

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Full Council
held at 3.00 p.m. on Friday, 21 June 2024 at
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillors P. Balfe, V. Behan, A. Breen, A. Breslin, F. Brett, B. Caldwell, B. Clear, S. Doyle, K. Duffy, G. Dunne, T. Durkan, W. Durkan, A. Farrelly, A. Feeney, R. Heather, N. Heavey, I. Keatley, C. Kelly, N. Killeen, M. Leigh, T. McDonnell, P. McEvoy, P. Melrose, S. Moore, J. Neville, N. Ó Cearúil, T. O'Dwyer, P. O'Dwyer, B. O'Loughlin, C. O'Rourke, L. Panaite Fahey, C. Pender, R. Power, S. Ní Raghallaigh, E. Sammon, D. Trost, P. Ward and B Wyse.

Online: Councillor D. Fitzpatrick (outgoing Cathaoirleach) and Councillor B. Dooley.

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive), Ms. A. Aspell, Mr. A. Dunney, Ms. M. Higgins, and Mr. E. Ryan, (Directors of Service), Ms. C. Barrett, Mr. D. Creighton (A/Director of Service), Ms. E. Hanlon (Head of Finance), Mr. T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Ms. M Richardson (Meetings Secretary), Ms. D. Egan and other officials.

On behalf of the outgoing Leas Cathaoirleach, the Meetings Administrator, Mr. T Shanahan advised that this meeting was being live streamed to the Council's YouTube channel, and read a notice advising the members that they, in line with Standing Orders, did not have privilege. He advised that notices were also being displayed advising the public that recording of the meeting was prohibited, and live streaming was taking place. All were advised that the meeting would not be recorded.

01/0624AM

Declaration of election

The outgoing Leas-Chathaoirleach from the previous council, Councillor T. O'Dwyer opened the meeting by welcoming the new members of the council along with their

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families and friends in the gallery. She congratulated them and looked forward to a productive five years ahead. She recognised former members and members who did not stand again at the recent elections, and she wished everyone all the best for the future. Councillor T. O'Dwyer then invited the Meetings Administrator to report on the results of the recent election.

Mr. T. Shanahan, Meetings Administrator advised that in accordance with the provisions of Section 44, Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001, the following persons were duly elected following the taking of a poll on June 7, 2024.

a. Athy Local Electoral Area

Mark Leigh	Labour Party
Aoife Breslin	Labour Party
Ivan Keatley	Fine Gael
Brian Dooley	Fianna Fail
Veralouise Behan	Fianna Fail

b. Celbridge Local Electoral Area

David Trost	Fianna Fail
Lumi Panaite Fahey	Fine Gael
Claire O'Rourke	Social Democrats
Rupert Heather	Labour Party

c. Clane Local Electoral Area

Daragh Fitzpatrick	Fianna Fáil
Pádraig McEvoy	Non-Party
Brendan Wyse	Fine Gael
William Durkan	Fine Gael
Aidan Farrelly	Social Democrats

d. Kildare Local Electoral Area

Suzanne Doyle	Fianna Fáil
Brian O'Loughlin	Fianna Fáil
Kevin Duffy	Fine Gael
Pat Balfe	Social Democrats
Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh	Sinn Féin

e. Leixlip Local Electoral Area

Joe Neville	Fine Gael
Bernard Caldwell	Fianna Fáil
Nuala Killeen	Social Democrats

f. Maynooth Local Electoral Area

Naoise Ó Cearúil	Fianna Fáil
Paul Ward	Fianna Fáil
Angela Feeney	The Labour Party
Peter Melrose	Social Democrats
Tim Durkan	Fine Gael

g. Newbridge Local Electoral Area

Peggy O'Dwyer	Fine Gael
Tracey O'Dwyer	Fine Gael
Chris Pender	Social Democrats
Robert Power	Fianna Fáil
Tom McDonnell	Non-party
Noel Heavey	Fianna Fáil

h. Naas Local Electoral Area

Ger Dunne	Independent Ireland
Evie Sammon	Fine Gael
Fintan Brett	Fine Gael
Seamie Moore	Non-Party
Carmel Kelly	Fianna Fáil
Anne Breen	The Labour Party
Bill Clear	Social Democrats

Councillor T. O'Dwyer congratulated all members on their election and welcomed them to Kildare County Council.

02/0624AM

Election of Cathaoirleach

Councillor T. O'Dwyer called for nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Keatley said it was with great pleasure that he nominated Councillor Neville for the position of Cathaoirleach for the coming year. He said Councillor Neville was honest, hardworking and would without doubt excel in the role if he were to be elected.

Councillor Doyle seconded the nomination and asked Councillor Neville if he accepted the nomination. Councillor Neville said he accepted the nomination.

Mr. T. Shanahan enquired if there were any other nominations.

Councillor Killeen was nominated by Councillor Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Clear. Councillor Killeen accepted the nomination.

As there were two nominations, a vote was taken, the Meeting Administrator advised that a majority of members present was 21 and that a vote would take place on the first nominated candidate, Cllr Neville.

A vote occurred, decided by a show of hands. As 21 members, a majority, voted by a show of hands in favour of Cllr. Neville, he was duly elected as Cathaoirleach.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley and seconded by Councillor Doyle, Councillor Neville was deemed elected as Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council.

The Cathaoirleach then thanked Councillor Keatley, Councillor Doyle and the members for the great honour, stating he would work for all groups in the county. He stated he looked forward to working with all Directors and their teams and continuing positive relationships with them to deliver for the county. He thanked his siblings and parents for their support and canvassing in recent weeks. He also thanked his children and his wife for their huge support in enabling him to carry out this role.

The Chief Executive congratulated the returning members and newly elected members and extended a warm welcome to all in their first term. She said that staff

and members worked together for the betterment of the county in a positive and progressive partnership. She congratulated Councillor Neville and would work along with him over the coming year. She also congratulated Councillor Fitzpatrick and Councillor T. O'Dwyer on an exceptionally busy year and how they had both stepped up in their roles.

Councillor Ó Cearúil proposed a suspension of standing orders to allow Councillor Neville to take photos with family and friends. This was seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by members.

03/0624AM

Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach called for nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Councillor Duffy was proposed by Councillor P. O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Brett.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Duffy was deemed elected.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by all members, Councillor Duffy was deemed to be elected to the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach of Kildare County Council.

Councillor Neville congratulated Councillor Duffy and stated that he looked forward to working with him.

Councillor Duffy said it was an honour to accept the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach and he looked forward to fulfilling the role.

04/0624AM

To fix dates for the first meeting of each Municipal District

The Meetings Administrator referred to the schedule of suggested dates for the first meetings of each Municipal District detailed on the agenda. Mr. T Shanahan informed the members that the meetings must take place before the 01 July in accordance with statutory provisions. The following dates and times were proposed to enable attendance at AILG training for newly elected members. The following dates were read out and agreed by the members:

Municipal District	Date and Time	Location
Athy	Thursday 27 June @ 10am	Áras Chill Dara
Celbridge-Leixlip	Thursday 27 June @ 12 Midday	Áras Chill Dara
Naas	Thursday 27 June @ 2:30pm	Áras Chill Dara
Clane-Maynooth	Friday 28 June @ 2:30pm	Áras Chill Dara
Kildare-Newbridge	Friday 28 June @ 12 Midday	Áras Chill Dara

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members, the dates of the first meetings of each municipal district were agreed.

05/0624AM

Appointment to committees and other bodies

The Cathaoirleach called for the nominations for positions on committees and other bodies.

Mr. T. Shanahan informed members that the provisions of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2011 had been issued in advance of the meeting and again read into the meeting the relevant provisions related to nominations in terms of gender balance, and the proportionality of and distribution of elected representation of the council, with regard to decisions taking related to nominations for committees and bodies.

A point of order was proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members to adjourn for ten minutes to allow for a discussion on a point of clarification regarding nominations.

Committees of the Council

1. Strategic Policy Committees (6)

Chairpersons

- (i) Appointment of a Chairperson to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC

Councillor Keatley was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved that Councillor Keatley be appointed as the Chairperson to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC.

- (ii) Appointment of a Chairperson to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC

Councillor Duffy was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved that Councillor Duffy be appointed as the Chairperson to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC.

- (iii) Appointment of a Chairperson to the Environment Services and Water SPC
Councillor Clear was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved that Councillor Clear be appointed as the Chairperson to the Environment Services and Water SPC.

- (iv) Appointment of a Chairperson to the Climate Action SPC

Councillor Doyle was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved that Councillor Doyle be appointed as the Chairperson to the Climate Action SPC.

- (v) Appointment of a Chairperson to the Housing SPC

Councillor Breslin was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved that Councillor Breslin be appointed as the Chairperson to the Housing SPC.

- (vi) Appointment of a Chairperson to the Local Community and Culture SPC
Councillor Ó Cearúil was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved that Councillor Ó Cearúil be appointed as the Chairperson to the Local Community and Cultural SPC.

Members

- (vii) Appointment of 6 members to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC
Councillors Leigh, McDonnell, McEvoy, O'Rourke, Sammon and Trost were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.
Resolved that Councillors Leigh, McDonnell, McEvoy, O'Rourke, Sammon and Trost be appointed to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC.

- (viii) Appointment of 6 members to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC
Councillors Dunne, Melrose, Neville, T. O'Dwyer, Ní Raghallaigh and Ward were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.
Resolved that Councillors Dunne, Melrose, Neville, T. O'Dwyer, Panaite Fahey, and Ward be appointed to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC.

- (ix) Appointment of 5 members to the Environmental Services and Water SPC
Councillors Breen, W.Durkan, Farrelly, Kelly and P. O'Dwyer were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.
Resolved that Councillors Breen, Durkan, Farrelly, Kelly and P. O'Dwyer be appointed to the Environmental Services and Water SPC.

- (x) Appointment of 5 members to the Climate Action SPC
Councillors Dooley, T.Durkan, Feeney, Power and Wyse were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.
Resolved that Councillors Dooley, Durkan, Feeney, Power and Wyse be appointed to the Climate Action SPC.

- (xi) Appointment of 6 members to the Housing SPC
Councillors Brett, Fitzpatrick, Heavey, Kileen, Moore and Pender were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved that Councillors Brett, Fitzpatrick, Heavey, Killeen, Moore and Pender be appointed to the Housing SPC.

- (xii) Appointment of 6 members to the Local Community and Culture SPC
Councillors Balfe, Behan, Caldwell, Heather, Panaite Fahey and O'Loughlin were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved that Councillors Balfe, Behan, Caldwell, Heather, Ní Raghallaigh and O'Loughlin be appointed to the Local Community and Culture SPC.

2. Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

- i. Where a Municipal District does not have an SPC Chair, that Municipal District may appoint a representative to the Corporate Policy Group.

It was confirmed by the Meeting Administrator that as the Cathaoirleach sits on the Corporate Policy Group, that each Municipal District was represented on the CPG.

3. Protocol and Procedures Committee

Councillors Breslin, Caldwell, McEvoy, Pender, Breen, Dooley, Panaite Fahey, Wyse, Doyle and Sammon were proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Breslin, Caldwell, McEvoy, Pender, Breen, Dooley, Panaite Fahey, Wyse, Doyle and Sammon be appointed to the Protocol and Procedures Committee.

4. Audit Committee

Councillors Moore, Power and Farrelly were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Moore, Power and Farrelly be appointed to the Audit Committee.

5. Finance Committee

Councillors Keatley, Killeen, Feeney, Duffy and Kelly were nominated by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Keatley, Killeen, Feeney, Duffy and Kelly be appointed to the Finance Committee.

6. County Kildare Twinning Committee

Councillors Behan, Panaite Fahey, Feeney, O'Loughlin and Kelly were nominated by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Behan, Panaite Fahey, Feeney, O'Loughlin and Kelly be appointed to the County Kildare Twinning Committee.

7. Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Councillors Breslin, O'Rourke, Fitzpatrick, Breen and P. O'Dwyer were nominated by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Breslin, O'Rourke, Fitzpatrick, Breen and P. O'Dwyer be appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

8. Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Councillors Leigh, Heather, W.Durkan, Pender and Brett were nominated by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Leigh, Heather, Durkan, Pender and Brett be appointed to the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

9. Coiste na Gaeilge Committee

Councillors Dooley, Neville, Ó Cearúil, Ní Raghallaigh and Breen were nominated by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Dooley, Neville, Ó Cearúil, Ní Raghallaigh and Breen be appointed to the Coiste na Gaeilge Committee.

10. Twinning Liaison Committee

Councillors Breslin, Panaite Fahey, Feeney, O'Loughlin and Kelly were nominated by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Breslin, Panaite Fahey, Feeney, O'Loughlin and Kelly be appointed to the Twinning Liaison Committee.

11. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee

Councillors Wyse and Leigh were nominated by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Wyse and Leigh be appointed to the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee.

12. St. Brigid's Festival Working Group

Councillors Behan, O'Rourke, Feeney, O'Loughlin and Sammon were nominated by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Behan, O'Rourke, Feeney, O'Loughlin and Sammon be appointed to the St. Brigid's Festival Working Group.

Other Bodies

1. Nominations to the Association of Irish Local Government

Councillor Clear, Brett and Kelly were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Clear, Brett and Kelly be appointed to the Association of Irish Local Government.

2. Athy Heritage Company CLG

Councillor Dooley was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillor Dooley be appointed to the Athy Heritage Company CLG.

3. County Kildare Failte

Councillor Doyle was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillor Doyle be appointed to County Kildare Failte.

4. County Kildare Leader Partnership CLG

Councillors Balfe and W.Durkan were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Balfe and W. Durkan be appointed to County Kildare Leader Partnership CLG.

5. Drehid Community Liaison Committee

Councillors Wyse and Fitzpatrick were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Wyse and Fitzpatrick be appointed to the Drehid Community Liaison Committee.

6. Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

Councillors Power, Duffy and McEvoy were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Power, Duffy and McEvoy be appointed to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

7. Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance

Councillor Neville was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillor Neville be appointed to the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance.

8. Kildare Community Network Company CLG

Councillors Wyse, Power and Leigh were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Wyse, Power and Leigh be appointed to the Kildare Community Network Company CLG.

9. Kildare Heritage Forum

Councillors Heavey, O'Loughlin and O'Rourke were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Heavey, O'Loughlin and O'Rourke be appointed to the Kildare Heritage Forum.

10. Kildare Town Heritage Company CLG

Councillors Balfe, Doyle and Ní Raghallaigh were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Balfe, Doyle and Ní Raghallaigh be appointed to the Kildare Town Heritage Company CLG.

11. Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd

Councillors Dooley and Clear were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Dooley and Clear be appointed to the Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd.

12. Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board

Councillors O'Rourke, Killeen, Heather, Fitzpatrick, Trost, Sammon and Wyse were proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

Resolved: That Councillors O'Rourke, Killeen, Heather, Fitzpatrick, Trost, Sammon and Wyse be appointed to the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board.

13. Leixlip Amenities Centre

Councillors Killeen and Councillor Caldwell were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Killeen and Caldwell be appointed to the Leixlip Amenities Centre.

14. Local Authorities Members Association

Councillor Ó Cearúil was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillor Ó Cearúil be appointed to the Local Authorities Members Association.

15. Local Community Development Committee

Councillors Farrelly, T. O'Dwyer and Kelly were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Farrelly, T. O'Dwyer and Kelly be appointed to the Local Community Development Committee.

16. Monread Community Centre

Councillors Dunne and Brett were proposed by Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Dunne and Brett be appointed to the Monread Community Centre.

17. South Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

Councillor Panaite Fahey was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillor Panaite Fahey be appointed to the South Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.

18. Regional Health Forum – Dublin Mid-Leinster

Councillors Behan, Panaite Fahey, Melrose, P. O'Dwyer and Breen were nominated by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Behan, Panaite Fahey, Melrose, P. O'Dwyer and Breen be appointed to the Regional Health Forum – Dublin Mid-Leinster.

19. Midlands Regional Transition Team

Cathaoirleach Councilor Neville was automatically appointed to the Midlands Regional Transition Team.

20. Kildare-Meath Grid Update Community Forum

Councillor Melrose and Ó Cearúil were proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members.

Resolved: That Councillors Melrose and Ó Cearúil be appointed to the Kildare-Meath Grid Update Community Forum.

06/0624AM

Induction Training for councillors

Mr. T. Shanahan informed members that arrangements were being made for final induction presentations from the Director of Housing and Regeneration and by himself regarding Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Dignity at Work Policy and Members

Services. He referred to training for Councillors from the ALLG. He also anticipated phones and laptops would be available the following week for new members.

Councillors requested clarification in relation to the proposal of a second phone and advised this would be a burden on councillors. They requested that of a sub-committee of members be created to evaluate issues related to IT equipment and access.

Mr. T. Shanahan informed members there were concerns around cyber security, as had been notified to him by the Head of IS.

The Chief Executive informed members the Head of IS would be consulted around formation of such a sub-committee but advised that security and functionality were both objectives that had to be reconciled, with the protection of data being of primary concern.

07/0624AM

Schedule of Meetings 2024

The Meetings Administrator confirmed the dates for the plenary meetings for the remainder of 2024.

Date and Time
Monday 24 June, 2024 @ 3:00pm
Monday 29 July, 2024 @ 3:00pm
<i>*Monday 23 September, 2024 @ 3:00pm</i>
<i>*Monday 21 October, 2024 @ 3:00pm</i>
Monday 25 November, 2024 @ 3:00pm
<i>*Monday 16 December, 2024 @ 3:00pm</i>

Subject to council approval, the following are proposed date changes:

**September meeting – 23 September due to statutory deadlines for notification to Revenue of LPT variation*

**October meeting – 21 October due to bank holiday weekend*

**December meeting – 16 December due to Christmas leave arrangements*

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by the members that the dates of the plenary meetings for the remainder of 2024 be approved.

The meeting concluded.