

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Friday 23rd June, 2017 at 12 noon.

Members Present: Councillor Armstrong–McGuire, Finola
Councillor Barry, Brendan
Councillor Dolan, Frank
Councillor Gerry, Dolan
Councillor Fallon, Pdraig
Councillor Ellis, Caillian
Councillor Guckian, Des
Councillor Guckian, Sinead
Councillor Gurn, Felim
Councillor Logan, Seadhna
Councillor McDermott, Sean
Councillor McGowan, Sean
Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
Councillor Stenson, Enda
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor Mary Bohan, Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: Councillor John McCartin
Councillor Caroline Mulvey

Officials Present: Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Head of Finance & Water Services
Mr. Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
Ms. Una Wynne, Financial Management Accountant
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

17/86

23/06/2017 Election of Cathaoirleach

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan addressed the meeting in her final role as Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council. Councillor Bohan proceeded to deal with the first item on the agenda of the Annual Meeting and invited nominations for the Election of Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council.

Councillor Des Guckian stood to address the meeting. Councillor Mary Bohan requested that Councillor Guckian refrain from addressing the meeting as she was dealing with the first item on the agenda to elect a Chairperson of Leitrim County Council.

Councillor Frank Dolan proposed that Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire be elected Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council for the term 2017/2018. This was seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan.

Councillor Mary Bohan invited any other proposal for the Election of Chairperson, and no counter-proposal was proposed. Councillor Mary Bohan deemed Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire elected as Chairperson of Leitrim County Council for the term 2017/2018.

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND RESOLVED;

“That Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire is elected Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council for the year 2017/2018”.

Councillor Des Guckian addressed the meeting and stated that there was no requirement for an Annual Meeting and that the election of Chairperson could have been dealt with at the May Council meeting. Councillor Guckian also expressed his disappointment in relation to the power sharing agreement between the two main parties in the Council Chamber. Councillor Des Guckian then left the meeting.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her sincere thanks to Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive and to the staff of Leitrim County Council for their assistance and support during her term in office. Councillor Bohan also extended her gratitude to the many individuals and organisations that are working in the county, many of whom are working on a voluntary basis. Councillor Bohan also thanked the local media for their support.

Councillor Bohan highlighted a number of specific achievements that the Council had advanced over the last year and she paid special tribute to the Leitrim Association in London and New York. She referred to the recent passing of the Fracking Bill in the Dail advanced by Deputy Tony McLoughlin which she stated was a reflection of local democracy and the power of local people. In conclusion, Councillor Bohan welcomed the appointment of Minister Michael Ring as the Minister for Rural Development. She advised that the Council must continue to lobby Government for additional funding to be provided for Local Improvement Schemes, public lighting and footpaths and the introduction of a reconstruction grant for private dwellings.

The Members congratulated Councillor Bohan for the fair and impartial manner in which she conducted her role as Chairperson of Leitrim County Council. They also stated that Councillor Bohan was a great Ambassador for Leitrim while attending to her official duties abroad.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, extended his gratitude to Councillor Bohan on behalf of the management and staff of Leitrim County Council and he presented a pictorial memoir of Councillor Bohan's year as Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire accepted the nomination as Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council. In her opening address, she extended her gratitude to her proposer and seconder, to her family, friends and colleagues for their support. Councillor Armstrong-McGuire advised that she looked forward to representing the county as Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council. She outlined that she will seek the support of her fellow members to work together for the benefit of the county to increase employment opportunities in Leitrim, to maximise all funding opportunities and to continue to promote the county as a tourist location.

The Chief Executive and the Members congratulated Councillor Armstrong-McGuire on her election as Chairperson of Leitrim County Council.

17/87

23/06/2017 Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire invited nominations for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach. Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed the nomination of Councillor Sean McGowan as Leas-Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council. Councillor Armstrong-McGuire invited any other proposal for the Election of Chairperson, and no counter-proposal was proposed. Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire deemed Councillor Sean McGowan elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND RESOLVED;

“That Councillor Sean McGowan is elected Leas- Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council for the year 2017/2018.

Councillor Sean McGowan accepted the nomination as Leas-Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council. He thanked his proposer and seconder and his fellow Councillors for their support. Councillor McGowan extended his good wishes to Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire as Cathaoirleach and assured her of his full support as Leas-Cathaoirleach over the next 12 months.

The Members congratulated Councillor Sean McGowan on his election as Leas-Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council.

17/88

23/6/2017 Dates and Times of Council Meetings

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire moved to the next item on the agenda of the Annual Meeting to agree a schedule of Council and Municipal District meetings for 2017-2018.

Councillor Justin Warnock proposed that the meeting schedule for 2017-2018 be amended to facilitate monthly meetings of the full Council and bi-monthly Municipal District meetings. Councillor Sean McDermott seconded the proposal put forward by Councillor Justin Warnock.

In response to this proposal the Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran, suggested that rather than making a decision on the scheduling of meetings at the Annual Meeting today that the matter be referred to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and that a recommendation be prepared by the CPG for the full Council to approve.

A detailed discussion in relation to the meeting schedule to determine the frequency of Council and Municipal District meetings took place and it was agreed that the Meeting Schedule of Council and Municipal District meetings will be listed for discussion at the next meeting of the Corporate Policy Group on Monday 3rd July, 2017. It was also agreed that partings/groupings not represented on the CPG would be given the opportunity to participate in the discussion and that a recommendation on the matter will be considered at the September Council meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 12.52 pm

Signed:

**Cllr Finola Armstrong-McGuire
Cathaoirleach**

**Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator**

DATE: 3rd July, 2017