

Minutes of Meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held in Cootehill Courthouse, on Friday 23rd January 2026 at 3pm

Councillor Val Smith, Cathaoirleach presiding.

Present; Councillors C Kelly, N Smith, A Rogers, C Brady, S Conaty

In Attendance; Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services
Clinton Mulligan, A/Senior Executive Engineer
M. Conroy, N O'Reilly– Minutes Administrators

Cathaoirleach Val Smith welcomed all to the meeting.

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 4th November 2025.

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe Dé Céadaoin, 3 ú Méan Fómhair 2025.

It was

Proposed by Councillor S Conaty

Seconded by Councillor N Smith

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held on 4th of November 2025 be hereby approved”

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

N/A.

2. Disclosure of Interests Section 177 local government act 2001.

N/A

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing orders or Resolutions of the Council.

N/A

Member's Items

4. Cllr V Smith

- Safety measures on the R165 Stradone to Cootehill road at Laragh House junction

Cathaoirleach V Smith stated that he had spoken at previous MD meetings about Stradone and the fact that there are approx. 200 people employed in the area. He mentioned that Mr C Mulligan visited the area and that new signs which have been erected are a good help. He advised that a pedestrian crossing is needed if funding was available for same. There is a lot of activity at Laragh House junction and that the bend is very dangerous. The area is busier now with football and activities starting up again and he is inundated with reps from people about it. He advised that he has raised previously, the possibility of getting crash barriers and that there were five chevrons there at one time, but they are now gone. He requested that either chevrons or crash barriers be reinstated. He acknowledged that a lot is down to driver behaviour but that the council needs to do something to alleviate the situation and that signage or road markings would also be a help. Cllr C Brady seconded the motion stating that it is lethal if you have to stop there especially at peak times with school traffic, busy deli at lunchtime etc. She advised that there is a high ditch on left with tree hanging down. Cllr S Conaty also supported the motion and stated that whilst it is great to see the village thriving there is a need for safety measure in the area. Mr C Mulligan advised that this is the junction of the R-165 & L-2026. Like many junctions, it would not meet current junction design standards. There are several issues at this location including the steep topography of both roads, poor forward visibility and private landownership. He advised that the junction would require realignment to make it substantially safer, but funding is the issue. Realistically you are looking at potentially increased line markings /safety signage. Mr Mulligan confirmed that he has referred this junction to our Road Safety Department who will carry out the appropriate assessment and surveys of the site. Our low-cost safety programme must prioritize locations identified within these departments reports and this junction wasn't noted. He questioned if perhaps the collision data doesn't back up the need for same. Cathaoirleach V Smith accepted what Mr Mulligan was saying but requested that if we could even organise road markings it would be of help. He mentioned that himself and Mr Mulligan had visited Aughadreena NS and that there is a crash barrier at Floods Quarry, where there have been accidents but not noted with the Gardai. Mr Mulligan confirmed that he would get the existing chevrons back up and will refer the matter on to Road Safety.

5. Cllr S Conaty

- Ag lorg uasdátú ar ionaduithe faoi choinne oibríthe bhonneagair bóithre éagsúla i mbaile Mhuinchille / Seeking an update on representations for various road infrastructural works in Cootehill town

Cllr Conaty informed the meeting that he has had reports of people falling, difficulties with buggies crossing the road etc between two heavily populated estates at the pedestrian crossing at Lodge View. He advised that there is also an issue with flooding, with water coming up to some of the house doors. Cllr C Brady advised that this issue has come up previously and that flashing lights were added at the location. She had requested that it be raised but if it is not being raised then adequate markings etc are required. She stated that cars are speeding in all directions and that kids with autism run out and it is very dangerous. She would appreciate whatever can be done to alleviate the danger. Mr C Mulligan acknowledged that the crossing is poor and needs to be replaced. This will be done once we have a tender in place with our resurfacing contractor. He confirmed that it is not the intention to raise the crossing.

Cllr Conaty raised the issue of the absence of yellow box at Griffith Park and Drumman. He stated that there are large traffic volumes in the area with the Fire Station in the area, emergency services etc. Mr C Mulligan confirmed that he had reviewed the request. It is suitable for a yellow box and he has instructed our road marking contractor to carry out these works. Cllr C Brady supported this and confirmed that she had spoken to Mr C Mulligan and is aware that the work will be done and she thanked him for this.

- Chun na slite salainn sa cheantar bardasach a phlé agus go sonrach, chun iarraidh go mbeadh bóithre faoin tuath, atá ag feidhmiú mar phríomhbóithre, curtha san áireamh / To discuss salting routes in the Municipal District and in particular to ask that certain rural roads, which effectively act as main roads in a lot of cases, be included

Cllr S Conaty stated that this is a big issue for all and that he is well aware it is a funding issue. He advised that certain roads, effectively acting as main roads, are not included on the councils salting routes i.e. L1503 in Redhills which is a death trap in icy weather. He mentioned that the L1517 is on the salting route and that if it is justified then the L1503 should be too. He stated that Redhills is the only urban area within the MD that doesn't have a regional road going through it and that those roads effectively act as main roads. He also mentioned the L2010 Castletara which serves as a main road with high volumes of traffic due to school buses and students travelling to the Agricultural College. Cllr N Smith enquired as to whether the new Bus Eireann and local link routes are being gritted. Cllr C Kelly mentioned the Inniskeen/Carrickleck road and the fact that people can't travel during bad weather. He said a lot of frontline staff live on the road and can't get out to work at times. He also mentioned the steep hill at St Mary's across from the chapel on the Kells road. Cllr A Rogers informed the meeting that between Christmas and New Year the junction from Laragh House to Cartons in Shercock was not gritted. Cartons is a very big employer in the area and high volumes of traffic use the road. He received

a phone call from a lorry driver complaining about the lack of salting/gritting on the road. Cllr V Smith confirmed that he also has received several calls about the same issue. He acknowledged that the funding is not adequate but that it is frustrating nonetheless.

Mr C Mulligan advised that he has spoken about the Winter Maintenance Plan at previous MD meetings and confirmed that it is not just a question of funding, it is also a question of time and resources. Only a certain amount of road can be done in one night and there is currently extensive gritting being carried out at night.

Mr P Connaughton advised that the information is very transparent and available to the public on the Cavan CC website. The priority routes are clearly outlined as follows -

1. Priority 1 routes are the National Roads only,
2. Priority 2 are primarily Regional roads,
3. Priority 3 cover the remainder of the Regional and local roads

Mr Connaughton also stated that there is a certain element of discretion in terms of local roads, which is dependent on resources available. If Elected Members wish to add roads to the schedule other roads may have to be removed. He advised that the Winter Maintenance Plan will be reviewed and all members can have a look but that not much more can be done unless we were to direct resources from road maintenance etc. which is against the advice of technical road staff. He stated that he is sympathetic towards the requests for salting near schools but it is just not feasible due to a combination of finances, time and resources. Cllr C Brady informed the meeting that she rang the office at the beginning of January in relation to the Lisnageer road and that the lorry came out and left grit very promptly. She wished to acknowledge that we are doing all we can and that it was appreciated. Cllr S Conaty also expressed appreciation. He asked if there was anything we could do in relation to Treehoo/Redhills. He advised that when he looked at the plan on the council website he could see how we would incorporate the road he had previously requested. Mr C Mulligan replied that he would have to investigate further. Cllr N Smith thanked the MD for their efforts. He questioned should the bus routes not be a priority. Mr P Connaughton replied that most Bus Eireann routes are probably on Priority routes anyway. Mr C Mulligan clarified that Bus Eireann and local link routes are not specifically gritted but that a large portion run along priority routes so would be included for gritting. Cllr A Rogers stated that Cootehill/Bailieboro/Kells local link should be included. Also Bailieboro-Moynalty road but that may come under remit of Meath CC.

- Chun uasdátú a lorg ó Thaisteal Gníomhach nó rannóga ábhartha eile sa Chomhairle maidir leis an dídean bus i sráidbhaile Bhéal Átha hÉis / To seek an update from Active Travel and any other relevant sections of the Council in relation to the proposed bus shelter in Ballyhaise village

Cllr S Conaty expressed that it was great to see extra funds for Active Travel and enquired if bus stop enhancement was included, which he stated is much needed. There are two local link routes with approx. 25 buses, plus two school buses, and a growing population in the area. He mentioned that there is a perfect spot for a bus stop beside the community centre which would suit very well. He enquired as to whether the funding had rolled over to this year. He also asked if there was an update on an application to Active Travel for footpaths in Redhills Village. Mr C Mulligan informed the meeting

that Cavan County Council was allocated €500,000 for bus stop enhancement programs which includes upgrade of bus stops in various locations around the county in agreed locations, including the installation of bus poles and hardstanding areas. Cllr N Smith asked how many stops were included in this MD. Mr P Connaughton advised that the €500,000 is for the N3/N87, the main artery for bus routes. Cllr S Conaty enquired as to where on the N3 it would be located. Cllr V Smith mentioned Lavey, whilst Cllr Conaty recommended New Inns if possible.

Mr C Connaughton advised that the focus will be on existing bus stops. Cllr C Kelly requested, through the Director of Services, that one be placed outside the Army Barracks and Mr P Connaughton replied that he is aware and hoping to progress. Cllr C Brady welcomed the Active Travel funding for Station Rd and the safety measures around the comprehensive school at the Bailieborough/Cootehill road. She told the meeting that the measures will enhance safety for students and warmly welcomed the funding. Cllr S Conaty enquired about Redhills. Mr C Mulligan advised that Active Travel application was not successful but that we could try again this year, however there may not be business justification i.e. footfall etc to support. Mr Mulligan advised that he will have to confirm if application was put in and was unsuccessful. Mr P Connaughton informed those present that we need to be realistic about what is included under Active Travel. It is primarily for pedestrian and cyclist routes. Footpath repair is not included, and we don't have specific funding for footpath repairs. We cannot blame Active Travel and need to be aware of the scope of the scheme.

Cllr N Smith

- To erect Public Lighting from the Cross where the R191 meets the R165 down to St. Felim's National School (The Vale) and Bailieborough Celtic Soccer Club

Cllr N Smith informed the meeting that he has had lots of calls in relation to Galbolie Cross to the school. He advised that the Local Link stops at the cross and also post office and shop in the vicinity. He enquired as to whether public lighting could be installed. Mr C Mulligan advised that, firstly, lighting is not recommended on Regional roads. This would involve installing approximately 520m of public lighting along the R-165 within a 60km/hr speed limit zone. He added that there is simply not the space to install lights along approx. a third of this proposal due to the lack of verges/ stone walls, embankments and trees and stated that, as has been mentioned before at these meetings, the priority for public lighting is within our urban areas. Cllr N Smith asked if it could be covered under Active Travel, to which both Mr Connaughton & Mr Mulligan replied that it could not as it does not fall under the scope of Active Travel.

- To repair the Road outside St. Felim's National School (The Vale), which is sinking

Cllr N Smith said that he had mentioned this issue to Mr C Mulligan last week. Mr Mulligan advised that he is aware of the issue and that it is on our priority task list once we get a contract in place with our surfacing contractor.

AOB

Cathaoirleach Val Smith brought forward a proposal to have Lavey recognised as a rural cluster. Attached proposal as outlined by Cllr Smith included below -

Public Meeting Briefing Document - Lavey Rural Node / Cluster

What Is Being Proposed

The proposal is to seek recognition of Lavey as a Rural Node / Cluster within the settlement hierarchy of the County Development Plan. This is a modest and proportionate planning designation that reflects how Lavey already functions as a rural community.

What a Rural Node / Cluster Means

A Rural Node or Cluster is a recognised rural community that contains a concentration of services and facilities and serves a surrounding rural hinterland. It is distinct from open countryside but does not carry the same implications as village or town designation.

What Lavey Already Has

Lavey already functions as a rural node through:

- A strong parish and community identity*
- Hardware Shop*
- B&B*
- The Nationally known Lavey Inn Pub and Restaurant*
- Petrol Station and Deli -Garage*
- Lakeshore and Park facilities*
- A clear focal area where development has clustered naturally*

What This Is Not

This proposal is not about:

- Designating Lavey as a village or town*
- Zoning land for housing or development*
- Allowing housing estates or Large-scale development*
- Requiring sewerage schemes or major infrastructure investment*
- Removing planning controls*

Why Recognition Matters

At present, Lavey is treated as open countryside for planning purposes. This can lead to ribbon development, inconsistent decision-making and pressure for scattered one-off housing. Recognising Lavey as a Rural Node would support small-scale infill, reduce pressure on the wider countryside and provide clarity and fairness in planning decisions.

Infrastructure and Environmental Considerations

Any development associated with a rural node designation would remain small-scale and subject to normal planning assessment. There is no assumption of wastewater infrastructure, zoning or growth targets. Environmental protection and Landscape character would remain central considerations.

What Happens Next

If there is community support, a submission can be made during the next County Development Plan consultation period. Local councillors may support the proposal, after which planning officials will assess it against national and regional policy. No immediate change occurs and no development can take place without planning permission.

Conclusion

This proposal is about recognition rather than expansion. It seeks to align planning policy with the reality of Lavey as an established rural community while protecting its character and setting.

Cllr S Conaty fully agreed with the proposal and noted that Cllr Smith had outlined very well the arguments in favour. Mr P Connaughton commented that it was an interesting proposition and that he would have to talk to Planning Department and revert.

Cllr C Kelly advised that the lights at the school on the Shercock road are not working and that markings are not adequate. Residents of Shamrock Ave are fed up with the situation, and something needs to be done. Over 700 students, staff etc attending the school and he requested that markings "school ahead" be installed. He also stated that there should be another ramp further back. Mr C Mulligan advised that he met with residents before Christmas and that road marking has been completed. Road Safety had completed a speed survey and are analysing the results at present. They will come back with recommendations soon as to what can be done. Mr Mulligan has asked Road Safety to prioritise the matter.

Cllr C Kelly raised the issue of dangers on the Kells Road at the creche and St Marys Road. He stated that you can't see the traffic until you are out on the road and suggested a ramp might help. Mr C Mulligan confirmed that Road Safety had issued a drawing and recommended a speed ramp. We are currently in process of tendering and will complete when contractor is in place.

Cllr C Kelly mentioned the footpath on the Bailieborough road and lights at the entrance to the estate there. Mr Mulligan advised that costings have been completed and we are discussing where funding may come from.

Cllr C Kelly advised that there are two flooding points at Mrs Tierney's house. This may be a Board of Works River. Mr Mulligan replied that he would look into it further and update. Cllr C Kelly also mentioned flooding at Shiels house, Leiter Road and potholes on the Carrickleck/Iniskeen road which he reported previously. The final issue he raised was a safety issue with school children crossing at Rocks Road. Mr P Connaughton confirmed that this would be addressed under the Town Regeneration Scheme.

Cllr S Conaty raised the matter of overgrown trees and poor road surface at Treehoo. He also mentioned the bridge at Keadue. Mr C Mulligan advised that the MD must fund the repair of parapet walls on the bridge from our Own Resource funding. He confirmed that works should start on Clements Bridge and Keadue within the next two weeks. In relation to the overgrown trees, they may be in private ownership, but Mr Mulligan advised that he would have the Contractor (Cavan Tree Services) investigate and report back with recommendations and costings and he would review then.

Cllr S Conaty enquired about the speed ramps in Drung. He commended the good work completed on resurfacing the road, but expressed disappointment that the ramps had not been included. Mr C Mulligan explained that funding is an issue and that we currently have no timeline for completion of same. However, it is not off the radar, and may be considered later in the year.

Cllr A Rogers requested an update on an email he sent in during the week in relation to footpath on Kingscourt road out of Bailieborough. Mr Mulligan advised that he would get an update and revert. He will check with Active Travel to see what response was but that may not be successful as limited footfall etc. Mr P Connaughton advised that can submit but as previously mentioned it does not cover footpaths.

Cllr N Smith stated that there is footfall from buses (TFI route). Mr Mulligan advised that Active Travel is mainly concerned with larger numbers e.g. St Aidan's School in Cootehill and Con Smith Park in Cavan. Mr P Connaughton reaffirmed that Active Travels main focus is on urban areas and that amount of usage is considered. Safety is not a function of Active Travel.

It was agreed that the next MD meeting would be held on Monday 23rd March 2026 at 3pm in The Courthouse, Cootehill.

The meeting concluded at 4.15pm