

## *Minutes of Annual Council Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020*

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Louth County Council held in St. Gerard's Hall, St. Alphonsus Road, Dundalk on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Liam Reilly

**Members:** Councillors Paul Bell, Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Colm Markey, Erin McGreehan, Pearse McGeough, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Declan Power, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive  
F. Pentony, Director of Services  
C. Duff, Director of Services  
J. McGuinness, Director of Services  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Cllr. Pio Smith

The outgoing Cathaoirleach said it had been an honour for him to be Cathaoirleach for the last 2 years and remembered his late father who had been Cathaoirleach twice also. He noted that he had been Cathaoirleach for a Local, General, Presidential and European election and also a referendum. He commended the people of the county for their innovation and community spirit throughout his term and in particular during the COVID-19 crisis. He thanked the Leas Cathaoirleach and remembered her late husband, Cllr. Oliver Tully. He congratulated Cllr. Bell on his new post in the Labour Court and remembered former Councillors, Tommy Byrne and Nicholas McCabe. He acknowledged the work of all essential workers and leaders throughout the COVID-19 crisis and extended his sympathies to all families bereaved by the virus. He also thanked the Members, Chief Executive, Officials and Media.

The Chief Executive and Members thanked him for his service as Cathaoirleach and commended his integrity and fairness

**Minute No. 65/20**

**Election of Cathaoirleach**

As per Section 37 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended, nominations were sought for the position of Cathaoirleach.

**Proposed by Cllr. C. Markey and seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle**

Cllr. D. Minogue for the position of Cathaoirleach.

**Proposed by Cllr. P. McGeough and seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan**

Cllr. K. Meenan for the position of Cathaoirleach.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

**For Cllr. D. Minogue:** Cllrs. P. Bell, M. Butler, James Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, M. Doyle, M. Hall, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, C. Markey, D. Minogue, E. McGreehan, D. Power, L. Reilly, J. Sheridan, J. Tenanty **(16)**

**For Cllr. K. Meenan:** Cllrs. Joanna Byrne, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore **(8)**

**Abstain:** Cllr. H. Conlon, P. McQuillan **(2)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. P. Smith, E. Tully **(2)**

Accordingly Cllr. D. Minogue was declared elected as Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council for the ensuing year.

The incoming Cathaoirleach thanked her predecessor and remembered his late father and thanked the staff of Louth County Council and also remembered the late Cllr. Oliver Tully.

**Minute No. 66/20**

**Election of Leas Cathaoirleach**

As per Section 37 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended, nominations were sought for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

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**Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. E. McGreehan**

Cllr. M. Hall for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach.

**Proposed by Cllr. T. Cunningham and seconded by Cllr. A. Watters**

Cllr. Joanna Byrne for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

**For Cllr. M. Hall :** Cllrs. P. Bell, M. Butler, James Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, M. Doyle, M. Hall, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, C. Markey, D. Minogue, E. McGreehan, P. McQuillan, D. Power, L. Reilly, J. Sheridan, **(16)**

**For Cllr. Joanna Byrne:** Cllrs. Joanna Byrne, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, T. Sharkey, J. Tenanty, A. Watters, M. Yore **(9)**

**Abstain:** Cllr. H. Conlon **(1)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. P. Smith, E. Tully **(2)**

Accordingly Cllr. M. Hall was declared elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council for the ensuing year.

While members congratulated the new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach and acknowledged how historic it was for two women to be elected to the roles, some members expressed their dissatisfaction with the “pact” system and expressed the view that the D’Hondt system should be used in future in the interests of fairness and democracy. Other members disagreed with this viewpoint.

That concluded the business of the meeting

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_