

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, NENAGH, CO. TIPPERARY
AT 3 PM ON TUESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

Present

Cllr. Mattie Ryan, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Bonfield, F; Bourke. K; Browne, M; Bugler, P; Carroll, J; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Doran, D; Dunne, D; English, P; Hanafin, S; Hannigan, J; Hogan, J; Hanna Hourigan, M; Kennedy, R; Lonergan, M; Lowry, M; McGrath, H; Molloy, R; Moran, E; Morris, S; Murphy, M; Murphy, Ml.; O'Meara, K; Ryan, J;

Also Present

J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, M. O'Connor, K. Cashen, C. Curley, M. Shortt, Directors of Service, G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bourke. J; Carey, C; Fahey, J; FitzGerald, M; Goldsboro, I; Leahy, D; McLoughlin, L; Moloney, A; O'Meara, M; Ryan, S; Smith, M; Wood, T.

Welcome

Cathaoirleach Cllr Mattie Ryan welcomed all to the special meeting convened to facilitate potential Presidential candidates wishing to address the Council, that were seeking the nomination of Tipperary County Council to facilitate their entry as a candidate for the Presidential Election to be held on Friday 26th October 2018.

The Cathaoirleach, having regard to standing order no 56, sought the permission of the Council, to facilitate the use of video cameras by a number of national media representatives, in the chamber during the meeting.

It was Proposed by **Cllr. D. Doran** seconded by **Cllr. M .Browne** and resolved

“That video cameras, sound recording and communication equipment may be used during the special meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 18th September 2018”.

The meetings administrator then advised the members that following the address by the candidates, it would then be a matter for the Council to decide whether to nominate a candidate for the Presidential Election in accordance with Section 16 of the Presidential Elections Act 1993.

It was noted that Article 12.4.2 of the Constitution provides that every candidate who is not a former or retiring President, must be nominated either by:-

- i. Not less than twenty persons, each of whom is at the time a member of any of the houses of the Oireachtas or
- ii. By the Councils of not less than four administrative counties (including County Boroughs) as defined by law.

It was noted that a total of ten candidates has initially sought the nomination of the Council however only 7 candidates had expressed a wish to address the Council prior to the Council making its decision on whether or not to nominate a candidate as a candidate for the upcoming Presidential Election.

Item 1.1

Address by candidates seeking a nomination for Presidential Election

The Cathaoirleach referring to the schedule of candidates circulated with the agenda proposed that each candidate would be allocated 15 minutes each, 10 minutes to address the elected members and 5 minutes for questions by the elected members.

This was agreed by the members.

He also advised that Gavin Duffy had notified the Council that he would not be attending and he was proposing that Maria Goretti Moylan be allowed to address the meeting in his place.

This was agreed by the members present.

The Cathaoirleach then called on Gemma O'Doherty to address the Council.

Gemma thanked the Council for the opportunity to address them and referred to her strong ties with Tipperary. She stated that her background was investigative journalism and a lot of her work involved exposing corruption and many of her investigations had led to the re-opening of murder files, including that of Fr. Niall Molloy and Ireland's longest and youngest missing child one – Mary Boyle.

Ms. O' Doherty said she works with citizens who have been victims of corruption and victims of the criminal justice system who have been denied justice.

She raised her concerns about certain environmental damage being caused by industrial sized wind turbines and noted that she was vehemently against these type of turbines which are doing nothing to reduce carbon emissions and not having any impact on Climate Change.

She stated that she hoped to further her desire to serve the cause of truth, justice and integrity for and on behalf of the Irish people. She said she believes Ireland is suffering from a culture of corruption which is having a damaging effect on democracy.

Ms. O'Doherty believed the Presidency can set standards for the sort of democracy we all want to live in – a democracy that protects a citizen's fundamental rights, the right to truth and justice, the right to a first world healthcare service, the right to affordable housing and the right to a publicly owned, clean, safe and reliable Water Supply, the right to a free press, free speech and freedom of expression.

She stated that she wanted an Ireland, where ethics, transparency and accountability are a given in public office.

In reply to questions from the Members, Ms. O'Doherty replied that:

- Ireland is not a business, it is a society where residents are citizens not consumers
- She indicated that she had no interest in the salary of the President or the perks of the position.
- She said the President, as Guardian of the Constitution has a fundamental role to protect citizen's rights.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. O'Doherty for her contribution.

The Cathaoirleach then called on Sarah Louise Mulligan to address the Council.

Ms. Mulligan said that she was honoured to be addressing the Council of Tipperary noting that she was from Dublin but her grandmother was from Nenagh. She stated that she was the youngest of the Presidential hopefuls and was a performing artist.

She spoke about the things she is passionate about and wanted to draw attention to if she was elected President – Child Abuse, Domestic Abuse, Suicide and Elder Abuse; Entrepreneurship, Loneliness and as a Pro Life Presidential Candidate, the setting up of Pregnancy Crisis Centres.

She said that Ireland needs a President who is in touch with the everyday Irish person and the most vulnerable in society. She stated that she wanted to be a voice for the voiceless, and draw awareness to such issues as domestic violence as well as suicide, which is prevalent in Irish Society.

In reply to queries from the Members, Ms. Mulligan stated that she would use her platform as a performing artist to openly communicate with the young people by showing live videos on how she plans to highlight the early signs and symptoms and how to help someone contemplating suicide.

She stated that she supported President Trump because of his pro-life stance and it made sense as an Irish individual to keep the connections good between Ireland and America and she would welcome President Trump with open arms as he is Ireland's greatest ally.

In relation to the 36th Amendment, she stated that she was very much pro-life and she would send it back to the Supreme Court for consideration.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Mulligan for her contribution.

The Cathaoirleach then called on John O'Hare to address the Council.

Mr. John O'Hara introduced himself as gaeilge stating that he was a businessman from Newry, Co. Down and is the only prospective candidate living in Northern Ireland who is seeking a nomination to get onto the Ballot Paper.

He thanked the Council for affording him the opportunity to address them and that it is a privilege for someone from Northern Ireland to be able to stand for the Presidency.

He outlined his background in the agriculture business and his family owned O'Hare Animal Feeds based in Newry and Dundalk before it was sold to Lakeland Dairies in 1996.

He stated that the theme of his Presidency Campaign would be to promote enterprise and business start ups, which he said would be very important in helping to generate wealth in the Country.

He stated that Ireland needed to capitalise on being the only English speaking Country in the EU and it was important to heal the relationships built across Ireland since the Good Friday Agreement, which he would be focusing on during his Presidency Campaign.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. O'Hare for his contribution.

The Cathaoirleach then called on Peter Casey to address the Council.

Mr. Peter Casey thanked the Council for allowing him the opportunity to address the meeting and said it was a pleasure to be in Tipperary today.

He outlined his background, noting that he was a native of Derry, is a businessman and Dragon's Den personality, who is now based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. He stated that he is founder and Chief Executive of Global Recruitment Business Claddagh Resources which has its European headquarters in Buncrana, Co. Donegal.

In explaining his vision for the role of President, he said that while he is aware of the constraints of the role of President, he felt that the position can open doors and connect people – something he has a background in as he has worked all round world, including America and Australia and has been instrumental in helping to set up foreign business in Ireland.

He believed that Ireland should be punching well above its weight on the global stage, and have more influence, considering there are over 70 million people worldwide who consider themselves 'Irish'.

He said he wanted to see a United Ireland and if the Country can connect with those 70 million people around the world, it would be to the enormous benefit to the people of Ireland.

He said issues which the Irish would have influence on include the undocumented Irish living and working in America and he outlined a programme which would encourage Irish people around the world to send their children home to learn about their roots, their culture and language.

In replying to queries from the Members, he stated that he would not take a salary but would donate it to a different County Council each month. In relation to his stance on Irish Neutrality, he felt that Ireland did not have the ability to protect itself and rely on US/NATO to protect us. He also felt that people in the north should be allowed to vote in Presidential Elections and in relation to the privatisation of Irish Water, he felt that it was a human right to have water but only up to a certain level.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Casey for his contribution.

The Cathaoirleach then called on Denis O'Brien to address the Council.

Mr. Denis O'Brien thanked the Council for facilitating him at short notice and stated that he was suffering from depression and asked the Council for their patience while he addressed them.

He stated that he was born in the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin in 1965 and grew up in Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. He qualified as a Fitter in 1988 and was married with 2 children.

He referred to his struggles in dealing with depression which emanated from his fear of losing someone very close. He felt that the experience of what he went through could help others.

In terms of the role of the President, he stated that it was a ceremonial role, to meet and greet the citizens of Ireland and visitors to our Country.

The Cathaoirleach then thanked Mr. O'Brien for his contribution.

The Cathaoirleach noted that John Groake was not present in the chamber when called upon to address the Council.

The Cathaoirleach then called on Marie Goretti Moylan to address the Council.

Ms. Marie Goretti Moylan thanked the Members for the opportunity to address them and gave a brief outline of her background noting that while she was from Athlone, she considered herself half Roscommon, half Westmeath.

She made reference to the need to promote Arts & Culture and improve Tourism. She stated that she hoped to do a law degree at some stage in the future to help vulnerable persons, particularly those affected by violence who she felt were not properly represented. She had a special affinity to the Magdaline Laundries who she had campaigning about for years.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Moylan for her contribution.

Correspondence

Correspondence received in support of the various candidates was noted by the members.

Adjournment

The Cathaoirleach thanked each of the candidates for their time and effort in addressing the Council and proposed that the meeting would adjourn for five minutes to allow the Councillors an opportunity to consider the matter further. This was seconded by Cllr R. Kennedy and agreed.

Item 2.1

**Consider
Nomination for
Presidential
Election**

On resumption of the meeting, the Meeting Administrator clarified the procedure that would apply in the event that there were 3 candidates nominated i.e. that a roll call would be taken and in the event that there was not a clear overall majority, the lowest candidate would be eliminated, following which a second roll call would be taken and the candidate with the highest number of votes would then be deemed to be nominated candidate. This was agreed by the members.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. M. Ryan then proceeded to call for proposals for the nomination of a candidate for the Presidential Election by Tipperary County Council.

It was Proposed **Cllr D. Dunne**, seconded by Cllr. **P. English**

"That Gemma Doherty be nominated as a candidate by Tipperary County Council for the 2018 Presidential Election".

It was Proposed by **Cllr J. Hannigan**, seconded by **Cllr M. Hanna Hourigan**

"That Peter Casey be nominated as a candidate by Tipperary County Council for the 2018

Presidential Election”.

As there were 2 candidates proposed, the Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a roll call of the members present.

	Comhairleoir	FOR Gemma O'Doherty	FOR Peter Casey	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
1.	Ambrose, Siobhan			√	
2.	Anglim, Micheál			√	
3.	Bonfield, Fiona				√
4.	Bourke, Joe			√	
5.	Bourke, Kieran		√		
6.	Browne, Martin	√			
7.	Bugler, Phyll			√	
8.	Carey, Catherine			√	
9.	Carroll, John		√		
10.	Crosse, John		√		
11.	Darcy, Ger		√		
12.	Doran, David	√			
13.	Dunne, David	√			
14.	English, Pat	√			
15.	Fahey, John			√	
16.	FitzGerald, Michael			√	
17.	Goldsboro, Imelda			√	
18.	Hanafin, Seamus		√		
19.	Hanna-Hourigan, Mary		√		
20.	Hannigan, Joe		√		
21.	Hogan, John			√	
22.	Kennedy, Roger		√		
23.	Leahy, Denis			√	
24.	Lonergan, Martin	√			
25.	Lowry, Michael			√	
26.	McGrath, Hughie		√		
27.	McLoughlin, Louise			√	
28.	Molloy, Richie	√			
29.	Moloney, Andy			√	
30.	Moran, Eddie		√		
31.	Morris, Seamus	√			
32.	Murphy, Marie		√		
33.	Murphy, Michael			√	
34.	O'Meara, Kevin		√		
35.	O'Meara, Michael			√	
36.	Ryan, Jim	√			
37.	Ryan (Coole), Mattie		√		
38.	Ryan, Sean			√	
39.	Smith, Michael			√	
40.	Wood, Tom			√	
	TOTALS	8	13	18	1

The Meetings Administrator confirmed the result of the roll call as follows:

For Peter Casey 13

For Gemma O'Doherty 8

Abstain 1

Absent 18

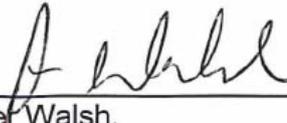
The Cathaoirleach confirmed that Peter Casey be and is hereby the nominated candidate of Tipperary County Council for the Presidential Election 2018 in accordance with Section 16 of the Presidential Elections Act 1993.

Both Peter Casey and Gemma O'Doherty thanked the Councillors that supported them and also thanked the Council for affording them the opportunity to address the Council.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: 2nd October 2018