

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 16th June 2025 at 11.30am

Present: Cllr Seán Conlon, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs Pauric Clerkin, Raymond Aughey, Niamh McCooey, Seamus Treanor and Bronagh McAree

Apologies: Cllr Alan Johnston

In attendance: Ms. Patricia Monahan, Director of Services, Mr. Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Mr. Ruairi O'Neill, Executive Engineer, Ms. Liz Brannigan, Administrative Officer and Mr. Martin Taylor, A/Municipal District Coordinator

1. Confirmation of Minutes of MD Meeting held on 19th May 2025

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Monaghan Municipal District Meeting held on 19th May 2025 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed by all that this MD seek of the Council's Road Safety Officer to initiate a communication strategy at the earliest opportunity by publishing a document, to be circulated among industries throughout the MD, particularly agri-food sector, for the attention of employees in their respective languages and who use e-scooters / e-bikes as their mode of transport, and for them to desist from travelling on footpaths throughout the Town, and also appealing to them to wear hi-vis vests.

A second proposal was raised by Cllr R. Aughey, that Monaghan MD puts up signs on our existing poles, on the footpaths, the sign to show a picture of an e-scooter / e-bike with an 'X' through it, clearly showing that neither are permitted on our footpaths.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that this proposal warranted further consideration. Ms. P. Monahan to investigate and liaise with the Road Safety Officer, to determine the best course of action.

In response to a query raised by the Members regarding the visible deterioration of the Battle of Clontibret memorial monument, Mr. D. McElwain confirmed this work would be added to the programme of works for this year.

Regarding a proposed meeting between Monaghan Municipal District and An Garda Siochana, regarding HGV traffic restrictions on Glaslough Street and Dublin Street, Mr. D. McElwain confirmed this meeting is to be scheduled and the MD Executive will report to Members at the July Meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. B. McAree, seconded by Cllr. S. Conlon, and agreed by all, that Monaghan County Council write to the Minister for Education asking that schools implement comprehensive, age appropriate, and research-based prevention programme to reduce illicit drug use from an early age and throughout a child's academic career. We further ask the Minister to provide educators with the skills and facilities to implement social programmes.

3. To consider Section 183: Disposal of lands at Roosky Monaghan to Alzheimer Society of Ireland

Mr. P. Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer, referred to the proposed disposal of property at Roosky, Monaghan – site area 0.31 hectares. Mr. Connolly advised that the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland have obtained planning permission for an Alzheimer's Day Care Centre at this location.

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was unanimously agreed that the Council proceed to the next stage with the sale of lands at Rookey, Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 26th May 2025 and attached site location map in accordance with S183 of the Local Government Act 2001, and bring this item before the Corporate Policy Group and then to full Council, for approval.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

The Cathaoirleach took Members through the June report. The Members noted the Report which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Executive responded to queries raised by the Members, as follows:

- Ballinode footpath: Mr. R. O'Neill advised that, while, due to poor weather works had ceased they have since recommenced.
- Verge maintenance: Mr. R. O'Neill confirmed grass verges will be trimmed and outlets will be opened coming into wintertime on any roads which are susceptible to flooding.
- Roosky Lands, Access Road: Mr. D. McElwain to forward map to the Members.
- Mr. M. Taylor to raise the issue, at the next meeting with An Garda Siochana, of people openly drinking in a public space – reference was made to the steps leading to the Pound Hill from the Glen Road.
- Mr D. McElwain confirmed, regarding N12 Monaghan to the Border scheme, consultants have been appointed; dates remain the same; Roads Dept will have further updates in the coming month.
- Regarding the cost for the digital card solution to the Monaghan Town Vouchers, Mr. D. McElwain advised, this is commercially sensitive information, at the moment, but the Executive will keep Members informed.
- Horseshoe bridge: update, the construction stage is expected to commence in the next 4- 6 weeks with a 6-month program for the works.

5. To adopt Casual Trading (Control and Designation) Bye-Laws 2025

On the proposal of Cllr S. Treanor, seconded by Cllr. R. Aughey, it was agreed by all, to adopt the Casual Trading (Control & Designation) Byelaws 2025.

6. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the meeting agenda:

- Response from Minister Darragh O'Brien re: Bus Shelters
- Response from the Department of Transport, re: e-scooters
- Response from the NTA re: bus shelter at Ballyoisin and Emyvale
- Response from ESB Telecoms re: mast at Killygoan
- Report on NTA funding in relation to the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme 2025

7. Questions & Motions

CLlr Raymond Aughey asked:

1. Can the Council investigate moving the pedestrian crossing on the Broad Road further down the road as there has been complaints about how close the crossing is to the corner and also, complaints about the speed of HGVs and other vehicles going through the roundabout?

Response: This pedestrian crossing was designed and located as per design standards. It is a Zebra crossing with flashing amber lights, meaning that Drivers are required to stop and give way to pedestrians waiting to cross or who have already commenced crossing at the crossing. Pedestrians should wait for traffic to stop. However, MCC will carry out an assessment to ensure that this crossing is positioned in the optimum location, in terms of both safety and the pedestrian desire line.

2. Can the Council complete a speed survey at the entrance to the Broad Road off the Margaret Skinnader Roundabout?

Response: The Municipal District of Monaghan will add this location to the list of roads for speed survey. Results will be advised of in due course.

3. The Summer seats at Rooskey Vale OPDs are in very poor condition and need repair.

Response: The Municipal District of Monaghan will arrange for the repair works to be carried out on these seats.

4. The Tourism signage around the town is now dated as the library and museum have moved, Can they be updated?

Response: The Municipal District of Monaghan, in conjunction with the Tourism Section, will review signage around Monaghan Town and update accordingly.

5. Old stone retaining wall at the rear entrance to Lidl has partially collapsed, does this wall come under the remit of the MD & if so, can it be repaired?

Response: This stone retaining wall is privately owned and is therefore not in the remit of the Municipal District to repair. The Municipal District will contact the relevant owner of the wall to ascertain when repairs will be carried out.

CLlr Niamh McCooey asked:

1. Can Monaghan County Council confirm when the tender for consultancy related services related to the Ulster Canal Project - specifically the section from Monaghan to the border- is expected to be awarded? Additionally, can the council provide details on how many businesses submitted an application for this tender?

Response: It is expected to award the contract in July 2025, subject to TII approval. The tender documents were issued to all 5 participants on the TII Framework, the tender assessment process is ongoing at present.

2. Under the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme, Monaghan County Council identified 40 locations across the county for upgrade works. Could the Council confirm how many of these locations are within the Monaghan Municipal District. And provide details on their locations?

Response: The NTA issued information, guidance and a priority list of 40 locations across the county in relation to the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme for April 2025. 17 of the locations are in the Municipal District of Monaghan, located in the villages of Annyalla, Ballinode, Emyvale, Glaslough, Scotstown and in Monaghan Town.

Cllr Sean Conlon asked:

1. In my continued efforts at seeking the repaving of the unsatisfactory road surface at the Diamond Centre car park, especially to facilitate those attending the National Learning Network, what progress has occurred aimed at resolving this long-standing issue?

Response: The Municipal District have agreed a lease, in principle, with the owner and are currently waiting the formal documents. It is anticipated that this will be completed in June, and it is planned to resurface the car park in Q3 / Q4.

2. In efforts at ensuring community safety is protected for the Halloween period, and a repeat of damaging anti-social behaviour that occurred, what progress is there in liaising with the Gardai and relevant agencies to prevent similar scenes this year.

Response: The Council, community reps and An Garda Síochána have meet to discuss the anti-social issues that occurred last Halloween and have discussed measures to implement. Further meetings are to take place over the summer.

The Council also, have set up a stakeholder group with Fóroige, CMETB, Tusla, Monaghan Integrated, Monaghan Town Team and the various sections within the council to look at holding a number of significant events in Monaghan Town during Halloween 2025.

8. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

On the proposal of Cllr Pauric Clerkin, seconded by Cllr Raymond Aughey, it was agreed by all, to extend a vote of congratulations to Enda O'Brien, Emyvale, on being named NBRA Basketball Referee of the Year.

9. AOB

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, and agreed by all that Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for Education, Helen Mc Entee and to Mr. John Kearney, CEO of NCSE expressing the Council's disappointment at the news that the new ASD units at Corracrin National School will not be utilised to its full potential.

*We as a Council demand answers as to why this unit will not be utilised to its full potential and similarly why a second ASD classroom will not be opening as promised at Tydavnet N.S.
We as a Council want to know who was responsible for these decisions and what is being done to facilitate the children that had been enrolled in these classes.*

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, that the MD posts note of thanks in the canteen of our outdoor staff, thanking them for their efforts that have secured a 5th place in the latest Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) for the second year in a row, and similarly to the Tidy Towns in Monaghan who oversee litter pick initiatives, and collaborate with community groups and residential associations in contributing to this fantastic outcome.

Cllr S. Treanor requested that a letter issue to the HSE NE regarding the condition of roads around St. Davnet's grounds.

Cllr R. Aughey asked, if it is possible to have bunting erected around the town for Country Music Festival.

Cllr R. Aughey, in referring to an issue of speeding in Milltown, that a speed survey be carried out at this location and also at Kilnadrain.

Cllr P. Clerkin raised the issue of a need for street lighting at Scotstown Road to the Business Park. Mr. R. O'Neill confirmed that there is only small allocation towards public lighting each year; the MD will need to consider other options.

Cllr S. Treanor requested that the grass be cut at the Customs House, Coolshannagh.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this _____ day of July 2025