

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
Borrisoleigh GAA Sports Complex, Bishop Quinlan Park, Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary
AT 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY 25TH JUNE 2021.**

Present

Cllr M Smith, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bonfield, F; Bourke K; Bugler, P; Burgess, D; Carroll, J; Coonan, N.J; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Dennehy, N.; English, P; FitzGerald, J; FitzGerald, Ml; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Hannigan, J; Kennedy, R; Lee, S; Lowry, M; McGrath, H; McGrath (Rocky), J; McGrath, M; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Murphy, Marie; Murphy, Ml; O'Meara, Ml; Ryan, P; Ryan, S;

Apologies

Cllr. T. Black, D Dunne, Mark Fitzgerald, M. Hanna Hourigan, S. Morris, K. O'Meara, A. Ryan, J. Ryan

Also Present

Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, C. Curley, M. O'Connor, DOS, E. Lonergan, B. Beck A/DOS, G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Guest

Senator G. Ahearn

Welcome

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Smith welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of Tipperary County Council, thanking the Borrisoleigh Sports Complex Committee for facilitating the meeting.

Members were requested to have regard to Covid-19 related public health measures for attendance at meetings regarding hand sanitising, physical distancing of 2 meters within the venue and the non- shaking of hands.

**Address by
outgoing
Cathaoirleach**

Cllr. Michael Smith in addressing the meeting said that it had been an honour and privilege to serve as 7th Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council for the past year. He had followed in the footsteps of his father Michael Smith, and his uncle Dan who had also chaired North Tipperary County Council in 1986 and 1995 respectively.

It had been a most challenging year for the local authority due to the Covid - 19 pandemic. Cllr Smith thanked the staff, management and executive for their tremendous effort in this regard. The lockdown and restrictions meant that the public had to access services via online, phone and emails. Council staff had to work remotely and continue to provide a service for the people of Tipperary.

In 2021 the process to formulate a new County Development Plan had commenced and a number of very positive workshops had been held with great engagement from the elected members. This plan would be a blueprint for future developments for all our citizens and communities, through

protecting our environment, maintaining the viability of our towns, villages and rural communities and supporting job creation.

Cllr Smith referred to how every aspect of what we understood to be the normal everyday life had changed. Businesses needed financial support and he was delighted that the restart grants were facilitated and administrated through Tipperary County Council. This ensured that much needed finance was delivered to business people during this difficult period. It was his hope that more assistance could be given from government to protect these jobs into the future. Our local Enterprise Offices continued to support new and existing initiatives across the county. The business continuity vouchers scheme had worked well to date. The deployment of this resource would require additional trained personnel within LEO to administrate and provide full value to the challenged business community. The trading online scheme contributed to all sectors and there had been great interest from business groups across the county.

The Council continued to make huge inroads in developing our towns and villages. A number of successful applications under the urban and rural development schemes would ensure the vibrancy of these towns. Each one of the municipal districts supported the excellent volunteerism led by Tidy Town and Villages Committees. He thanked all the committees for their work throughout the year and acknowledged the significant contribution they make to our communities.

Cllr. Smith thanked the Chief Executive Mr. Joe McGrath for all his support and guidance throughout the year. They had an excellent working relationship and it was his hope that the seeds that had been sown in relation to an Outdoor Recreational Walkway in Monaincha would blossom in the coming years. He paid a special thank you to Leas Cathoirleach Cllr Mary Hanna Hourigan for her friendship and assistance during the year. He thanked all the members of Tipperary Council for their co-operation throughout the year. He thanked Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator and said that that the member were fortunate to have him as part of their team. He thanked the staff of Corporate Services for their assistance during the year.

Cllr Smith said that a major highlight of his term was the new format agreed by the Council in conferring Civic Receptions. Tipperary County Council had held the first virtual reception in the country for the Tipperary Senior Footballers and the Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee on Thursday 27th May, 2021 and Rachael Blackmore on Tuesday 15th June, 2021 which had been very successful and it was hoped to continue to develop this template which was far more inclusive and allowed greater participation from the citizens of Tipperary.

Cllr Smith informed members that the reason that the Annual Meeting had been held in Borrisoleigh was due to the excellent tradition that the parish had. As a rural parish it had four All Ireland winning captains which was a fantastic achievement. The names of Bobby Ryan, Brendan Maher, Jimmy Finn, and the late Sean Kenny would be forever remembered by the county of Tipperary. The new sports facility would provide for future generations and he again thanked the club for the use of the facilities.

The Party Whips and Cllr. Michel Lowry on behalf of the Independent Group paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach on his excellent term of office, noting that it had been a difficult year due to the pandemic and the holding of remote meetings. Cllr Smith had been professional, fair and courteous in carrying out his leadership role. He was complimented on the two virtual civic receptions that had been held and the sensitivity in the manner that the Report on the Mother and Baby Homes had been dealt with. Cllr Smith had worked to put Tipperary first and foremost during his term of office and highlight the benefits of the County.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Joe MacGrath, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Management and staff congratulated the Cathaoirleach on an outstanding and successful year. He complimented Cllr Smith on his willingness to adapt and change as situations and challenges developed in what was a unique year. It was a challenge to chair virtual meetings for 40 members and he had done this with professionalism. Through the pandemic the work of the Council had to progress and a continuity of service had to be ensured. Significant items being considered by the Council were the drafting of a County Development Plan, the securing of RDF Funding and the Towns and Village Renewal Scheme 2021. He stated that the Cathaoirleach broke new ground with the holding of the virtual Civic Reception.

The Chief Executive thanked Cllr Smith for his support and commitment during a productive and progressive year.

2.1 Election of Cathaoirleach

The outgoing Cathaoirleach then sought nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

It was proposed by **Cllr MI FitzGerald**, seconded by **Cllr. G. Darcy**: -

“That Cllr Marie Murphy be elected Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council for the year 2021-2022”.

Cllr. Murphy’s proposer and seconder referred to the qualities of Cllr. Murphy, to her passion for local government and the sustainability of the County. She would dedicate herself to advancing the best interests of the people of the County during her term of office. Cllr Murphy had valued principles of decency and loyalty and had a great work ethic.

As there were no further nominations Cllr Murphy was deemed elected.

Address of Incoming Cathaoirleach

Cllr Marie Murphy paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Smith and Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Mary Hanna Hourigan for their stewardship of the County Council over the past 12 months, in what had been a very challenging year for all elected members, who had to find new and innovative ways to conduct their business. She thanked the Chief Executive, Directors of Services and staff of Tipperary County Council for the very professional way they handled the COVID 19 pandemic to keep council services operational.

Cllr Murphy expressed her gratitude to all of the elected members for giving her the privilege of serving as Cathaoirleach for the coming year. She thanked her Fine Gael colleagues for giving her the honour of being their nominee for the position of Cathaoirleach and paid a special thanks to Cllr Michael FitzGerald and Cllr Ger Darcy for proposing and seconding her nomination and for their kind words.

Cllr Murphy informed the meeting that she had one key principle for the year and that was "Respect", to respect each other as councillors, for the work they do daily for the people that elected them.

It was her deepest honour to be the first member from the Cahir Local Electoral Area elected Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council. She was proud to represent and serve the people of the Cahir LEA since 2009 and assured them that her election as Cathaoirleach would have no impact on this service.

Cllr Murphy referred to the County Council's agenda over the coming 12 months noting the Urban & Rural Regional Development Fund Schemes (URDF & RRDF, Town and Village Renewal Schemes, to mention just a few, which had brought significant investment to County Tipperary over the past few years. Maintaining the level of funding through these schemes would be important. Also, the N24 upgrade project was vital for the county.

The formulation of the next County Development Plan was a work in progress and as Cathaoirleach, she would be urging members to ensure that there was significant public engagement with the Plan.

Cllr Murphy thanked her family for always being there for her and she remembered people that started out on the journey with her in 2004 but were no longer with us.

Cllr Murphy thanked Borrisoleigh GAA club for enabling the first physical meeting of Tipperary County Council in 2021 in their fantastic facilities.

The Party Whips and Independent Representative congratulated Cllr Murphy on her election as Cathaoirleach whom they said was capable of the challenge and would be committed to the position. They referred to her willingness to give her expertise and advise to other members.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council, congratulated Cllr Murphy on the honour bestowed on her as first citizen of the County. He welcomed her family and friends to the meeting. He was aware that Cllr Murphy was thorough in her consideration of all aspects of her work and this would be a valued skill in the coming year.

Election of Leas Chathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Marie Murphy sought nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

It was proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy** and seconded by **Cllr. M. Anglim**
"That Cllr. S. Ambrose be elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council for the term 2021/2022."

Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Anglim referred to Cllr Ambrose's broad range of experience and they were confident that Cllr Murphy and Cllr Ambrose would be a good team to lead the Council for the coming year.

Cllr. Ambrose thanked her proposer and seconder. She looked forward to working with and supporting Cllr. Murphy as Cathaoirleach in the year ahead.

Senator G. Ahearn congratulated Cllr Smith on a successful term as Cathaoirleach in what was a difficult year due to the pandemic. He congratulated Cllr Murphy on her election and acknowledged her work ethic.

The Chief Executive congratulated the Leas Chathaoirleach on her election and acknowledged the contribution of Cllr M. Hanna Hourigan as Leas Chathaoirleach during her term.

The Chief Executive thanked Borrisoleigh Sports Complex staff for making the Complex available for the Annual Meeting and thanked the Meetings Administrator and staff for their preparation of the venue for the meeting.

Conclusion

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date/ _____

Signed/ _____
Meetings Administrator.

Date/ _____