

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of the Annual Meeting of Council held at 3.00 p.m.

Friday 23 June 2023 in the Council Chamber

Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Members Present: Councillor F Brett (Cathaoirleach), Councillors VL Behan, A Breen, A Breslin, D Fitzpatrick, B Caldwell, B Clear, M Coleman, A Connolly, N Connolly, Í Cussen, S Doyle, B Dooley, K Duffy, T Durkan, A Farrelly, A Feeney, P Hamilton, N Heavey, I Keatley, C Kelly, N Killeen, M Leigh, P McEvoy, S Moore, J Neville, N Ó Cearúil, T O'Dwyer, C. Pender, R Power, B Quinn, M Stafford, P Ward, B Weld and B Wyse.

On Line Councillors C. Galvin, V. Liston, F McLoughlin Healy.

Apologies: Councillors E Sammon and P. O'Dwyer.

Also Present: Ms S Kavanagh Chief Executive, Ms. A Aspell, Mr. E Ryan, Mr A Dunney (Directors of Service) Ms. C Barrett, (A/Director of Service) Ms. F Millane (A/Head of Finance), Ms. C O'Grady (Meetings Administrator), Mr. J Hannigan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the Annual meeting of Kildare County Council.

Councillor Brett reflected on his year as Cathaoirleach and thanked the management, staff and fellow councillors for their help and support during his year in office. He thanked his Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Neville for his work. He thanked the Fine Gael party for his nomination.

He talked about the successful delivery of the County Development Plan and the discussion with the Minister about adjusting the baseline to increase the funding for Kildare.

He informed the meeting of some of the events he attended such as Brigid 1500, Africa Day, Gordon Bennett rally, Culture night, Solas Bhríde, his meeting with Bruce Springsteen and the visit of the Lajee group from the Westbank to Newbridge. He thanked the press and media for their work during the year. Finally, he thanked his wife Ellen and his family for their support.

The group leaders on behalf of their groups and also individual councillors thanked Councillor Brett for his work and fairness during the year. He was described as a bridge builder.

The Chief Executive thanked Councillor Brett for his work and said that his last official function was the official opening of the MERITS building. He had met the Governor of Maryland and had seen through the adoption of the County Development Plan and had overseen the start of the process for Hybrid meetings. He had operated in a fair and equitable way.

The Chief Executive made a presentation to the outgoing Cathaoirleach

01/0623

Election of Cathaoirleach

Councillor Brett sought nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach for 2023-2024.

Councillor Doyle proposed Councillor Fitzpatrick citing his excellent work as a councillor, how he had performed this role with the Clane Maynooth Municipal District and with KWETB and believed he was an excellent candidate for the position.

Councillor Brendan Weld seconded Councillor Fitzpatrick's nomination

He informed the meeting that Councillor Fitzpatrick was an excellent candidate for the position. He had served as Cathaoirleach of Clane Maynooth MD and if agreed would be following in the footsteps of his late father Michael.

Councillor Brett asked if there any other nominations. As there were no other nominations Councillor Fitzpatrick was elected as Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare. Councillor Fitzpatrick was presented with the Chain of Office by the outgoing Cathaoirleach and took the Chair.

Councillor Fitzpatrick informed the meeting that he was proud to accept the appointment. He congratulated Councillor Evie Sammon on the recent birth of her daughter and wished the family well for the future. He thanked the Fianna Fail group for nominating him. He welcomed his mother, wife, family and supporters to the meeting and looked forward to their support during the year. He also welcomed his cousin Aidan a sitting Councillor in Cavan County Council.

He remembered his late father Michael who had previously served as Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council. He promised to do his utmost to represent all the people of Kildare. He also said it was a proud day for the Parish of Allen.

He thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for their work during the previous year.

The Group leaders and individual councillors congratulated Councillor Fitzpatrick and wished him well for the coming year.

The Chief Executive congratulated Councillor Fitzpatrick and informed him that she and her team looked forward to working with him.

Resolved in accordance with section 37 (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended that Councillor Darragh Fitzpatrick be elected as Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare.

02/0623

To elect the Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

Councillor Mark Stafford proposed Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year. He informed the meeting that she was an ideal candidate for the position. She was self employed hardworking and a bridge builder.

Councillor Ivan Keatley seconded the nomination informing the meeting that Councillor O'Dwyer was an excellent candidate and had worked very hard for the people of Brannockstown as a councillor in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was deemed elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare

Councillor O'Dwyer was presented with the Chain of Office of the Leas Cathaoirleach by the outgoing Leas Cathaoirleach.

Councillor O'Dwyer thanked the members for the nomination. She looked forward to working with the members over the coming year. The Cathaoirleach thanked all the members and welcomed Councillor O'Dwyer as Leas Cathaoirleach. The Chief Executive also congratulated Councillor O'Dwyer.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Keatley Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was elected Leas Chathaoirleach of the County of Kildare.

The meeting concluded.