

Minutes of Leitrim County Council Annual Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Friday, 30 June 2023

Members Present: Councillor Mary Bohan
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Councillor Enda McGloin
Councillor Frank Dolan
Councillor Gerry Dolan
Councillor Caillian Ellis
Councillor Pádraig Fallon
Councillor Paddy Farrell
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Felim Gurn
Councillor Thomas Mulligan
Councillor Sean McDermott
Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
Councillor Enda Stenson
Councillor Justin Warnock

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn (Cathaoirleach) presiding

Apologies: Councillor Sean McGowan
Councillor Brendan Barry

Officials Present: Lar Power, Chief Executive
Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services
Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services
Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services
Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator
Kathleen Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn proposed a vote of sympathy to Councillor Sean McGowan and his family on the death of his sister Veronica Woods. Councillor Mary Bohan and all members supported this and extended their sympathy to Veronica's husband Kevin and family.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive also expressed his sympathy to Cllr McGowan and family on his behalf and on behalf of the staff.

MM.85.23 Election of Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn expressed her sincere thanks to

her fellow members, Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive, the Management Team, and staff of Leitrim County Council, for all their support and co-operation during the last year. Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn paid tribute to Councillor Sean McDermott, Leas Cathaoirleach for all his help and support during the year.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn said it was a positive year just after coming out of the COVID pandemic. Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn thanked Minister Humphrey for the funding she has directed to County Leitrim over the past year. Councillor Reynolds Flynn said she looked forward to the restoration of the Courthouse and the completion of the Junction project in Ballinamore.

The members paid tribute to Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn for her positivity and how she represented Leitrim County Council with great diplomacy. The members complimented Cllr Reynolds Flynn for her fairness, and on being an excellent ambassador for the County and for the wonderful way she conducted her duties as Cathaoirleach both at home and abroad.

Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive, extended his gratitude to Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn on behalf of the management and staff of Leitrim County Council and said she was very positive, fair and impartial Cathaoirleach.

On behalf of the members and staff, Mr. Lar Power presented a pictorial memoir to Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn of her year as Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn 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 Mary Bohan proposed Councillor Justin Warnock for the position of Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council for the term 2023/2024. This was seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn invited any other proposals for the Election of Chairperson, and as no counterproposal was received. Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn deemed Councillor Justin Warnock elected as Chairperson of Leitrim County Council for the term 2023/2024.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND RESOLVED;

“That Councillor Justin Warnock be elected Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council for the year 2023/2024”.

Councillor Des Guckian said he was opposed to the proposal which he considered to be an example of greed by the coalition members. In protest, Councillor Des Guckian left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Padraig Fallon wished Councillor Justin Warnock well in his role and he said he

has worked with him in Manorhamilton Municipal District for the last 9 years and although they hold different viewpoints on some issues, he said he looked forward to working with Councillor Warnock at Municipal District and Council level in the coming year.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment with the comments passed by Councillor Guckian, and she said the reason a coalition was formed is to pass the budget and to draw down funding for this county and spend money as best we can to develop and improve Leitrim.

Councillor Justin Warnock accepted the nomination as Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council. In his opening address, he extended his gratitude to his proposer and seconder. Councillor Justin Warnock said he was humbled and honoured to take on the role of Cathaoirleach and to represent all people of Leitrim from Gortletteragh to Tullaghan. He said this was a momentous day for his family. Cathaoirleach, Councillor Justin Warnock thanked his wife Jackie, his mother and his family for their attendance at today's meeting and he paid tribute to his late grandfather.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Warnock said he wants to see people continuing to grow and work on family farms in Leitrim. He highlighted the development of the rich arts culture, increase tourism, increase walking and outdoor sports facilities, have better indoor and outdoor facilities for children with special needs, more recreational facilities for older people, strengthen ties with the Diaspora as matters he would like to see improved or developed in the coming year. He concluded by saying he is looking forward to delivering for the people of County Leitrim.

The Chief Executive and the Members congratulated Councillor Justin Warnock on his election as Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council and said this was a great honour for him and his family and wished him well in the role, and assured him of their help, co-operation and support.

Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed Cllr Justin Warnock's mother Mrs Warnock and family to the meeting.

MM.86.23 Election of Leas Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council

Councillor Justin Warnock invited nominations for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Caillian Ellis proposed the nomination of Councillor Paddy O'Rourke as Leas-Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council. This was seconded by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn. Councillor Justin Warnock invited any other proposals for the Election of Leas Cathaoirleach, and no counterproposal was proposed, Cathaoirleach, Councillor Justin Warnock deemed Councillor Paddy O'Rourke elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn AND RESOLVED;

“That Councillor Paddy O’Rourke be elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council for the year 2023/2024”.

Councillor Paddy O’Rourke accepted the nomination as Leas Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council. He thanked his proposer and seconder and his fellow Councillors for their support. Councillor Paddy O’Rourke extended his good wishes to Councillor Justin Warnock as Cathaoirleach and assured him of his full support as Leas Cathaoirleach over the next 12 months.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive congratulated Councillor Paddy O’Rourke on his election as Leas Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council and he also thanked outgoing Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McDermott.

MM.87.23 Note dates & times of meetings of Leitrim County Council until next Annual Meeting

Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that the existing plenary meeting arrangements be kept in place until the next Annual Meeting. Councillor Mary Bohan supported this.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that the timing of the November Plenary meeting be held at a later time to facilitate members wishing to attend the annual commemorative mass for the deceased members and staff of Leitrim County Council. Ms. Mary Quinn agreed that this will be listed as an Item on the Agenda for consideration at the September Council meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 12.20 pm

Signed:

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn
Cathaoirleach

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator

Dated: 4th September 2023