

## **Borough District of Drogheda – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda hosted in Governors House, Millmount, Drogheda on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 4.15 p.m.

### **In attendance:**

**Mayor:** Councillor James Byrne

**Members:** Councillors Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Fiachra Mac Raghnaill, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Eileen Tully

**Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer  
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner  
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer

### **Minute No. 49/22**

#### **Speech from outgoing Cathaoirleach**

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor James Byrne welcomed everyone to the annual meeting as his last duty as the 421st Mayor of Drogheda. Remarking on the privilege of having been elected Mayor, he thanked fellow Councillors for the confidence, trust, and guidance shown to him throughout the year and for collaboratively working together for the greater good, and praised outgoing Deputy Mayor Councillor Declan Power, for his support.

Mayor James Byrne also thanked the Chief Executive, her Directorate and particularly Directors of Service Paddy Donnelly and Joe McGuinness for the valuable support and guidance on meetings and for respectfully upholding the tradition of the Office of Mayor. Meetings Administrator, Gráinne Tuomey was noted for putting the Mayor at ease when the pressure was on at meetings and staff were thanked for their work throughout the year.

As well as thanking members of the press for courtesy shown, the late Jimmy Weldon was especially remembered by the Mayor as "a great source of advice and a friend who we all miss."

Commenting that it had been a special year for himself, his wife Eimile and two children Laurena and Cathal, the outgoing Mayor, Councillor James Byrne identified the Drogheda St Patrick's Day Parade as the highlight of the year. He said "To the people of Drogheda for the courtesy and respect you have shown me as Mayor, I'll never forget. Drogheda is a special place and to be able to serve as Mayor of my home town, a town that I love it's truly humbling."

Members complimented Councillor James Byrne on his work as Mayor on what was described as a strange year and thanked him for his integrity and professionalism as well as the courtesy shown by him to fellow Members. The Chief Executive, Joan

Martin speaking on behalf of the Executive advised Councillor James Byrne that it had been the greatest pleasure working with him during the year.

**Minute No. 50/22**

A request for nominations for election was called.

Councillor Tom Cunningham nominated Councillor Joanna Byrne as Mayor.  
Councillor Joanna Byrne seconded this.

Councillor James Byrne nominated Councillor Michelle Hall as Mayor.  
Councillor Fiachra Mac Raghnaill seconded this.

A Roll Call Vote was held as follows:

<b>Councillor Voting</b>	<b>Nominee Michelle Hall</b>	<b>Nominee Joanna Byrne</b>
James Byrne	1	
Joanna Byrne		1
Kevin Callan	1	
Tom Cunningham		1
Michelle Hall	1	
Fiachra MacRaghnaill	1	
Paddy McQuillan	Abstain	
Declan Power	1	
Pio Smith	1	
Eileen Tully	1	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>

And, **Councillor Michelle Hall was deemed elected** in accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Councillor Michelle Hall whose family was in the public gallery, thanked fellow Councillors for the honour of becoming only the second female to hold the title of Mayor of Drogheda and thanked the outgoing Mayor for his steady hand guiding meetings both online and in person. She thanked fellow Councillors for their commitment and for advocating for constituents, and the 'vibrant' labour party locally and nationally and looked forward to working with the Executive. Thanking her family who keep her grounded, her parents for their encouragement and her partner Joe for his unwavering support, Councillor Michelle Hall advised that her ambition when she was young was to be a teacher or the Irish Ambassador to France, but that she had recently become a teacher and considered the role of Mayor of Drogheda better than her previous ambition to be an Ambassador.

Outlining her plans for the year ahead, the new Mayor, Councillor Michelle Hall advised of wanting to concentrate on 3 T's – Trauma, Transport and Tourism; to make Drogheda a Trauma Informed Town with safe spaces; to promote the town for Tourism; and to encourage Active Travel measures to offset carbon emissions where possible.

Members congratulating Mayor Hall on her election as 422<sup>nd</sup> Mayor of Drogheda, described Councillor Michelle Hall as a very hard worker with innovative ideas and wished her all the best in the year ahead.

**Minute No. 51/22**

Nominees for Deputy Mayor / Leas Cathaoirleach were then called for.

Councillor Declan Power proposed that **Councillor Kevin Callan** be elected Deputy Mayor / Leas Cathaoirleach.

This was seconded by Councillor Pio Smith.

Councillor Joanna Byrne proposed that **Councillor Tom Cunningham** be elected Deputy Mayor / Leas Cathaoirleach.

This was seconded by Councillor Tom Cunningham.

A roll call vote was held as follows:

<b>Councillor Voting</b>	<b>Nominee Kevin Callan</b>	<b>Nominee Tom Cunningham</b>
James Byrne	1	
Joanna Byrne		1
Kevin Callan	1	
Tom Cunningham		1
Michelle Hall	1	
Fiachra MacRaghnaill	1	
Paddy McQuillan	Abstain	
Declan Power	1	
Pio Smith	1	
Eileen Tully	1	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>

And, **Councillor Kevin Callan** was deemed elected Deputy Mayor / Leas Cathaoirleach in accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Members welcomed and wished both the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor well and offered their full support during the year ahead.

The Chief Executive congratulated both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Executive and Staff of Louth County Council, Paddy Donnelly Director of Services also offered his congratulations and welcomed both to their roles.

This concluded the Annual Meeting for 2022.

**The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Council held on:**

**Date:** 4 July 2022

**Cathaoirleach:** Michelle Hall

**Meeting Administrator:** Cela Tramey