

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Council held at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 30 June 2017 at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillor I Keatley (Mayor), Councillors M Aspell, A Breen, A Breslin, K Byrne, B Caldwell, D Callaghan, M Coleman, R Cronin, I Cussen, M Dalton, S Doyle, T Durkan, D Fitzpatrick, B Hillis, C Kelly, P Kennedy, A Larkin, M McCabe, P McEvoy, J McGinley, F McLoughlin Healy, M Miley Jnr, S Moore, T Murray, J Neville, N O’Cearuil, J Pender, R Power, S Power, D Scully, M Stafford, M Wall, P Ward, B Weld and B Young

Apologies: Councillors F Brett, M Lynch, S O’Neill, T Redmond

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Mr J Boland, Ms S Kavanagh, Mr T McDonnell, Mr P Minnock (Directors of Service), Ms E Hanlon (Head of Finance), Ms M McIvor (Meetings Administrator) and other officials.

1/0617

Election of Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor Ivan Keatley welcomed the members, staff and guests to the Annual meeting and thanked everyone for their assistance, co-operation and work during his term as Mayor. He stated that in preparation for the meeting he had reviewed his diary over the last year with the continuation of the commemoration of 1916 being to the fore when he took over from Councillor Weld in 2016. He stated one event in particular stood out for him which was the celebration in the Chamber to welcome and thank the centenarians of the county which was followed by tea in the canteen where the 2016 lapel pin, which had been designed following a competition run through the schools, was unveiled thus celebrating both the youngest and the oldest in the county.

The Mayor stated it was a very busy year for the members with the adoption of the County Development Plan which had over 300 motions at draft and full adoption stage and thanked the members and the staff of the Planning department for their work in this regard. The Mayor gave some other examples of the great work ongoing in Kildare to include the launch of the Kildare Tourism Strategy, the redevelopment of both the Curragh and Naas racecourses, the opening of two new playgrounds in Kill and Ellistown and the number of Part 8 applications progressing. He also stated he had the pleasure of congratulating McCauley Place on their Pride of Place award and Straffan with their silver medal win in the Entente Florale competition.

In his own Municipal District area, the Mayor referred to the launch of the Barge on the River Barrow, the signing of the contracts for the Athy library and the application for planning permission for the southern distributor roads in Athy which are all very positive developments for the south of the county. However, notwithstanding all these positive projects he stated it was important not to underestimate the challenges faced over the next two years coming up to the local elections and added the adoption of the Local Area Plans is going to be very challenging for the members. The Mayor noted that the national housing crisis challenge remains and wanted to pay particular thanks to the front of house staff in the Housing department on the work they do acknowledging the daily challenge they face in dealing with this issue. He stated it is very encouraging to see the number of Part 8 housing developments coming through the council and that it is important to spread the message that a lot of work is being done by the council in this area and the members have an important role in getting that message out to the public.

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank the Chief Executive and his management team for showing great leadership in serving the public of Kildare and wished to extend his personal thanks to them all for their assistance during the year. He also wished to thank his wife Eleana and his mother Breda for supporting him over the last year saying he would not have been able to carry out the role without their support. In conclusion, the Mayor thanked Councillor Billy Hillis for his work as

Deputy Mayor and thanked him for the time given and the in-depth experience he had brought to the role.

On behalf of the Fine Gael group, Councillor Weld thanked the Mayor for his work over the last year and noted his fairness in the Chair was outstanding. Councillor Weld made particular reference to his work in getting through the County Development Plan process. Councillor McEvoy joined with the Fine Gael Group in thanking the Mayor for his sterling service and for representing everyone with integrity, generosity and compassion. On behalf of the Fianna Fail group, Councillor S Power wished to be associated with the previous speaker's sentiments noting the demands of the role and to compliment The Mayor on the way he had handled the role and the meetings where it was very evident he had prepared well and dealt with everyone in a fair and equitable manner. Councillor Cussen also thanked the Mayor for his work over the last year. On behalf of the Labour party and on a personal level, Councillor Wall thanked the Mayor for all his hard work and paid tribute to him for doing it at the highest level with pride and a great heart. He also paid particular tribute to his wife and family for the support shown to the Mayor during his term. Councillor Moore also thanked the Mayor for his service as Mayor during which time he showed great spirit and pride in the county. Councillor Moore made particular reference to how well he handled the County Development Plan review process and the excellent job he did in chairing the Energy Committee. Councillor Stafford added his thanks to the outgoing Mayor and stating it was his privilege to second his nomination last year and also wished to thank the outgoing Deputy Mayor.

The Chief Executive joined with the elected representatives in paying tribute to the Mayor on his year in office and stated he had taken great pride in the 1st citizen role and noted the vast range of issues that had to be dealt with over the course of a difficult year given that Kildare is the fastest growing county. He thanked the Mayor for his courtesy to all staff and for his role in encouraging a culture of positive leadership and stated it had been a pleasure to work with him as 1st citizen. The Mayor thanked the members and the Chief Executive for their kind words and accepted a presentation to mark his term as Mayor.

The Mayor invited nominations for the post of Mayor for the coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Callaghan seconded by Councillor Keatley, Councillor Martin Miley Jnr was nominated.

In proposing Councillor Miley Jnr, Councillor Callaghan stated Councillor Miley Jnr was a person of integrity and good character and his loyalty to his area was exemplary and confirmed he had the full support of the Fianna Fail group. As there were no other nominations, Councillor Miley Jnr was deemed elected and took the chair. In accepting the position as Mayor, Mayor Miley Jnr thanked Councillor Callaghan and Councillor Keatley for their nominations and the members for their support. The Mayor acknowledged the work of the outgoing Mayor and thanked him in this regard.

The Mayor firstly thanked the electorate of the Athy area who has supported him over the years, returning him three times and noted it was a great honour to represent this community. The Mayor noted he was first elected to the council in 2004 following the death of his father, Martin Miley Snr, who had served as a councillor for 30 years and noted his grandfather had also served on the council for 15 years before that. Secondly, he thanked the members of Kildare County Council for putting their faith in him in the role of Mayor.

The Mayor went on to thank his wife Louise and his three children for their support to him in his role as a councillor and now as Mayor. He also wished to thank his mother Eileen for her unwavering support over the years and his brothers and sisters. The Mayor paid special thanks to Peadar O'Murachú, John Donovan, Dinny Walsh and John Joe Walsh for their support also. He stated that with this being the start of his term as Mayor, it was important both to reflect on what had gone before but stressed the importance of looking forward given the amount of work that had to be done in the county to include housing and infrastructural development and the creation of an environment to attract investment into the economy. He further added that he wished his term to be about positivity around this great county and for the council to work together towards this aim.

Councillor Weld congratulated the Mayor on his appointment and noted he had worked with this late father and stated there is no doubt he will make a great Mayor and wished him well in the role. Councillor McEvoy, Councillor Wall, Councillor S Power, Councillor Cussen, Councillor Keatley and Councillor Neville all joined with the previous speakers sentiments and wished the Mayor every success in what is a very challenging role.

The Chief Executive added his congratulations and assured the Mayor of the executive's full co-operation and support and said he was looking forward to working with him over the next year.

02/0617

Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the post of Deputy Mayor for the coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Weld, Councillor Fitzpatrick was nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor. As there were no other nominations, Councillor Fitzpatrick was deemed elected to the post of Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor and members congratulated Councillor Fitzpatrick on his election as Deputy Mayor for the county. Councillor Fitzpatrick thanked his colleagues for their nomination, congratulated Councillor Miley on his appointment as Mayor and stated it would be remiss of him not to recognise the contribution to Kildare County Council by his late father Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick. He also acknowledged the support of his mother Maureen and his wife Kitty.

The Mayor thanked all the members and welcomed Councillor Fitzpatrick as Deputy Mayor.

This concluded the annual meeting.

