



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Ceantar Buirge Dhroichead Átha - Borough District of Drogheda Meeting

Minutes of the Borough District of Drogheda Annual Meeting held at Council Chambers, Fair Street, Drogheda Monday, 1st July at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Deputy Mayor Cllr Kevin Callan

Members: Councillor(s) Joanna Byrne, Eric Donovan, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Paddy McQuillan, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, Pio Smith

Apologies: Councillor(s) Eileen Tully (Mayor), James Byrne

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer

Minute No. 65/24

Election of Cathaoirleach / Mayor

As it was the first meeting of the newly refurbished Chamber in Fair Street Offices, Cllr Kevin Callan Deputy Mayor of Drogheda welcomed all the Members of the Borough District back into the building, commenting that it was the first time the bell had rang in 15 years, and thought it was fitting that it was the setting to elect the 424th Mayor of Drogheda. He thanked all Members who had been there over the previous term for their assistance dealing with some very difficult issues over the previous 12 months and gave a special mention to the outgoing Mayor Cllr Eileen Tully who unfortunately could not attend the meeting. Cllr Callan also recognised the contributions of Cllrs Tom Cunningham and Emma Cutlip who had not been successful in the local elections.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the new councillors to the chamber and then called for nominations for the Mayor/Cathaoirleach of the Borough District of Drogheda 2024 - 2025.

Cllr Paddy McQuillan was nominated on the
Proposal of Cllr Pio Smith
Seconded by Cllr Michelle Hall

Cllr Joanna Byrne was nominated on the
Proposal of Cllr Eric Donovan
Seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne

As neither candidate rejected the nomination, there were therefore 2 valid candidates for Cathaoirleach. In accordance with Section 37(g) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, a vote was called for as follows:

Councillor	Nominee McQuillan	Nominee Byrne	Abstain	Absent
James Byrne				1
Joanna Byrne		1		
Kevin Callan	1			
Eric Donovan		1		
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Totals	7	2	0	1

And Cllr Paddy McQuillan was elected Mayor of the Borough District of Drogheda for the 2024-2025 term.

The new Mayor Cllr McQuillan was presented with the chains of office from the outgoing Deputy-Mayor Cllr Kevin Callan.

Minute No. 66/24

Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach / Leas-Mhéara

An Méara nua Cllr McQuillan called for nominations for Leas-Mhéara.

Cllr Pio Smith was nominated on the
Proposal of Cllr Kevin Callan
Seconded by Cllr Paddy McQuillan

Cllr Eric Donovan was nominated on the
Proposal of Cllr Joanna Byrne
Seconded by Cllr Eric Donovan

As there were 2 candidates, in accordance with Section 37(g) a poll was taken as follows:

Councillor	Nominee - Smith	Nominee Donovan	Abstain	Absent
James Byrne				1
Joanna Byrne		1		
Kevin Callan	1			
Eric Donovan		1		
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			

Pio Smith	1			
	7	2	0	1

And Cllr Pio Smith was elected as Leas-Mhéara.

Cllr McQuillan spoke of his enormous pride in becoming Mayor, and offered his deep gratitude to the people of Drogheda for electing him as Councillor and thanked his fellow Elected Members for placing trust in him and electing him as Mayor. He gave special thanks to his family and friends and especially his wife Deirdre for her constant support and encouragement. Cllr McQuillan welcomed the new councillors, and complimented the new Civic Offices stating that the offices and chamber were fit for city status pledging to fight to obtain city status for Drogheda. The Mayor highlighted some changes he wished to see implemented including amongst others tackling of dereliction, promotion of a cultural quarter in Drogheda, provision of a community house, completion of the Westgate Vision Project, new playgrounds, upgrading of Lawrence Gate plaza, and provision of a driving test centre. Cllr McQuillan promised to serve to the best of his ability to push Drogheda to a more superior position.

Cllr Joanna Byrne while offering congratulations to Cllr McQuillan expressed opposition to the method of selection and alleged exclusion of the Sinn Fein party in the period following the local elections up to the annual meetings where she advised that political pacts were formed and suggested that the pacts were a form of cronyism that needs to change. Cllr Byrne appealed for confirmation that the Executive would treat all Councillors equally regardless of pacts.

Cllr Pio Smith countered the allegations made stating that the method of election of Mayor was the same way the Taoiseach and the First Minister in Northern Ireland are elected and reminded members that Cllr Meenan a Sinn Fein rep had held the post of Cathaoirleach in Dundalk recently. He suggested that the d'Hondt system which had been offered as an alternative method of selection by Sinn Fein also had its flaws in that it had an inherent bias towards political parties, and he considered the current method of selection fair.

Other Members spoke to congratulate Cllr McQuillan on his appointment as Mayor and Cllr Smith as Deputy Mayor.

Joe McGuinness Director of Services spoke on behalf of the Chief Executive to congratulate both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and wish them well in the year ahead, and wanted it noted for the record that all councillors have been treated equally in the past and would continue to be treated equally in the future by the Executive and Staff of Louth County Council.

Minute No. 67/24

To confirm the Schedule of Meetings of Drogheda Borough Municipal District

Members considered the annual schedule of meetings as set out before them.

Approval of the Schedule was

Proposed by Cllr Joanna Byrne
Seconded by Cllr Paddy McQuillan

And agreed by all Members.

Minute No. 68/24

Placenames Committee

- Schedule 10, Para. 4(4)(a) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended.

- To appoint one member to the Committee.

Director McGuinness advised Members that the Placenames Committee was a committee of Louth County Council established under Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, and comprised of a representative from each of the Municipal District Members and chaired by the Cathaoirleach.

An Méara called for a nomination for the Placenames Committee.

Cllr Declan Power was nominated on the

Proposal of Cllr Kevin Callan,

Seconded by Cllr Pio Smith

And as there were no other nominees, Cllr Power was thus appointed.

Minute No. 69/24

Louth PEACEPLUS Partnership

- Schedule 10, Para. 4(4)(a) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended.
- To appoint two members to the Committee.

Director McGuinness advised Members that two representatives from each of the Municipal Districts sat on the PEACEPLUS Partnership.

An Méara called for nominations for the Placenames Committee.

Cllr Michelle Hall was nominated on the

Proposal of Cllr Pio Smith,

Seconded by Cllr Kevin Callan

Cllr Ejiro O'Hare Stratton was nominated on the

Proposal of Cllr Pio Smith,

Seconded by Cllr Kevin Callan

As there were no other nominations and this satisfied the number of candidates required from the Municipal District to be appointed to the PEACEPLUS Partnership, Cllrs Hall and O'Hare-Stratton were deemed appointed.

The Mayor then announced the closing of the annual meeting.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Borough District held on:

Date:

21/9/24

Mayor:



Meeting Administrator:

