

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 18th May 2026 at 11.50am

Present: Cllr Seamus Treanor, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs Pauric Clerkin, Raymond Aughey, Niamh McCooey, Alan Johnston, Seán Conlon 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 20th April 2026

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr A. Johnston it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held on 20th April 2026 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters raised.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

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

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

- **N54 Greenway: Monaghan Town to Smithborough:** Mr. Taylor will request update for June Meeting.
- **Patching repairs:** roads have been identified.
- **Surface Dressing Scheme:** will provide update on this.
- **Glaslough Street Carpark:** Mr. Taylor advised he has been in discussion with local businesses regarding a potential CIS application – will follow this up and report to Members at the June Meeting.
- **N2 Castleshane junction:** works to include additional signage and road markings.
- **Road signage & translations of placenames:** Mr. Taylor advised that TII are responsible for national roads, with MCC being responsible for local roads. Regarding the incorrect translation on a sign on the N2 road outside of Emyvale, near Silver Hill Duck Farm, Mr. Taylor to bring this to the attention of TII.
- **Site visit to Rossmore Park:** to be arranged on a separate day from the MD Meeting to include visit to the archaeology site, new giants, Mausoleum and the bike trail.
- **Additional parking Glencove:** to be examined.
- **Spring Clean work carried out in Killygoan:** MD Outdoor staff to collect rubbish left near the mast.

- **Rooskey Access Road:** to be completed in Q3 2026. Mr. Taylor to liaise with relevant staff to determine if the compound can be reduced for the Blues Festival in September.
- **Emyvale Community Hub:** currently looking at options; as no funding has been approved to date, no works can commence.
- **Lights at Horseshoe Bridge:** Mr. Taylor will request information regarding sequencing of lights.
- **Public Toilet at Rear of Courthouse:** Mr. Taylor will request the Housing Department to attend the June meeting to discuss concerns regarding the use of this facility by a homeless individual.

4. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the meeting agenda:

- Response from Local Link Re: Country Music Festival
- Response from Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran Re: Frequent Flooding in Monaghan Town
- Reponse from the Dept Education Re: School Transport Cost
- Response from Minister Michael Moynihan TD Re: Ballyoisin Bus Shelter
- Acknowledgement from An Garda Siochana regarding correspondence from April Mtg

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed by all that this Municipal District again write to the OPW and to TD Kevin 'Boxer' Moran requesting a meeting with the OPW regarding recurrent flooding in Monaghan town and Emyvale.

We further ask for clarification regarding conflicting information from Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran and Minister James Browne in regard to who is responsible for maintenance, dredging etc and ask for a comprehensive report to investigations carried out by the OPW.

5. Questions & Motions

Cllr Seán Conlon will ask:

1)With the continued absence of long sought after directional signage in Mullaghmatt, will this Council undertake the installation of signage at the earliest opportunity that will give assistance to service providers and emergency related personnel seeking out addresses?

Response: The Monaghan MD have installed a number of signs that show the direction to the various house numbers in Mullaghmatt.

2)Following my query from last month's meeting, what funding allocation has been awarded to the MD under the Monuments Fund scheme?

Response: Regarding the Community Monuments Fund, applications were submitted for Old Errigal Truagh and by the Friends of Old Donagh for Old Donagh. While these particular

applications from the Monaghan MD area were not successful on this occasion, it is very encouraging to see strong local engagement and commitment to heritage projects, and we hope to build on this for future funding opportunities.

3)Following on from my proposal of November 2023 in relation to road safety measures at the Peace Campus, when is it anticipated that pedestrian crossings will be installed along the North Road and Glaslough Street?

Response: This scheme was tendered and a contractor to implement construction has been identified and ready to be awarded the contract. However, a dispute with an adjacent landowner is currently ongoing and efforts are being made to reach a compromise regarding a parcel of land that is required to implement the Works. Legal teams representing both sides are in discussion.

Cllr Alan Johnston will ask:

1. How many units in the proposed MCC housing developments at Gillanders' land, Clones Road and at Rooskey on St Davnet's land will be allocated to affordable housing?

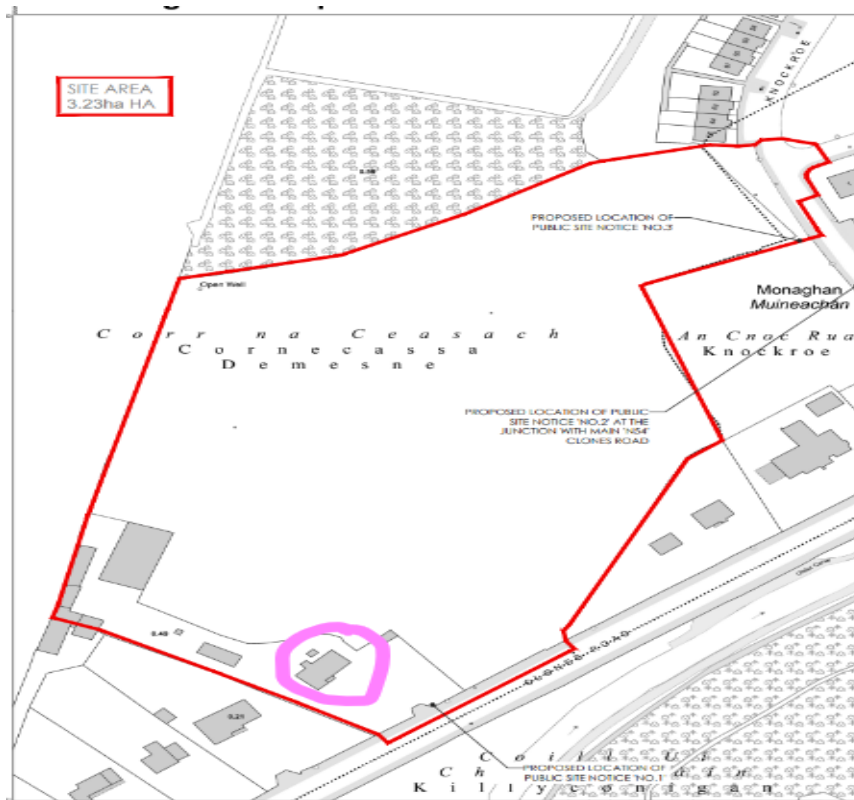
Response: The housing mix proposed for land owned by Monaghan County Council at Rooskey beside St Davnet's in Monaghan town has not been decided as yet because the proposed development is at a very early stage. The decision on tenure mix will be made following further assessment of housing need and consideration of housing provision (public and private) on other sites in the Monaghan town area. It should also be noted that Monaghan County Council is awaiting a decision from the Housing Activation Office with regard to funding required to provide access to the development land at Rooskey.

Cluain na Ceasach housing development at Cornacassa, Clones Road, Monaghan is a proposed social housing development aimed at providing a mix of age-friendly and disability-friendly and general need housing for people on Monaghan County Council's social housing list.

The proposed social housing development will be comprised of the following:

- 1no single-storey Group Home to accommodate four people with disabilities and a carer
1no two-storey 5-bedroom house to accommodate a large family with an accessible ground floor bedroom for a family member with a disability
- 22no two-storey own-door-access 2-bedroom apartments for older people / people with disabilities / mobility issues
- 10no accessible 2-bedroom bungalows for older people / people with disabilities / mobility issues
- 24no two-storey 2-bedroom houses
- 26no two-storey 3-bedroom houses
- 2no two-storey 4-bedroom houses

- 4000 square metre (one acre) public amenity space
- Space reserved for children’s playground
- Biodiversity corridor and wildlife accommodation works
- Roads and footpaths and active travel pathways
- Pumping station and all services required for housing development



2. Are there any affordable housing schemes under active negotiation in Monaghan MD between MCC and developers and if so how many potential units?

Response: While there are no new applications with the Department at present, we continue to actively seek new opportunities countywide and are maintaining ongoing liaison with developers regarding future delivery.

3. What is the MD’s current proposal to deal with traffic congestion along Macartan Road/N54 from Old Cross Square to Margaret Skinnader roundabout and when will it be implemented?

Response: Short to medium term measures have been identified in the Local Transport plan and a traffic analysis has been completed by roads section and recommendations have been made to upgrade the Margaret Skinnader roundabout The Road section will now engage with the TII to source funding to start the design process.

4. Can the MD outline what services the Dog Warden perform in the district

Response: The Dog Warden plays a key role in enforcing dog control legislation on behalf of the local authority.

- **They are responsible for responding to reports of stray dogs and ensuring public safety.**
- **The Dog Warden oversees the collection, care, and housing of dogs in the pound, in line with welfare standards.**
- **They work to promote responsible dog ownership, including licensing and microchipping requirements by calling to non-renewed license holders**
- **The role includes investigating complaints relating to aggressive, dangerous, or uncontrolled dogs and is acted on by direct complaints coming in via our email at Dogs@monaghancoco.ie or by phone. All complaints are investigated.**
- **The Dog Warden has authority to issue fines, warnings, and initiate prosecutions where necessary.**
- **They also carry out patrols in Rossmore Park, several housing estates within Monaghan MD, and known problem areas to deter irresponsible dog ownership and to proactively address issues such as stray, uncontrolled, or fouling dogs.**
- **They facilitate the return of dogs to their owners, where ownership can be established.**
- **They liaise with An Garda Síochána, veterinary services and animal welfare groups when required.**
- **Overall, the Dog Warden contributes to community safety, animal welfare, and public confidence in dog control services**

Cllr Pauric Clerkin will ask:

1. **To ask Monaghan MD, would it consider removing the trees at St. Dymphna's Terrace in Scotstown to improve driver visibility?**

Response: The Monaghan MD will carry out an assessment of the sight lines at this location and consider what action (if any) is required.

2. **To ask Monaghan MD, would it consider working in conjunction with the Heritage and Biodiversity Sections to clean all bridges in the Municipal District and install information at each bridge outlining the history of the bridge?**

Response: All bridges in the Monaghan MD are subject to an inspection by the Roads Section and funding is received through the Department of Transport's Bridge Rehabilitation Scheme to carry out repairs and cleaning on bridges identified in need

of repair. The Monaghan MD do not have a budget for bridge cleaning and will investigate if possible funding streams are available to carry out such works including the development of information boards on historical bridges.

3. To ask Monaghan MD, would it provide an update regarding a potential application for low-cost safety measures in the vicinity of Rackwallace National School?

Response: The Monaghan MD held a meeting with the Principal on Rackwallace National School in March 2026 to discuss safety concerns at the school. During the meeting it was identified that the main concern related to the need for additional car parking to ease congestion at school drop off and collection times. Various funding options were discussed with the most suitable being a CLÁR application by the school for the construction of a dedicated parking area that would facilitate staff parking and a safe area for school drop off and collections.

Motions:

Proposed by Cllr Sean Conlon, seconded by Cllr Niamh McCooey: In enhancing road user safety for southbound right turning traffic along the N2 at Moyles, towards Ardaghey, I ask that this Council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) seeking the installation of a designated right turning lane onto road L-5520.

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

Proposed by Cllr Raymond Aughey: To remove the seats from the diamond area for a period of 4 months.

Cllr R. Aughey read into the record testimonies from retail and hospitality proprietors in the Diamond area describing a range of activities including public drinking, drug taking, harassment and intimidation of customers; calling on An Garda Síochána for increased patrol in the area and Monaghan County Council to take action and remove the seating for a period of time, to discourage such activity.

While all Members expressed concern about the anti-social behaviour issues raised, Cllr S. Conlon, along with Cllrs N. McCooey and B. McAree, opposed the motion, arguing that it could be perceived as undermining the Monaghan Town Team, which is against the removal of the seating and instead supports a strategy focused on stronger Garda enforcement measures. Cllr Conlon advised that Monaghan Town Team have written to An Garda Síochána highlighting their concerns on the matter.

Following a lengthy discussion on the motion Cllr Aughey agreed to defer the motion until Monaghan Town Team have had a chance to meet the business owners in The Diamond area to discuss the issue and agree an approach. However, if there is no agreement, Cllr Aughey indicated that he will be asking for Monaghan MD to convene a special meeting to make a decision on the motion.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed that this MD Council write to Chief Superintendent Alan McGovern and Superintendent Pat O'Connell for the purpose of raising awareness to the issue of anti-social behaviour that is a repeated item on the monthly agenda of Monaghan Municipal District meetings. On behalf of the residents, business owners, and visitors to the Monaghan Town area, we respectfully seek a more robust approach in policing aimed at curtailing the continued disturbances in the Town area.

Proposed by Cllr Pauric Clerkin, seconded by Cllr Alan Johnston: That Monaghan MD writes to the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, to urgently review the decision not to reimburse in Ireland a treatment for Friedreich's Ataxia, a rare and progressive neuromuscular condition.

Council notes the case of Aoife, a 21-year-old resident of Castleshane, County Monaghan, who is living with this life-limiting condition, and the recent approval of a treatment (Skyclarys) by the European Medicines Agency in 2024, which is already reimbursed in other EU countries but has been refused in Ireland on the basis of cost due to the small patient population.

This Council calls on the Minister to urgently reconsider this decision, engage with relevant stakeholders, and take all necessary steps to ensure fair and timely access to Skyclarys treatment, including consideration of interim or compassionate access measures.

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

6. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Cllr S. Conlon led the tributes to Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services, as she attended her last meeting of Monaghan Municipal District prior to her retirement. Cllr Conlon paid tribute to the diligent and professional way in which Ms. Monahan carried out her role since joining the Council in 2014, acknowledging that he first met Ms. Monahan during her time in CMETB. Cllr Conlon wished Ms. Monahan a long and healthy retirement.

Cllr A. Johnston referred to having heard of Ms. Monahan from his father during his time on the County Enterprise Board in the '80's; his father spoke of someone that was 'very professional and competent' in her role.

Cllr N. McCooey referred to Ms. Monahan as a trailblazer for women in the workplace, bringing women's voices to the Executive table where this had not happened before. Cllr McCooey thanked Ms. Monahan for her support and for leading by example to working mothers and young women everywhere.

Cllr B. McAree echoed the sentiments of her fellow Members and thanked Ms. Monahan for her support, in her early days as an Elected Member and referred to Ms. Monahan as 'an advocate for women in the workplace'.

Cllr P. Clerkin referred to Ms. Monahan as being a great support to new Members and a person who remains calm in the Council Chamber and wished Ms. Monahan well in her retirement and every happiness for the next chapter.

Cllr R. Aughey referred to a day in the life of Ms. Monahan where she starts the day with a brisk walk, while taking note of issues in the town; always a good support to the Members and a strong guide during difficult times, citing the Covid pandemic. Cllr Aughey also referred to Ms. Monahan's honesty and integrity.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr S. Treanor, joined with the Members in thanking Ms. Monahan for her support, guidance and dedication, particularly during her time with Monaghan MD; referring to Ms. Monahan as someone who understood the character of this district, respected the role of the Elected Members, and always engaged with the Members in an open, fair and constructive manner. Cllr Treanor remarked on Ms. Monahan's attention to detail as being a hallmark of her training as an accountant and a reflection of the pride she took in her work.

Mr. M. Taylor referred to Ms. Monahan's tenure with Monaghan Municipal District, acknowledging that he also worked with Ms. Monahan during his time with the MD of Ballybay-Clones. Mr. Taylor spoke of Ms. Monahan's guidance, support and attention to detail, referencing Ms. Monahan's early morning WhatsApp messages asking MD staff to address some issue or other that needed attention in the town. Mr. Taylor, on behalf of the staff of Monaghan MD, concluded by thanking Ms. Monahan for her support and congratulated her on her retirement, wishing her every happiness and success in the future.

Ms. Monahan thanked everyone for their kind words and well wishes. She stated that it had been her privilege to serve the Municipal District of Monaghan. Ms. Monahan extended her sincere thanks to her team in Monaghan Municipal District describing them as a pleasure to work with. She thanked the elected members for their engagement and noted that she had enjoyed a productive and positive working relationship with them. Ms. Monahan also welcomed the increased participation of women within the Council, noting that when she was appointed Director of Services she was the first woman to hold such a position in almost 120 years of the organisation's history. In conclusion, Ms. Monahan wished the Elected Members and staff of Monaghan Municipal District every success for the future and stated that it had been a pleasure to have been part of the MD team.

7. AOB

There were no items raised.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
A/Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this _____ day of June 2026