

Council Annual General Meeting 20th June 2022

Minutes of Annual Meeting hosted in The Council Chamber Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday 20th June 2022 at 10 a.m. and also hosted over MS Teams.

In attendance:

Presiding: Councillor Pio Smith, Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey (Remote), Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle (Remote), Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue (Remote), Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan (Remote), Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 88/22

Outgoing Cathaoirleach

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Pio Smith opened the Annual Meeting and offered his congratulations to Cllrs. Kevin Meenan, Michelle Hall and Paula Butterly who had recently been elected Cathaoirleach of Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee respectively; All Members who had shown professional courtesy and respect to the chair over the last 12 months were acknowledged with particular recognition and thanks going to Cllr. James Byrne who had served as Leas Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council and ably assisted Cllr. Pio Smith in his role over the year. Cllr. Pio Smith commented that the post of Cathaoirleach meant examining and heeding legislation particularly around the Development Plan, while

trying to serve constituent needs and respond and bring forward reps. He thanked the Executive for their guidance and expertise particularly Joan, Martin, Chief Executive, Joe McGuinness, Director of Services and Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator and thanked all Members for having given him the opportunity to sit in the chair for the last 12 months.

Councillors present praised Cllr. Pio Smith on his work as Cathaoirleach and in particular his efforts and time in chairing during a pandemic and during the County Development Plan meetings. Members referred to his professional approach and fair and calm manner.

Minute No. 89/22

Cllr. Pio Smith called for nominations for his replacement and the following nominations were received:

Cllr. Conor Keelan -

Proposed by: Cllr. Liam Reilly and Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt

Cllr. Antóin Watters –

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Meenan and Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Members were advised that as there were two nominees they would be requested to state which nominee they had preference for and the nominee with the highest votes would be deemed elected.

A roll call vote was held as follows:

Councillor	Nominee Conor Keelan	Nominee Antóin Watters
Marianne Butler	1	
Paula Butterly	1	
James Byrne	1	
Joanna Byrne		1
Kevin Callan	1	
Emma Coffey	1	
Bernie Conlon	Abstain	
Edel Corrigan	Absent	
Tom Cunningham		1
Maria Doyle	1	
Michelle Hall	1	
Conor Keelan	1	
Sean Kelly	1	

Fiachra MacRaghnaill	1	
Pearse McGeough		1
Andrea McKevitt	1	
Paddy McQuillan	1	
Kevin Meenan		1
Dolores Minogue	1	
Declan Power	1	
John Reilly	1	
Liam Reilly	1	
Tomás Sharkey		1
John Sheridan	1	
Pio Smith	1	
Jim Tenanty	1	
Eileen Tully	1	
Antóin Watters		1
Maeve Yore	Abstain	
	20	6

And Cllr. Conor Keelan was deemed elected as Cathaoirleach in accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Cllr. Pio Smith wished the incoming Cathaoirleach well and vacated the seat of Cathaoirleach to make way for Cllr. Conor Keelan.

Minute No. 90/22

On taking the chair, the new Cathaoirleach Cllr. Conor Keelan, immediately called for election of the Leas Cathaoirleach and the following nominations were received:

Cllr. Andrea McKevitt - Proposed by: Cllr. Liam Reilly and Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne

Cllr. Joanna Byrne - Proposed by: Cllr. Pearse McGeough and Seconded by: Cllr. Antóin Watters

Members were advised that as there were two nominees they would be requested to state which nominee they had preference for and the nominee with the highest votes would be deemed elected.

A roll call vote was held as follows:

Name	Nominee Andrea McKevitt	Nominee Joanna Byrne
Marianne Butler	1	
Paula Butterly	1	
James Byrne	1	
Joanna Byrne		1
Kevin Callan	1	
Emma Coffey	1	
Bernie Conlon	Abstain	
Edel Corrigan	Absent	
Tom Cunningham		1
Maria Doyle	1	
Michelle Hall	1	
Conor Keelan	1	
Sean Kelly	1	
Fiachra MacRaghnaill	1	
Pearse McGeough		1
Andrea McKevitt	1	
Paddy McQuillan		1
Kevin Meenan		1
Dolores Minogue	1	
Declan Power	1	
John Reilly	1	
Liam Reilly	1	
Tomás Sharkey		1
John Sheridan	1	
Pio Smith	1	
Jim Tenanty	1	
Eileen Tully	1	
Antóin Watters		1
Maeve Yore	Abstain	
	19	7

And Cllr. Andrea McKevitt was deemed elected as Leas Cathaoirleach in accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

The new Cathaoirleach Cllr. Conor Keelan congratulated Cllr. Andrea McKevitt on her election, thanked Members for their support and said he looked forward to working with everyone during the year ahead; those who voted for him, and those who didn't. He hoped to work with everyone and act as a fair and diligent Cathaoirleach and hoped he could compose himself in similar fashion to the outgoing Cathaoirleach Pío Smith whom he admired. He looked forward to pursuing URDF funding and bringing landbanks into use. Noting the annual mass for deceased Members and Staff that had taken place that morning, Cllr Keelan thanked the executive for restoring this tradition, as he had attended as a young child having come from a long line of Public Servants. He hoped to improve the role of Councillors with Staff.

Members welcomed Cllr Keelan to the role of Cathaoirleach, wishing him the best for the year ahead and remembering his previous holding of the role of Dundalk Town Cathaoirleach and strong personal and familial links with local politics, said that he was held in high regard and would know what to do for the best. Both he and Cllr McKevitt were wished the best for the year ahead

On behalf of the Council the Chief Executive, Joan Martin congratulated Cllr. Conor Keelan on his elevation to the Chair and wished him and Cllr. Andrea McKevitt well in their roles advised her and her staff were here to help in any way.

This concluded the AGM for 2022.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date:

18 July 2022

Cathaoirleach:

Conor Keelan

Meetings Administrator:

A. J. J. J. J.