

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Council

held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday 24 June 2022

in the Council Chamber Áras Chill Dara, Naas, Co Kildare

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

Apologies: Councillors B Clear, N Connolly, F McLoughlin Healy, R Power, S Doyle, C Galvin, M Leigh, P O'Dwyer, P Ward,

Also Present: Ms S Kavanagh, Interim Chief Executive, Ms A Aspell, Mr E Ryan, Ms E Wright (Directors of Service), Ms Marian Higgins,(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, Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil welcomed the members, staff, family, press and public to the Annual Meeting. He remembered all those who had passed away over the last year.

Councillor Ó Cearúil thanked the management and all the staff for their support during his year in office. He thanked Bernie Tutty and wished her well on her retirement. He thanked the members for their support and co-operation over the last 12 months. He thanked his family and fiancée Aly for their support throughout the year.

He thanked Councillor Carmel Kelly for her work as Leas-Cathaoirleach stating she

had been a huge support to him during his term and had played a hugely important role in supporting him and the members when she had to step in at short notice to Chair the draft County Development Plan meeting in Newbridge in February

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Fianna Fail party, the elected members, the members of the Corporate Policy Group, the Group Leaders, the staff of Members Services, the Directors of Service and council staff for their support. The Cathaoirleach also thanked the Interim Chief Executive Sonya Kavanagh for her support during his term as Cathaoirleach. He noted that this was the first council meeting that he had chaired in the council chamber due to covid. He talked of his great pride when representing the county and the importance of

He outlined that he had many highlights during his term and had attended his last official function that morning in Gael Scoil Maigh Nuadh which was celebrating 25 years in existence and which his parents had been instrumental in establishing.

On behalf of the Fine Gael group, Councillor Sammon congratulated and thanked the Cathaoirleach for his work over the last year. She also acknowledged his skills at managing meetings and thanked him for the great respect he had shown to all the members and to the executive during his term.

On behalf of the Fianna Fail group, Councillor Fitzpatrick stated it had been a unique year and thanked the Cathaoirleach for all his hard work on behalf of the members of the council. He added that his skills in managing the meetings were to be congratulated and thanked him for the courtesy shown to all members during his term.

Councillor Moore thanked the Cathaoirleach for his services to the entire membership of the council stating that his calm and fair approach to running the council meetings had been welcomed by all.

On behalf of the Social Democrats, Councillor Farrelly thanked the Cathaoirleach for his work over the last year

On behalf of the Labour Party, Councillor Aoife Breslin thanked the Cathaoirleach for his work throughout the year and the courtesy he had shown everyone and was grateful he had been at the helm over the last year noting she was very proud to have served with him as Cathaoirleach.

On behalf of the Green Party, Councillor Peter Hamilton thanked the Cathaoirleach for the work he had done

Councillor Cussen thanked the Cathaoirleach for his work and fairness during his term.

The Interim Chief Executive thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach stating it had been a hugely challenging 12 months and acknowledged the role he had played during his term She stated the council had got through a lot of business under his stewardship and had delivered numerous projects during this time. She thanked him for his work in getting the meeting back to the council chamber. She also spoke of the visit to New York and the importance of this visit to the Kildare Community in New York. This visit was important for the county as it gave an opportunity for the council to promote Kildare. Councillor Ó Cearúil had impressed both businesses and members of the Kildare Association that they had met there with his work and his ability to use the “cupla focal”. She thanked Councillor Ó Cearúil for his work and wished him and his family well for the future.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members and Interim Chief Executive for their kind words

A presentation was made to the outgoing Cathaoirleach Councillor Ó Cearúil by the Interim Chief Executive and the Meetings Administrator.

01/0621AM

Election of Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach for the

coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Evie Sammon, seconded by Councillor Carmel Kelly, Councillor Fintan Brett was nominated for the position of Cathaoirleach.

In proposing Councillor Brett, Councillor Sammon informed the members that Councillor Brett had served for the last 11 years in Naas Municipal District and he had twice served as Mayor of the Naas Municipal District. He is a member of AILG and is very involved in his local community. He is a prominent member of Kill GAA and Castlewarden Golf Club and is an excellent candidate for the position.

Councillor Kelly informed the members that she had no hesitation in seconding Councillor Bretts nomination. She had worked with him on the Naas Municipal District for the last 8 years and is an excellent candidate for the position of Cathaoirlaech.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Fintan Brett was elected as Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare. Councillor Brett put on the Chain of Office of the Cathaoirleach and took the Chair.

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

In accepting the position as Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brett thanked Councillor Sammon and Councillor Kelly for their nominations and the members for their support in electing him to the role, stating he accepted it with great pride and honor. He also thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach Councillor Ó Cearúil, acknowledging his dedication and the work he had carried out during his term.

He was looking forward to a year of collaboration and working with all the members He welcomed his family to the meeting and thanked them for their support. He stated based on preliminary CSO figures that the population of Ireland was set to exceed 5.1 million. The country had come a long way since the dark days of the 80's. This population increase was going to increase pressure on Local Authorities in areas of Housing, Health and services. The priority for this year was the County Development

Plan. He acknowledged the efforts made by all in working continuously on behalf of the people of Kildare. He stressed the importance of good communication and that he would listen to all members.

02/0621AM

Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the post of Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Seamie Moore, seconded by Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil, Councillor Joe Neville was nominated for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Neville was deemed elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil , Councillor Joe Neville was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare

The Cathaoirleach and members congratulated Councillor Neville on his election as Leas Cathaoirleach. They informed the meeting that Councillor Neville had served as Cathaoirleach of Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District and also as a chair of an SPC. He had great experience and was very involved with his local GAA and soccer clubs. Councillor Neville thanked his colleagues for their nomination and said he was looking forward to working with the Cathaoirleach in the year ahead.

Councillor Neville put on the Chain of Office of the Leas Cathaoirleach.

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

The Interim Chief Executive extended her congratulations to Councillor Brett and to Councillor Neville on their election to the role of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach respectively. She stated it was a very proud day for both of them and their families. She stated the role of Cathaoirleach was a demanding one but that it

was an exciting time for Kildare and assured Councillor Brett of the executive's full co-operation and support for the year ahead, as they all worked together for the betterment of Kildare.

This concluded the annual meeting.