

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the council held at 4:15 p.m. on Monday 29 June 2020 in Newbridge Town Hall, Newbridge, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillor S Doyle (Cathaoirleach), Councillors V Behan, A Breen, A Breslin, F Brett, B Caldwell, B Clear, A Connolly, Í Cussen, B Dooley, K Duffy, T Durkan, A Farrelly, A Feeney, D Fitzpatrick, C Galvin, P Hamilton, N Heavey, C Kelly, N Killeen, I Keatley, V Liston, N Ó'Ceairúil, VP Martin, P McEvoy, F McLoughlin Healy, S Moore, J Neville, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, C Pender, R Power, E Sammon, P Ryan, M Stafford, M Wall, P Ward, B Weld and B Wyse.

Apologies: Councillor M Coleman.

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

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Suzanne Doyle welcomed the members, staff, guests along with Deputy Martin Heydon to the Annual Meeting. She commenced by congratulating Senator Vincent P Martin on his election to the Seanad noting the strength of the Green party in County Kildare and that she was delighted to hear of his elevation in this regard.

Councillor Doyle stated it had been an extremely challenging year given the Covid pandemic, but it had also demonstrated the councils capacity and ability to adapt and change and work in a collaborative way with all if those involved in managing the

crisis. She stated that her aim when elected as Cathaoirleach was that the council would work as a collective with an emphasis on co-operation and collaboration to achieve their goals. She said the council had demonstrated its ability to change and adapt to circumstances and a lot of the changes that had been forced upon the council due to the pandemic, could be seen as positive changes with the council building on them into the future.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the staff noting the importance of the relationship between the members and the executive and thanked the Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Seamie Moore for all his assistance during her term. Lastly, she thanked each and every elected member for their support and dedication over the last year stating she had a huge faith in this council, which had been well demonstrated in recent months.

On behalf of the Fianna Fail group, Councillor Ward thanked the Cathaoirleach for an exemplary year as Cathaoirleach stating she had conducted all council meetings with fairness, impartiality and finesse and had always been on hand to provide clear, accurate and dependable advice when it was needed. Councillor Ward added that since the pandemic started in March, the Cathaoirleach's work ethic had been exemplary and acknowledged how she had kept the members advised at all times which in turn, had instilled a great confidence in them and the work that was being done. Her energy and enthusiasm, along with the good humor when needed, had been key drivers in focusing everyone in their respective roles.

On behalf of the Fine Gael group, Councillor Keatley congratulated the recently elected senators and wished them well in their new role. He also thanked the Cathaoirleach for her forbearance and hard work during her term. He thanked her for her role during the initial stages of the pandemic in keeping the members advised and allowing them to feel included. Councillor Keatley congratulated the outgoing Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Seamie Moore noting it had been a difficult year for him personally and commended him for the work he had done. Councillors Breslin, McLoughlin Healy, Cussen, McEvoy, Liston and Weld all congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for their work over the last year.

Councillor Moore thanked his proposer and seconder to the role of Leas Cathaoirleach, a role that he had enjoyed immensely. He also thanked the members for the support shown to him in recent months. He stated it had been a wonderful year for the Cathaoirleach and acknowledged the dignified leadership given by her during the pandemic stating it had been unassuming but pivotal in representing the 40 members as a collective.

The Chief Executive joined with the members in thanking the Cathaoirleach for her huge efforts and hard work over the last 12 months. He stated it had been an exceptional year for her with a local election, a general election and a pandemic to contend with. He stated the Cathaoirleach had been a huge help to the Business Continuity Group from the outset and had provided a lot of support to the staff also. He complimented her governance of council meetings, her drive and her ability to work both quickly and efficiently. He stated that the opening of the Dunmurray Scheme in Kildare Town had been a proud day for the Cathaoirleach noting the council's success in exceeding housing delivery targets as set by the Department during her term. The Chief Executive concluded by stating that the Cathaoirleach had shown herself to be a community champion in co-ordinating the Community Support Role during the current pandemic.

On behalf of the members, Councillor Carmel Kelly took the opportunity to thank the council staff for their commitment and hard work since the start of the pandemic. She acknowledged that all staff had gone above and beyond to ensure essential services were delivered and paid particular thanks to the Chief Executive and Management Team for being available at all times to deal with issues as they arose. She stated that the co-operation between the members and staff is always key but none more so than over the last number of months. Councillor Kelly also acknowledged the immense work done the Community Call team, the Community Stories team and the PPN.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Seamie Moore for all his assistance and support over the last 12 months. She also thanked the members and staff for their kind words and accepted a presentation to mark her term as Cathaoirleach.

01/0620AM

Election of Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the post of Cathaoirleach for the coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Keatley seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly, Councillor Mark Stafford was nominated for the position of Cathaoirleach.

In proposing Councillor Stafford, Councillor Keatley stated he was a proud member of Fine Gael, starting out with Young Fine Gael and going on to become the founding member of the Rathangan Fine Gael branch. He had been elected to the council in 2014, narrowly missing out in 2009, and had the full support of the Fine Gael Group to the position of Cathaoirleach. Councillor Anne Connolly stated it was with great pleasure that she wished to second Councillor Staffords nomination as he was always professional, courteous and helpful to all members.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Mark Stafford was deemed elected and took the Chair.

Resolved with 38 members voting in favour, one member voting against and with no abstentions, Councillor Mark Stafford was elected as Cathaoirleach and took the Chair.

In accepting the position as Cathaoirleach, Councillor Stafford thanked Councillor Keatley and Councillor Anne Connolly for their nominations and the members for their support in electing him to the role. He also thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach Councillor Suzanne Doyle, acknowledging her dedication and the work she had carried out during her term. He stated that the Chain of Office was an important symbol of the office he now held, and he was proud and honored to wear it.

The Cathaoirleach started by expressing his condolences to all those bereaved and who are grieving, over the last few months noting how difficult it must be for them. He also acknowledged those that had seen their businesses wiped out and those who were now managing a changed working environment, changed school/childcare environment and asked that everyone would be mindful of the challenges everyone is dealing with as a result of the pandemic. The Cathaoirleach took the opportunity to

acknowledge all the front-line workers who had worked tirelessly since the pandemic began. He also thanked the Chief Executive, Management Team and the Community Response team for all their hard work during this time also.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Senator Mark Wall and Senator Vincent P Martin on their appointments to the Seanad and wished them every success in their new roles. He noted that the programme for Government was a very ambitious one but with 11 serving Oireachtas members, Kildare was well represented at a national level. He also welcomed Councillor Leigh to the council and stated he looked forward to working with him into the future.

The Cathaoirleach concluded by acknowledging the huge work done by the outgoing Cathaoirleach Councillor Suzanne in the last 12 months, and in particular over the last 4 months. He stated she had been a visionary in the role and the members were very appreciative of all that she had done for them and the citizens of Kildare, in her term in office. He also thanked the Leas-Cathaoirleach Councillor Seamie Moore stating he was an inspiration to them all with his drive and unbounding energy.

Lastly, the Cathaoirleach thanked former Deputy Alan Dukes for all the support given to him over the years, and to former Councillor Paddy Kennedy for the kindness and support shown to him in his time on the council also. Lastly, he thanked his father, his wife and his two children who were in attendance at the meeting, for their constant and unwavering support to him always.

The Chief Executive extended his congratulations to the Cathaoirleach and assured him of the executive's continued full co-operation and support for the year ahead.

02/0620AM

Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the post of Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Weld, seconded by Councillor Ward, Councillor Tim Durkan was nominated for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach. As

there were no other nominations, Councillor Tim Durkan was deemed elected to the post of Leas Cathaoirleach.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Weld, seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed by the members present, Councillor Tim Durkan was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

The Cathaoirleach and members congratulated Councillor Durkan on his election as Leas Cathaoirleach for the county. Councillor Durkan thanked his colleagues for their nomination and congratulated Councillor Stafford on his appointment as Cathaoirleach and looked forward to working with him in the year ahead.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all the members and welcomed Councillor Durkan as Leas Cathaoirleach.

This concluded the annual meeting.