

Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek Building, Armagh Rd, Knockaconny, Monaghan, on Monday 07 July at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Clerkin, S. Conlon, P. Conlon, Coyle, Gibbons, Johnston, Keelan, McAree, McCooley, P. Treanor, S. Treanor and Truell.

Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive, Mr. C. Flynn, Ms. C O'Hare, Ms. P. Monahan, Ms. O. McConnon, Directors of Services, Ms. N. Payne, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. McMahon, Staff Officer.

MS Teams: Cllrs. S. Flynn and S. Gilliland

Urgent Business

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received two Notices of Urgent Business as follows:

1. On behalf of the Fine Gael Party Members:

'That this Council write to the Minister for Further Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD, requesting that the student contribution fee be maintained at the previous level for the 2025/2026 academic year.

In each of the last three national Budgets, student fees were reduced by €1,000 — a vital measure introduced under the then Minister for Further and Higher Education, Tánaiste Simon Harris, and continued under his successor, Minister Patrick O'Donovan.

This reduction has provided crucial financial relief to families across the country, at a time when the cost of living has placed significant pressure on households. Maintaining this reduced fee structure will help ensure that students from all backgrounds can continue to access third-level education without additional financial hardship.

Given the continued challenges faced by families in supporting their children through higher education, Monaghan County Council urges the Minister to retain the current level of the student contribution fee for the upcoming academic year.'

2. On behalf of the Sinn Féin Party Members:

That Monaghan County Council ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science James Lawless TD not to increase third level fees by €1,000 as he recently suggested, and that he work toward abolishing third level fees. The recent comments by Minister Lawless TD have caused huge concern among parents and students. We are still in a cost-of-living crisis and in the case of students attending third level accommodation costs in particular continue to rise. Making education affordable and accessible is vital and parents and students deserve clarity urgently on the fee structure for the academic year ahead.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr A. Campbell, it was agreed to enter 'into committee' to discuss whether to accept the motions submitted as urgent business.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take the motions of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey, seconded by Cllr A Campbell, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders and discuss Item 6 **'To consider report on Local Property Tax Adjustment Factor and Budget 2026'** on the Agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Council Meeting Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 09 June 2025

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr S. Conlon it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 09 June 2025, be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 June 2025

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on the 16 June 2025, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., regarding Solar PV Panels.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Ms. Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, T.D., regarding endometriosis.
- Email from the Minister of State for International & Road Transport, Logistics, Rails and Ports, Mr. Seán Canney, T.D., regarding road safety.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding funding for Active Travel.
- Email from the Officer of the Acting Commissioner, An Garda Síochána regarding investigation documents.
- Acknowledgement email from the Peace Commissioner Unit, Department of Justice, regarding the current list of active Peace Commissioners in Co. Monaghan.
- Acknowledgement email from Uisce Éireann regarding the Taking In Charge of Oisín Vale and Oisín Brian wastewater treatment plants.
- Email from HSE, Primary Care, Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo regarding the arrangements for elected representatives in the affairs of the HSE.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., regarding a defined calendar for grant applications.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Minister for Defence regarding the conflict in Gaza.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding dismantling of the triple lock.
- Resolution from Limerick City and County Council regarding prohibiting the use of smartphones for under 16s.

- Resolution from Limerick City and County Council regarding the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme.

2.1 Additional Correspondence

The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had issued was also circulated:

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion, Mr. Michael Moynihan, T.D., regarding SNA allocations in schools.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding an update in relation to the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme 2024-2026.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr N. McCooey, seconded by Cllr P. Gibbons, it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Communications, Mr. Patrick O'Donovan, requesting that he; review existing online safety legislation in Ireland; Explore the introduction of a legal minimum age of 16 for social media use; Work with social media companies — Meta, TikTok, X, and others — to introduce meaningful age verification systems that actually work and ensure these platforms are held accountable for protecting young users in this country.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Flynn, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council write directly to the CEO of the HSE, The National Director of Cancer Services and the Chief Officer for the HSE Cavan-Monaghan, resubmitting our previous motion in relation to lowering the age of cancer screening and seeking the establishment of a hospice in County Monaghan. Furthermore, this Council expresses our clear disappointment at the previous response from the HSE and seeks a real plan of action not vague reassurances, but a roadmap that includes earlier screening, increased palliative supports, and the delivery of a hospice for County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that this Council welcomes the response received regarding our request to roll out PV panels and battery systems to social housing stock, but we ask that the Minister for Housing, Mr. James Browne, T.D., to consider all options to increase the rollout of PV panels to allow for additional power to the grid as well as back-up's to homeowners in times of power outages. We ask that the Minister instruct Local Authorities, AHB's etc. to include PV Panels on all public housing projects going forward.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that this Council writes to Uisce Eireann requesting a meeting to discuss the immediate resolution of the long-standing issues relating to treatment plants at Oisin Vale and Oisin Brian and similar estates in County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Gibbons, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Limerick City and County Council resolution regarding the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme 2016/S.I. No. 619/2023, to allow tenants to purchase their Council house after a

period of 5 years and not a 10 year period as is currently required, be referred to the SPC – Housing for consideration.

3. To consider Taking in Charge of Estates and Declaration of Public Road under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act (as amended), & Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993: Lough Na Glack, Drummond Oтра, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

Mr. A Hughes, Senior Planner outlined the proposed taking in Charge of a section of Lough na Glack, Drummond Oтра, Carrickmacross. He informed the members that a request had been made by the Statutory Receiver for the public areas/services within the majority of the estate to be taken in charge. He noted that the request excluded a small portion of the development located within the immediate environs of vacant apartment block at the western end of the site. He stated that inspections had been carried out by the relevant sections of the Council, and they are satisfied that the development has been completed to the required standards. Uisce Eireann have no objection to the taking in charge. The Planning Authority is satisfied that the development can be considered for taking in charge.

On the proposal Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Conlon, it was agreed that the Council approve the application for Lough na Glack, in accordance with the Taking In Charge of Estates and Declaration of Public Roads Notice, under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

4. To consider Part VIII Ref. PT8MN221 Part XI Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Part VIII, Article 81 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Mr. D. Hurley, Senior Executive Planner, referred to the Part VIII report which had been circulated in respect of proposed works for the cleaning and repair of entrance gates & public realm enhancements of the Former Grounds of Sisters of St Louis, Monaghan Town.

Mr. Hurley stated that issues raised from two submissions received as part of the public consultation process had been addressed and he recommended that the members proceed with the proposal.

On the proposal Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed to approve the works for the cleaning and repair of entrance gates & public realm enhancements of the Former Grounds of Sisters of St Louis, Monaghan Town, as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

5. To approve Monaghan Local Authorities Differential Rent Scheme

Mr. N. O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Housing referred to the Monaghan Local Authorities Differential Rent Scheme circulated with the agenda. He highlighted that the making of a differential rent scheme had moved from an executive function to a reserved function due to a change in legislation.

Mr. O'Connor advised the members that the scheme had been considered at, Corporate Policy Group, Strategic Policy Committee - Housing and Senior Management Team level and feedback received had been incorporated. He provided members with a brief overview of proposed changes to the scheme including changes to the calculation of rent as follows:

<i>CALCULATION OF RENT</i>	
PRINCIPAL EARNER	Principal Earners income 1. less allowance of €50.00 2. less allowance of €4.00 in respect of each dependent child x 20% <u>PLUS</u>
	Each sub-earners income x 5%
Where management fees or other tenant related fees are paid directly by Monaghan County Council on behalf of tenants an additional €5 per week service charge will be applied to tenants rent.	
Minimum rent will be calculated as the basic social protection income for the equivalent household size.	

Mr. N. O'Connor responded to members' queries.

On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed to approve the Monaghan Local Authorities Differential Rent Scheme, as circulated.

6. To consider report on Local Property Tax Adjustment Factor and Budget 2026

The members considered the report which had been circulated.

Ms. O. McConnon, Director of Services, explained that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of + / - 15% and each year the rate reverts to zero %. Ms. McConnon advised members that due to it being a revaluation year, members consideration on the LPT Adjustment Factor and Budget 2026 is required earlier than usual so that any adjustment can be reported to Revenue by the end of August.

Ms. McConnon referred to the Report on the Local Property Tax Adjustment Factor and Budget 2026 which had been circulated with the agenda and had been prepared based on a 15% variation of LPT. Ms. McConnon highlighted how the variance in LPT liability could impact on the Council's budget and the Municipal Districts Allocations.

Cllr S. Flynn proposed, Cllr C. Carthy seconded that the Council remove the 15% increase and leave the rate of increase in the LPT at zero % for 2026.

Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr A. Campbell seconded that the Council retain the current rate of 15% LPT on the base rate for 2026.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Flynn's proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 8 For and 10 Against. The Cathaoirleach declared Cllr Flynn's motion defeated. As Cllr Coyle's proposal was a direct negative, a vote was not necessary.

7. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17 June 2025, which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr C. Carthy, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17 June 2025 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

8. To receive Management Report – June

The Chief Executive introduced the Management Report for June 2025 which had been circulated with the agenda. He referred to the Affordable Housing Survey that went live on 24 June to assess the level of demand for an Affordable Purchase Scheme in Carrickmacross and encouraged those interested to complete the survey prior to the closing date - 18 July 2025.

The members noted the Management Report for June 2025 which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chief Executive, Directors of Services and Ms. H. McKenna, Affordable Housing Section, responded to queries from the elected members.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that this Council, write to the Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, seeking additional funding for National Road Safety Schemes and Low-Cost Safety Schemes to address the locations that had to be deferred due to the shortfall in funding, and intensified pedestrian and vehicular movements in our towns, in particular the single access junction between Latlorcan housing developments and Bogues Garage on the Dublin Road, Monaghan.

9. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events

The members noted the reports from Cllrs, Conlon and Coyle in relation to their attendance at the following Conferences/Training events:

- AILG Elected Members Training – Emergency Response – Radisson Blu Hotel, Co. Sligo – 22 May 2025
- Planning 2025 – The Councillor and the new context for the Development Plan – Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan - 21 June 2025

10. Business Submitted by the Chief Executive

Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 - 2031

The Chief Executive referred to recent correspondence received from the office of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D. regarding the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 and he invited Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner to provide an update to members.

Mr. A Hughes, Senior Planner, provided members with the following update:

- On Wednesday 02 July 2025 an email was issued to members advising that the OPR had written to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage asking him to direct Monaghan County Council to delete two material alterations to the Development Plan. The deletions referenced related to:
 - **MA: Chapter 9, No2**
Retails (Convenience) and retail (Comparison) are acceptable in principle at Monaghan Retail Park – **be deleted**
 - **MA: MTDP1 No15**
That portion of subject lands within flood zone A reverts to the zoning objective of the draft Plan (i.e. **from Industry/Enterprise/Employment to Landscape Protection/Conservation**)
- On Friday 04 July the Chief Executive received an email from the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which included a Notice of Intention to issue a Direction to Monaghan County Council regarding the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031, relating to the two matters included within the OPRs letter to him.
- The Notice of Intention triggers the following statutory process:
 - Publishing a notice within two weeks that the Draft Direction is available for inspection.
 - Submissions may be made to the Planning Authority within the maximum 2-week consultation period.
 - A Chief Executive's Report must be prepared within 4 weeks of completion of the consultation process and must include:
 - Summarising view of persons who made submissions
 - Summarising views and recommendations of the Elected Members
 - Summarising views of the Regional Assembly
 - Recommendations in relation to the best manner to give effect to the draft direction.
 - Elected Members may also make submissions directly to the OPR and Minister during the consultation period.
 - A copy of the Chief Executive's Report will be sent to the OPR and the Minister.
- The OPR will consider the Chief Executive's Report together with any submissions made within 3 weeks and will make a further recommendation to the Minister as to whether the Direction should be issued with or without amendments or not issued.
- The Minister will consider the OPR's recommendation within 6 weeks. If he agrees he will issue a Direction and if he disagrees, he will prepare a statement outlining his reasons for not agreeing, which is laid before the House of the Oireachtas.
- The Direction will take immediate effect if issued.
- The Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 is effective from today with the exception of the two deletions referenced.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Planning Section would liaise with party group leaders and Cllr. S. Treanor to agree a protocol in response to the Section 31 Direction of the Planning and Development Act 2000 issued by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031.

Prince Edward Island Delegation

Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services provided members with an overview of the itinerary for the upcoming trip to Prince Edward Island on 31 July – 04 August where she will join the Monaghan County Council delegation comprising of Cllr. R. Aughey, Cllr. B. McAree and Cllr. R. Truell. Ms. Monahan outlined various ministerial meetings, social engagements, Ambassador's reception and joining in the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Benevolent Irish Society of Prince Edward Island.

11. Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 09 June and the Annual General meeting on 16 June 2025.

12. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

The Chief Executive referred to three upcoming drop-in public information events being held over the coming weeks in Emyvale, Tyholland and Clontibret in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme. He stated that the Project Team will use an interactive map to outline the route of the proposed new road at these events. In addition, they will explain how the proposed new road can be accessed and any potential diversions on the local road network as a result of the project. He emphasised that the Project Team welcomes all feedback from the community on the proposals prior to updating and finalising the design over the coming month

13. To receive update on North/South Interconnector project

Correspondence

The following correspondence relating to the North/South Interconnector project was received:

- Email from Mr. Matt Carthy, T.D., forwarding a transcript of recent Dáil questions, regarding the North/South Interconnector project.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr. P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council renew our request to meet the Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D regarding the North South Interconnector Issue.

14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

15. Questions and Replies

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. *What is the latest update on the Clos na Droimmaine (unfinished estate) in Carrickmacross regarding derelict sites act procedures and the progress on units that are almost completed?*

Reply:

Monaghan County Council has recently issued 4 number Section 8 (2) notices, in accordance with Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended), in respect of various sections of this site.

A Section 8 (2) notice gives notice to the owner or occupier of the site, of the Councils intention to enter the site onto the Derelict Sites Register.

The owner of the site has made a submission outlining his proposals to make the site/building non-derelict.

The Council is currently reviewing this submission and will decide in due course whether to enter these properties in the Derelict Sites Register.

2. *Can the housing section give a breakdown on our current Housing waiting list, including HAP/RAS/Transfer from private tenancies, as per each Municipal District; as well as an average wait time per MD?*

Reply:

<i>Municipal District</i>	<i>No of Applicants</i>	<i>Average wait time (years)</i>	<i>Currently in receipt of HAP/RAS</i>
<i>Carrickmacross/Castleblayney</i>	<i>397</i>	<i>3.28</i>	<i>133</i>
<i>Clones/Ballybay</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>4.73</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Monaghan</i>	<i>579</i>	<i>4.08</i>	<i>254</i>

3. *Has there been any further update on the Taking in Charge of the following estates in Carrickmacross:*
 - *Alderwood*
 - *Ard na Radhairc*

Reply:

- The Local Authority is continuing to liaise with the developer's agent to resolve outstanding issues (contact was last made on 25 June 2025). Once these issues have been resolved the intent to take the estate in charge will be advertised and the application progressed to conclusion
- The Planning Authority has not received a taking in charge application in respect of Ard na Radhairc and it is not aware if it is the developers intention to submit one in the near future.

4. *What plans are in place to increase the availability of social housing units to try and deal with our significant 1-bed list?*

Reply:

Monaghan County Council aim to increase delivery of housing over the next number of years. A key component of this delivery will be the provision of units that match the housing need.

5. *Will the council consider a similar 'blitz' of roads this year, like 2024, to try and deal with the high volume of potholes and poor-quality roadways, especially in the south of the County?*

Reply:

In consultation with the Transport SPC, Roads section is implementing a targeted low-cost intervention programme in 2025. This programme is being implemented as part of the 5-year Road Maintenance Strategy.

No addition patching blitz is planned for 2025.

Cllr S. Flynn asked:

6. *How many vacant council-owned housing units are currently in County Monaghan, and what is the timeline and strategy to bring these back into use to meet local housing demand?*

Reply:

Voids: 13 units currently vacant

Average Timeframe: 16 weeks

Completion due within

1 Month – 5 units

2 Months – 4 units

3 Months – 4 units

Acquisitions: 1 unit currently vacant due for completion in August

7. *What progress has been made under the National Broadband Plan in County Monaghan, and has the Council identified locations for the development of new digital or remote working hubs in towns and rural areas to support economic activity?*

Reply:

More than 16,000 premises are set to be passed in total within Monaghan under the National Broadband Plan.

Castleblayney Deployment Area with 3,648 premises is the last remaining deployment area within the county to be completed under the NBP. Connectivity in this area will be complete by July-Dec '26.

12,024 premises have already been passed under the current plan. Of the 12000+ premises that have been passed by fibre, there are 4,900 live connections (41%). This figure rises to more than 50% for premises passed 18 months ago or more.

Monaghan Co. Co. continues to support the development of new and existing digital/ remote working hubs including Newbliss Hub, Clones Hub and Truagh Spirit Hub, They also continue to promote all digital initiatives including the Mobile Digihub being delivered through the East Border region later this year.

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) are located in rural and remote areas throughout the county, and nationally. They are publicly accessible locations that provide high-speed broadband in local communities free of charge to the public. The Broadband Officer, Dept. Rural and Community development, and Monaghan Co. Co. also continue to support each of the 17 (BCPs) identified under the National Broadband Plan and to assist with many of the STEM and technology programmes being made available through the BCP network.

8. *What steps is the Council taking to secure long-term premises and sustainable, multi-annual funding for youth hubs and drop-in services in rural Monaghan towns such as Ballybay and Carrickmacross, and in surrounding villages such as Smithboro and Cremartin, in order to meet the growing demand*

for youth mental health supports, recreational facilities, and safe spaces for young people particularly in areas with limited existing services?

Reply:

In order to address this issue and provide a sustainable approach to youth hub provision in the county a strategic multi step approach is required.

This includes carrying out a community needs and demand audit; undertaking the development of a strategic plan in conjunction with community and HSE partners to outline the vision, objectives and priorities for youth hubs – and that the vision is developed in conjunction and complementary with other local authority and HSE strategies. Finally, there is the need to identify and secure funding for the acquisition and ongoing running of premises and engaging with local partners to deliver services.

The Regeneration Team has carried out individual town centre-based plans that have incorporated surveys and consultation elements in Carrickmacross, Monaghan Town and Ballybay. These have identified the priority needs as identified by the community.

In Ballybay the need for spaces for teenagers have been specifically prioritised and a recommended action is to build on the work carried out by the Men's Shed to establish a broader community centre that addresses youth support facilities. In the Monaghan Town Centre First Plan the consultation demonstrated a need for teenager spaces within the town and the proposed action was for a task force to be established to progress this action.

Further multi departmental co-ordination is planned to develop the plans for the two remaining towns (Clones and Castleblayney) and determine the priority for progression of community/TcF based plans for other smaller rural villages.

9. *Could Monaghan County Council please provide an update on its plans to support rural regeneration across the county and outline what measures are being taken to ensure that smaller villages and townlands have fair access to essential services such as broadband, public transport, community spaces, and enterprise supports.*

Reply:

In respect of rural regeneration in alignment with the strategic policy (National Development Plan, Our Rural Future, Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 and the Town Centre First policy documents) villages for regeneration will be identified and focused plans will be developed following public consultation.

Monaghan County Council access and leverage of government funding streams such as the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and Town and Village Schemes which supports localised needs on an ongoing basis as opportunities arise.

In respect of addressing vacancy and dereliction in smaller villages and towns the Council use the complementary measures of the Derelict Site legislation and Croi Connaithe scheme to bring empty buildings back to life. Currently there are 184 number of properties subject to Derelict Site investigation and 255 number of Croi Connaithe grants have been issued.

Through the provisions of the Development Plan villages are being planned so that residents can access key services, and embedded with the plan are policies to improve footpaths, public lighting to support the walkability of these rural areas.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

10. *Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine Traffic Calming Measures for installation on the Clones Road (R183), Ballybay; residents, their families and business persons operating on Hall Street, Ballybay are living in fear for themselves, visitors to their homes and customer's at the speed of traffic*

coming into the town from the Clones/Swans Cross direction, as they build up speed having come around the last corner, this is a very heavily vehicularised roadway with large numbers of HGVs, cars, farm vehicles etc traveling on Hall Street/Clones Road on a daily basis, speed cushion's/flashing sign's etc would also be of enormous use in reducing vehicular speed's, but as on all roads where speeding is an issue in our smaller towns and villages, the question is always being asked of us as elected representatives, as to why the Mobile Speed Vans (as they are known) cannot occasionally be located on these type of roads, to act as a deterrent to speeding?

Reply:

The Clones Rd (R183) Ballybay will be included in a funding application for Low Safety Improvement Funding for 2026. Monaghan County Council regularly liaise with An Garda Siochana regarding the use of the Go Safe van at locations that there is recorded speeding issues. Should there be lands be in public ownership to safely park the Go Safe van and required sight visibility for speed detection purposes the van can be placed at a suitable location. There are however, locations that are not suitable for the locating of Go safe vans on sections of roads that have recorded speeding issues.

11. Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed update on the Taking in Charge by this local authority of the following Estates, whose residents/homeowners have made application for Taking in Charge, in most cases many years ago-

- Carra Barra, Smithborough
- Dartry Court, Rockcorry
- Srathan Claddagh, Meeting House Lane, Ballybay?

Reply:

- The Planning Authority is currently awaiting responses from Uisce Eireann in relation to the taking in charge applications for both Carrowbarra Island, Smithborough and Dartry Court, Rockcorry.
- The taking in charge process for Sruthan Claddagh, Ballybay, is nearing conclusion. It is hoped that a recommendation can be presented to the September Council meeting.

12. As we now have passed the first half of 2025, 6 months, can Monaghan County Council give a detailed update on (i) the numbers of Planning Permission Application's lodged and (ii) commencement notices lodged with Monaghan County Council from 1st January 2025 to 30th June 2025, and also the similar statistics for comparisons for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024?

Reply:

- (i) Accurate figures for applications received up to 30th June 2025 cannot be provided at the moment. Figures for the period 1st January to 31st May, which provide a fair comparison, for the requested years, are set out in the table below. The figures include all planning applications lodged with the Planning Section.

Year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Applications Received*	328	315	251	272	345	222

**Applications received for the period 1st January to 31st May*

(ii)

<i>Year - 1st January to 30th June</i>	<i>No. Commencement Notices</i>
2020	121
2021	134
2022	116
2023	106
2024	158
2025	102

13. Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed reply on the most recent Pavement Condition Survey Index (PSCI) for National/Regional/Local roads in the County and for each LEA, the kilometre of road in each category rating 1-4 indicating significant structural defects and requiring immediate full restoration or structural overlay, as these ratings apply to roads in very condition?

Reply:

Please see the table below presenting the breakdown of road lengths and percentages in each MD valid on the 26th June 2025:

Breakdown of PSCI rating per km in each MD - valid 28/06/2025																
	Regional (km)				Local Primary (km)				Local Secondary (km)				Local Tertiary (km)			
	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
CMX /CB Y	7.4 95	11. 25 2	19. 92	28. 8	14. 2	16. 6	54. 323	57. 702	32. 5	20. 5	63. 02	46. 461	91. 6	37. 46	71. 697	102. 4
MON	1.2 65	4.6 28	27. 76 7	20. 81 3	24. 50 4	27. 76 2	52. 983	52. 43	25. 50 9	22. 61 9	64. 719	73. 108	61. 42 7	44. 099	111. 29 8	118. 76 8
BBY/CLN	16. 87	19. 21 4	51. 46 2	48. 12 4	17. 03 3	16. 07 6	101. .18 5	84. 819	37. 15 1	33. 03 7	75. 219	64. 574	76. 57 7	66. 652	125. .95 2	97. 191
Total Count ywide	25. 63	35. 09 4	99. 14 9	97. 64 5	56. 31 9	60. 46 4	208. .49 1	194. .95 1	95. 33 5	75. 98 1	202. .95 8	184. .14 3	22. 9.8 8	148. .21 1	308. .94 7	318. .65 3
Breakdown of PSCI rating by percentage in each MD - valid 28/06/2025																
	Regional				Local Primary				Local Secondary				Local Tertiary			
	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
CMX /CB Y	11. 1%	16. 7%	29. 6%	42. 6%	10. 3%	11. 6%	37. 9%	40. 2%	20. 1%	12. 5%	38. 8%	28. 6%	30. 2%	12. 3%	23. 6%	33. 8%
MON	2.3 %	8.5 %	51. 0%	38. 2%	15. 5%	17. 6%	33. 6%	33. 3%	13. 7%	12. 2%	34. 8%	39. 3%	18. 3%	13. 1%	33. 2%	35. 4%
BBY/CLN	12. 4%	14. 2%	37. 9%	35. 5%	7.8 %	7.3 %	46. 2%	38. 7%	17. 7%	15. 7%	35. 8%	30. 8%	20. 9%	18. 2%	34. 4%	26. 5%
Total Count ywide	10. 0%	13. 6%	38. 5%	37. 9%	10. 8%	11. 6%	40. 1%	37. 5%	17. 1%	13. 6%	36. 3%	33. 0%	22. 9%	14. 7%	30. 7%	31. 7%

14. Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed report on the number of Septic Tank inspections

Year of Inspection	No. Of Inspections Completed	No. of Inspections issued with Advisory Notices	No. of Inspections issued Compliance Notices after being issued Advisory Notices	No. Of inspections outstanding of Compliance Notices after being issued Advisory Notices	Total Number Of Grants Applied (Amount Paid)
2013-2014	51	20	20	0	8 (€25,890)
2015	33	10	10	0	1 (€4,000)
2016	30	10	10	0	1 (€1,703)
2017	35	11	11	0	4 (€14,746)
2018	28	6	6	0	3 (€16,014)
2019	27	13	13	0	2 (€10,000)
2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	49	23	23	0	8 (€36,487)
2022	30	11	10	1	5 (€18,820)
2023	44	27	24	3	3 (€20,624)
2024	49	32	19	13	6 (€71,035)

carried out in County Monaghan in the past 5 years - 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024, also the failure rate and detail the number of upgrade grants paid and amount of money paid out in County Monaghan over that period?**Reply:**

Cllr N McCooey asked:

- 15.** Can Monaghan County Council confirm, has the funding application to Transport Infrastructure Ireland in respect of the Vehicle Restraint System on the N12 at Skinnagin Bridge been submitted? If so, when can we expect to receive a response or decision from TII?

Reply:

The Feasibility and Options Report for a Vehicle Restraint System on the N12 at Skinnagin is being prepared for submission to the TII. It is the intention that this report will be submitted to TII within the next month.

- 16.** Can Monaghan County Council confirm the current number of 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom properties in their housing portfolio? Of these, how many are single-storey accessible homes suitable for individuals with mobility needs?

	Total Units	Ground Floor Flat	Halt Site	Bungalows	Total Ground Floor
1 bed	152	2	6	124	132
2 bed	601	21	8	266	295
Total	753	23	14	390	427

Monaghan County Council has 427 no single-storey homes that are adaptable and can cater for individuals subject to their mobility needs.

- 17.** By the deadline of 1 April 2025, how many landowners submitted a request to rezone their land in order to have it removed from the Residential Zoned Land Tax map? What is the total area of land these that has been removed from the RZLT map, per MD.

Reply:

The Planning Authority received a total of 4 requests to rezone lands which were the subject of RZLT, relating primarily to the 2019-2025 County Development Plan (CDP) land use zoning maps. In respect of the 2019-2025 CDP, no area of land has been removed from the RZLT maps. It should be noted however that the Monaghan CDP 2025-2031 will take effect on the 7th July 2025 and as such the residential land use zonings will be changed. The Planning Authority is considering a request for a proposed variation to a parcel of land zoned as residential A in the 2025-2031 CDP at

Carrickmacross, however this variation will be subject to all statutory procedures, and as such no decision has been reached to date.

Cllr P. Gibbons asked:

18. *Can the Executive conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of the development of a gym (similar to The Phoenix Centre) in Castleblayney? I am mindful of very successful local clubs Castleblayney Boxing Club and Muckno Lakers who require a home, and this new facility would be ideal for them in addition to members of the public.*

Reply:

The executive shall seek to secure appropriate funding to undertake a feasibility study on the development of a gym (similar to The Phoenix Centre) in Castleblayney.

19. *Can details be provided on new initiatives being developed by the Executive to promote tourism in Castleblayney and the surrounding area?*

Reply:

Promotion of Monaghan is undertaken on a countywide basis. New initiatives include a C'Mon to Monaghan summer video campaign which features local providers, festivals and landscapes. A 'Scenic Sessions' initiative is also currently being progressed. This will involve a series of pop-up gigs of Monaghan's most talented musicians performing in and showcasing some of the most scenic locations in the towns and villages around the county. Specifically in relation to the Castleblayney area to date in 2025, we have:

- produced a video of Lough Muckno which was released on our social media channels
- hosted a Best of Ireland Influencer Visit which involved visits to The View at Concra Wood, Lough Muckno, Swallow Studios and West Street café
- organised Familiarisation trips to Lough Muckno, Swallow Studios and Big Tom statue for local industry providers in the county to encourage networking and referrals

20. *Can an update be given on the planned works to be undertaken at the Market House, Castleblayney including the proposed dates of beginning and completion of works?*

Reply:

Monaghan County Council recently received confirmation of approval from the DRCDG funding Department to progress Stage 2 of the tender process. It is expected tender documentation will be advertised to shortlisted contractors on the E-tenders platform in early July. Having regard to relevant time periods for the tender process and subject to DRCD approval timelines under *Decision Gate 3 Approval to Proceed*, it is envisaged that project construction may commence in Q4 2025 with an estimated completion date of Q4 2027.

21. *The cobble lock pavement on Main Street, Castleblayney has been in place for a considerable number of years and requires attention. I requested an audit be carried out assessing this paving in the context of areas like cleaning, condition of the paving bricks, presence of weeds, condition of kerbs, sections of subsidence, condition and location of manholes on the pavement and location and condition of access points to the pavement being particularly mindful of people with disabilities and people who are pushing children among other areas. I understand the audit has been completed and works recommended. What is the projected timeline for these works?*

Reply:

Assessments of the cobble lock paving on Main Street Castleblayney have been completed. Sections of footway requiring remedial works are included for completion under the Carrickmacross-

Castleblayney Municipal District's 2025 Footway Programme. It is further anticipated that a deep clean of the cobble lock paving shall be carried out in Q3 2025.

22. *Can an update on works being undertaken at the Black Island be provided? When will the Black Island be reopened?*

Reply:

A significant timber harvesting operation has been required on Black Island as a result of damage caused by Storm Éowyn and this has impacted the Works programme. However, there will be a phased re-opening of the island on temporary surfaces from 5th July. The final surface dressing works and trails furniture, signage etc will be installed incrementally over the coming weeks and will require certain sections of the island to be closed off for short periods.

Upgrade works to the Bridge will be undertaken in August and this will necessitate a further full access closure for 2 weeks. These dates, once finalised, will be communicated in advance.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

23. *When is it hoped to commence the process of preparing a master plan / village plan for the Inniskeen area, and other Villages across the County?*

Reply:

It is anticipated that work on the Tier 4 Village Plan for Inniskeen shall commence in quarter 3 of this year. The rollout of Village Plans for the remaining Tier 4 villages shall be carried out in accordance with a schedule to be agreed with the members of the Municipal Districts.

24. *What is the up to-date position in relation to the preparation of community plans? What plans have been finalised to date? What plans have yet to be commenced?*

Reply: The following Community Plans are currently being progressed:

Monaghan MD:

- Emyvale to be updated & completed shortly
- Scotstown to be commenced shortly

Clones Ballybay MD:

- Smithboro being drafted presently
- Other options to be discussed at the next MD meeting

Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD:

- Inniskeen to be commenced shortly
- Magheracloone to be commenced shortly

The following have applied for support for a plan from the LEADER programme. MCC will work alongside the communities to ensure that their plans fully consider the public realm and opportunities to secure funding from government schemes via the local authority.

- Donaghmoyne/ Broomfield/ Lisdoonan
- Truagh

25. *What is the up to-date position in relation to the 'Taken in Charge' of the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff by Monaghan County Council? Is Uisce Éireann still the problem in terms of moving this process forward?*

Reply:

Sliabh Dubh is served by a standalone wastewater treatment plant which is not maintained by the original developer, this is classed as developer provided infrastructure (DPI).

Uisce Éireann is responsible for the remediation of developer provided infrastructure such as the WWT plant in Sliabh Dubh. The Planning Authority were advised by Uisce Éireann in February 2025 that a sectoral DPI Steering Group had been established and that the Terms of Reference for the group had been agreed. It is understood that the group is being led by DHLGH and that it has representation from Uisce Éireann and from the LA sector.

The Planning Authority cannot proceed with the taking in charge application for Sliabh Dubh without the agreement of Uisce Éireann, which has not been provided.

26. *How many estates across the county that are serviced with a wastewater treatment plant/Package Plant are awaiting to be 'Taken in Charge' by Monaghan County Council?*

Reply:

The Planning Authority has received taking in charge applications for the following developments which are served by individual standalone wastewater treatment plants (also referred to as developer provide infrastructure (DPI));

- Sliabh Dubh, Corduff
- Oisín Vale and Oisín Briain, Emyvale
- Drumakelly, Annyalla

27. *In relation to the Croi Conaithe grant aid available for the refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties, has there been any indication from the department or the line Minister that grant aid will be re-established for the refurbishment agricultural type buildings as was the case previously? **Reply:***

It is understood that the terms of the grant are being reviewed and that consideration is being given to the inclusion of agricultural type buildings within the scheme. Once the terms of this review have been announced details will be provided to the members

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

28. *With considerable residential development progressing in Monaghan Town, and planning permission recently approved for several additional housing developments throughout the Town, what is the capacity status for current and projected demand of the Waste Water Treatment Plant located at Rooskey, considering also the development of a major industrial complex at Annahagh in the year ahead?*

Reply: The wastewater treatment plant in Rooskey is in the charge of Uisce Éireann. To see if space capacity is available, please use the following link:

<https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/wastewater-treatment-capacity-register/monaghan>.

29. *On what date were the Monaghan Town urban boundaries last revised; and for the purpose of extending same, what process must be initiated by Council that will result in urban boundaries expanding, and keeping up to pace with the ongoing residential and commercial/industrial development, and facilitate further development in the years ahead.*

Reply:

The development limits, sometimes referred to as town boundaries, for the 5 towns, Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay, were reviewed during the drafting of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031. Assessments were made during its drafting which should ensure that sufficient lands have been identified and zoned for residential,

industry/enterprise/employment and other uses over the lifetime of the Plan.

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

30. What's the latest update on the planned works to upgrade the Ballynacarry bridge?

Reply: TII have now reviewed the Design & Environmental Evaluation deliverables and have given approval to proceed to the planning stages. Ecological surveys in order to update the Environmental Reports have been commissioned, as previous surveys are no longer valid. On completion of surveys and updates to environmental reporting, planning applications will be lodged in both ROI and NI. Preparation work for the Planning packages is ongoing.

31. What is the breakdown in terms of one bedroom/two bedroom homes on the housing waiting list for the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD and how many are receiving HAP payments?

Reply: 239 applicants requiring 1 bed and 158 applicants requiring 2 bed. 133 are in receipt of HAP

32. With the recent announcement of funding to progress the N2 from Castleblayney to Ardee. What is the next stage in the process particularly with the so much works already complete?

Reply: The N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme was suspended in 2023 due to lack of funding. The project was nearing the end of the Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation process. Receiving confirmation that funding will be provided for in 2026 is beneficial, as it allows the Roads Department to meaningfully re-engage with the Consultant Engineers (Jacobs) in advance of making an allocation request for 2026. Jacobs will advise on what works/studies/surveys are to be repeated or are outstanding, and costings and programmes can be updated. This information will form the basis of a formal 2026 allocation request in late 2025. It is not anticipated that any works will take place on the project in 2025.

33. What is the update on the current active travel projects in the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD?

Reply:

Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Road AT Scheme	NTA & Active Travel Unit currently developing Preliminary design. ATU to tender for consultant for detail design and construction phase services. Section 38 documentation being developed.
Low-Cost Junction Tightening	Castleblayney (Mile hill Rd/ Shercock Rd junction- Contractor appointment completed, Contractor to commence works in coming weeks Inniskeen (L8602/ L4622 Junction) - Contractor appointments completed. Contractor to commence works in coming weeks
Carrickmacross R178/Oriel Rd AT Scheme	Prelim Design report approved by NTA 19/6/25. MCC compiling documentation for next phase Statutory processes (section 38). ATU to tender for consultant to complete detail design and construction phase services
Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)	Clones plan finalised. This is to be used as a template for other Castleblayney and Ballybay when approved by NTA. Tender documentation being developed for design consultant to complete Carrickmacross Local Transport Plan
Inniskeen Village AT Scheme	Fane Bridge -Active Travel Unit have appointed consultant to manage the proposed TM Trail and provide technical outcome report. TM trial to be conducted when schools return from summer.

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34. What projects have been assessed and put forward for the Clar programme and when will we know the successful results?

Reply:

Monaghan County Council prioritised 15 projects for onward submission to the Department for consideration. The following proposals have been submitted for consideration at Departmental level. An indicative timeline for the announcement of successful projects has been set by the Department for November 2025.

Rank	School Name / Community Facility Name / LDC	Description (Brief)	Amount Requested
1	Currin GFC	Community Gym, spectator stand upgrade & implementation of biodiversity planting programme	€100,000
2	Clontibret GAA	Construction of spectator Terracing area & provide 2 no wheelchair/disability areas (Phase 2)	€100,000
3	Killeevan NS	Refurbishment of playground area, construct basketball/tennis court, creation of biodiversity & sensory area, installation of solar bin	€62,712.02
4	Truagh GAA, App no 2	Car park development works (Stone finish)	€65,000
5	Aughnamullen GFC	Provision of a community gym	€65,000
6	Latton O'Rahilly GAA	Development & upgrade of spectator stand including works to improve disability access	€50,000
7	Glaslough Dev Association	Installation of playground equipment, replacement of fencing, addition of play structure to neurodiverse/autism garden	€46,660
8	Ballyoisin Comm Dev Group	Completion of car park works	€24,567.07
9	Cremartin Comm Group/GFC	Upgrade works to include resurfacing astro turf pitch, basketball court, lighting. Biodiversity and recreation area in park	€65,000
10	Drumhowan GFC	Redevelopment & extension to existing GAA spectator facilities to create a disability viewing area and covered seating area	€58,500
11	Tydavnet Group Water Scheme	Construction of 20m boardwalk and viewing area	€34,322.85
12	Aghabog GFC	Upgrade existing walking track including resurfacing, safety barrier along track, upgrade lighting and provision of new disabled carparking area.	€65,000
13	Clontibret Community Centre	Installation of a fire detection system and acoustic panels	€31,762
14	Oram Comm Dev Assoc	Enhancement of green spaces by biodiversity planting	€35,730
15	Sean McDermotts GAA	Upgrade to community centre to include installation of sound proof barriers & upgrade of stage curtains	€34,600
Total funding requested			€838,854

16. Notices of Motion

Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr N. McCooey seconded –

1. *'That Monaghan County Council is gravely concerned that the Central Bank of Ireland is regulating the Israel Bonds Issuance Programme and, thereby, facilitating the sale throughout Europe of bonds which are funding genocide in Gaza.*

Monaghan County Council notes that:

- (i) the bonds, known as Israel Bonds, have, since 1951, raised funds for the Israeli Treasury for use across the Israeli economy including the financing of the apartheid system, the Israeli military and illegal settlements,*
- (ii) the bonds are now being advertised as war bonds and are funding the genocide in Gaza.*

Monaghan County Council further notes that:

- (i) in January 2024 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) confirmed the plausibility of the charge of genocide against Israel,*
- (ii) in June 2024 the UN's International Commission of Inquiry on Palestine found that Israel's actions in Gaza "constitute the war crimes of wilful killing and mistreatment, and the crime against humanity of extermination",*
- (iii) in July 2024 an ICJ ruling declared that Israel is committing the crime of apartheid and its entire regime of military occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal and must end immediately*
- (iv) all institutions are under obligation under international law to prevent genocide and abuse of human rights.*

Monaghan County Council believes that the Central Bank of Ireland must end all complicity in genocide. Monaghan County Council, therefore, calls, through the Minister of Finance, Jack Chambers TD, on the Central Bank of Ireland to immediately end the regulation of the Israeli Bond Issuance'.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Carthy's proposal to a vote by show of hands which resulted as follows:

For: 9

Abstentions: 8

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

In the absence of Cllr S. Coyle, consideration of Notice of Motion 16(2) was deferred to the September Council meeting.

17. xVotes of sympathy/congratulations

It was agreed that votes of sympathy would be extended to the following:

- Áine Carroll, Library Assistant, Carrickmacross Library, on the death of her father Francis (Frank Carroll), 28 Castle Crescent, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.
- Máire Cullinan, Executive Planner, Planning Section, on the death of her mother Elizabeth (Lily) Cullinan, Gortmore, Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone.
- Liz Brannigan, Administrative Officer, Monaghan Municipal District, on the death of her mother Eleanor Duffy, Kilnacran, Braddox, Co. Monaghan.
- Dermot Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer, on the death of his mother-in-law, Eleanor Duffy, Kilnacran, Braddox, Co. Monaghan.

It was agreed that votes of congratulations would be extended to the following:

- Truagh Ladies GFC on winning the John West Feile Cup.

Urgent Business:

Cllr A. Johnston proposed, Cllr P. Conlon seconded, that this Council write to the Minister for Further Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD, requesting that the student contribution fee be maintained at its previous level for the 2025/2026 academic year.

In each of the last three national Budgets, student fees were reduced by €1,000 — a vital measure introduced under the then-Minister for Further and Higher Education, Tánaiste Simon Harris, and continued under his successor, Minister Patrick O'Donovan.

This reduction has provided crucial financial relief to families across the country, at a time when the cost of living has placed significant pressure on households. Maintaining this reduced fee structure will help ensure that students from all backgrounds can continue to access third-level education without additional financial hardship.

Given the continued challenges faced by families in supporting their children through higher education, Monaghan County Council urges the Minister to retain the current level of the student contribution fee for the upcoming academic year.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting, and it was agreed unanimously.

Cllr. P. Gibbons proposed, Cllr. P. Treanor seconded, that this Council ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science James Lawless TD not to increase third level fees by €1,000 as he recently suggested, and that he work toward abolishing third level fees. The recent comments by Minister Lawless TD have caused huge concern among parents and students. We are still in a cost-of-living crisis and in the case of students attending third level accommodation costs in particular continue to rise. Making education affordable and accessible is vital and parents and students deserve clarity urgently on the fee structure for the academic year ahead.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting, and it was agreed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings
Administrator

Date: _____
