

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of Special Meeting
held at 12.00 o'clock Tuesday 25 February 2020
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Members Present: Councillor S Doyle (Cathaoirleach), Councillors A Breen, F Brett, B Caldwell, B Clear, I Cussen, K Duffy, A Feeney, D Fitzpatrick, I Keatley, C Kelly, N Killeen, V Liston, V Martin, F McLoughlin Healy, S Moore, J Neville, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, E Sammon, M Stafford, M Wall, P Ward and B Weld.

Apologies: Councillors V Behan, A Breslin, M Coleman, A Connolly, B Dooley, T Durkan, A Farrelly, C Galvin, P Hamilton, N Heavey, P McEvoy, N Ó'Ceairúil, C Pender, R Power and B Wyse.

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Messrs J Boland, T McDonnell, E Ryan (Directors of Service), Ms A Aspell and Ms S Kavanagh (Directors of Service), Ms C O'Grady (Meetings Administrator) Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

01/0220SP

Casual vacancy in the membership of the council

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members to the special meeting of council to fill the casual vacancy in the membership of the council arising from the election of former Councillor Patricia Ryan to Dáil Éireann. She congratulated former Councillor Ryan on her election to the Dáil and wished her well in her new role. The Meetings Administrator confirmed that as former Councillor Patricia Ryan was a Sinn Féin member, it fell to Sinn Féin to nominate a person to fill the casual vacancy and in this regard, Sinn Féin had confirmed they were nominating Mr Noel Connolly.

Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick nominated Mr Noel Connolly to fill this casual vacancy in the membership of the council stating he was a well-known and hardworking community activist who was very active in his Cuman and in community organisations. Councillor Fitzpatrick stated Mr Connolly was very familiar with the workings of the council given he had sat in the public gallery with former Councillor Ryan for the five years preceding the 2019 local election. Councillor

Fitzpatrick wished Noel, his wife Olive and their three children well during his time on the council. Councillor Fitzpatrick also congratulated former Councillor Patricia Ryan on her election to the Dáil stating she had been very easy to work with and commended her for the work she did during her time on the council.

Councillor Mark Stafford seconded Mr Noel Connolly's nomination and also took the opportunity to congratulate former Councillor Patricia Ryan on her election to Dáil Éireann.

As there were no other nominations, Mr Noel Connolly was deemed co-opted to the council and was asked to take his seat. The Cathaoirleach and members welcomed Councillor Connolly to the council and wished him well for the future. Councillor Connolly thanked the Cathaoirleach and the members for their welcome stating he was known for his brevity and was looking forward to working with all the members adding he had big shoes to fill and congratulated former Councillor Patricia Ryan on her election to the Dáil. He thanked Councillor Fitzpatrick and Councillor Stafford for nominating him. He also thanked his wife Olive and his three children, who were present in the gallery, for their unwavering and continued support.

The Chief Executive welcomed Councillor Connolly to the council stating he looked forward to working with him, and all the members, in partnership to improve our county. He also congratulated former Councillor Patricia Ryan on her election to Dáil Éireann and stated he looked forward to working with her in her new role.

Resolved on the nomination of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by the members present, that Mr Noel Connolly fill the casual vacancy in the membership of the council following the election of former Councillor Patricia Ryan to Dáil Éireann.