

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 16th February 2026 at 11.45am

Present: Cllr Seamus Treanor, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs Seán Conlon, Raymond Aughey, Niamh McCooey, Alan Johnston, Pauric Clerkin and 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. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 19th January 2026

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held on 19th January 2026 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed that we write again to the OPW and to Minister Kevin Boxer Moran, TD, asking that the Blackwater River which forms part of the arterial drainage scheme be inspected by the OPW as was previously committed to, and is completed urgently, and a full report on findings is provided to Monaghan County Council.

In relation to gritting of roads, Members asked that the MD factor into the Winter Maintenance Programme the inclusion of rural schools to a minimum of 100 metres from the school entrance on rural roads currently not included in the salting routes.

In relation to Ballinode Community Centre Cllr P. Clerkin proposed, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, and agreed by all that we write again to the Office of Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Charlie McConalogue, to urgently intervene and expedite the allocation of an Eircode to Ballinode Community Centre, which opened at the end of 2025, and remains without an Eircode.

The lack of an Eircode is preventing the Centre from accessing essential services, including broadband and a telephone line, and has already resulted in them having to turn businesses away. The Council requests that this issue be addressed as a matter of priority to ensure the continued viability and long-term sustainability of this vital community facility.

Cllr S. Conlon noted that a decision on the relocation of the Hive of Knowledge has been reached at the In-Committee Meeting earlier today. The Hive of Knowledge will be relocated on Glaslough Street, in front of the Peace Campus building.

In response to Members request to be kept informed of the official opening of Ballinode Community Centre, Ms. P. Monahan assured Members the Executive are working with the Ministers office in relation to the launch of a number of projects

funded through the Dept of Rural and Community Development & the Gaeltacht and Members will be advised when a date has been agreed.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr. M. Taylor took Members through the February Report circulated with the meeting agenda. Members noted the contents of the report.

Mr. M. Taylor responded to Members queries as follows:

- In relation to Tullyherim Bridge, there was a hedge planted at end of last week to cover gaps in the fencing.
- Public Consultations appear on MCC website under News; Executive to liaise with Active Travel and Comms Teams to ensure all consultations are listed under Public Consultation section of the website.
- Works to the culvert have been pushed back to Q1 2027 due to the procurement of a Hydrologist in relation to flood alleviation works in Monaghan town.
- Design works at Castleshane Forest will be minimal; works to include a carpark, opening up of pathways.
- The cost of replacing the baubles on the new Christmas tree in Church Square will be €400.
- No date yet on the announcement of Climate Adaptation Funding.
- Youth Space in Monaghan Town – The Monaghan Town Team is keen to explore the development of a dedicated youth space, with a potential location identified at Peter's Lake.
- Date to be confirmed in relation to installation of pedestrian lights in Emyvale.
- Possibility of provision of public lighting on the opposite side of the street in Emyvale to be examined.
- In relation to a meeting between Monaghan County Council and Carrickroe Community Centre CLG to take place in mid-March 2026 to discuss the needs identified and the findings of the consultation, a report from this meeting will be circulated to the Members.
- Playparks are inspected on a weekly basis, with one external annual inspection. Repair works are carried out on a weekly basis.
- Possibility of providing a playpark in Tydavnet village to be examined.
- Regarding dog foul bags, the Environment Department has discontinued supplying these for bins due to cost. Mr. M. Taylor requested that if Members are aware of any problem areas, they should inform the MD so the Dog Warden can be notified.
- Public lighting on Dawson Street has been repaired.
- Several lights along the greenway require repair due to water ingress. Mr. M. Taylor will determine whether the contractor has responsibility for addressing this issue.
- Regarding buses parking at St. Louis, the Executive to identify a suitable location.

- Ulster Canal Greenway – regarding the proposed cycle track on Macartan Road, which appears to be a duplicate of what has already been provided on the Mall Road, Mr. M. Taylor to discuss with the Active Travel team.

4. Correspondence

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the MD write again to the Department of Education asking them to urgently review the need for a bus shelter at Ballyoisin, Emyvale, Co Monaghan to ensure the safety of school children.

Mr. M Taylor confirmed that P Herr and Associates have been instructed to complete an options report for a proposed bus stop at Ballyoisin. Currently school children are waiting along the N2 for collection, and also for drop off. P Herr and Associates are to assess the current arrangement and propose options to improve safety at this location.

On the proposal of Cllr N. McCooey, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that this Council writes to Uisce Éireann to ascertain what capacity upgrade works to waste water treatment infrastructure in County Monaghan will be carried out as part of their €10.2 billion Capital Programme 2025 - 2029.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that this Council write to Uisce Eireann, directing this query to the relevant section, seeking information on the geographical source and origin of leachate, and all waste water treatment effluent, that availed of the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Rooskey over the last 12 months, and are they of a private business or statutory authority.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, it was agreed that this Council writes to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Martin Heydon and his cross border counterpart Minister Andrew Muir, asking what joint efforts and cooperation is occurring in relation to tackling the impact of cattle herds being infected by TB, and working together on measures such as the TB Eradication Programme, and the recruitment of 200 operatives being hired to assist in delivery of the badger capture and inspections programme, badger activity monitoring, and new sett surveys.

On the proposal of Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed that Monaghan MD write to An Garda Síochána requesting that more Gardai are deployed in Monaghan Town on a more regular basis to combat anti-social behaviour. The area around The Diamond is of particular concern by all elected members which is resulting in people and visitors feeling unsafe and harassed. Loud music, open drug dealing and drinking alcohol is prevalent and the perpetrators are acting with impunity. This needs to be addressed with utmost urgency.

5. Questions & Motions

Cllr Seán Conlon asked:

1. Following my question of May 2025, and referred to again at the July MD meeting, when is it anticipated that the live stream webcam directed over The Diamond will be reinstated?

Response: It is anticipated that the camera directed over The Diamond in Monaghan will be operational within the coming weeks. The previous camera has been upgraded, the license to allow its use online is ready to be reactivated. A Data Protection Impact Assessment has been completed ready to be considered for adoption by the CCTV Oversight Board. Under Data Protection, the camera cannot stream 24/7. The camera will be available only for the duration of a pre-set list of occasions, events and festivals.

2. I ask what public playparks are the responsibility of the Monaghan Municipal District, when did upgrade works take place at each over the last ten years, and what plans in place to inspect and create plans for enhancement works at locations identified in need of improvement?

Response: The Monaghan Municipal District are responsible for inspecting and maintaining the following playgrounds:

- Ard Glass (Muga)
- Ardbannagher
- Ballinode
- Beechgrove Lawns
- Belguim Park (Muga)
- Carrickroe
- Cluain Lorcan
- Cois Locha (Emyvale)
- Corlatt (Knockatallon)
- Drumbear Wood
- Glenview Drive
- Gortakeegan
- Latlorcan Way
- Lui Na Greine
- Mullan Village
- Oakland
- Oriel Way
- Oriel Way (Muga)
- Oriel Way Skate Park
- Rossmore Forest Park

The above playgrounds are inspected weekly and any minor works identified are repaired by Monaghan MD Outdoor staff. All playgrounds are also subject to a 12 month inspection by an external company. Larger improvement/enhancement works identified during these inspections are assessed and consideration given to available funding streams at the time.

3. Further to my question at the November 2025 MD meeting, what progress is occurring in relation to improving the safety of road users, especially the pupils, at St Michaels National School, Rackwallace?

Response: The Municipal District have contacted St Michael's National School Rackwallace and a meeting has been arranged to discuss the issues at this location with the School Principal. An update will be provided to the Elected Members at a future meeting.

4. Following the presentation at the April 2025 meeting to consider, 'Elliot's Farm Rewilding and Seed Bank Proposal', I ask for an update on how this biodiversity focused plan is progressing, and what level of 'community, school and NGO involvement' has occurred to date?

Response: The project commenced in late summer 2025, with initial efforts focused on addressing a significant ragwort infestation onsite. As ragwort is a notifiable noxious weed, there was considerable pressure to remove it before it had the opportunity to self-seed. Given the project's ecological rewilding ethos, chemical control was not an option, so removal was carried out by hand with the support of Monaghan Tidy Towns volunteers and CE workers.

Once the ragwort was cleared, we proceeded with the first grass cut. This phase was considerably delayed due to persistent wet weather, which made machinery access difficult on the sloping terrain. Despite the challenges, we successfully achieved an initial cut across most of the site.

During the autumn, we developed a partnership with Hedgerows Ireland (NGO), who completed a comprehensive hedgerow survey of the site. They will continue to collaborate with us over the coming years to implement the report's recommendations. A hedgerow training event, delivered as part of Hedgerow Week in September, was hosted onsite and was free and open to the public, attracting excellent attendance. A second event followed in November.

A preliminary baseline botanical survey was completed in late autumn by renowned botanist Alexis FitzGerald, with a follow-up survey scheduled for spring to ensure a more robust botanical record. Soil sampling was also undertaken by IDEC consultants and will be repeated to track changes as the project evolves. Additionally, NPWS staff visited the site to install trail cameras for monitoring wildlife activity. Further public engagement events are proposed, including a Biodiversity Week event in May.

Plans are currently underway for the formal launch of the Elliott's Farm Rewilding Project. This will be a public event featuring a hedge-planting demonstration by

pupils from St Mary's Boys School. The proposed date for the launch is March 4th at 11am.

5. In the absence of a timely response following the reporting a faulty street lamp through the deadsureapp.com website, what channel of communication is available to the public in following up on a lack of action to ensure streets are adequately lit and outage time is kept to a minimum?

Response: All Public Light faults need to be reported on the Deadsure APP.Com website. These faults reports go directly to the maintenance contractor. The council follow up with the contractor to ensure compliance with fault repairs.

Cllr Raymond Aughey will ask:

1. In relation to Cluan Lorcan Housing estate can the council address the following:
 - (a) The unsightly state of the wall at the entrance to the estate
 - (b) Addressing the very wet condition of the green area in the middle of the estate as currently the children of the estate can't play on it.

Response: The Municipal District will review the issues identified in this question.

2. Can the Council outline what plans they have to address the unsatisfactory flooding at the Credit Union

Response: Under the Office of Public Works (CFRAM) Programme, a number of structural measures were identified to alleviate flooding in Monaghan Town. Monaghan County Council has been seeking funding to progress and implement these measures. One such measure is the culvert from the Glen Road to the rear of the Credit Union. This culvert has now been constructed as far as the boundary of the Aldi site, with final design approval and funding still required to complete the remaining section.

The Council is currently developing the Monaghan Town Integrated Catchment Flood Study, which aims to identify and address the underlying causes of flooding and to develop the appropriate alleviation proposals.

Additionally, following a survey of the Shambles River, the Council identified a collapsed bridge at Tullyhirm that may have been contributing to flooding in Monaghan Town. Emergency works to repair the bridge were completed in January.

3. Can the Council outline what the plans are for the recently acquired land in the centre of Scotstown village and the expected commencement date for the works to begin?

Response: Monaghan County Council has procured a design team to prepare designs for development of the land including... housing, parking and recreational

space. The design, planning and funding approval process will progress during 2026 with the intention of commencing development in 2027.

Cllr Alan Johnston will ask:

1. When is construction of the culvert at Castle Road expected to commence?

Response: The Monaghan Town Integrated Catchment Flood Study is expected to be completed in Q4 2026, the construction of the culvert is expected to commence thereafter, Q1 2027.

2. When is construction of the Ulster Canal Greenway from Graham's to the border expected to begin?

Response: Projected timeline is to appoint contractor by end of June 26. Construction to commence in Sept/Oct 2026, construction period to be 9 months.

3. When are works at the main gate car park at Rossmore expected to begin?

Response: The Municipal District have surveyed the existing carpark and have completed a design for the proposed works at this location. Tender documentation is currently being prepared to appoint a contractor to undertake these works. It is expected that works will be completed by Q3 2026.

4. Are there any plans to resurface council owned or leased car parking areas that are in need of repair?

Response: The Municipal District intend to resurface the Diamond carpark and the Glaslough Street Short Stay carpark in 2026.

5. Are there any additional funding applications expected to be submitted for the Convent lands in 2026 and if so what are they (in addition to THRIVE)

Response: Part VIII approval was secured for part of the St Louis Lands area in 2025 but Monaghan County Council were not successful in securing ORIS funding for this element in 2025. Subject to SMT agreement a further application will be made under this funding stream for this area and/or feasibility study to develop the remainder of the forested lands.

A submission has been made under the Historic Structures fund for repairs to the roof of the chapel/nursing home and consideration is being given to making a submission under the Nature Based Play initiatives for the development of play spaces in the area

The housing section are progressing with plans for the repurposing of the red brick heritage building and funding will be sought under the Capital Assistance Scheme

Where opportunities for additional funding arise for individual elements of the project (forested area/existing play area/boundary treatment/other buildings) they will be investigated to secure the in-going redevelopment of the area

Cllr Niamh McCooey will ask:

1. Can Monaghan County Council confirm how many drainage notices were issued in the Monaghan Municipal District in 2025?

Response: No formal drainage notices were issued in 2025, however numerous meetings and discussions took place with landowners regarding run off from private property onto public roads.

2. Will Monaghan County Council consider replacing the naming signs for Tyholland on the N12 so they reflect the correct Irish spelling, "Tigh Thaláin"?

Response: This will be examined and corrected if deemed necessary.

3. Will Monaghan County Council consider adding a stop sign at the junction of Station View and Rope Walk in the interest of road safety, and if this is outside the Council's remit, can a letter be issued to the developer requesting that the matter be addressed?

Response: The Station View housing development is not taken in charge by Monaghan County Council. The Mon MD will review the location and if required raise the issue with the developer.

Cllr Pauric Clerkin will ask:

1. To ask Monaghan MD for an update on the parking situation at Devin Reilly Terrace, including any proposed changes, timelines, or current issues impacting residents and visitors.

Response: Works to create the additional car parking spaces at Devin Reilly Terrace will commence in Q1 2026. There are no changes to the proposed design following a meeting and consultation with the Killygoan Residents Association in December 2025. Prior to works commencing notification will be provided to residents in the area via the Residents Association.

2. To ask Monaghan MD for an update on the proposed bus layby and bus shelter outside Emyvale Community Centre

Response: As part of the Bus Stop Enhancement programme Monaghan County Council have identified a number of locations where Bus stop improvements are proposed. A consultant is being procured to develop improvements at these locations. These works will be subject to TII approval for national routes, planning and road safety auditing. Emyvale bus stop's will be considered as part of this process but currently there is no definitive design as part of Bus stop enhancement programme.

3. To ask Monaghan MD that all playgrounds within the Municipal District (MD), when being upgraded or redeveloped, shall include inclusive design elements, specifically:

- Special needs and accessible play equipment

- Sensory play areas
- Communication boards

Response: As per the *'Everybody Plays - Monaghan County Council's Inclusive Playgrounds Policy'* all upgrade and redevelopment works at playgrounds are considered in accordance with this document.

6. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the sympathy of the Municipal District be extended to the family of former Monaghan County Council employee, Mr Cormac Boylan, who passed away recently.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Clerkin, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, that the Municipal District extend a vote of congratulations to Ms. Daisy Walker on receiving an athletic scholarship from Dublin City University recently.

7. Scheme for the completion of Community Plans and Tier 4 Village Plans for the period 2026-2030

Ms. Carol Lambe took Members through the document circulated with the meeting agenda.

Ms. Lambe stated that for the purpose of our work, we define communities as those areas which claim a single identity. Some of these do not have a settlement such as a village, but are instead a community built around a shared history while some communities enjoy close ties through belonging to the same parish for some issues but on other issues work alone.

Ms. Lambe advised Members that Community Dept have listed a suggested order for the completion of Community Plans for the next four to five years. The timeline below shows a proposed scenario which sees all communities and all Tier 4 villages having a plan in place by end 2030.

There are two constraints on the delivery of the Schedule:

1. The Tier 4 Spatial Plans will be led by outside consultants and therefore will require financial resources from the MD's.
2. As the process of preparing the Community Plans is influenced heavily by the needs of the community, some plans may require a longer period to complete, pushing the workplan off-schedule.

Schedule of Work by Year the planning process will commence

Year plan will START	COMMUNITY PLAN	TIER 4 SPATIAL PLAN
	<i>led by Community Dev Team</i>	<i>Led by Consultants, with input from Planning & Community Dev Teams</i>
2026	Tydavnet	Agreed by MD: Glaslough
2027	Knockatallon	Agreed by MD: Scotstown
2028	Ardaghey & Tullycorbett	Agreed by MD: Emyvale
2029	Carrickroe	Agreed by MD: Ballinode
2030	Tyholland & Castleshane	Suggested: Clontibret North

Ms. C. Lambe highlighted that Annyalla is divided across three MDs, meaning a county-level decision may be required to determine who will assume responsibility for funding the plan.

Ms. Lambe invited Members to indicate if they wanted any changes to the proposed scheduling of Community plans.

In light of the earlier mentioned constraint regarding the use of external consultants and the requirement for funding from the MD, Members requested that potential LEADER or SEUPB funding options be explored to cover these costs.

Regarding the proposal to jointly deliver the Tier 4 Village Plan alongside a Community Plan, Ms. C. Lambe informed Members that this approach will require a single community consultation. She added that 3 plans developed through this method are expected to be completed by year end. A review will then be carried out to assess what worked well and what could be improved.

8. AOB

There were no items raised under AOB.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
A/Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this _____ day of March 2026