

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday, 19 June 2022 at 2.00 pm.

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, Campbell, Coyle, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, R. Truell.

Ms. P. Monahan, Chief Executive, Director of Services, Mr. C. Flynn, Ms N. Woods, A/Directors of Services Ms O McConnon; Ms C O'Hare, Mr G McMahan, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator

Outgoing Cathaoirleach's address:

Cllr Sean Conlon, outgoing Cathaoirleach welcomed and addressed all present. He thanked his party colleagues in Sinn Féin for giving him the opportunity to serve as Cathaoirleach, a role that it was a privilege and honour to hold. He thanked the Leas Chathaoirleach, Cllr McCooey for deputising for him on occasions. He paid tribute to and thanked the Executive managed by the Chief Executive for their assistance and support shown to him during his term in office and also the local media for their impartial reporting of Council meetings.

Cllr Conlon thanked his fellow members who work to ensure that their constituents have the best life possible in Co Monaghan. He referred to his interaction and engagement with community groups throughout his year in office and spoke of a revival of community spirit throughout the County which is now thriving thanks to funding allocations and supports available through the Co Council. He stated that he was privileged to attend the Communities in Bloom ceremony in Canada at which Glaslough village was presented with the International Communities in Bloom Award.

Referring to tourism, Cllr Conlon spoke of the Councils ongoing involvement with the Lough Muckno amenity, the Carrickmacross Workhouse, the Patrick Kavanagh Centre and the Ulster Canal in Clones. He looked forward to the development of the new Digital Hub in Newbliss, the opening of the Monaghan Peace Campus, the advancement of the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan and the opening of the BioConnect facility at Knockaconny.

He referred to his attendance at a ceremony to mark the 49th Anniversary of 1974 bombings in Dublin and Monaghan and appealed for an appropriate commemoration event to be organised by the Local Authority in consultation with family members to mark next year's 50th anniversary of the Monaghan Town bombing.

Concluding, Cllr Conlon paid tribute to the support, encouragement and co-operation of his family which had allowed him to give the best of his attention to carrying out the privileged role of Cathaoirleach.

The outgoing Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr A McCooey thanked Cllr Conlon for all the opportunities he afforded her during her term. She stated that it had been an incredible year for her and a great honor that she had not taken for granted. She stated that it was an honor to be the first Leas-Chathaoirleach to wear the new Leas- Chathaoirleach chain of office. She wished the incoming Cathaoirleach and Leas- Chathaoirleach every success in the year ahead.

All members commended Cllr Conlon for the way he had undertaken the role of Cathaoirleach, for the courtesy and respect shown to his fellow members and the efficient, fair and impartial way he had conducted Council meetings. Members also commended Cllr McCooey for her year as Leas Cathaoirleach.

Ms P Monahan, Chief Executive also thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach for the way in which they had undertaken the duties of their respective roles during the past year.

1. Election of Cathaoirleach of County Monaghan

Cllr Conlon sought nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr A. Campbell proposed, Cllr S Gilliland seconded, that Cllr D Maxwell be nominated for the position of Cathaoirleach of County Monaghan for the year 2023/2024.

As there were no other nominations, Cllr Maxwell was declared elected as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Maxwell then took up the position of Cathaoirleach. He thanked his Fine Gael colleagues for nominating him to the esteemed role of Cathaoirleach and thanked his fellow members for supporting the proposition. He paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr Conlon and the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr McCooey, for their dedication and commitment during the past year.

Looking forward to year ahead, Cllr Maxwell referred to the new Climate Action Plan to be advanced for the county, the new Co Development Plan to be prepared and the new headquarters project to advance. He referred also to the funding logjam which has stalled the N2 road improvement schemes. The Cathaoirleach stated that while Co Councils had been given a raft of new responsibilities in recent times, the functions that were devolved to the elected members to decide upon remained very narrow. He called on members to exert influence and campaign to have more decision-making powers granted to them.

Cllr Maxwell concluded by stating that Monaghan County Council should promote Monaghan and drive Monaghan on to be the best county it can be.

All members congratulated Cllr Maxwell on his election as Cathaoirleach and wished him success during his term of office.

2. Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council.

Cllr Maxwell sought nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Cllr C Bennett proposed, Cllr B McKenna seconded that Cllr Pat Treanor be nominated for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach for the year 2023/2024.

As there was no other nomination for this position the Cathaoirleach declared Cllr P Treanor elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach and congratulated him on his election.

All members joined in the congratulations to Cllr P Treanor. Cllr Treanor thanked his party colleagues for the nomination and stated that he would be available to assist the Cathaoirleach in any way possible during the year ahead.

All members congratulated Cllr Treanor on his election as Leas-Chathaoirleach and wished him success during his term of office.

The Chief Executive joined in the congratulations to the newly elected Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach and wished them both success in the year ahead and assured them of the support of the Chief Executive, Executive and staff.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
