

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Clare County Council held in the  
Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on  
Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillors J. Breen, J. Flynn, P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahan, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

**Apologies:** Cllrs. M. McKee.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Carmel Greene, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Karen Stackpoole, Staff Officer.
- Mr. Gerard Dollard, Director of Service.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Service.
- Mr. Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Service.
- Mr. Mark Dunphy, Communications Officer.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. John Corry, Administrative Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Bill Chambers presided.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. B. Chambers thanked the Leas Cathaoirleach, fellow Councillors, media, Chief Executive, Council staff and his own wife Marian and family for all their assistance and support over the previous year during his term of office as Cathaoirleach.

He stated that he thoroughly enjoyed his time in the Chairperson's seat. At the outset of his term as Clare's first citizen he made a pledge to the members that he would work hard over the twelve months to promote Clare through leadership and partnership. On every occasion he has done his utmost to represent the County of Clare to the best of his ability. He felt hugely honoured to wear the Mayoral chain as he attended as many events as possible across the length and breadth of County Clare. The year was filled with many highlights including the convening of the Rural Development Forum which was a hugely progressive step and will reap dividends with the intended publication of a Draft Rural Development Strategy for County Clare. He spoke about the passing of council employees and friends and hoped that by continuing their good work we are celebrating their memory. The Cathaoirleach concluded his speech by stating that he will look back on his term with great affection and look forward to the day when he might once again be honoured with wearing the Mayoral chain.

The outgoing Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P. Murphy thanked his fellow colleagues, Council Executive, media and all staff of the Local Authority for their support and assistance during his term as Leas Cathaoirleach. He wished to congratulate the outgoing Cathaoirleach on a great year representing the Council and concluded by wishing the incoming Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach the very best for the year ahead.

Several members paid tribute to the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for the manner in which they conducted the business of the Council in a fair, inclusive and impartial manner during their year in office.

The Chief Executive, Pat Dowling, also joined in the tributes to both for the way they carried out their respective roles during the year in dealing with the staff, communities and members of the public. He thanked them for embracing his policy of making Clare County Council the leading public agency for the County of Clare.

**Item 1: Election of Cathaoirleach of the Council for the coming year.**

The outgoing Cathaoirleach called for nominations for the post of Cathaoirleach for the forthcoming year. At this point in the meeting Cllr. P. Daly proposed Cllr. Tom McNamara for the position of Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council for the year 2017-2018, this proposal was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed by all present.

As there were no other nominations Cllr. T. McNamara was declared elected as Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council for the coming year.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. McNamara thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for their contribution over the past year. He spoke of the honour it was to be accepting the role of Cathaoirleach and thanked his wife Mary and family for their ongoing support. He also mentioned the late Martin Cahill who was the last Kilmaley person to be elected Chair of Clare County Council in the 1970's. He also acknowledged the hugely influential role played by his late brother Fr. Michael in encouraging him to put his name before the people of "Ennis West" in 2009.

He reflected on the power sharing agreement that was put in place in 2014 to ensure that all groups on the Council would get an opportunity to play a meaningful role over the five year term of the Council. He is delighted to be Cathaoirleach at a time when the final details are being agreed on a Rural Development Strategy for County Clare as someone who has been heavily involved in the area of community development over the years.

The new Cathaoirleach concluded his speech by stating that it his goal as Cathaoirleach during the coming year, that his chairmanship of the various meetings will contribute to Clare County Council working as a cohesive unit in the best interest of all the citizens of County Clare.

Several elected members present wished Cllr. T. McNamara well in his role as Cathaoirleach and offered their support and help to him in the coming year.

The Chief Executive, Pat Dowling, wished the new Cathaoirleach well and looked forward to working with him in the coming year. He assured him of the co-operation of all staff during his year in Office. He spoke of his visit to Kilmaley and cited it as a great model of community development and social enterprise. He added that Kilmaley is an example of a community that is willing to help themselves and that with the spirit of the people and the self help and can-do attitude then lots of things can happen.

**Item 2: Election of Leas Cathaoirleach of Council for coming year.**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. McNamara called for nominations for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. J. Cooney proposed Cllr. P. Burke and this was seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan and agreed by all present.

As there were no other nominations for the post the Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. P. Burke elected as Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

Members and the Chief Executive joined in wishing Cllr. P. Burke well in his role as Leas Cathaoirleach over the coming 12 months.

Cllr. P. Burke thanked his fellow members for giving him the honour to hold the role of Leas Cathaoirleach. He spoke of the honour it was to be accepting the role of Leas Cathaoirleach and thanked his family for their ongoing support. He referenced the power sharing agreement in 2014 and cited it as a great opportunity in ensuring that all groups on the Council would get an opportunity to play a meaningful role over the five year term of the Council. He stated that it was a very proud moment for him in accepting this role and he assured all present that he was looking forward to helping communities in County Clare that are willing to help themselves. He added that he was also looking forward to the development of Holy Island since it was taken into public ownership.

The new Leas Cathaoirleach concluded his speech by stating that he was looking forward to working with the new Cahaoirleach and the staff of Clare County Council for the coming year.

Approval for payment of the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach allowances for the forthcoming year was proposed by Cllr. T. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. C. Crowe and agreed by the members present.

**Item 3: Schedule of Ordinary Meetings for next twelve months.**

The Schedule of Meetings was circulated with the agenda and was proposed by Cllr. T. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. J. Crowe and agreed by the members present.

It was stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 3:45 p.m.

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

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