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Annual Meeting

14th June 2021, Solstice Theatre @ 10.30a.m.

Presiding

Councillor David Gilroy (Cathaoirleach)

Councillors Present:

Councillors Tom Behan, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Seán Drew, Edward Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Pádraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, 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: Councillors: Yemi Adenuga, Joe Bonner, Michael Gallagher,

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Martin Murray

Meetings Administrator: Robert Collins

1 Election of An Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and reflected on his year as Cathaoirleach and the work of the Council over the last 12 months. He focused on the positivity of the last number of weeks, with the re-opening of society and businesses, as the country emerges from the Covid crisis. He touched on his inaugural speech where he reflected on the last 100 years of the Council, when his grandfather was a member of Meath County Council, but asked that the elected members consider the next 100 years and to reflect on the contribution the current generation can make and the legacy that can be left for the next generations. He referenced the different challenges that local authorities now face and the changing nature of the role of councillors. His hope was that they continue to make a difference and to be a force for positive change. Finally, he thanked all the elected members for their work and co-operation during the year and to the Management Team and various officials for their support and contribution during his term in office.

There were expressions of gratitude to the out-going Cathaoirleach from **Councillors Gerry O'Connor; Sarah Reilly; Tommy Reilly; Damien O'Reilly; Brian Fitzgerald; Joe Fox; Ronan Moore; Eugene Cassidy; Trevor Golden; Edward Fennessy** and **Aisling O'Neill**. All referenced the difficult year that it had been because of the public health restrictions, with many paying tribute to how the



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Cathaoirleach chaired the Special Planning Meeting and dealt with the complex issues in a fair and open manner.

The Chief Executive thanked Councillor Gilroy for his work and contribution during his time as Cathaoirleach, she highlighted his understanding of and appreciation for the role of Cathaoirleach, his courteousness in dealing with staff and his interactions with communities and groups during the year. She presented him with an e-album of images of his time in office.

The Cathaoirleach then invited nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Sean Drew was proposed for the position of Cathaoirleach by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**, with both setting out the reasons as to why Councillor Drew should be elected.

Councillor Suzanne Jamal was proposed for the position of Cathaoirleach by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, with both setting out the reasons as to why Councillor Jamal should be elected.

A roll call vote was taken with the following result:

	Drew	Jamal	Abstain	Absent
ADENUGA, Yemi				X
BEHAN, Tom	X			
BONNER, Joseph				X
BRAY, Mike	X			
CASSIDY, Eugene		X		
DEANE, Francis	X			
DEMPSEY, Aisling	X			
DREW, Sean	X			
FENNESSY, Eddie			X	
FITZGERALD, Brian	X			
FITZSIMONS, Padraig	X			
FOX, Joe		X		
FRENCH, Noel		X		
GALLAGHER, Michael				X
GERAGHTY-SMITH, Deirdre	X			
GILROY, David	X			
GOLDEN, Trevor	X			
HARDING, Wayne	X			
JAMAL, Suzanne		X		
KEOGAN, Geraldine	X			
KILLIAN, Nick	X			
LAWES, Alan	X			
MC CABE, Paul	X			
MC GINTY, Elaine	X			



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MC KEE, Stephen	X			
MEADE, Paddy		X		
MOORE, Ronan		X		
MURPHY, Maria		X		
O'CONNOR, Gerry		X		
O'NEILL, Aisling			X	
O'REILLY, Damien	X			
REILLY, Sarah		X		
REILLY, Tommy	X			
SMITH, Amanda	X			
SOUHAN, Niamh		X		
TOBIN, Alan		X		
TÓIBÍN, Emer	X			
TOLAN, Sharon		X		
TOOLE, Gillian	X			
TORMEY, Conor	X			

Result: Cllr. Sean Drew – 23, Cllr. Suzanne Jamal – 12, Abstain – 2, Absent – 3

Councillor Sean Drew was declared elected as Cathaoirleach of the Council and assumed the Chair.

The newly elected Cathaoirleach addressed the meeting, thanked his proposer and seconder, thanked the out-going Cathaoirleach and Councillor Jamal. He made reference to his time as a member of the Kells Town Council since 2002 and his election to the County Council in 2014. He is the first Cathaoirleach from Kells since 1992 and considered it fitting on the 1,500 year anniversary of St Colmcille.

Looking to the year ahead, the Cathaoirleach identified a number of significant projects and initiatives which he hoped to progress in the 12 months. These included the: finalisation of the County Development Plan; the extension of the Railway to Navan; supporting the stimulus to local businesses and promoting Meath as a location for investment; the need to provide affordable homes in the county and to continue to support local tourism, the provision of broadband and the installation of CCTV in communities, where required. He thanked his family, his father, his work colleagues and party colleagues for their understanding and support and encouraged the members of the Council, during this mid-term year to work together to realise the potential of county Meath.

The Chief Executive congratulated the new Cathaoirleach and expressed her commitment to work closely with him in the year ahead. The following also congratulated the new Cathaoirleach on his election and wish him well: **Councillors Sarah Reilly; Aisling Dempsey; Gerry O'Connor; Mike Bray; Eugene Cassidy; David Gilroy; Tom Behan; Ronan Moore; Wayne Harding; Pdraig Fitzsimons; Nick Killian; Stephen McKee; and Deirdre Geraghty-Smith.**

2 Election of the Leas Chathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the position of Leas Chathaoirleach.



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Councillor Francis Deane was proposed for the position of Leas Chathaoirleach on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

Councillor Suzanne Jamal was proposed for the position of Leas Chathaoirleach on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

A roll call vote was taken with the following result:

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



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TOLAN, Sharon		X		
TOOLE, Gillian	X			
TORMEY, Conor	X			

Result: Cllr. Francis Deane – 27, Cllr. Suzanne Jamal – 10, Abstain – 0, Absent – 3

Councillor Francis Deane was declared elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Council.

The newly elected Leas-Chathaoirleach addressed the meeting and thanked his proposer and seconder and the members for their support. He acknowledged the work of Council staff on the frontline during the pandemic in providing services, working with communities and supporting local businesses. He wished to promote the shop local initiative during the year and to highlight awareness of mental health issues, as society emerges from the Covid crisis. Finally, he thanked the out-going Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor Dempsey for her year in office.

Councillor Suzanne Jamal wished both the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach well in their roles over the 12 months. She thanked her proposer and seconder and also thanked Councillor Gilroy for his work as Cathaoirleach. **Councillor Trevor Golden** and **Mike Bray** also thanked Councillor Dempsey and wished Councillor Deane well for his term in office.

3 Agree Schedule of Meetings

The following schedule of Council Meetings was approved:

Date	Type
July 5, 2021	Ordinary
September 6, 2021	Ordinary
September 2021***	SPM
October 4, 2021	Ordinary
November 1, 2021	Ordinary
November 29, 2021	Budget
December 6, 2021	Ordinary
February 7, 2022	Ordinary
March 7, 2022	Ordinary
April 4, 2022	Ordinary
May 9, 2022*	Ordinary
June 13, 2022**	Annual

*May Meeting – May 2 is a bank holiday

**June Meeting – June 6 is a bank holiday

***September – Special Planning Meeting (week beginning Sept 20th – TBC)

The meeting concluded at 11.50.