



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD,
NENAGH AT 10.00 AM ON 18th JUNE 2015**

Present: Cllrs. Fiona Bonfield, Dr. Phyll Bugler, John Carroll, Ger Darcy, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, Séamus Morris, Michael O' Meara, Mattie Ryan.

Apologies: Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services.

Also Present: Mr. Karl Cashen, Director of Services, Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator, Mr. Michael Hayes, Senior Executive Engineer and Lorraine Treacy, Staff Officer

Welcome: Cllr. F Bonfield welcomed all present to the Annual Meeting of Nenagh Municipal District. She said that it has been an honour for her, her family and the Labour Party to have been the first Cathaoirleach of the Nenagh Municipal District. She said that as her first time as a Councillor she was entering into the unknown and thanked the members for working closely with her, acknowledging that a lot of good works has been done. She also paid tribute to Cllr. H. McGrath for his role as Leas Chathaoirleach and to the diligent and hard working Council staff. In particular she thanked Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services and Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator. She thanked Ms. Joyce for all her assistance throughout the year and said that she has made a friend for life. She concluded by saying that she hoped that she has served the Council well and extended her best wishes to the new Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. M. Ryan complimented Cllr. Bonfield on her tenure as Cathaoirleach. He said she handled it well and was very fair to everyone and wished her best wishes for the future.

Cllr. J. Carroll said that the first year of the New Municipal District was always going to be difficult and complimented Cllr. Bonfield on her role as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. G. Darcy complimented Cllr. Bonfield, saying that her first day on the Municipal District Council was also her first day in the "Chair" and noted that she took it in her stride. He went on to say that in his opinion that her finest hour was the day of the Civic Welcome of Cllr. Wayne Sanford in Lorrha.

Cllr. P. Bugler also complimented Cllr. Bonfield for her excellent work during a difficult year.

Cllr. Michael O' Meara congratulated Cllr. Bonfield, saying that she hit the ground running and agreed with Cllr. Darcy that her finest hour was the day in Lorrha when she welcomed Cllr. Wayne Sanford.

Cllr. S. Morris also congratulated Cllr. Bonfield. He said that despite her being a new Councillor in a new era she did well in the role and was fair to everyone.

Cllr. H. McGrath said Cllr. Bonfield has a good year as Cathaoirleach and he also found her amenable at all times.

Cllr. J. Hannigan congratulated Cllr. Bonfield and said that she was excellent in the "Chair".

Item 1
Election of
Cathaoirleach

Cllr. P. Bugler proposed that Cllr. G. Darcy be elected Cathaoirleach. She said he was on the Council since 1991 and was the Mayor of North Tipperary Council in 2013/2014. Cllr. J. Carroll seconded the motion saying that Cllr. Darcy and his family had a distinguished record in politics.

Cllr. S. Morris proposed that the D'hondt system be used for the election of the Cathaoirleach. He said that it was a fair system which would ensure that all parties and independents were included.

Cllr. J. Hannigan seconded Cllr. Morris's proposal saying that such a system would be the fairest. He added that politics is about people and the people spoke in the last local elections and voted for change.

Cllr. M. Ryan disputed that the D'hondt system was the fairest. He referred to previous members of the Councils who were members of the Council for a number of years and who did not get the opportunity of becoming Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Morris reiterated that in his opinion the current system as proposed provides for the inclusion of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour and excludes others and proposed that the system be amended.

Ms. R. Joyce referred to Standing Orders and advised the members that the election of the Cathaoirleach is to be the first business of the Annual Meeting and requested clarification as to whether there was a counter proposal for the election of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. S. Morris proposed that Cllr. J. Hannigan be elected as Cathaoirleach. The motion was seconded by Cllr. M. O' Meara.

Cllr. J. Hannigan said that he regarded Cllr. Darcy as a fine individual but he believed that a fair system has to be put in place.

A vote then took place on the position of Cathaoirleach.

The following members voted for Cllr. Ger Darcy: Cllr. Fiona Bonfield, Cllr. Phyll Bugler, Cllr. John Carroll, Cllr. Ger Darcy and Cllr. Mattie Ryan.

The following members voted for Cllr. Joe Hannigan: Cllr. J. Hannigan, Cllr. Hughie McGrath, Cllr. Séamus Morris and Cllr. Michael O' Meara.

The proposal to elect Cllr. Ger Darcy was declared to be carried by five votes to four.

Cllr. J. Hannigan wished Cllr. Darcy the best of luck.

Cllr. Ger Darcy was presented with the chain of office and thanked the members for having the faith in him to be the Cathaoirleach of the Nenagh Municipal District. He said he would like to leave the argument of the D'hondt system behind them and hoped that the members could now work together in what will be a very busy year in the district. He added that there was going to be a great opportunity to showcase the district with the upcoming Fleadh na Mumhan being held in Nenagh and asked that everyone support the event and come into the town.

He went on to say that next year sees the commemoration of the 1916 Rising which will be a big event for the parish of Cloughjordan. He said that the Steering Committee is working hard to make it a successful event in honour of

Thomas MacDonagh for what he did for this country. He added that this will also be a great opportunity to showcase North Tipperary.

He referred to the County Development Plan, saying that the new County Development Plan will be the bible for development of the county going forward and stressed the importance of putting the Nenagh District to the forefront in the Plan. He also referred to the replacement of the National Spatial Strategy. He said that Nenagh did badly under the previous Spatial Strategy and it was very important that the Nenagh Area was seen as a hub under any new Spatial Strategy.

He concluded by saying that he was looking to the year ahead and thanked the members for their support.

Item 2.
Election of Leas
Cathaoirleach


It was proposed by Cllr. M. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll and resolved that Cllr. J. Hannigan be elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

All the members congratulated both Cllr. G. Darcy and Cllr. J. Hannigan on their new roles and wished them well.

This concluded the business of the Meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify.

Signed: 
Cllr. Ger Darcy
Cathaoirleach

Date: 16/7/15

Signed: 
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 16/7/15