

These 4 sites will be added to the current list of Low-Cost Safety Schemes, but it should be noted that this list already has 26 sites listed and this will bring the list up to 30 sites. A preliminary inspection of these sites suggests that the sightline issues are mainly caused by overgrown trees and hedges, the resolution of which might well be within the ability of the landowners. The lack of incident/accident reports is likely to make sourcing funding for these and other similar sites difficult as the DoT is now insisting on such backup information for all Low-Cost Safety Scheme requests. It was noted that this issue with a lack of Incident/Accident statistics is a national issue due to GDPR restriction on the distribution of potentially sensitive information and the resolution of this is currently being assessed at national level.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton

I call upon Longford County Council to write to the Department of Social Protection in relation to the lack of a CE Scheme in Drumlish. I call on the council to liaise with the department and Drumlish Tidy Towns as a priority to establish a CE Scheme specifically for Drumlish.

Response:

Longford County Council will write to the Department of Social Protection regarding this Notice of Motion and the recommendation from the Elected Members.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Granard Municipal District will take place on 26 January 2026.

Signed: Lorraine McKee
Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 26 January 2026.

Signed: Paul Wilson
Cathaoirleach