

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 15th December 2025 at 11.30am

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

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

Apologies: Cllr Bronagh McAree

At the outset of the meeting, Members joined in paying tribute to the Northern Standard staff, past and present, and to the Smyth family, who have announced their decision to close due to challenging commercial circumstances, including declining readership and advertising revenue in recent years. Members described the closure as a huge loss to the people of Monaghan, it's diaspora and the entire community it had served for so long. Members acknowledged the final edition of the paper which will be published on December 18, 2025, bringing nearly two centuries of continuous weekly printing to an end. Members thanked the staff of the paper, in particular Mr. Peter Hughes, Journalist, and Mr. Rory Geary, Photogrpaher, for their professionalism and impartiality in their reporting; also mentioning local correspondents for our towns and villages, Ms. Veronica Corr, Mr. Martin Shannon, Mr. Colm Shalvey, the late Mr. Paddy Turley; Mr. Patsy Smyth and Mr. Patsy McArdle.

Ms. P. Monahan spoke on behalf of the Executive and thanked the staff of the paper for their professionalism and reliability throughout the years, never failing to attend an event, whatever the weather, citing the recent Christmas Lights Switch On as one such example.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 17th November 2025

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Monaghan Municipal District Meeting held on 17th November 2025 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

In relation to concerns raised by the Members, it was agreed to invite representatives from the Housing Department to the January Meeting to discuss the following:

- Development of lands at Cornacassa
- What, if any, housing MCC will have in the new development opposite Bogues
- Plans for the 3 houses at Old Cross Square for which demolition was refused

Members acknowledged the work of the Executive, past and present, in the advertising of Part VIII for development of lands at Annahagh/Tullyherim roundabout

(O'Neill's Farm) which is moving at an exciting pace, with the Council investing services into this area.

Members also acknowledged:

- the IDA building and the works which have been undertaken here, with a company from Limerick due to take up tenure in the near future
- the Lakeland Dairies building which is soon to be re-occupied.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

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

Members acknowledged the work of the Council Executive for their efforts in the following areas:

- provision of public lighting at St. Mary's Boys National School
- dereliction in Monaghan Town
- public realm in town centre
- delivery of housing in Monaghan Town
- the new Christmas tree in Church Square
- the work involved by volunteers and MD staff in the Christmas Lights Switch On event

Members acknowledged the work of those involved in the new giants sculptures in Rossmore Park.

On the proposal of Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed to request that the Local Authority commence the installation of traffic calming measures on the N54 Clones Road to assist with the safety of active travel users and local residents.

In relation to an incident which took place on Saturday night, 13th December, where an individual climbed to the top of the Christmas Tree in Church Square, with the intention of causing damage to the tree, Members joined in their condemnation of this reckless act and asked the Executive to report this matter to An Garda Siochana for investigation. Members also requested that 'CCTV in operation' signage be erected at the Christmas Tree also.

In response to Members queries, Mr. M. Taylor and Mr. R. O'Neill confirmed:

- traffic calming measures at the Model School – preliminary options are being considered – Executive will update Members in the new year
- Tullyherim Lane – this has been discussed with Active Travel where a slight amendment was introduced following recommendations of the Road Safety Audit
- Lighting issue at Mullaghmatt – there is an issue with a cable, contractor is due on site today / tomorrow; Executive to investigate temporary lighting measures.

- Unredeemed Monaghan Town Vouchers – this figure currently sits at €1.2million; members of the public are encouraged to redeem their paper vouchers.
- Ballyalbany bridge – Executive to come back to Members on this
- Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme – this is currently being assessed by Active Travel; 40 in total.
- Executive to examine the potential for BMX Cycle trails / facilities in the Monaghan area
- More lighting needed to warn road users of ramp entering Emyvale on the N2 from the Monaghan side

4. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the meeting agenda:

- Response from Department of Agriculture in relation to Compensation scheme paid to farmers who have to cull animals under a notifiable disease.
- Letter from The Féile Oriel committee advising Members that they have agreed to discontinue with Féile Oriel.
- Response from the Commission for Regulation of Utilities confirming they do not have any regulatory remit for ESB eCars or any other EV charging point provider.
- Response from the office of Michael Healy-Rae T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to the felling of trees

5. Questions & Motions

Cllr Raymond Aughey asked:

1. Could we get a costing for a drone light show for next years Halloween festival instead of fireworks?

Response: Monaghan Municipal District had previously been in conversation with companies prior to Halloween 2025 to discuss the possibility of a light show following previous requests. Many of the companies were booked up for 2025 at that stage, and any companies that were able to offer a service were extremely expensive – in the region of €50k. Now that there is more time to obtain quotations from potential suppliers, Monaghan Municipal District will again reach out to these companies and obtain quotations and what is on offer for Halloween 2026.

2. Can we explore the bus parking outside of the Convent and see can we relocate it to a safer area?

Response: The buses are currently stopping along the R162 Glen Road to allow children on and off the buses at St Louis Convent. Monaghan Municipal District will arrange for a meeting with St Louis Convent to see the potential of getting buses to pull off the road into their school area to allow children on and off the buses. Monaghan Municipal District will also discuss this with the Active Travel unit to determine if this school has been explored under Safe Routes to School.

3. Do the ESB need any planning for the mast on the Pound Hill to locate additional telecommunications ariels.

Response: Article 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) specifies certain development listed in Schedule 2 of the Regulations to be exempted development, and thus do not require planning permission. CLASS 31 in Part 1 of Schedule 2 states that a statutory undertaker authorised to provide a telecommunications service can attach additional antennae to an existing antenna support structure (mast) up to a maximum number, dependant on certain criteria such as the height of the support structure. This exemption is also subject to the general restrictions on exempt development set out in Article 9 of the Regulations.

4. Can we help the old Donagh graveyard committee with the lane up to the graveyard. It is a private lane but with numerous visitors coming next year from PEI if we could help it would be appreciated.

Response: The Municipal District of Monaghan will arrange a meeting with Donagh Graveyard committee to discuss what form of assistance can be provided.

Cllr Alan Johnston asked:

1. Can the MD give a best estimate timeline for when street lights will be installed along the Scotstown Road from Woodlands out to the 60 k/hr speed limit zone.

Response: The Municipal District of Monaghan have received quotations to install public lights as far as the 50km/hr speed limit zone. It is expected that this section will be installed and operational during Q1 2026. A substantial amount of work will be required to install public lights further out to the 60km/hr speed limit zone. In order to prioritise public lighting installations across the District the MD will prepare a list of public lighting requests (including the section referenced in this Question) with estimated installation costs for the Elected Members consideration in early 2026.

2. What is the % of Monaghan Town car parking tickets that are purchased through the app?

Response: On analysing the figures for the last month, 26.3% of the total car parking tickets in Monaghan Town were purchased using the Parking App.

- a. What were the total running & management costs for Monaghan Town parking in its first full year of operation. Just maybe to clarify- 2(a) refers to when parking charges first started in Monaghan, not in the first year of when the app commenced.

Response: Pay parking in Monaghan Town was introduced prior to the formation of the Municipal Districts in 2014. The running and management costs for Monaghan Town Parking that we have access to for 2014 was €230,508.

- b. What were the total running & management costs for Monaghan Town parking in 2024 and forecast 2025

Response: The total running & management costs for Monaghan Town parking in 2024 was €435,483.

The total running & management costs for Monaghan Town parking forecast for 2025 are €351,465.

- c. What services does the car parking surplus go towards

Response: Car Parking surplus goes towards improvements to Monaghan Town to include Town Centre Co-Ordinator, CCTV installation, Professional Services, Surveys, Assessments, and Improvements to Outdoor Recreational facilities.

3. Can the MCC look at improving light brightness in the urban area and in particular at pedestrian crossings

Response: As part of the change over of the public light system to LED lighting the illumination was set to the requirements for public areas.

To generally raise the illumination above the required levels in the urban area and at pedestrian crossings would require new designs and a total refit of all public lights at a significant cost.

If it is considered that there are some small areas of poor lighting, these could be brought to the attention of the Municipal District for investigation.

4. What are the current plans for active travel/pedestrian safety measures along Rowantree Road and the North Road, facilitating safety for school children, parents and teachers of Monaghan Model

Response: Currently there are no Active Travel measures planned for this location. The National Roads section is examining this location in relation to a road safety improvement scheme.

Clr Pauric Clerkin will ask:

1. Can Monaghan MD provide an update regarding the possibility of taking the streetlights outside Edenmore NS and Edenbeag Creche into their ownership?

Response: The existing public lights at Edenmore NS and Edenbeag Creche do not meet the required standard for MCC to take in charge. The Monaghan Municipal District have acquired costs to bring these lights up to the required standard, if the Elected Members agree to take in charge. These costs will be presented to the Elected Members for consideration in early 2026 as part of an overall review of public lighting requests in the District.

2. Can Monaghan MD provide an update on the Relighting works at Crosses

Response: The realignment works at Crosses are progressing well. Due to wet weather in November, the earthworks on the project were delayed, resulting in an extension of the road closure until the 12th December 2025 to allow the new road surface to be laid. Remaining works, including crash barriers, lining, signage, and landscaping, are scheduled for completion by the end of January 2026.

3. Can Monaghan MD investigate if all school & creches in North Monaghan could be gritted during Yellow Weather Warnings?

Response: Monaghan County Council has supplied salt bins to all schools on request. The Municipal Districts are refilling all these salt bins for this winter season.

The council's winter service plan was agreed in October, based on the resources available to the Council. The routes are published on the Council's website. There are 2550km of public roads in the county. It is not possible to grit all schools and creches with the resources available, and priority is given to national and regional routes. The priority routes cover 610km, which accounts for 24% of the county's roads network and exceeds the 18% national average which is provided by other Local Authorities.

The agreed winter service plan will not be amended mid-season but will be reviewed at the end of the season. Any submissions made will be taken into account in this review, in the context of available budgets

4. Can Monaghan MD provide an update regarding traffic calming measures for these villages: Ballinode, Scotstown, Knockatallon & Tydavnet

Response: The update for traffic calming for each these villages is as follows:

Ballinode – A speed survey was completed in 2024 which did not show any speed violations. A new survey will be completed in the coming weeks.

Scotstown – Additional lining and signage was completed in 2024. Subsequent traffic surveys completed in 2025 continue to show speed violations on a number of roads. An application has been made to the Department of Transportation for a grant allocation from the Low Cost Safety fund to implement additional traffic calming measures.

Knockatallon – A speed survey was complete in 2024 which did not show any speed violations. There are a series of speed ramps already present in Knockatallon village.

Tydavnet – A recently conducted speed survey has highlighted speed violations in Tydavnet. The Municipal District of Monaghan are currently drafting proposals for traffic calming measures and exploring possible funding streams

5. Can Monaghan MD provide an update regarding the amount of successful applications for the Vacant Property Grant in North Monaghan alone and how much to been paid out to successful applicants since the grant started.

Response: There has been 101 approved in principal applicants in Monaghan MD and approximately €2,4 million paid out in Monaghan MD.

Cllr Niamh McCooey asked:

1. Can Monaghan County Council confirm the annual cost paid in rent for office space used by County council staff within Monaghan Municipal District.
Response: Monaghan County Council current rent office space in 3 buildings in Monaghan Town; MTEK 1, MTEK 2 and Motor Tax Building at an annual cost of €321,531.28.
2. Can Monaghan County Council confirm how many properties have been brought back into use through the Croí Cónaithe grant within the Monaghan MD, and provide a breakdown of these figures per year?
**Response: The amount for grants brought back into use in Monaghan MD is as follows:
Totals amount; 55 in total brought back into use 2025 - 35; 2024 – 20.
Total approved in principle in Monaghan MD 102**
3. Following the most recent public information events for N2 Clontibret to the border road scheme, can Monaghan County Council confirm the total number of attendees, and provide a breakdown of the attendance figures for each meeting?
**Response: Attendance was steady at all three events. While attendance was lower than at the July 2025 meetings, each meeting typically took longer as stakeholders wanted to understand any changes proposed, and the project team was busy throughout each event. Not all attendees signed in, and each meeting may have had more than 1 attendee. Based on our records the following number of meetings took place;
Clontibret: 93 attendees signed in. Approx 65 meetings.
Tyholland: 61 attendees. Approx 49 meetings.
Emyvale: 79 attendees signed in. Approx 60 meetings.
The N2 Project Team would like to thank everyone who engaged in the most recent round of public information events.**
4. How many fines were issued for littering or waste offences in the Monaghan MD in the past three years?
Response: Environment section over a 3-year period from 9th December 2022 to 8th December 2025 issued 107 fines. 42 of these relate to Monaghan Municipal District with 19 of these fines recorded as paid.

Motions:

The Cllrs Pauric Clerkin & Alan Johnston request that Monaghan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon, and to all Irish MEPs requesting that Ireland oppose the Mercosur trade deal.

We want to express our grave concern about the serious impact the proposed EU–Mercosur agreement would have on Irish agriculture, particularly the beef and poultry sectors, where increased access for South American imports could undermine Irish producers who operate to high environmental, animal-welfare and food-safety standards.

We further note the wider environmental concerns associated with the deal and strongly believes that it poses a significant threat to the viability of family farms and the rural economy in County Monaghan, and indeed across the country.

Accordingly, we call on the Minister Martin Heydon and Irish MEPs to reject the Mercosur trade deal in any form and to safeguard the interests of Irish farmers and rural communities.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting, and it was agreed unanimously, with Cllr S. Conlon requesting that this also be sent to all Fine Gael MEP's seeking their response.

6. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor, seconded by Cllr Alan Johnston, it was agreed that the sympathy of the Municipal District be extended to the family of Mr. Benedict Murphy, a pedestrian who lost his life tragically in Old Cross Square on Saturday last.

On the proposal of Cllr Séan Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to the McKenna family on qualifying for the Final on Ireland's Fittest Family to be aired on RTE 1 this coming Sunday 21st December 2025.

On the proposal of Cllrs Conlon, McCooey and McAree it was agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Scotstown GAA Senior team on winning the 2025 Ulster Club SFC title.

7. AOB

Members joined in extending good wishes to Cllr Conlon on his return to duty following a recent hospital stay and wished Cllr Conlon a speedy return to full health.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this _____ day of January 2026