

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ON MONDAY, 26TH JUNE, 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor Tom Crosby **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr V. Byrne, Cllr L. Callaghan, Cllr J. Cummins, Cllr N. Dineen, Cllr L. Fallon, Cllr P. Fitzmaurice, Cllr E. Kelly, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr D. Kilduff, Cllr M. McDermott, Cllr M. Mulligan, Cllr J. Murphy, Cllr J. Naughten, Cllr K. Shanagher, Cllr T. Ward, Cllr A. Waldron and Cllr O. Leyden.

OFFICIALS: Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive
Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Caitlín Conneely, Director of Services
Fiona Ni Chuinn, A/Director of Services
Greg O'Donnell, A/Director of Services
Sean Mullarkey, Acting Head of Finance
Claudette Collins, Asst. Staff Officer
Darragh Kelly, Communications Officer

Apologies: .

76.23 WELCOME FROM OUTGOING CATHAOIRLEACH, CLLR. TOM CROSBY

The outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Crosby addressed the members and reflected upon his year in office:

- He paid tribute to the tenacity, courage and pride shown by local communities, citing the recent Roscommon Climate Action launch as evidence of collaboration between the Local Authority and communities.
- He recalled being present in Budapest at the announcement of Keadue as one of the winners of the prestigious Entente Florale competition.
- His visit to New York in March to meet with the diaspora of the county at the invitation of the County Roscommon Society of New York was remembered while representing the county with Chief Executive, Shane Tiernan, Director of Services, Majella Hunt and Louise Ward of the Local Enterprise Office, exploring business and investment opportunities for the county.
- In December, the Freedom of Roscommon was conferred on sisters Lisa and Aoife O'Rourke who were honoured for their World and European boxing titles.
- He cited a number of projects which have been completed or are near completion, including the Village Renewal Schemes for Rooskey and Tarmonbarry; the ongoing refurbishment of the former Royal Hotel in Boyle under the Rural Regeneration Fund and the signing of the contract for the Enterprise Hub in Monksland. Other projects referenced included the development of a 'civic space' in Roscommon town, the new performance space in Somers Park Castlerea and the continued development of 'Enterprise Hubs' in Boyle, Monksland, and Castlerea.
- The outgoing Cathaoirleach also referred to the development of the Bawn Street and Church Street areas of Strokestown under the National Town Centre First Strategy and the unveiling of new Credit Union ATM machines in Strokestown, Elphin, Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon town.
- He encouraged Roscommon people, not only to shop local but to support local events and activities with many festivals and artistic events taking place across the county.
- He acknowledged the support of the Chief Executive, Shane Tiernan, his predecessor Eugene

Cummins, the Directors of Services and staff of Roscommon County Council for their support during his term of office. He also acknowledged the support of his Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Laurence Fallon and his fellow Councillors throughout his tenure.

- He wished his colleagues every success in the year ahead and particularly his colleagues for whom this was their last annual meeting and who would not be contesting next year's local elections and finally he wished his successor well in the role of Cathaoirleach.

77.23 ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Crosby invited proposals for the election of Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council for the term 2023-2024.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

That Councillor John Keogh be elected as Cathaoirleach.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Waldron

That Councillor Kathleen Shanagher be elected as Cathaoirleach

A vote was taken by the Meetings Administrator on the election of Cathaoirleach which resulted as follows:-

VOTING FOR THE ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR KEOGH:- Councillors Callaghan, Crosby, Cummins, Fallon, Fitzmaurice, Kelly, Keogh, Leyden, McDermott, Murphy, Naughten. (11)

VOTING FOR THE ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR SHANAGHER:- Councillors Dineen, Kilduff, Shanagher, Waldron, Ward (5)

ABSTAIN: Councillor Byrne, Councillor Mulligan (2)

Councillor John Keogh was duly elected as Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council.

78.23 ELECTION OF LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Keogh invited nominations for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach:

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Kelly

That Councillor John Cummins be elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Shanagher

SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

That Councillor Donal Kilduff be elected as Leas Cathaoirleach

A vote was taken by the Meetings Administrator on the election of Leas Cathaoirleach which resulted as follows:-

VOTING FOR THE ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR CUMMINS:- Councillors Callaghan, Crosby, Cummins, Fallon, Fitzmaurice, Kelly, Keogh, Leyden, McDermott, Murphy, Naughten. (11)

VOTING FOR THE ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR KILDUFF:- Councillors Dineen, Kilduff, Shanagher, Waldron, Ward (5)

ABSTAIN: Councillor Byrne, Councillor Mulligan (2)

Councillor John Cummins was duly elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council

79.23 ADDRESS BY CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. JOHN KEOGH

The Chief Executive paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach describing them as exemplary in their respective roles. He wished the new Cathaoirleach well, who he described as a strong Councillor with a great knowledge of politics. He also welcomes the presence of his partner Cormac and his family at the meeting.

Members also paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach while also paying tribute to the newly elected Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Keogh said he was honoured and privileged to be elected as Cathaoirleach and said he would perform his duties to the best of his ability:

- He paid tribute to his family and friends who were present in the public gallery as well as paying tribute to his late parents. He also acknowledged the support of his constituents in the Athlone Municipal District.
- He also paid tribute to the work carried out by the outgoing Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach and commiserated with Cllrs. Shanagher and Dineen who both put themselves forward for election and this is an important part of our democracy.
- The provision of housing and the delivery of targets will be one of his key objectives during the year, particularly the provision of social and affordable housing.
- He is also looking forward to the unveiling of the new Climate Action Plan, claiming progress had been made on the previous plan but more was required.
- Cllr. Keogh said he wished to see the continued support of local communities as a key objective of his work as well as the creation of sustainable jobs.
- The Cathaoirleach also cited the importance of the county's waterways and hopes to see the creation of a plan for the Hodson Bay area.
- He appealed to the Minister for Agriculture to bring forward specific schemes to support the local farming community.
- Another priority during his term of office is the development and upgrade of the N61 route from a national secondary to a national primary route and he appealed for new safety measures to be adopted for the route.
- The Cathaoirleach wished all his colleagues well ahead of next year's local elections and paid tribute to members who will not be standing for election.

The new Cathaoirleach proposed a letter be sent to the Department of the Environment requesting the process for the appointment of a new Chief Executive be concluded without delay as it is unreasonable to expect an interim Chief Executive to make major decisions while in the role on a temporary basis.

Responding, the Chief Executive said competition for the role is underway and will be complete by end of July with a name emerging from the process for approval by the Members by August or September at the latest. The Cathaoirleach welcomed the update and withdrew his proposal.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh

SECONDED by Cllr. Fallon

It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to the Minister to call for an upgrade of the N61 from National Secondary to a National Primary route.

In conclusion the Cathaoirleach stated he was looking forward to working with the elected members, the Chief Executive and management of the Council in the year ahead.

80.23 APPOINTMENT OF ELECTED MEMBER AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SUPPORT (INCLUDING TOURISM, CULTURE AND LIBRARIES) SPC

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Murphy

SECONDED by Cllr. Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Orla Leyden as Chairperson of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support (including Tourism, Culture and Libraries) SPC, with immediate effect to replace Cllr. John Keogh, who resigned.

81.23 DATE OF MEETINGS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy

SECONDED by Councillor Crosby

It was **AGREED** that the following should be the dates of the Plenary Meetings 2023/2024:

Monday 24th July 2023
No Meeting in August
Monday 25th September 2023
Monday 23rd October 2023
Monday 27th November 2023
Monday 18th December 2023
Monday 22nd January 2024
Monday 26th February 2024
Monday 25th March 2024
Monday 22nd April 2024
Monday 27th May 2024

This concluded the business of the Annual Meeting

The foregoing Minutes are Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator

Cllr John Keogh

Cathaoirleach

Patrizio Bohou
Countersigned