

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday, 16 June 2025 at 2.00pm**

**Chair:** Cllr P. Gibbons, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Clerkin, S. Conlon, P. Conlon, Coyle, Flynn, Gilliland, Keelan, McAree, McCooey, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor and Truell.

Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive, Mr. C. Flynn, Ms. C O'Hare, Ms. P. Monahan, Ms. O. McConnon, Directors of Services, Mr. G. McMahon, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. McMahon, Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllr. A. Johnston

**Outgoing Cathaoirleach's address:**

Cllr Paul Gibbons, outgoing Cathaoirleach welcomed and addressed all present. He referred to his election as Cathaoirleach on 16 December 2024 following Deputy Cathy Bennett's election to Dail Éireann and how he was very proud of his achievement having been informed by a former Councillor that he had made history; being elected to the role of Cathaoirleach just over six months after being first elected to the Council following the Local Government Elections on 07 June 2024. He thanked his party colleagues in Sinn Féin for affording him the opportunity to serve as Cathaoirleach, a role that was a privilege and honour to hold. He thanked the Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr P. Conlon 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. He thanked Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. McGarvey for her exceptional support and guidance during his time in office and commended Ms. C. McKeown, Communications Team for her attention to detail whilst carrying out her role.

Cllr Gibbons thanked his fellow members who work to ensure that their constituents have the best life possible in Co Monaghan. He referred to the many highlights during his time in office including the, launch of the Lough Muckno Masterplan, adoption of the County Development Plan 2025-2031, Annual Awards Ceremony 2024, Civic Reception for World Darts Champion – Shane McGuirk, a recent meeting with An Taoiseach to discuss Shared Island funding opportunities for the County, the launch of recreational enhancements in forest parks and representing Monaghan as part of St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in Nashville.

Concluding, Cllr Gibbons 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 P. Conlon thanked Cllr Gibbons for the opportunities he afforded him during his term. He stated that it had been an incredible year for him and a great honor that he had not taken for granted. He wished the incoming Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach every success in the year ahead.

The members commended Cllr Gibbons 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 P. Conlon for his year as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

## **1. Election of Cathaoirleach of County Monaghan for 2025/2026**

Cllr Gibbons sought nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

*Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr R. Aughey seconded, that Cllr PJ O'Hanlon be nominated for the position of Cathaoirleach of County Monaghan for the year 2025/26.*

As there were no other nominations, Cllr O'Hanlon was declared elected as Cathaoirleach.

Following his election, Cllr PJ O'Hanlon assumed the position of Cathaoirleach and thanked his proposer, seconder and the members that had supported his election. He stated that it was a great honour to be afforded the opportunity to be elected as Cathaoirleach for the second time since his political career began in 2004. He acknowledged the D'Hondt System of allocation which allows each political grouping proportional representation. He pledged to work with his Councillor colleagues and the officials of the Council to achieve the common goal of delivering for the people and working to ensure Monaghan is a great place to live, work and visit. He paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr P. Gibbons, Deputy Cathy Bennett and the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr P. Conlon for their dedication, commitment and the professional way in which they had undertaken their roles over the past 12 months. He outlined his key priorities for the forthcoming year:

- Pursuing opportunities to expand housing provision via Affordable Housing, Cost Rental Schemes and increased serviced sites in Towns and Villages across the County.
- Attracting Investment in Monaghan and Town Centre Revitalisation.
- Working collaboratively with Oireachtas Members and border local authorities (Cavan, Meath and Louth) in relation to addressing common issues such as road infrastructure challenges and supporting rural development.

Cllr O'Hanlon acknowledged the kind sentiments from his party colleagues regarding his late mother, former Town and County Councillor Rosaleen O'Hanlon.

The members congratulated Cllr O'Hanlon on his election as Cathaoirleach and wished him success during his term of office.

## **2. Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council for 2025/2026**

Cllr O'Hanlon sought nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

*Cllr S. Gilliland proposed, Cllr A. Campbell seconded that Cllr Richard Truell be nominated for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach for the year 2025/26.*

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

The members joined in the congratulations to Cllr R. Truell on his election as Leas-Chathaoirleach and wished him success during his term of office. Cllr Truell 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.

The meeting then concluded.

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

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**Meetings Administrator**

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

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