

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 20th July 2026 at 11.30am

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

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

Apologies: Ms. Nicola Payne, A/Director of Services

1. (a) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 15th June 2026

On the proposal of Cllr N. McCooey, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held on 15th June 2026 be confirmed.

(b) Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on 15th June 2026

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin it was agreed that the Minutes of the AGM of Monaghan Municipal District held on 15th June 2026 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

Mr. M. Taylor provided the following responses to Members queries:

- **Toilets, Rossmore Park** – Mr. M. Taylor advised that the public toilets in Rossmore Park are owned and managed by Coillte. In relation to concerns regarding the condition of the facilities, including overflowing bins and the lack of toilet paper, Mr. Taylor confirmed that he would raise these issues with Coillte again and seek an update on the matter.
- **Zipline project, Rossmore Park** – Mr. M. Taylor to seek an update on the timeline for this project and report to Members at the September meeting.
- **Parking, Glencove Manor** – Mr. M. Taylor confirmed that two parking surveys were conducted in March and April 2025, and neither survey identified a need for additional parking spaces. Mr. Taylor further confirmed that a third survey will be undertaken in the coming months, following which a determination will be made regarding the need for any additional parking provision at this location.
- **Facilities at Hollywood Lake** – Mr. M. Taylor confirmed that Monaghan County Council do provide funding to the Hollywood Development Committee. He further advised that a meeting will be arranged with the Committee to discuss concerns regarding the condition and maintenance of the facilities at this location.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

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

Mr. M. Taylor & Mr. R. O'Neill responded to Members queries as follows:

- **Climate Adaptation Funding, R213** - Mr. R. O'Neill advised that approval had been granted for additional funding in the amount of €100,000. Works to commence be completed by end of September 2026..
- **Monaghan to Border Greenway** - In relation to the rescheduled procurement deadline moving from 16th – 23rd July 2026, Mr. M. Taylor to check with Roads Dept on the reason for this, citing Annual Leave as a potential reason. Mr. Taylor will report back to Members.
- **Patching works in Scotstown** – Mr. R. O'Neill confirmed these are on the Roads Programme but will arrange for patching in the interim.
- **Antisocial behaviour at playparks in Ballinode and Emyvale** – Mr. Taylor advised Members that byelaws are in place to address the consumption of alcohol in public places. He further stated that incidents of antisocial behaviour should be reported to An Garda Síochána, who are responsible for enforcement and appropriate action.
- **Emyvale Community Hub** – Mr. Taylor advised that funding is currently available to progress the project to Part VIII Planning stage only. No funding has been identified at this time to advance the project to construction stage.
- **New roundabout at Emyvale** – Mr. M. Taylor confirmed these works will require extensive traffic management measures to facilitate construction and minimise disruption to road users.
- **Roads Programme 2027** – Mr. M. Taylor confirmed the roads programme is finalised a couple of years in advance and any changes will be brought before the Members.
- **Footpath at Cootehill Road** – Mr. M. Taylor confirmed that this project required a redesign and will be coming back before the Members in the coming months.
- **Seasonal staff, Monaghan MD** – Mr. M. Taylor confirmed that a Business Case was raised for seasonal staff but wasn't approved.
- **Letter to TII re: Moyles, Castleshane** – Mr. M. Taylor confirmed a follow up letter will issue to TII regarding enhancing road user safety for southbound right turning traffic along the N2 at Moyles, towards Ardaghey, seeking the installation of a designated right turning lane onto road L-5520.
- **Corlat to Collegiate Cycle Path**- Part VIII planning consent obtained at the July council meeting. Detailed design to be finalised, after which procurement will commence for a contractor.
- **Coolshannagh to Ballyalbanny Jct** – This project is being looked at in conjunction with Coolshannagh RaB. MCC have presented a number of options to TII to make it attractive and safer for cyclists and pedestrians to navigate and are awaiting a decision by TII.

- **Ramp at Woodview, Killygoan** – Mr. Taylor confirmed the ramp was removed to allow works to new carpark and reinstated further up the roadway. Mr. Taylor to seek update from Active Travel.
- **Horticultural Dept** –Mr. Taylor confirmed that the Apprentice Horticulturist contract was due to expire in September. A discussion was had on the replacement of the Apprentice Horticulturist. Members asked that their appreciation be conveyed to the Horticultural Team for their outstanding efforts in maintaining such beautiful floral displays throughout the town, helping to make it an attractive and welcoming place to visit. Mr. Taylor confirmed he will pass on Members comments to the team. Regarding the floral displays throughout the town, Mr. Taylor advised that costs have been kept low, as the flowers were grown from seed.
- **Glaslough Street Carpark** – Mr. M. Taylor advised Members the refurbishment works to the carpark will take approximately 2 weeks to complete; works will happen on a phased basis to minimise disruption to the public and to affected businesses.
- **Parking Machine replacement scheme** – Mr. M. Taylor confirmed 4 new parking machines have been ordered, comprising of 2 long stay and 2 short stay machines.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed by all that the elected members of Monaghan MD express their profound disappointment to the Council's Finance Section at the decision not to allocate budgetary provision for the recruitment of temporary outdoor staff in our MD for the purpose of maintaining the high standards of the urban environment as recently commended through the IBAL survey outcomes, especially through the summer period where our permanent staff take annual leave. We respectfully appeal that these circumstances are not repeated in the years ahead.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was unanimously agreed that the elected members of Monaghan Municipal District express their appreciation to Ms. Sinead Murphy, Apprentice Horticulturalist, for her outstanding work, particularly in relation to the Elliotts Land Project.

4. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the meeting agenda:

- Acknowledgement from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Re: unsuccessful Community Heritage Funding
- Response from Minister Darragh O'Brien Re: Storm Relief
- Acknowledgement from Minister Kevin Boxer Moran Re: Flooding in Monaghan Town and Emyvale
- Response from Minister Dara Calleary T.D. Re: Playgrounds

5. Questions & Motions

Cllr Niamh McCooey will ask:

1. Can Monaghan County Council confirm how many Disabled Parking bays are available in the Monaghan MD area, and their location.

- Additionally, How many parking fines have been issued to those parked in Disabled Parking bays illegally, in 2025 and 2026 to date.

Response: There a total of 52 Disabled Parking bays within the Monaghan MD. A total of 54 parking fines were issued in 2025 to motorists found to be illegally parked in Disabled Parking Bays.

To date in 2026, 26 parking fines have been issued for illegal parking in Disabled Parking Bays.

2. Can Monaghan County Council confirm how many tenders were received for the construction of the Greenway - Monaghan to the border- at the closing date of 16th July and what date is the will the successful tender be issued.

Response: Closing date for submissions has been extended to 23rd July. A tender assessment will then be carried out and a Tender Assessment Report prepared. The number of tenders cannot be made public until completion of the report. It is envisaged that a contractor will be appointed in August.

Cllr Bronagh McAree will ask:

1. **Tydavnet – Speeding**

To ask Monaghan County Council to provide an update on the speed surveys and road safety assessments undertaken in Tydavnet Village, including the findings of those surveys, and to outline what traffic calming or speed reduction measures, if any, are proposed.

Response: The latest speed survey conducted in Tydavnet village demonstrated speeds in excess of the threshold for the installation of traffic calming measure as per the adopted Monaghan County Council Traffic Calming Policy. The 85th percentile speed was recorded at 70km/hr within the 50km/hr speed zone. Tydavnet Village will be included in a funding application to the Department of Transport under the 2027 Low Cost Safety Scheme fund for the installation of traffic calming measures

2. **Ballinode – Speeding**

To ask Monaghan County Council to provide an update on the speed surveys undertaken in Ballinode, including the findings of those surveys, and to indicate what traffic calming or speed reduction measures, if any, are proposed to address speeding concerns in the village.

Response: The Monaghan MD have conducted 2 separate speed surveys in Ballinode at two different locations within the village. Both speed surveys were conducted over a 7-day 24-hour period and were assessed in accordance with the adopted Monaghan County Council Traffic Calming Policy. The result of these surveys demonstrated that the 85th percentile speed of traffic in Ballinode Village did not exceed the 50km/hr posted speed limit in Ballinode Village by 10km/hr or more and therefore the Monaghan MD are not currently proposing any traffic calming measures.

3. Emyvale Play Park

To ask Monaghan County Council what plans, if any, are in place to invest in upgrading the play park in Emyvale, and whether funding opportunities have been identified to improve and expand the existing facilities, including the provision of inclusive play equipment.

Response: Emyvale Playpark recently secured €22,000 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide a Teen Hang Out in Emyvale adjacent to the existing play area. A contractor has been appointed, and works will be completed by October 2026. In conjunction to this project, improvement works will also be completed to the existing facilities

4. Defibrillator – Emy Lake

To ask Monaghan County Council whether consideration has been given to installing a publicly accessible Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at Emy Lake, and whether the Council would support such a project in partnership with the local development committee.

Response: Monaghan County Council does not install Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at public facilities that are managed by community groups. However, community groups wishing to provide an AED in their locality may be eligible to apply for funding assistance through the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP).

The current Local Enhancement Programme for 2026 has now closed and no further applications can be accepted under this year's scheme. It is anticipated that a new iteration of the scheme will be announced by the Department towards the end of 2026 for projects to be delivered in 2027.

Cllr Pauric Clerkin will ask:

1. To ask Monaghan MD for a list of ongoing and future housing projects throughout Monaghan MD and their timeframe for completion.

Response: Monaghan County Councils Housing Section continues to advance a significant programme of social housing delivery across the Monaghan Municipal District. Current efforts are focused on the completion of the remaining phases of

Slí Lorcáin and Cois Abhainn during 2026, while larger strategic developments, including Cluain na Céasach, Cornacassa (Part 8 planning proposal submitted on 2 July 2026), together with a number of town-centre regeneration and heritage-led projects, are progressing through the relevant design, feasibility, planning and Departmental approval processes.

The delivery of these projects remains subject to statutory procedures, planning requirements and Department sanction. A summary of ongoing projects, together with schemes currently at Part 8, feasibility and design stages, is set out below. In addition, Monaghan County Council is actively engaging with private developers to facilitate the delivery of social and affordable housing on privately owned lands. These partnerships will play an important role in increasing housing supply and accelerating the delivery of new homes throughout the Municipal District.

Capital Housing Projects Monaghan MD - On Site			
Project	Delivery Method	Houses at PC Stage	Delivery Date
Slí Lorcain, Latlorcan Monaghan(D&B)	MCC	29	Aug-26
Cois Abhainn, Ballinode (Phase 3)	Turnkey	8	Aug-26
Park Street, Monaghan Town	Turnkey	5	Aug-26
Coill Seannach, Coolshannagh	Turnkey	5	Dec-26
Macartan View, Latlorcan Phase 1	Part V	1	Aug-26
Macartan View, Latlorcan Phase 2	Part V	3	Dec-27

Capital Housing Projects Monaghan MD - At Funding Approval / Early Design / Pre-Construction Stage				
Project	Delivery Method	Planned Units	Status	Estimated Delivery Date
Cluain na Ceasach, Cornacassa, Monaghan	MCC	86	Part 8 Submitted 2nd July / SAP	2027-2028
Cappog, Ballinode	MCC	4	Feasibility Stage	2027
Chapel Court, Carrickroe	MCC	8	Feasibility Stage	2027-2028
Old Cross Square, monaghan Town	MCC	4	Design Stage	2028
9 Plantation Terrace, Monaghan	MCC	1	Feasibility Stage	2027-2028
Bellview Tavern, Dublin Street	MCC	unknown	Heritage Feasibility Stage	2029
St. Louis Convent Red Brick Building	MCC	unknown	Feasibility Stage	2029

2. To ask Monaghan MD for a updated list of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour at local authority owned properties in 2025 and so far in 2026.

Response: Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour in the Monaghan Municipal District are as follows:

- 18 ASB incidents for the period 2026 to date.
- 32 ASB incidents for the period 2025.

3. To ask Monaghan MD for an update regarding proposed traffic calming measures in the villages of Tydavnet, Ballinode, Scotstown and on the Tullybuck side of Clontibret Village.

Response: The delivery of traffic calming measures relies on a funding allocation from the Department of Transport through the Low Cost Safety Scheme fund. Recent traffic speed surveys demonstrated no speeding issues in Ballinode village and speeding issues in Tydavnet village and Roslea Road, Scotstown. Both Tydavnet and Scotstown will be included in an application to the 2027 Low Cost Safety Scheme fund for traffic calming measures. Funding was received this year via this fund for traffic calming measures in Mullen Village which is currently being delivered by the Monaghan MD. The Mon MD will carry out an assessment on Clontibret Village

Cllr Alan Johnston will ask:

1. Can the MD provide an update regarding the council owned derelict property at Old Cross Square adjoining the SIPTU offices.

Response: A design team has been procured for this project and five additional Heritage Projects. A Notification of Intention to Conduct a Feasibility Study was issued to the Department, and the required confirmation has been received.

Draft designs have since been prepared, and site surveys have been undertaken. Over the coming weeks, representatives from the Housing Department and the design team will engage with the Planning Section to review the draft proposals, with the objective of progressing the project to the detailed design stage.

2. Can the MD provide an update and detail regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing along the Clones Road beside the Ulster Canal Greenway.

Response: A preferred option has been selected and a tender competition for a consultant to prepare a detailed design is ongoing, with a closing date for submissions on 4th Aug. A detailed design will be finalised in Q4 26.

3. Can the MD outline the projects envisaged for the St Louis Convent site, the expected timeframe and the expected funding source.

Response:

Chapel Redevelopment

The readaptation of the Chapel and provision of public realm has received planning approval and Monaghan County Council secured €7 million in funding for its implementation under THRIVE strand 2 funding stream. Detailed design drawings are currently being completed by Craftstudio Architects and a prequalification competition for the appointment of construction team has been initiated with a closing date of 19th June 2026. Following this stage and the assessment of the submissions, the contractors who have demonstrated suitable financial, technical and experience will be invited to tender based on the detailed design drawings.

The “Invitation to Tender Stage” has been completed and the second stage will commence in Q3 2026 and subject to costings, construction to commence in Q1 2027.

Red Brick Building

The red brick building redevelopment is under the remit of the Housing section. Presently a Designer (and Conservation Architect) has been procured and surveys and site investigation are being undertake. It but be the intention of the design team to have draft proposals and layouts completed by July 2026 with planning application to be submitted Q1 2027 with works to begin on site Q3 2027 with a 12 month conservation and development programme.

The funding is sourced under funding from the Department of Housing

St Louis Parklands

Planning approval was secured in 15th May 2025 for phase 1 works to the entrance area of the St Louis entrance from the Skinnader roundabout. This included Cleaning and repair of the entrance gates to the Convent on the Clones Road, 2) Public realm enhancements including upgrade and resurfacing of existing paths, including the addition of lighting, the construction of a 185metre boardwalk addressing Convent Lake, the construction of natural play features, paved areas, landscaped areas, seating and signage.

An application for funding for the works was sought under ORIS in 2025 but the Local Authority were unsuccessful. An application may be resubmitted under the same funding stream in 2026 however this will be presented to the Councillors for their approval.

In relation to the remainder of the lands a further application has been submitted under Town and Cities Regeneration Fund for finance to develop plans to Part VIII stage. This was submitted in May 2026 and we are awaiting a decision on that application.

Where opportunities allow the Local Authority will make applications for further funding for the reuse of the buildings as and when they arise.

4. Can the MD outline when the Safe Routes to School plan for the St Louis Convent Infant and Girls School will commence.

Response: Tender documents for Safe Routes to School scheme for the St Louis Convent Infant and Girls School are currently being finalised. Works are expected to commence in Q4 2026.

5. Can the MD provide a high-level breakdown of the income and expenditure for Monaghan town car parking for the years 2023 – 2025 and the budgeted income and expenditure for 2026.

Response:

	Income
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2023	€675,678.38
2024	€646,578.62
2025	€640,694.19

Budgeted income and expenditure for 2026 similar to 2025.

The income is ringfenced for costs associated with Pay-Parking, Rossmore Park costs, Monaghan Town Coordinator costs, cost of operating CCTV and local improvements for the town.

Cllr Seán Conlon will ask:

1. In relation to overdue pedestrian safety measures required between the Peace Campus and bus depot / Lidl on the North Road, as sought in my original appeal in November 2023, what is the update on negotiations with the adjacent landowner that are delaying the installation of a pedestrian crossing at this location? And mindful that this legal dispute may take an extended period of time to resolve, will the Council seek to advance this particular crossing as a matter of urgency which falls outside the disputed area in question?

Response: The crossing that is not within the disputed area will be constructed in August and should be completed in Sept. Negotiations are ongoing with regards to the parcel of disputed land.

2. Further to my question tabled at the March MD meeting, will the Council implement yellow hatched road markings on the two junctions at the entrance and exit in front of the courthouse?

Response: The Monaghan MD have added the installation of these hatched boxes to the road marking programme. Installation will be completed during Q3 2026.

3. In relation to advancing a Community Hub in the Killygoan / Pound Hill area, what progress is occurring in identifying a suitable site or property for locating this important element of social infrastructure?

Response: MCC did explored the possibility of acquiring The Gospel Hall, Glen Road, under the Building & Land Acquisition Measure (BLAM) as a potential community facility for the Killygoan and wider area. However, as only two applications could be submitted to the Department, this proposal was not selected. The Council will continue to work with the community group and consider future opportunities to support the development of community hub in the area.

4. Mindful of the considerable number of people using public transport that is accessed at the lower courthouse car park behind the credit union, will this Council, in

association with the Active Travel section, initiate the planning and installation of a bus shelter?

Response: In conjunction with the Active Travel Section, the Monaghan MD will investigate the installation of a bus shelter, including possible funding streams for the Lower Court House Carpark.

Motions

Cllr. Raymond Aughey proposed, Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded:

For the MD to host a reception to honour the retired Principals Brendan O'Dufaigh and Seosamh O'Gallachoir and to mark their immense contribution to the Irish language & culture within the MD area and wider afield.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Aughey would liaise with Corporate Services regarding how this motion might be progressed, as it does not fall within the scope of the current Civic Receptions Policy.

Cllr. Bronagh McAree proposed, Cllr Seán Conlon seconded:

That Monaghan Municipal District writes to Bus Éireann requesting an urgent meeting with senior management to address the ongoing issues surrounding school transport, particularly the poor or absent responses to correspondence from elected representatives. The meeting should seek to establish improved communication channels, timely responses to queries and a more effective process for resolving issues affecting school transport users across the Municipal District.

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

Cllr. Alan Johnston proposed, Cllr. Pauric Clerkin seconded:

That Monaghan MD write to the Minister for Health inviting her to visit Monaghan Hospital and to request additional clinical funding for improved patient services.

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

(Motion resubmitted due to significant change of wording from June Mtg)

Cllr. Pauric Clerkin proposed, Cllr Niamh McCooey seconded:

That Monaghan Municipal District writes to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Dara Calleary TD, seeking the establishment of a dedicated funding stream for the maintenance, upgrade and development of public playgrounds across the country.

The MD notes the increasing popularity and importance of playgrounds as vital community amenities for young children and families, particularly for children with additional needs who rely on accessible and inclusive play facilities. Despite their growing usage, many playgrounds are falling into a state of disrepair due to the lack of dedicated funding for ongoing maintenance, refurbishment, and replacement of equipment.

The introduction of a dedicated funding programme would assist local authorities in maintaining these valuable facilities to an appropriate standard and ensuring that children and families can continue to benefit from safe, accessible, inclusive and high-quality play spaces within their communities.

Members acknowledged correspondence, (circulated with meeting agenda), from the office of Minister Dara Calleary regarding the CLÁR Funding Programme in response to the request for funding for playgrounds. Members noted that the CLÁR programme is not available in all areas and expressed concerns that the application process is complex and challenging for applicants.

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

6. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

It was agreed that the sympathy of the Municipal District be extended to Mr. Frankie Murphy, Active Travel, on the sudden death of his wife, Aisling, RIP.

7. AOB

There were no matters raised.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
A/Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this _____ day of September 2026