



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Louth County Council Annual Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 15th June 2026, at 10:15a.m.

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 (online), Seán Kelly, Rachel Kerley, Sionainn McCann, Debbie McCole, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan (online), Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Fiona Mhic Conchoille

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance
David Jones, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services
David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Anne D Callan, Administrative Officer
Paula Keenan, A/Senior Executive Officer
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
Turlough King, A/Senior Planner
Nikki Campbell, Head of Enterprise LEO
Helen Divilly, Head of Information Systems
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Anthony O Donoghue, Senior Executive Officer
Áine McDonald, Assistant Staff Officer
Celine Breen, Assistant Staff Officer

Minute No. 122/26

Election of Cathaoirleach

The outgoing Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Cllr. Seán Kelly expressed his appreciation to the Elected Members, Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt, the Members of the Corporate

Policy Group, the Media and the staff of Louth County Council for their support throughout his term of office.

Members acknowledged the contribution of Cllr. Kelly during his term as Cathaoirleach.

On behalf of the Executive and staff of Louth County Council, Chief Executive Mr. David Conway thanked Cllr. Kelly for his commitment, leadership and service during his term of office and acknowledged his contribution to the work of the Council.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Seán Kelly then called for nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council for the 2026-2027 term of office.

Councillor Dolores Minogue was nominated on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
Seconded by: Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton

Councillor Pearse McGeough was nominated on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Antóin Watters
Seconded by: Cllr. Eric Donovan

As neither candidate declined the nomination, there were two valid candidates for the position of Cathaoirleach. In accordance with Section 37(g) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Name	Nominee - Minogue	Nominee - Watters	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 Mhic Conchoille				1
Kevin Meenan		1		
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert 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	20	6	2	1

And **Councillor Dolores Minogue** was deemed elected as **Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council** for the 2026 – 2027 term of office.

Minute No. 123/26

Congratulations and Welcome

Having assumed the Office of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Dolores Minogue paid tribute to Cllr. Antóin Watters and thanked him for contesting the election. She also expressed her appreciation to outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Seán Kelly for his dedication, leadership and service during his term of office, commending his commitment to the role and to the people of County Louth. Cllr. Minogue thanked her family, friends and colleagues for their support and affirmed her commitment to serving the people of Co Louth during her term as Cathaoirleach.

Members congratulated Cllr. Minogue on her election and wished her every success in the year ahead. Cllr. Kelly noted that Cllr. Minogue was the first female member to be elected to serve a second term as Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council.

On behalf of the Executive and staff of Louth County Council, Chief Executive Mr. David Conway congratulated Cllr. Minogue on her election and affirmed that she would have the full support of the Executive and staff throughout her term of office.

Minute No. 124/26

Suspension of Standing Orders

In accordance with Standing Order Number 89, the Standing Orders were suspended to allow for the completion of the remaining business on the agenda.

Proposal of: Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
Seconded by: Cllr. Pío Smith
And Resolved

Minute No. 125/26

Election of Leas Chathaoirleach

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Dolores Minogue called for nominations for Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Councillor Shane McGuinness was nominated on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Seán Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKevitt

Councillor Sionainn McCann was nominated on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Pearse McGeough
Seconded by: Cllr. Debbie McCole

As neither candidate declined the nomination, there were two valid candidates for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach. In accordance with Section 37(g) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Name	Nominee - McGuinness	Nominee - McCann	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 Mhic Conchoille				1
Kevin Meenan		1		
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash				1
Eijiro 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	18	7	2	2

And **Councillor Shane McGuinness**, was deemed elected as **Leas-Chathaoirleach of Louth County Council** for the 2026 – 2027 term of office.

Members extended their congratulations to Cllr. McGuinness on his appointment.

Minute No. 126/26

To agree a schedule of Ordinary Meetings of Louth County Council

In accordance with Louth County Council Standing Order No. 1, a schedule of ordinary meetings for the year ahead, was set out before Members on the agenda as follows:

Month	Meeting & Day	Date of Meeting	Notice Deadline	Deadline Day
July 2026	Council 3rd Monday	20/07/2026	05/07/2026	Sunday
August 2026	-	-	-	-
September 2026	Council 3rd Monday	21/09/2026	06/09/2026	Sunday
October 2026	Council 3rd Monday	19/10/2026	04/10/2026	Sunday
November 2026	Council 3rd Monday	16/11/2026	01/11/2026	Sunday
December 2026	Council 3rd Monday	21/12/2026	06/12/2026	Sunday
2027				
January 2027	Council 3rd Monday	18/01/2027	03/01/2027	Sunday
February 2027	Council 3rd Monday	15/02/2027	31/01/2027	Sunday

March 2027	Council	15/03/2027	28/02/2027	Sunday
April 2027	Council	19/04/2027	04/04/2027	Sunday
May 2027	Council 3rd Monday	17/05/2027	02/05/2027	Sunday
June 2027	Annual Meeting	21/06/2027		
June 2027	Council 3rd Monday	21/06/2027	06/06/2027	Sunday

Approval of the Schedule was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Seán Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
And Adopted.

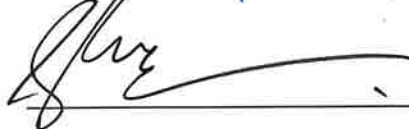
There being no further business, the Annual Meeting of Louth County Council for the 2026 - 2027 Council Term was concluded.

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

Date:

20TH July '26

Cathaoirleach:



Meeting Administrator:

