



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Annual Meeting

8th June 2020, Solstice Theatre @ 11.30a.m.

Presiding

Councillor Wayne Harding (Cathaoirleach)

Councillors Present:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Seán Drew, Edward Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Pádraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Suzanne Jamal, Geraldine Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Elaine McGinty, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Aisling O'Neill, Damien O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Amanda Smith, Niamh Souhan, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

Apologies: Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Robert Collins

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan

1 Election of An Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and reflected on his year as Cathaoirleach, with particular emphasis on the last few months during the Covid-19 crisis. He highlighted the tremendous community response to the crisis and commended the Council on how it has provided leadership during that time. He reflected on the changes that had taken place over the last 12 months, the positive developments which were a priority at the start of his term in office, and also the significant changes enforced by the pandemic. He acknowledged the cooperation of his fellow Councillors in the conduct of Council meetings and the support of the Leas-Chathaoirleach. He made reference to the support that he had from various staff members during his time as Cathaoirleach and thanked the members of the Management Team. Finally he thanked his family for their support over the past year and wished his successor every good wish.

The Chief Executive thanked Councillor Harding for his work and contribution during his time as Cathaoirleach and presented him with an album of images of his time in office.

The Cathaoirleach then invited nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor David Gilroy was proposed for the position of Cathaoirleach by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor informed the meeting that the Fine Gael group will not be proposing a candidate and hoped that the position of Cathaoirleach would not be contested, drawing parallels to what happened 100 years previously at the first Council Meeting following the 1920 local elections.

Councillor Joe Bonner was proposed for the position of Cathaoirleach by **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan Moore**.

A roll call vote was taken with the following result:

ADENUGA, Yemi	GILROY	
BEHAN, Tom	GILROY	
BONNER, Joseph	BONNER	
BRAY, Mike	GILROY	
CASSIDY, Eugene	GILROY	
DEANE, Francis	GILROY	
DEMPSEY, Aisling	GILROY	
DREW, Sean	GILROY	
FENNESSY, Eddie	BONNER	
FITZGERALD, Brian	GILROY	
FITZSIMONS, Pdraig	GILROY	
FOX, Joe	GILROY	
FRENCH, Noel	GILROY	
GALLAGHER, Michael	BONNER	
GERAGHTY-SMITH, Deirdre		Absent
GILROY, David	GILROY	
GOLDEN, Trevor	GILROY	
HARDING, Wayne	GILROY	
JAMAL, Suzanne	GILROY	
KEOGAN, Geraldine	GILROY	
KILLIAN, Nick	GILROY	
LAWES, Alan		Absent
MC CABE, Paul	GILROY	
MC GINTY, Elaine	GILROY	
MC KEE, Stephen	GILROY	
MEADE, Paddy	GILROY	
MOORE, Ronan	BONNER	
MURPHY, Maria	GILROY	
O'CONNOR, Gerry	GILROY	
O'NEILL, Aisling	BONNER	
O'REILLY, Damien	GILROY	
REILLY, Sarah	GILROY	
REILLY, Tommy	GILROY	



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

SMITH, Amanda	GILROY	
SOUHAN, Niamh	GILROY	
TOBIN, Alan	GILROY	
TÓIBÍN, Emer	GILROY	
TOLAN, Sharon	GILROY	
TOOLE, Gillian	GILROY	
TORMEY, Conor	GILROY	

Result: Cllr. David Gilroy – 33, Cllr. Joe Bonner – 5, Absent – 2

Councillor David Gilroy was declared elected as Cathaoirleach of the Council and assumed the Chair.

The newly elected Cathaoirleach addressed the meeting, thanked the members for giving him this honour and looked forward to working with all members and the Executive over the coming 12 months. He referenced the first Council meeting following the 1920 local elections and connections that he had to that Council, through his grandfather.

2 Election of the Leas Chathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the position of Leas Chathaoirleach.

Councillor Aisling Dempsey was proposed for the position of Leas Chathaoirleach on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**.

Councillor Ronan Moore was proposed for the position of Leas Chathaoirleach on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** but this nomination was declined by Councillor Moore.

As no further candidates were nominated, **Councillor Aisling Dempsey** was declared elected as Leas Chathaoirleach of Meath County Council.

The newly elected Leas-Chathaoirleach addressed the meeting and thanked members for their support. She reflected on the events of the last three months and acknowledged the voluntary work across many communities in the county. During this time, people have had to evolve their lives and use technology and alternatives to do their jobs. She did think that now was an opportunity for the role of Cathaoirleach and Leas Chathaoirleach to also evolve, especially the use of technology in linking communities and the work of the Council.

Councillor Edward Fennessy made an intervention on the centenary of the 1920 local elections and the first meeting of Meath County Council, following those elections. That Council passed its first resolution, which was a refusal to recognise the authority of Dublin Castle and instead recognising the authority of Dail Eireann. He linked the events of 100 years ago to the present and the journey of recovery that the country faces in the context of the global pandemic and its impact on Irish society and the economy.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The out-going Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor Gillian Toole, both congratulated the incoming office-holders. Councillor Toole informed the meeting that she had donated the Leas-Chathaoirleach's allowance to local causes in the Dunshaughlin area.

The following members also conveyed messages of congratulations to the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach: **Councillors Ronan Moore; Sarah Reilly; Gerry O'Connor; Mike Bray; Joe Fox; Eugene Cassidy; and Joe Bonner.**

3 Agree Schedule of Meetings

The following schedule of Council Meetings was approved on a proposal by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane.**

Date	Type
July 6, 2020	Ordinary
September 7, 2020	Ordinary
October 5, 2020	Ordinary
November 2, 2020	Ordinary
December 7, 2020	Ordinary
February 1, 2021	Ordinary
March 1, 2021	Ordinary
April 12, 2021*	Ordinary
May 10, 2021*	Ordinary
June 14, 2021*	Annual

*April Meeting – April 5 is Easter Monday

*May Meeting – May 3 is a bank holiday

*June Meeting – June 7 is a bank holiday

4 To appoint a replacement Councillor to the Meath Local Sports Partnership Committee following the resignation of Councillor Tommy Reilly.

Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons was appointed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan.**



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 5 To appoint a replacement Councillor to LAMA following the election of Sharon Keogan to Senead Éireann.

Councillor Amanda Smith was appointed on the proposal of Councillor Brian Fitzgerald and seconded by Councillor Trevor Golden.

- 6 To appoint a replacement Councillor to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Local Action Group (LAG) following the election of Annie Hoey to Senead Éireann.

Councillor Elaine McGinty was appointed on the proposal of Councillor Brian Fitzgerald and seconded by Councillor Nick Killian.

- 7 To approve the appointment of a replacement Councillor to the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC following the election of Annie Hoey to Senead Éireann.

Councillor Elaine McGinty was appointed on the proposal of Councillor Brian Fitzgerald and seconded by Councillor Trevor Golden.

- 8 To approve the appointment of a replacement Councillor to the Climate Action and Environment SPC following the election of Sharon Keogan to Senead Éireann.

Councillor Geraldine Keogan was appointed on the proposal of Councillor Brian Fitzgerald and seconded by Councillor Trevor Golden.

The Cathaoireach gave the floor to Councillor Brian Fitzgerald who addressed the issue of the centenary of the first meeting of Meath County Council following the local elections of 1920. He paid tribute to the men and women that have served on the Council in that time and spoke of the work and achievements of County Councils across the country over the last 120 years and the significant improvements that Meath County Council has introduced, in particular, to modernise the county and to improve living standards.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Councillors for their contributions on the centenary and due to time constraints agreed to resume the discussion during the Ordinary Council Meeting.