

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 21st July 2025 at 12.00noon

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

Online: Cllr Bronagh McAree

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

1. (a) Confirmation of Minutes of MD Meeting held on 16th June 2025

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Monaghan Municipal District Meeting held on 16th June 2025 be confirmed.

(b) Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on 16th June 2025

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Monaghan Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on 16th June 2025 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

In response to a query raised by the Members regarding an event to recognise the involvement of the Farmers Market Committee in relation to the recently adopted Casual Trading Byelaws, Ms. P. Monahan confirmed while there were no plans to hold an event, the MD will work informally with the Committee.

Mr. M. Taylor confirmed an update will issue to the Members when a response has been received in relation to a lease for the Diamond Carpark.

In relation to e-scooters, Mr. R. O'Neill referred to correspondence circulated with meeting agenda from Mr. Adrian O'Sullivan, Road Safety Officer.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, and agreed by all, that this MD write to An Garda Síochána Superintendent Pat O'Connell seeking clarification on what role the gardai have in implementing legislation that penalises people on e-scooters and e- bikes both in urban settings, including footpaths, and rural roads that engage in law breaking in this regard.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr. M. Taylor took Members through the July report. The Members noted the report which had been circulated with the agenda.

Members raised concerns over the increasing level of anti-social behaviour in the town centre, which is leaving a negative impression on visitors to the town. There was a call for the summer seats to be removed from the Diamond area in order to discourage anti-social behaviour in this area; however, it was suggested that local people/visitors to the town shouldn't be penalised as a result of the actions of a few and called for a greater Garda presence in the area, to clamp down on instances of public drinking and intimidating behaviour in the Diamond and Church Square areas of the town.

Members reiterated the need for the activation of the new Community Safety Partnership structure, which replaces the Joint Policing Committee, and called upon the local authority to do what it can to expedite the process.

Members acknowledged the work of the Country Music Festival Committee and the volunteers in organising and hosting another very successful event this year. Members also acknowledged the work of Monaghan Municipal District staff in the cleanup operation each morning, throughout the festival. Members also paid tribute to the numerous local photographers and influencers who put in a huge effort in supporting the festival on their social media platforms, reaching a wider audience as a result.

Members referred to a third accident which happened across from Stanley Terrace/Dept of Social Protection office, where a building was struck by a car travelling at high speed and asked that the executive make contact with TII in relation to intervention needed at this location.

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

- Regarding the webcam in Monaghan Town which has not been in operation for some time, Ms. P. Monahan confirmed MCC are working on getting the webcam operational and reiterated the need to ensure there is a legal basis for this.
- Ms. P. Monahan confirmed a request will come before the September Council Meeting seeking representatives to sit on the Community Safety Partnerships.
- Mr. R. O'Neill confirmed the re-surfacing works at Coolshannagh roundabout are due to a deterioration of the road surface.

In relation to the Peter's Lake culvert project, Ms. P. Monahan confirmed that, at the May Mtg of Monaghan Municipal District, Members were advised of a shortfall of approx. €230,000 and that alternative sources of funding were to be explored. Ms. P. Monahan confirmed while we have not been successful in securing funding from another source works must still go ahead due to flooding risk in this area. Mr. R. O'Neill outlined the technical reasons why the project was needed outlining the flood risk to the north of the North Road, impacting on commercial premises in the catchment area of the culvert. Members raised a query in relation to the possibility of using funding from reserve funds for this work. Members also queried development contributions for recent housing developments in this area and the possibility of using these for the culvert works project.

Cllr S. Treanor proposed, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon that the Members refuse to give €100,000 that it had been suggested would be taken from the LPT fund for this project, calling for a vote to be taken.

A vote was taken, by show of hands, where the majority of members voted in favour of the Cathaoirleach's proposal.

In response to the query raised regarding development contributions Ms. P. Monahan confirmed that development contributions had been collected from the development referred to and that one amount of approx. €85,000-90,000 had been ringfenced for the culvert project. Ms. Monahan confirmed she had raised this question at County Council level and was advised that development contributions go towards recreation, lighting and footpaths and that this work did not fall under these categories.

Mr. R. O'Neill outlined the following in relation to project funding:

€100,000 from the Dept of Transport from the Climate Adaptation Fund
€100,000 from MCC Roads Section
€85,000 from development contributions
€230,000 – approximate shortfall

Ms. P. Monahan advised Members that works must continue and the shortfall in expenditure would become an unfunded capital balance which they would need to find a way to pay off.

4. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the meeting agenda:

- Response from Mr. Cathal Hand, HSE, in relation to road maintenance around St. Davnet's campus
- Response from Minister for Transport in relation to e-scooters
- Response from Minister for Justice in relation to e-scooters
- Acknowledgement from Minister for Education & Youth regarding ASD units at Corracrín NS
- Acknowledgement from Minister for Education & Youth regarding the issue of drug use

Cllr B. McAree asked that her disappointment be noted in relation to the response from Minister Helen McEntee regarding the ASD unit at Corracrin National School advising of the issue of a young local boy who is still in need of a SNA place in the school.

5. Questions & Motions

Cllr Seán Conlon will ask:

1. In reference to the Monaghan Town Regeneration Scheme,
 - a) On what date, and to how many properties, were Derelict Site notices issued in the last three years in Monaghan Town?

Response: During 2023, no notices were issued in respect of Derelict Sites.

Following the establishment of the Town Regeneration section in March 2024, in Monaghan Town, 23No. properties and 34No. properties have been issued with a Section 8(2) notice (Notice of intention to enter onto Derelict Site Register) in 2024 and 2025 respectively.

14.no properties have been issued with a Section 8(7) notice (Notice of entry onto the Derelict Site Register).

They are as follows along with date of entry: -

1. **Dernagrew 11/07/25**
2. **9 Plantation Terrace 19/05/25**
3. **3 Mall Road 07/07/25**
4. **18 Dublin Street 20/03/25**
5. **19 Dublin Street 20/03/25**
6. **7 New Terrace 18/03/25**

7. 8 New Terrace 18/03/25
8. 30 Park Street 21/10/24
9. 10 Market Street 04/09/24
10. 24/25 Market Street 03/09/24
11. 55 Dublin Street 03/09/24
12. 15 Dublin Street 11/07/24
13. Assembly rooms Dawson Street 10/07/24
14. Coolshannagh (Barack Lane) 12/06/24

5No. Section 15 Notices (intention to CPO) have been issued in respect of:

1. 24/26 Market Street 04/02/25
2. Assembly rooms 21/01/25
3. Coolshannagh (Barack Lane) 30/07/24
4. 15 Dublin Street 11/07/24
5. 13 Old Cross Square 18/06/24

1No. Section 16 Notice (Notice of request for the consent of an Bord Pleanála to the compulsory acquire of a derelict site, under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended) has been issued in respect of:

1. 24/26 Market Street 09/04/25

- b) Which of the derelict properties have been purchased by the Council in Monaghan Town?

Response:

1. 13 Old Cross Square
2. Coolshannagh (Barrack lane)
3. 15 Dublin Street
4. Assembly Rooms

- c) What costs have been incurred through purchase and acquisition of these properties?

Response: Approximately €5,000 has been incurred to date to make 13 Old Cross Square and the Assembly rooms ready for sale. Currently no other costs have been occurred to date as the owners have either not brought forward documentation to receive compensation or the Council solicitor is reviewing documentation received.

- d) Which of these properties have been sold onto private developers, and what is the legally binding timescale for renovation works to commence at these derelict properties?

Response: The timescale for renovation is 24 months from date of sale completion. 13 Old Cross Square, sale is currently being finalised. Assembly Rooms has been advertised for sale. Properties at Coolshannagh (Barrack Lane) and 15 Dublin Street have been acquired for Housing Section/Capital projects.

2. In reference to the attached photo, and further to my query raised at the May 19th MD sub-committee meeting in the context of pedestrian safety, what progress has occurred that will

result in a footpath being installed from High Street to Mill Street on the left-hand side in the direction of the Post Office?

Response: There currently is insufficient room at this location to install a pedestrian footpath. The adjoining landowner along this section of road was granted planning permission in 2024 for a proposed development, with a condition to provide a footpath along this location as part of the development works. This footpath cannot be delivered in advance without the site works associated with this development. In 2024 the Municipal District completed a pedestrian tabletop crossing near this location to provide a crossing point on High Street and help improve pedestrian safety in this area.

3. Further to my query raised at the April 29th MD meeting, what progress has occurred in providing pedestrian safety measures along the footpath between the Spar shop and Local Link bus stop on the Cootehill Road?

Response: The Municipal District have reviewed this location in conjunction with our Active Travel section. This area is currently being considered as part of a larger Active Travel scheme on the Cootehill Road. The Options Selection Report for this scheme is expected to be presented to the Members in September.

4. On a recent visit to a Council dwelling to assist a tenant with changing a smoke alarm battery, the manufacturers sticker on the mains wired unit recommended it to be replaced by 2018, 7 years out of date. What Council led programme exists for assessing the need for mains wired smoke alarms to be replaced in all Council owned houses, especially considering the 10-year life span of these alarms?

Response: Although most manufacturers of smoke detectors recommend replacement after 10 years, Monaghan County Council's Housing Section has found that the good quality smoke detectors installed in Local Authority housing have an actual lifespan that exceeds 10 years. Tenants should contact the Council via the repair line 047 30515 if any of the detectors in their home are not working or are out of date and they will be replaced as part of the Council's maintenance programme.

Monaghan County Council's directly employed Craftworkers and Contractors carrying out maintenance work for Monaghan County Council also flag non-compliant or out of date fire detection devices and replace these where they are identified during Response Maintenance, Planned Maintenance, adaptation works for people with disabilities / older people and Energy Efficiency Works etc.

Monaghan County Council is undertaking a significant comprehensive stock condition survey of all houses within its ownership. This involves a considerable amount of work, it is planned to have this survey of all housing stock completed by 2029. Fire Safety is covered by the survey and any issues found are and will continue to be addressed under response maintenance.

4. What has been the typical annual Council rates bill charged to the Lacpatrick / Lakelands Dairy processing facility at Coolshannagh Monaghan for years 2022, 2023, 2024?

Response:

2022 €140,639.72

2023 €147,734.02

2024 €152,152.35

Total for those 3 years was €440,526.09

Motion by Cllr Sean Conlon:

That Monaghan County Council seek the intervention of the Department of Enterprise, Industrial Development Authority and Enterprise Ireland in seeking a replacement industry at the extensive 27-acre site at Coolshannagh previously occupied by Lakeland Dairies.

Cllr B. McAree asked that the wording ‘replacement business to be from the agri-sector’ be included in the correspondence.

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

Motion by Cllr Niamh McCooey:

In recognition of the significant progress Monaghan County Council is making in promoting our local tourism industry, I propose that this Council arrange for the production and publication of an updated printed visitor information handout for Rossmore Forest Park — the most visited Coillte forest park in the country.

Due to inadequate network coverage within the park, the mobile app originally developed to support visitor navigation and engagement is currently deemed ineffective. Therefore, it is essential that a physical information resource be made readily accessible to all visitors, with clear signage indicating where these handouts can be obtained.

In addition, I propose that this Council undertake a redesign of the existing colour-coded trail map to improve clarity and user-friendliness, thereby ensuring that all visitors can make the most of their experience at Rossmore Park.

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

Ms. P. Monahan advised Members that the Tourism team are currently working on a revised map which will include the sculptures and all recent additions to the park. There will be updated information on all trails with visitor information linked to the Monaghan Tourism website.

6. *Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations*

It was agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to Ms. Liz Brannigan, Administrative Officer, Monaghan MD, on the recent passing of her mother, Eleanor Duffy.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, and agreed by all that Monaghan County Council congratulates the Greenan family, and the Irish Holstein Friesian Association, on the

successful hosting of the IHFA National Open Day on July 10th at the award-winning Greenlea Herd farm at Crosshugh, Ardaghey Monaghan.

Copy also to be sent to IHFA President Mary Rafferty Tydavnet.

7. AOB

Cllr R. Aughey asked that the bunting which was erected for the Country Music Festival remain in place until after the Harvest Time Blues Festival.

Cllr R. Aughey requested Members approval for the attendance of Mr. Paul Bond at the September Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District in relation to the Drumlin Giants project in Rossmore Park. Agreed by all.

Cllr S. Conlon referred to the upcoming celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Mullaghmat Housing Estate confirming that one meeting had already taken place, with further meetings planned. Ms. P. Monahan asked that all meetings be notified to the MD Executive in order to allow attendance at the meeting.

Following a discussion in which concern was raised by the Cathaoirleach regarding the new road project at Rooskey, it was agreed that representatives from the Housing Department be invited to the September meeting of Monaghan MD to provide Members with an update on what plans there are for housing on the Rooskey lands.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this _____ day of September 2025