

MINUTES OF FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON, ON THURSDAY THE 12TH JUNE, 2014 AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT **Councillor Paddy Kilduff, Cathaoirleach** **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: I. Connaughton, L. Fallon, J. Keogh, J. Naughten & T. Ward

OFFICIALS: Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive.
Majella Hunt, Director of Services.
Martin Lydon, Head of Finance & Planning
John O'Rourke, A/ Director of Services.
Pat Murtagh, A/Director of Services
Fiona ni Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

The Chief Executive welcomed the members to the first AGM for the Athlone Municipal District.

1.14. ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH:

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Keogh
SECONDED by Councillor Ward

That Councillor Paddy Kilduff would be elected Cathaoirleach of the Athlone Municipal District.

As there were no other proposals from the floor Tommy Ryan declared Councillor Paddy Kilduff the Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Kilduff thanked his proposer and seconder and stated that he was honoured to be elected as the first Cathaoirleach for the Athlone Municipal District. He look forward to working with all his colleagues and to being a fair Cathaoirleach. He stated that he had always had a good working relationship with the executive and hoped that this would continue into the future.

Members wishes him well in his new position and considered him to be a fair Cathaoirleach and that in the challenging times ahead that Municipal Districts would achieve great things.

2.14. ELECTION OF LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH:

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Keogh
SECONDED by Councillor Connaughton

That Councillor Tony Ward would be elected Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Athlone Municipal District.

As there were no other proposals from the floor the Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Tony Ward to be elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Members congratulated Councillor Ward on his election as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Tommy Ryan, on behalf of the executive, congratulated Councillor Kilduff and Councillor Connaughton on their appointment as the first Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Athlone Municipal District and stated that this is a learning curve for the executive as well as the members He hopes to achieve a consistent approach with all Municipal District members as decisions made at Municipal District meetings will now have the same weight as decisions made at a Plenary meeting. He referred specifically to issues around Part 8 regulations in dealing with the system at local level, the public participation network, the statutory role in relation to the budget. He stated that matters/ issues relating to Municipal District will all be discussed at our training day on the 24th July.

3.14. DATES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS:

Tommy Ryan informed the members that the list of meeting dates circulated was a provisional one which may need to be amended over time. He confirmed that there will be a necessity for a Budget Meeting in the Municipal District and that Municipal District Meetings would need to be co-ordinated for the full Council Meetings.

On the **PROPOSED BY** Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Fallon

That the meetings for the Athlone Municipal District would be held at the Courthouse.

A discussion ensued on the matter and the following issues were raised:-

- Concern that we are having Municipal District meetings outside of our own area – matter may need to be reviewed.
- Concern that Council Headquarters in Monksland is not suitable for meetings.
- The Council should not have to pay for rooms when rooms are available at Headquarters.
- Councillors will have work to do in the headquarters building and can use this time when they are in the Courthouse for meetings.
- A case should be made for some form of occasional meeting in the Municipal Districts Areas.
- The November meeting is very late in the year and there may be a need for a Municipal District meeting in mid September early October.

On the **PROPOSAL OF** Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Fallon

It was **AGREED** that dates for the Athlone Municipal District Meetings during the coming year be as follows:

August 2014 – no meeting

24th November 2014

26th January 2015

27th April 2015

29th June 2015 AGM (Provisional)

ALLOWANCE FOR CATHAOIRLEACH:

Tommy Ryan confirmed that the Allowance for Cathaoirleach maybe paid in accordance with the Local Government Expenses of Local Authority Members Regulations 2014 SI No. 236 of 2014 LG12/14 and the maximum allowance payable for the Municipal Districts in County Roscommon is €6,000.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Keogh
SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that the allowance of €6,000 will be paid to the Cathaoirleach of the Athlone Municipal District.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Budget Process.

Martin Lydon informed the members of the Municipal District that the Budget process for Municipal Districts will be very extensive and that funding will be allocated and apportioned by members. He confirmed that there may be a need for a few meetings in August to speed up the new process and we will be coming back with a list of dates for members in August.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Will the rate be struck at the Plenary meeting.
- How often will meetings need to be held.

Tommy Ryan confirmed that there will be a significant input from Municipal Districts to the work schedule following the Budget process.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Countersigned

