



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Full Council
held at 3.00 p.m. on Friday 26 June 2025 in the Council Chamber
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Members Present: Councillor C. Kelly (Cathaoirleach), Councillors V. Behan, A. Breen, F. Brett, B. Caldwell, S. Doyle, K. Duffy, G. Dunne, T. Durkan, W. Durkan, A. Feeney, D. Fitzpatrick, N. Heavey, I. Keatley, P. McEvoy, S. Moore, P. O'Dwyer, T. O'Dwyer, B. O'Loughlin, C. O'Rourke, D. Phelan, D. Ryan, E. Sammon, D. Trost and P. Ward.

Online: Councillors P. Balfe, A. Breslin, N. Connolly, B. Dooley, N. Killeen, M. Leigh, P. Mulroe, C. Pender, R. Power and B. Wyse.

Apologies: Councillors P. Brooks, B. Clear, R. Heather, T. Mc Donnell and P. Melrose.

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh, Chief Executive, Ms. A. Aspell, Mr. J. Boland, Mr. A. Dunney, Ms. M. Higgins (Directors of Services), Ms. S. Scully (A/Director of Services), Ms. E. Hanlon (Director of Finance), Ms. L. Hanratty (Meetings Administrator), Ms. D. Egan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of Kildare County Council and reflected on her year in office. She expressed her sincere gratitude to her party colleagues for electing her as Cathaoirleach the previous year, describing it as a great honour to serve both the organisation and the people of County Kildare. The Cathaoirleach thanked the Leas-Cathaoirleach, Councillor Veralouise Behan for her support throughout the year.

She recalled with pride her participation in New York's, St. Patrick's Day Parade on fifth avenue describing the experience as the highlight of her term, alongside the establishment of the Spirit of Kildare Awards.



The Cathaoirleach spoke warmly of the many community groups she had met across the county, making particular reference to Athy Sing and Sign. She acknowledged the dedication of volunteers and community leaders, noting that they are the people who deserve the highest praise for their contribution to local communities.

She also thanked the Chief Executive, Ms Sonya Kavanagh, for her encouragement, support and unwavering belief in County Kildare. She expressed confidence that, under the Chief Executive's leadership, together with the Directors, staff and elected members, the county would continue to prosper.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Member Services staff, particularly Ms Letitia Hanratty, Senior Executive Officer for ensuring that meetings ran smoothly throughout the year. She also acknowledged the support of her party colleagues and members of the Naas Municipal District.

Addressing the incoming Cathaoirleach, she remarked that the role was a privilege afforded to very few and encouraged them to enjoy every moment, as the year would pass quickly. She concluded by stating that serving as Cathaoirleach of County Kildare had been an honour that she would cherish for the rest of her life. In closing, she quoted the Irish proverb "Ní neart go cur le chéile" ("There is no strength without unity") and thanked everyone for their support.

The Chief Executive thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach for her commitment and dedication throughout her term of office. She noted that Councillor Kelly had achieved the objectives she had set for herself and had made a significant contribution to the people of County Kildare.

The Chief Executive highlighted the importance of the office of Cathaoirleach as First Citizen of County Kildare and referred to a number of notable events during the year, including the official opening of the Shackleton Museum in Athy, the launch of the Spirit of Kildare Awards, and participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York. She noted that each of these events reflected the Cathaoirleach's commitment to promoting County Kildare at both local and international level.



The Chief Executive also commended the Leas-Cathaoirleach, Councillor Veralouise Behan, for her support and dedication throughout the year.

Group leaders and councillors from across the chamber paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, praising her commitment, energy and professionalism. Particular recognition was given to her attendance at numerous events, her promotion of County Kildare, and the lasting legacy of the Spirit of Kildare Awards. Several speakers also acknowledged the contribution of Councillor Veralouise Behan in her role as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Behan expressed her appreciation for having served as Leas-Cathaoirleach and described it as a privilege to work alongside Councillor Kelly throughout what had been a memorable and rewarding year.

The Chief Executive then made a presentation to the outgoing Cathaoirleach in recognition of her service.

01/0626

Election of Cathaoirleach

Councillor Kelly sought nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

Councillor Keatley proposed Councillor T. Durkan citing his excellent work as a councillor since he was first elected in 2014 to the Clane Maynooth Municipal District. He noted that he had served as Leas Cathaoirleach in 2020 and Cathaoirleach in 2024 of the Clane Maynooth Municipal District. He advised the members and all present that he believed he was an excellent candidate for the position.

Councillor T. O'Dwyer seconded Councillor T. Durkan's nomination.

Councillor Kelly asked if there were any further nominations for the office of Cathaoirleach. As no other nominations were received, she asked Councillor T. Durkan if he accepted the nomination.



Councillor T. Durkan confirmed that he was pleased to accept the nomination and was subsequently declared elected as Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach then presented Councillor Durkan with the Chain of Office, following which he assumed the Chair.

In his acceptance remarks, Councillor Durkan thanked the Fine Gael Group for nominating him for the position. He also expressed his gratitude to his wife, Audrey, his family and his supporters for their encouragement and assistance. He stated that he looked forward to their continued support during his term as Cathaoirleach.

Group leaders and individual councillors congratulated Councillor Durkan on his election and wished him every success in the year ahead.

The Chief Executive also extended her congratulations to Councillor Durkan and noted that she and her management team looked forward to working with him during his term of office.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor T. O'Dwyer and in accordance with Section 37 (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, Councillor T. Durkan be elected Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare.

02/0626

Cathaoirleach T. Durkan sought nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach for the coming year.

Councillor Sammon proposed Councillor T. O'Dwyer for the position, describing her as an excellent, hardworking and compassionate councillor. She stated that Councillor O'Dwyer possessed strong ambitions for County Kildare and would serve with dedication and commitment in the role of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor Doyle, who described Councillor O'Dwyer as an outstanding candidate and acknowledged her diligent work on behalf of the people of Kildare. Councillor Doyle stated that it gave her great pleasure to



second the nomination, noting Councillor O'Dwyer's dedication to public service and her commitment to the county.

As no further nominations were received, Cathaoirleach Councillor T. Durkan asked Councillor T. O'Dwyer if she accepted the nomination. Councillor O'Dwyer confirmed her acceptance and was duly elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of Kildare County Council.

Councillor O'Dwyer was presented with the Chain of Office of Leas-Chathaoirleach by the newly elected Cathaoirleach, Councillor T. Durkan.

The Chief Executive congratulated Councillor T. O'Dwyer on her appointment.

In her acceptance remarks, Councillor O'Dwyer thanked the members for their support and paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Councillor Carmel Kelly, for the excellent work she had undertaken during her term of office. She stated that she looked forward to working with the elected members over the coming year and that she was proud to serve alongside Cathaoirleach Durkan in carrying out the duties of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Group leaders and individual councillors joined in congratulating Councillor O'Dwyer and wished her every success for the year ahead.

The Chief Executive concluded by joining with the members in wishing both Cathaoirleach Councillor T. Durkan and Leas-Chathaoirleach Councillor T. O'Dwyer every success in their respective roles and stated that she looked forward to working with them during the coming year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Doyle and in accordance with Section 37 (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, Councillor T. O'Dwyer be elected Leas-Chathaoirleach of the County of Kildare.

The meeting concluded.