



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Speisialta Chomhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council Special Meeting

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the
Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday 22nd September 2025, at 6.30pm.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Councillor, Seán Kelly – Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Eric Donovan, Ciarán Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Rachel Kerley, Siónnan McCann, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan, Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillors Debbie McCole, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Maeve Yore

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services
Sinead Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance
David Jones, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Susan Deery, Administrative Officer
Helen Divilly, Head of IT
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer
Aine Roddy, Assistant Communications Officer

Minute No. 210/25

Opening of Meeting

- **Welcome by Cathaoirleach**

Cathaoirleach Seán Kelly informed the members that the sole purpose of this Special Meeting was to formally consider the statutory entitlement to nominate a candidate for the office of President of Ireland, in accordance with the provisions set out in the Presidential Elections Act 1993.

- **Outline of meeting purpose and procedure**

Cathaoirleach Seán Kelly confirmed that two candidates had submitted the required documentation, as requested following the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15th September. Each candidate is now invited to deliver a five-minute oral presentation, which will be followed by a ten-minute question-and-answer session.

He clarified that, following the presentations, members would proceed to vote on whether to nominate a candidate, with the decision determined by a simple majority. Should the motion be approved, a subsequent vote would be held in which members would indicate their preferred nominee. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes in this round would be selected for nomination.

The Cathaoirleach expressed his appreciation to the candidates who engaged with the local authority and its members in seeking support for their campaigns. He also commended the elected members for their cooperation throughout this process, and extended his gratitude to the council staff for their diligent efforts in organising and facilitating this important undertaking.

Minute No. 211/25

Candidate Presentations and Council Deliberation

Mr. Nick Delahanty addressed the members which was then followed by questions from Councillors Kevin Meenan, Emma Coffey, Paddy McQuillan, Ciaran Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford and Robert Nash.

Mr. Keith McGrory addressed the members which was then followed by questions from Councillors Michelle Hall, Marianne Butler, John Sheridan, Kevin Callan, Ciaran Fisher, Robert Nash and Pio Smith.

Minute No. 212/25

Voting Procedure

A roll call vote was called on whether or not the members wished to nominate a candidate:

Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler		1		
James Byrne		1		
Kevin Callan		1		
Emma Coffey		1		
Bernie Conlon		1		
Eric Donovan	1			
Ciarán Fisher	1			
Anne-Marie Ford		1		
Michelle Hall		1		
Seán Kelly		1		
Rachel Kerley		1		
Sionainn McCann	1			
Debbie McCole				1
Pearse McGeough	1			
Shane McGuinness		1		
Andrea McKeivitt		1		

Paddy McQuillan		1		
Fiona MhicConchoille	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue		1		
Rober Nash		1		
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton				1
Declan Power		1		
John Reilly		1		
John Sheridan		1		
Pio Smith		1		
Jim Tenanty		1		
Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore				1
Total Votes	7	19	-	3

Minute No. 213/25

Conclusion

The result of the Roll Call on whether to nominate a candidate was as follows:

For: 7
Against: 19
Absent: 2

As the simple majority was against, this vote was carried and no candidate was nominated by the elected members of the council.

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 20th Oct '25

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: 