

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ANNUAL Meeting HELD IN THE COUNCIL Chamber - Áras an Chontae, ON MONDAY, 23rd June, 2025

PRESENT: Councillor Paschal Fitzmaurice **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr L. Brennan, Cllr V. Byrne, Cllr L. Callaghan, Cllr R. Conboy, Cllr D. Connolly, Cllr T. Crosby, Cllr L. Cull, Cllr V. Duffy, Cllr L. Fallon, Cllr M. Frain, Cllr M. Holland, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr E. Kelly, Cllr M. McDermott, Cllr S. Moylan and Cllr T. Ward.

OFFICIALS: Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive
Caitlín Conneely, Director of Services
Chris Flynn, Director of Services
Sean Mullarkey, Director of Finance
Karen Hanley, Meetings Administrator
Claudette Collins, Staff Officer
Michaela Fallon, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr N. Dineen., John Mockler A/Director of Services

109.24 ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH

Outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice opened the meeting by thanking his fellow members for their support during the year. He also thanked the Chief Executive Shane Tiernan, the Management Team and staff for their help and support. He expressed his thanks to outgoing Leas-Cathaoirleach Larry Brennan who deputised at events. He noted that the role was very important and prestigious, and that he was honoured to serve his county. He also thanked everyone who invited him to events during the year and acknowledged everyone working to help the county.

Cllr. Fitzmaurice outlined that his highlight from the year was representing Roscommon and the many proud Irish people at the St. Patrick's Day parade in New York with Chief Executive Shane Tiernan and Director of Finance Sean Mullarkey. He also noted the event that took place on the previous Friday in Castlerea where Minister Dara Callery opened the new toddler pool and splash area in Castlerea Swimming Pool, and visited Sommers Park, The Hub, An Chistín and the new building for the Castlerea Rose Festival.

Cllr. Fitzmaurice remembered the late former Cathaoirleach Tom Callaghan, father of Cllr. Liam Callaghan, who passed away recently and expressed his commiserations to Liam and the Callaghan family. He noted that he was a great representative and a proud Roscommon and Fine Gael man. A minute silence was observed in his memory. He also acknowledged the late Cllr. John Naughten and Cllr. Anthony Waldron who passed away during the year.

The Meetings Administrator invited proposals for the election of Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council for the term 2025-2026.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Conboy
SECONDED by Cllr. Keogh

That Cllr. Liam Callaghan be elected as Cathaoirleach.

As there were no other proposals, Cllr. Liam Callaghan was duly elected as Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council.

The new Cathaoirleach Cllr. Callaghan took over the presiding of the meeting.

110.24 ELECTION OF LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Moylan

SECONDED by Cllr. Connolly

That Cllr. John Keogh be elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

As there were no other proposals, Cllr. John Keogh was duly elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council.

111.24 DATE OF MEETINGS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh

SECONDED by Cllr. Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** to fix the dates of the next Plenary Meetings of Roscommon County Council as follows:

Monday 28th July 2025

Monday 22nd September 2025

Monday 20th October 2025

Monday 24th November 2025

Monday 15th December 2025

Monday 26th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 23rd March 2026

Monday 27th April 2026

Monday 25th May 2026

Annual Meeting Monday 22nd June 2026

Monday 22nd June 2026

112.24 APPROVAL OF DATES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETINGS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Connolly

SECONDED by Cllr. Fallon

It was **AGREED** that the Annual Meeting of the Athlone Municipal District will take place on Friday 28th June 2025 at 10am. The Annual Meeting of the Boyle Municipal District will take place on Friday 27th June 2025 at 2.30pm in the Boyle MD Office. The Annual Meeting of the Roscommon Municipal District will take place on Monday 30th June 2025 9.30am.

113.24 CATHAOIRLEACH ADDRESS

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Callaghan thanked everyone for their support, especially his proposer and seconder. He noted that it was a bittersweet occasion for the Callaghan family due to the recent passing of his late father, former Cllr. Tom Callaghan who served as Cathaoirleach 30 years ago. He noted that they were only the second father and son to both serve as Cathaoirleach in the Council's history. He emphasised his commitment to be fair and objective during his tenure. He also acknowledged Cllr. Fitzmaurice and Cllr.

Brennan for their contributions in their respective roles. He acknowledged that the year had been a difficult one following the passing of two great colleagues Cllr. John Naughten and Cllr. Anthony Waldron and paid tribute to the significant impact they had as councillors.

He expressed his disappointment at social media attacks and public criticism, stating that it is no longer acceptable for councillors to be abused publicly or privately. He thanked the Chief Executive Shane Tiernan and Roscommon County Council staff for the investment in the county and noted that they could take pride in the work being done. He emphasised that the efforts are being carried out to the highest level, united by one common purpose: to represent Roscommon people. He discussed a number of areas that would be prominent over the next year including the N5 project, housing and tourism.

He acknowledged the Fine Gael party and noted the last Fine Gael Cathaoirleach was John Connor in 2009. He thanked those who have supported him since his first election in 2009 and acknowledged his wife, daughter, sons, brothers, sisters and wider family. He noted the importance of the role families play in supporting councillors.

He congratulated John Keogh on his election as Leas-Cathaoirleach and noted that he is a great asset representing South Roscommon and would be a great substitute should he need to fill the role.

New Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Keogh also thanked everyone for their support in his election, particularly his proposer and seconder and expressed how honoured he was to serve the role.

Members made the following comments in relation to Cathaoirleach Callaghan's appointment:

- Praise for Cathaoirleach Cllr. Callaghan's political career to date and his deserved election as Cathaoirleach.
- They noted that he had a common-sense approach which would be valuable in the role.
- Acknowledgement for the late former Cathaoirleach Tom Callaghan and the work he carried out as a councillor.
- Acknowledgement and thanks to outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fitzmaurice and Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Brennan.
- Congratulations to John Keogh on his election as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Chief Executive Shane Tiernan congratulated the new Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Callaghan and welcomed his family. He also congratulated the new Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Keogh. He noted the poignancy of Cllr. Callaghan's election to Cathaoirleach so shortly after the passing of his late father Tom. He thanked Cllr. Fitzmaurice and Cllr. Brennan for their roles over the past year and acknowledged the visit of Minister Dara Callery that took place in Castlerea last Friday. He recognised that the year had been memorable in various ways and reiterated Cllr. Fitzmaurice's views on the St. Patrick's Day events in New York and the importance of representing Roscommon globally.

This concluded the business of the Annual Meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator

Rachel Fitzmaurice

Cathaoirleach

Karen Harley

Countersigned