

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Carlow County Council**  
**held in the G. B. Shaw Theatre, Visual, Old Dublin Road, Carlow**  
**on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 at 3.30p.m.**

**Present:** Councillor F. Browne  
Councillor J. Cassin  
Councillor A. Dalton  
Councillor M. Doran  
Councillor A. Gladney  
Councillor T. Kinsella  
Councillor A. McDonald  
Councillor J. McDonald  
Councillor K. Murnane  
Councillor C. Murphy  
Councillor B. O'Donoghue  
Councillor T. O'Neill  
Councillor W. Paton  
Councillor J. Pender  
Councillor F. Phelan  
Councillor W. Quinn  
Councillor A. Wallace

**Apologies:** Councillor J. Murphy

**Also Present:** Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

**In Attendance:** Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive  
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services, Transportation,  
Environment & Water Services, Building Control & Emergency  
Services  
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance  
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services, Housing, Community,  
Recreation & Amenity  
Mr. Michael Rainey, Director of Services, Corporate, Planning,  
Economic Development, Health and Safety  
Mr. Kieran Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office  
Mr. P.J Leonard, Financial Accountant  
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services  
Mr. Paul Curran, Facilities Manager  
Ms. M. Hand, Assistant Staff Officer, Human Resources

Councillor J. Pender the outgoing Cathaoirleach welcomed all present to the Annual General Meeting of Carlow County Council. The change of venue was acknowledged due to the current Covid 19 social distancing restrictions. He spoke of the challenges faced throughout his year in chair. He paid tribute to the many wonderful events he attended during his time as Cathaoirleach, including the 200-year anniversary of Tinryland church, the opening of Tyndall College and the colourful Carlow Pride Festival. He spent three wonderful days at the Ploughing championships, held in Ballintrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow, where he got to meet the president of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, Ministers, Party Leaders, the Garda Commissioner and the American Ambassador. He would like to see the ploughing championships return to County Carlow at a future date and encouraged members and all parties involved to work together to secure the event. As part of the Pride of Place event he delivered trees supplied by the Environment Department in Carlow County Council to almost every community in the County.

He spoke of the Visual, a magnificent facility in Carlow Town, and also Ducketts Grove, a historic site with beautiful walled gardens at Kneestown, Co. Carlow. During his year in chair he welcomed many delegations including the Chinese Ambassador. A very proud moment during his term was the General Election where he saw the election of his good friend Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, who will represent County Carlow with such honour in the Oireachtas.

The coronavirus Covid 19 struck during his year as chair which became a very challenging time for so many. A dedicated community support helpline was established in Carlow County Council to assist members of the public in accessing non-emergency and non-medical supports and advice during the current public health emergency. The confidential phonenumber service which operates seven days a week was established by the new COVID-19 Carlow County Council Community Response Forum, which included over a dozen agencies and organisations and chaired by the Chief Executive. The helpline is focused primarily on ensuring that vulnerable members of the community or those living alone can access deliveries of groceries, medicine and fuels. The role of the Forum is to ensure that there is a coordinated community response and to enable all voluntary statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly of our most vulnerable members. He paid tribute to the Community Forum call centre teams.

Cllr. J. Pender expressed how he would like to see better broadband facilities in the future and asked members to lobby together for the provision of proper infrastructure.

Cllr. J. Pender paid tribute to his wife Mary, who has been his rock and right beside him, through his years as a Councillor with Carlow County Council and during his year as Cathaoirleach. He thanked the Chief Executive and the four directors of Carlow County Council, three which were appointed during his year in chair. He thanked his Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. A. McDonald and E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

He expressed thanks to all staff and retired staff he worked with over the previous year and said it was his greatest honour to have served as Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council. He thanked his fellow Councillors for their support during his term of office and to Paul Curran Facilities Manager for looking after the Health and Safety of all who attended the meeting today by putting the current Health and Safety measures in place.

### **1.0 Election of Cathaoirleach**

Councillor F. Browne said it was an honour for him to propose Councillor Tom O’Neill as the Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council.

**Proposed by Councillor: F. Browne**  
**Seconded by Councillor: M. Doran**

Councillor W. Paton said it would give him great pleasure to propose Councillor Adrienne Wallace as the Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council.

**Proposed by Councillor: W. Paton**  
**Seconded by Councillor: J. Cassin**

As two councillors were proposed for the position of Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council a roll call took place as follows;

#### **A roll call vote was taken**

<i>Member of Carlow County Council</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Fergal Browne	TON			
John Cassin		AW		
Andrea Dalton	TON			
Michael Doran	TON			

Andy Gladney		AW		
Thomas Kinsella	TON			
Arthur McDonald	TON			
John McDonald	TON			
Ken Murnane	TON			
Charlie Murphy			√	
John Murphy				√
Brian O' Donoghue	TON			
Tom O'Neill	TON			
William Paton		AW		
John Pender	TON			
Fintan Phelan	TON			
William Quinn		AW		
Adrienne Wallace		AW		

This resulted in 11 Councillors voting in favour for Cllr. T. O'Neill being elected as Cathaoirleach, 5 voting in favour for Cllr. A. Wallace being elected as Cathaoirleach, 1 abstain and 1 absent.

The votes in favour of Cllr. T. O'Neill being elected Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council exceeded the votes of Cllr. A. Wallace.

Councillor Tom O'Neill was deemed elected in accordance with Section 37 (b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Taking the chair, Cllr. T. O'Neill thanked his proposer and seconder, fellow Councillors for putting their trust in him and electing him to the position of Cathaoirleach. He said it was an honour to be elected Cathaoirleach.

The new Cathaoirleach paid warm tributes to all Frontline staff, Council staff and the Community Response Teams. He was delighted to see proposed plans for the water hub in Carlow Town Park and spoke that during his time in chair that he would like to see the Barrow and surrounding facilities emphasised. He also acknowledged the great work done by communities in the Towns & Villages across the county. He expressed his deepest sympathies to all those throughout the county who had lost a loved one due to Covid 19. He will work with all stakeholders, to improve the economy in Carlow for the betterment of the County.

The Members congratulated Councillor T. O'Neill on his election as Cathaoirleach and paid tribute to outgoing Cathaoirleach Councillor J. Pender.

The Chief Executive congratulated Councillor T. O'Neill on his election as Cathaoirleach and said she looked forward to working with him in the year ahead. She thanked Councillor J. Pender for his year in office, for his support to all community groups and assisting and supporting events. Cllr. J. Pender was presented with a memorabilia album to remind him of his year in office.

## **2.0 Election of Leas Cathaoirleach**

The Cathaoirleach called for proposals for Leas Cathaoirleach and Cllr. John Murphy was proposed by Cllr. M. Doran.

**Proposed by Councillor: M. Doran**  
**Seconded by Councillor: B. O'Donoghue**

That Councillor J. Murphy be elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council.

As there was no other proposal Councillor John Murphy was deemed elected in accordance with Section 37 (b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

## **3.0 Dates of Council Meetings**

Members had for consideration suggested dates for Council Meetings for the ensuing months to the next Annual Meeting.

Members spoke of the necessity to streamline dates of meetings to facilitate members that are in other employment or self-employed.

**Proposed by Councillor: J. Cassin**  
**Seconded by Councillor: W. Paton**  
**And**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved: -

*"That the proposed dates for Council Meetings for the ensuing months to the next Annual Meeting are as follows: -*

2020	July	-	13 <sup>th</sup>
	September	-	14 <sup>th</sup>
	October	-	12 <sup>th</sup>
	November	-	9 <sup>th</sup>
	December	-	14 <sup>th</sup>
2021	January	-	11 <sup>th</sup>
	February	-	8 <sup>th</sup>
	March	-	8 <sup>th</sup>
	April	-	12 <sup>th</sup>
	May	-	10 <sup>th</sup>
	June	-	14 <sup>th</sup>

#### 4.0 Any Other Business

- Rotation of chair of the SPC – E. Brophy explained the procedure for the replacement of the chair of the SPC. If someone who is chair of the SPC wishes to resign, they need to send a letter to him notifying him of the resignation. This item is then placed on the Agenda for the next meeting for the election of a new chair.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**