Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 15th September 2025 at 12.45pm

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

Online: Cllr Bronagh McAree

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

Apologies: Ms. Patricia Monahan, Director of Services

1. Confirmation of Minutes of MD Meeting held on 21st July 2025

On the proposal of Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Monaghan Municipal District Meeting held on 21st July 2025 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

In response to queries raised by the Members regarding Peter's Lake culvert works, Mr. M. Taylor advised that preparatory works for tunnelling have been carried out, with tunnelling works due to commence in 2 weeks.

In relation to the Coolshannagh Road, Mr. M. Taylor confirmed this has been sent to the NRA to arrange for the collection of speed data.

3. To consider Parking Control (Pay Parking) & Car-Parks Bye-Laws (Amended) 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, and agreed by all, to adopt the Parking Control (Pay Parking) & Car-Parks Bye-Laws (Amended) 2025 (in relation to on-street parking), and to be brought before October CPG and November Council Meeting (in relation to off street parking).

Cllr. S. Conlon asked that it be noted that it has been 15 years since the Parking Control Byelaws were introduced and the fee for parking in Monaghan Town remains at 0.50cent for 1 hour.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr. M. Taylor took Members through the August/September report. The Members noted the report which had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. Taylor advised Members that the Town Centre First Plan will be launched in the coming month.

Members extended their gratitude to the Harvest Time Blues Festival Committee in organising a very successful festival and also expressed their thanks to the staff from Monaghan Municipal District for their role in organising parking facilities for motorhome campers.

Cllr S. Conlon noted that the budget of €40,000 for this festival, which has been fixed for a number of years, may need to be reviewed as the success of this festival is heavily dependent on securing good quality entertainment for the weekend; noting that additional funding may be required in the future.

Cllr P. Clerkin referred to the opening of Ballinode Community Centre which takes place on 20th September from 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm and encouraged Members to attend.

In response to queries raised by Members, Mr. M. Taylor confirmed:

Regarding the Greenway to the Border Scheme, approval to appoint a contractor has not yet been granted; Monaghan County Council are currently engaging with Northern Ireland Councils and there will be an update provided at October MD Meeting.

In relation to a request for repairs to a road in Scotstown which has fallen into disrepair, it was noted this road is a private road.

5. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the meeting agenda:

- Correspondence from Leonard Steel in relation to the Hive of Knowledge
- Response from Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion re Corracrin National School
- Response from NCSE re Corracrin & Tydavnet National Schools

In relation to correspondence received from Leonard Steel, it was agreed that, as a vote has already taken place in relation to the relocation of the Hive of Knowledge, this item to be brought back before the Members in 6 months' time if an alternative location has been identified.

6. Questions & Motions

Cllr Raymond Aughey asked:

1. Could the MD gave an update on where we are in the 2025 roads program and also how we are on the patching? Is there any other money going this year to the MD for roads?
   Response: All Roads on the adopted 2025 Roads Programme have been completed along with the 3No. additional roads adopted by the Elected Members at the June MD Meeting. In addition to this, a section of the L 3445/L3444 (Former N2 at Clontibret Village) is scheduled to be resurfaced at the end of September during nighttime works. An additional allocation of roads funding has been received from the Department of Transport. This allocation for the Monaghan MD will be brought to the Elected Members for their consideration.

   Several large macadam patches have been completed on the following roads - Old Armagh Road (LP-1400), Corragh Cross (LP 1170/1171/1154/1155), Surveel (LS-6010), and Mullaghmat (LT-55132). A large patch is also scheduled for Park Street Monaghan Town during night time works at the end of September.

   The 2025 Surface Dressing Programme has also concluded for the year with 11 Roads completed within the Monaghan Municipal District.

   Additionally, as part of a pilot scheme on low-cost road interventions, micro surfacing took place on the L-1600 at Tullybryan/Mullinahinch. These works involved the application of a bitumen slurry seal to sections of the road that were identified to have surface defects. The entire road was then subsequently surface dressed.

Cllr Sean Conlon asked:

1. What progress is occurring in relation to my previous queries regarding the installation of directional signage at Mullaghmatt?

   Response: The Municipal District of Monaghan have directional signage ordered for Mullaghmatt. Once delivered, this signage will be installed.

2. From the results of the county wide feasibility study carried out for the purpose of selecting a location for a pilot District Heating Scheme, what have been the key findings of phase 1 of this research, and what are the anticipated outcomes and implementation scenarios that may arise following phase 2 of this initiative?

   Response: Phase 1 of the District Heating Study has been completed. This phase involved a heat demand assessment to estimate energy needs across Monaghan's settlements and identify key

demand clusters. Five major towns—Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones, and Ballybay were evaluated for criteria including heat demand levels, availability of anchor loads, potential heat sources, growth prospects, and land zoning for development. From this analysis, Monaghan Town, Carrickmacross, and Castleblayney were shortlisted for further review. A detailed desktop study was then undertaken to compare heat source options, consider suitable energy centre locations (with a focus on council-owned or appropriately zoned land), and assess anchor loads alongside planned developments. Following this evaluation process, Monaghan Town was identified as the most suitable location for a district heat network, given its strong heat demand, range of viable low-carbon sources, and presence of stakeholders with consistent heating needs and decarbonisation requirements.

Phase 2 of the project will focus on Monaghan Town, with a more detailed feasibility study now underway. This will include direct engagement with potential heat customers and an in-depth assessment of the three opportunities identified in Phase 1, high level design of potential network routes and a technoeconomic analysis on costs and commercial structures of potential projects. Phase 2 is expected to be completed by Q4 of this year.

3. In relation to efforts by the Council's Town Regeneration Section in Monaghan Town in addressing vacancy and dereliction, will the recent ruling by An Coimisiun Pleanala on the fire damaged derelict property opposite the Market House expedite long overdue building reconstruction?

   Response: On 9th September 2025, Monaghan County Council received confirmation that An Coimisiun Pleanala had consented to the compulsory acquisition of the derelict site at 24-26 Market Street, Monaghan, County Monaghan.

   The Council understands that this property may have recently changed ownership. Prior to deciding how to proceed, the Council will meet with the potential new owner and determine his rights to the property and his plans to urgently address the dereliction issue.

Cllr Niamh McCooey asked:

1. Can Monaghan County Council confirm when verge repair works will be carried out on the R213, close to Castleshane village?

   Response: As part of the Department of Transport Roads Grants Allocations, funding was received to complete a design on remedial measure required for the verge slippage along a section of the R-213 at Castleshane. A Tender Competition for a Design Team has concluded and it is expected that appointment will be made by the end of September.

2. Could Monaghan County Council explore the possibility of installing ramps in The Ferns development in Scotstown to assist with traffic calming and enhance road safety?

   Response: The Municipal District of Monaghan will carry out an assessment of The Ferns Estate and determine if any traffic calming measure are required. Any required traffic calming will be considered in conjunction with available funding streams.

3. Following the announcement of the Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme in April and the identification of suitable locations, can the Council confirm when works will commence to install bus stops at the selected sites?

   Response: The NTA have allocated funding under the 2025 annual grants for a Bus Stop Enhancement Programme. They also issued information, guidance and a "priority list" in relation to the Programme in April 2025

The Active Travel team have inspected the 40 locations on this list. We are continuing to work with NTA public transport section and bus service providers to develop a works programme to carry out improvements at these bus stops.

The upgrade works could include new bus stop poles and signage, road markings and hard standing areas. Consideration will be given to locations to introduce improved lighting, seating and bus shelters where appropriate and is feasible to do so.

A tender has been issued for contactors to carry out the replacement of bus stop poles in August 2025. We are waiting on the response to the tender process.

4. Could the Council please confirm whether there are any plans to resurface the car park at Tyholland Chapel?

Response: The Municipal District of Monaghan currently have no plans to resurface the carpark at Tyholland Church, however consideration will be given to possible future funding streams that could be used to carry out such works. In the meantime, any repairs will needed will be carried out as required.

Cllr Alan Johnston asked:

1. Can the MD look at providing public lighting on the avenue at St Mary's Boys School? This section of road is a public road and the CMETB Adult Learning Centre along with the school regularly use their facilities in the evening and night time and there are safety and security concerns due to the darkness.

   Response: The Monaghan Municipal District along with the Roads Section will carry out an assessment of the public lighting requirements for this section of road and obtain costings for consideration in conjunction with available Public Lighting budget.

2. Has the MD been provided with a timeline for the completion of construction works at ALDI ?

   Response: Construction Works are scheduled for completion by 9th October 2025 for the ALDI store.

3. Can the MD also update the members on the timing and duration of any works that will be required around entrances and exits at ALDI that will impact on traffic flows?

   Response: Paving to the footpaths along Broad Road will be progressing for the next 2 weeks. Stone cladding to the boundary wall will be progressing for the next 3 weeks. All materials are currently being offloaded outside peak traffic times. There is some realignment of road marking to be done on week commencing 29th September 2025.

4. Can the MD provide an update on the THRIVE application for the Convent Lands?

   Response: Monaghan County Council has submitted a detailed application under Strand 2 of the THRIVE funding for the re- adaptation of St Louis Chapel, on the St Louis Lands, Monaghan. The application is to sensitively transform the currently vacant St Louis Chapel building into a community hub with exhibition spaces, performance space, meeting rooms, toilets including Changing Places facility, and a café. In addition, the proposal incorporates the development of a public realm space that links the lands and building with the town centre. A key element of this is the removal of the boundary wall between the convent grounds and the car park to visually open up this area. Incorporated into the proposal is a Living Lab, a community model whereby people are brought together to meet and engage, develop ideas and address the challenges pertinent to County Monaghan

   The Council understands that the results of the evaluation process will be announced by the end of September 2025.

5. Can the MD provide an update as to the rewilding project and timing of public access of the lands along the Clones Road adjoining Old Park Court and Canal View?

   Response: This is the preliminary stage of a proposed five-year project. To date, ragwort clearance has been completed, 20m of hedgerow established, and partial lane clearance undertaken. A Hedgerow Week event was recently held with limited public access. A consultant is developing the management plan. Public access remains under review, as the site will host periodic grazing and annual seed harvesting.

MOTIONS

Motion by Cllr Sean Conlon, seconded by Cllr Niamh McCooey:

In relation to the Monaghan Town Wastewater Treatment Plant located at Rooskey, currently categorised as status 'Amber' by Uisce Eireann, along with the current accelerated growth of housing and commercial development throughout Monaghan Town, that this Council seeks clarification from Uisce Eireann of its plans for expanding the WWTP, a vital infrastructural requirement in facilitating development and population growth in Monaghan.

In supporting the motion, Cllr N. McCooey proposed an amendment to the motion, that we also write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne T.D., who has oversight of Uisce Éireann, to address the Monaghan town plant status, and to also highlight the situation in the village of Clontibret and the community of Knockatallon, both of which are classified as red status under the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) capacity system, thereby prohibiting any further development in these areas.

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

Motion by Cllr Raymond Aughey, seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor:

In the rural policy, I would like to put forward a motion for lands at Tyholland to be included in the governments new policy for more housing.

Tyholland got housing about 30 years ago so there is land and there is capacity in the wastewater works.

In supporting the motion, Cllr N. McCooey proposed an amendment to the motion, that this Council writes to Fianna Fáil Minister James Browne TD and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, calling for an urgent review of the National Planning Framework and Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guides. The current framework is leading to the decimation of rural Ireland by restricting growth, and it must be rethought to allow sustainable development and the survival of rural communities. Balanced planning is essential to ensure that rural Ireland has a future.

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

7. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

It was agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to Ms. Stephanie McMenamin, Assistant Staff Officer, Local Enterprise Office, on the recent passing of her father, Stevie Kelly.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Clerkin, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, and agreed by all, to extend a vote of congratulations to Glaslough Tyholland Group Water Scheme on being the overall winners

for biodiversity enhancement National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) Awards in the Mountainwater and Sliabh Beagh Catchment.

8. AOB

There were no matters raised under AOB.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this _____day of October 2025