

**KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Special Meeting**  
**held at 2:00p.m. on Tuesday 19 December 2024**  
**Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.**

**Members Present:** Councillor K Duffy (Leas-Cathaoirleach), Councillors P Balfe, V Behan, A Breen, F Brett, S Doyle, G Dunne, T Durkan, W Durkan, D Fitzpatrick, R Heather, H Heavey, I Keatley, C Kelly, N Killeen, M Leigh, P McEvoy, P Melrose, S Moore, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, B O'Loughlin, C O'Rourke, L Panaite Fahey, C Pender, R Power, E Sammon, D Trost, P Ward and B Wyse,

**Online:** Councillors A Breslin, B Clear

**Apologies:** Councillors B Caldwell, B Dooley, A Feeney and T McDonnell

**Also Present:** Ms S Kavanagh, Chief Executive, Mr E Ryan (Directors of Service), Ms A Aspell and (Director of Service), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Ms L Morgan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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**01/1224SP**

**Declaration of Interests**

The Cathaoirleach sought from the members any declarations of conflicts of interest or pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. There were no declarations.

**Gnó Reachtúil**

**Statutory Business**

**02/12204SP**

**Casual vacancy in membership of the council**

**Election of Cathaoirleach**

Section 38 of Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

The Leas-Cathaoirleach welcomed the members to the special meeting of council to fill the casual vacancies in the membership of the council arising from the election of former Councillors Aidan Farrelly, Joe Neville, Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh and Naoise Ó Cearúil to Dáil Éireann. He congratulated the former Councillors on their election to the Dáil and wished them well in their new roles.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that as former Councillor Joe Neville is now a Dail member, it fell to the members to nominate a person to fill the Cathaoirleach's vacancy and in this regard, Councillor T. O'Dwyer proposed Kevin Duffy. This was seconded by Councillor S. Doyle.

Kevin Duffy accepted the nomination. As there were no further nominations, Councillor Duffy was deemed elected.

Councillor Duffy thanked all and said Kildare was a great county and community to be proud of. He noted he would uphold all duties of a Cathaoirleach and is looking forward to working with the Executive. He thanked his wife for sharing her time and thanked his children. He also thanked his mother and parent-in-laws for their love and support.

### **03/12204SP**

#### **Casual vacancy in membership of the council (x4)**

Section 19 of Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

1. To fill the vacancy of **Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh** of Sinn Féin by co-option – Kildare Newbridge MD.

The Meeting Administrator confirmed that as former Councillor Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh of Sinn Féin is now a Dail member, it fell to the same registered party to nominate a person to fill the vacancy. In this regard, Mr Noel Connolly was nominated, and prior written consent was provided by Mr Noel Connolly to the Meetings Administrator.

Councillor P. McEvoy proposed Noel Connolly, this was seconded by Councillor S. Moore.

Noel Connolly accepted the nomination and as there were no further nominations, Councillor Noel Connolly was deemed duly elected.

Councillor Noel Connolly 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 warm 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 Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh on her election to the Dáil.

He thanked Councillor Mc Evoy and Councillor Moore for nominating him. Councillor Connolly said it was an honour to accept this role, to serve the community and to advocate for housing and better infrastructure. He looks forward to working constructively in delivering for the County of Kildare.

Councillor Connolly advised the members that he has health difficulties and wants to advocate for others who experience pain and disability. He also asked members to remember Palestine over the next few weeks. He thanked his wife, who works as a nurse, and also thanked his children, who were present in the gallery, for their unwavering and continued support.

Councillor Power welcomed Noel back and said he would be a fantastic representative for the party and the community. Several members welcomed Noel and said they looked forward to working with him.

2. To fill the vacancy of **Aidan Farrelly** of Social Democrats – Clane/Maynooth MD.

The Meeting Administrator confirmed that as former Councillor Aidan Farrelly of Social Democrats is now a Dail member, it fell to the same registered party to nominate a person to fill the vacancy. In this regard, Paula Munroe was nominated, and prior written consent was provided by Paula Munroe to the Meetings Administrator.

Councillor Killeen, proposed Paula Munroe, this was seconded by Councillor Balfe.

Paula Munroe, accepted the nomination and as there were no further nominations, Councillor Paula Munroe, was deemed duly elected.

Councillor Paula Munroe was asked to take her seat. The Cathaoirleach and members welcomed Councillor Munroe to the council and wished her well for the future.

Councillor Munroe thanked all and said she was honoured, privileged, and looked forward to representing Kildare County Council and the people of Clane Maynooth Electoral area. She also thanked Aidan Farrelly and wished him well in the future. Several members also wished Councillor Farrelly good luck in the Dail and welcomed Councillor Paula Munroe to the Clane/Maynooth Municipal District.

3. To fill the vacancy of **Naoise Ó Cearúil** of Fianna Fáil by co-option – Clane/Maynooth MD.

The Meeting Administrator confirmed that as former Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil of Fianna Fáil is now a Dail member, it fell to the same registered party to nominate a person to fill the vacancy. In this regard, Donna Phelan was nominated, and prior written consent was provided by Donna Phelan to the Meetings Administrator.

Councillor Suzanne Doyle, proposed Donna Phelan, this was seconded by Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick.

Donna Phelan, accepted the nomination and as there were no further nominations, Councillor Donna Phelan, was deemed duly elected.

Councillor Donna Phelan was asked to take her seat. The Cathaoirleach and members welcomed Councillor Phelan to the council and wished her well for the future.

4. To fill the vacancy of **Joe Neville** of Fine Gael by co-option – Celbridge / Leixlip MD.

The Meeting Administrator confirmed that as former Councillor Joe Neville of Fine Gael is now a Dail member, it fell to the same registered party to nominate a person to fill the vacancy. In this regard, Paul Brooks was nominated, and prior written consent was provided by Paul Brooks to the Meetings Administrator.

Councillor Evie Sammon, proposed Paul Brooks, this was seconded by Councillor Tim Durkan.

Paul Brooks, accepted the nomination and as there were no further nominations, Councillor Paul Brooks, was deemed duly elected.

Councillor Paul Brooks was asked to take his seat. The Cathaoirleach and members welcomed Councillor Brooks to the council and wished him well for the future.

The Chief Executive welcomed all the new councillors, stating that she looked forward to working with them in partnership to improve our county. She also congratulated all former Councillors on their election to Dáil Éireann and stated she looked forward to working with them in their new roles.

The meeting concluded.