

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON  
FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007.**

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE BLIANTUIIL DE CHOMHAIRLE  
CHONTAE CHIARRAÍ A TIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN  
CHONTAE, TRÁLÍ, AR AN AOINE 29 MEITHEAMH, 2007.**

**PRESENT/I LATHAIR**

**Councillors/Comhlairleoirí**

<b>R. Beasley</b>	<b>T. Buckley</b>	<b>M. Cahill</b>
<b>M. Connor-Scarteen</b>	<b>B. Cronin</b>	<b>T. Ferris</b>
<b>T. Fitzgerald</b>	<b>T. Fleming</b>	<b>N. Foley</b>
<b>M. Gleeson</b>	<b>D. Healy-Rae</b>	<b>M. Healy-Rae</b>
<b>P. Leahy</b>	<b>B. MacGearailt</b>	<b>A. McEllistrim</b>
<b>C. Miller</b>	<b>T. O'Brien</b>	<b>B. O'Connell</b>
<b>P. O'Donoghue</b>	<b>M. O'Shea</b>	<b>N. O'Sullivan</b>
<b>L. Purtill</b>	<b>J. Sheahan</b>	

**IN ATTENDANCE/I LATHAIR**

<b>Mr. T. Curran, County Manager</b>	<b>Mr. J.D. Flynn, Director of Corp. Serv.</b>
<b>Ms. A. Haugh, Director of Environment</b>	<b>Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance</b>
<b>Mr. O. Ring, Director of Water Services</b>	<b>Mr. J. Breen, Dir. Of Hsg. Comm. &amp; Ent.</b>
<b>Mr. M. McMahon, Dir. Of Planning</b>	<b>Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corp. Services</b>
<b>Ms. S. Broderick, Area Mtgs. Admin.</b>	<b>Ms. A. O'Sullivan, CO Corporate Affairs</b>
<b>Ms. K. Felle, CO Corp. Affairs</b>	

The meeting commenced at 12.10 pm.

The Mayor Cllr T. Fitzgerald took the Chair.

**Vote of Sympathy**

Cllr. M. O'Shea extended a vote of sympathy to Mrs. Noreen O'Connor and Family Killorglin on the tragic death of her son Keith. Keith was a son of the late Teddy Chub O'Connor.

Cllr. M. Cahill seconded this vote of sympathy.

All members said that they wished to be associated with this expression of sympathy.

Mayor T. Fitzgerald welcomed Cllr. John Sheahan to the Council.

**Closure of Milltown/Killarney Road**

Cllr. M. O'Shea referred to the closure of the Milltown/Killarney road, which is having a detrimental effect on businesses in the area. He asked who authorised the closure of this road and he requested that it to be re-opened immediately. He requested the A/Director of

Roads and Transportation to authorise personnel to remove the 'Road-closed' signs immediately and to replace them with 'Detour' signs.

Mayor T. Fitzgerald thanked all members for their co-operation during his term as Mayor. He thanked the County Manger, the Senior Management Team and all staff for their assistance during the past twelve months. He also thanked his wife Catherine for her support and patience. During his term as Mayor twenty-three or twenty-four Local Area Plans were made and this was very demanding on all members. He also thanked Cllr. R. Beasley, Deputy Mayor for his support. He informed the meeting that he was very proud to wear the Chain of office in the White House in Washington and also to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York with the Kerryman's Association. Two highlights of the year were the opening of the Martin 'Bracker' O'Regan road and the unveiling of the football sculpture at the Manor Roundabout. In conclusion he said it was an honour to serve as Mayor of Kerry for the past twelve months.

On behalf of the Fianna Fáil Party Cllr. P. O'Donoghue thanked Mayor Fitzgerald for an excellent year. The workload of Mayor has increased significantly as has the workload of all members. He commended Mayor Fitzgerald on being fair and balanced at all times. He said he was a credit to the office and a superb ambassador for the county.

On behalf of the Fine Gael Party Cllr. B. O'Connell complimented the Mayor on an excellent year and said that he was always fair. He added that the Mayor was a credit to the county and he wished him every success in the future.

On behalf of the Labour Party Cllr. T. O'Brien thanked Mayor Fitzgerald for being fair to all members of the Council and said that he appreciated his dedication and hard work throughout the year.

Cllr. B. Cronin complimented Mayor Fitzgerald on an excellent year as Mayor.

Cllr. M. Gleeson congratulated Mayor Fitzgerald on an excellent year and said that at all times he was fair, progressive and had a broad vision. He added that he treated everyone with respect and this was appreciated.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae, on behalf of the Healy-Rae Party thanked Mayor Fitzgerald for an excellent year and for being fair and impartial towards all members.

Mr. T. Curran, County Manager, on behalf of the staff commended Mayor Fitzgerald on an excellent year as Mayor. He said that the Mayor had to deal with a very heavy work load in the past 12 months yet he always dealt with meetings in very business like way and all business was dealt with on the day. He stated that it was a pleasure to work with the Mayor and he was always available when called on for any function. He added that Mayor Fitzgerald had a good sense of humour which was very helpful on many occasions. He thanked Mayor Fitzgerald for his dedication and commitment as Mayor of Kerry in the past year.

#### **07.06.29.01 Election of Mayor**

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Mayor.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae, on behalf of the Healy-Rae organisation PROPOSED Cllr. M. Healy-Rae for the position of Mayor. He stated that Cllr. M. Healy-Rae has the ability and dedication to serve the people of the county.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. B. O'Connell PROPOSED Cllr. B. Cronin for the position of Mayor and stated that since Cllr. Cronin was first elected to Kerry County Council in 1999 as an independent councillor he had performed exceptionally and excellently. He added that Cllr. Cronin would make an excellent Mayor as did his father before him.

Cllr. L. Purtill SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** Cllrs. Beasley, Cahill, Ferris, Fleming, Foley, D. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae, MacGearailt, McEllistrim, Miller, O'Donoghue, O'Shea, O'Sullivan, T. Fitzgerald (14)

**For Cllr. Cronin:** Cllrs. Buckley, Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Gleeson, Leahy, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Connor, Purtill, Sheahan (10)

Mr. J.D. Flynn, Director of Corporate Services, deemed Cllr. M. Healy-Rae elected Mayor of Kerry as he had received the majority of the votes of the members present.

Mayor M. Healy-Rae then took the Chair.

Mayor M. Healy-Rae said that it gave him great pleasure to be elected Mayor of the county, a position that he last occupied some 5 years ago. He thanked his proposer and seconder and he welcomed his mother, his father Deputy Jackie Healy-Rae, his wife Eileen, his children, friends and relations to the meeting. He thanked all those who voted for him and he also acknowledged the contribution of the outgoing Mayor Cllr. T. Fitzgerald whose vast experience and knowledge of the workings of local authorities was very evident in all his dealings with fellow councillors. He added that Cllr. Fitzgerald could take great pride in the way he represented the people of Kerry.

Mayor Healy-Rae said that while members may disagree with the approach taken by other councillors members do in general have the same common objective that being the well being of the people of Kerry. He informed the meeting that he respected the mandate of every councillor. Mayor Healy-Rae said that during the course of the coming year the council would make decisions which would affect the welfare of their communities. The work of Strategic Policy Committees must be enhanced and he complimented the Chairs of the five SPC's on the excellent work being done by them.

He stated that local government must be empowered and to be seen as Government for the people by local people. Central Government must let go, local politicians must make and implement policies that shape their communities and receive more funding. Councils must address the concerns of their communities in a manner that allows those communities to accept the decisions of the local authority. Members must find more ways of engagement with the people and have them join with members in the process of governance. Kerry County Council must continue to address, as they have been doing, the zoning of lands to

meet the demands for homes for our new families and the provision of commercial and industrial lands to provide quality employment. As these developments progress the council must be relentless in its campaign to ensure that the other service providers, be they Government or privately driven, put in place the infrastructure supports that are required to service the expanding population.

Mayor Healy-Rae stated that Kerry County Council must ensure by good design standards that quality of life issues are addressed. It is essential that open spaces are maximised together with the gifts that nature gave to this county while making the most socially acceptable use of areas with housing developments to meet the aspirations of parents to have schools, shops and local play areas available within walking distance of their homes. He emphasised the need to build communities not just houses. The bonds and the communities, which are already in place, must be protected and harnessed – building on them to form a cohesive and embracing society. The council must press ahead with innovative housing solutions – to ensure that families are enabled to live in their own family home – be that as a tenant, a purchaser under a Shared Ownership Scheme or as a mortgage holder.

Mayor Healy-Rae stated that a home or ones own is a social necessity for every family and we must be determined to help achieve this objective. That need is not just confined to the settled community but also is a requirement for all families and we must strive to achieve the best for all without fear or favour of their cultural background.

He complimented the area engineers and outdoor staff for the excellent work carried out on our roads in recent years. The recent media reports that the EU is investigating the County Development Plans of local authorities which gives favourable consideration to family members is very worrying. If this condition is removed at the insistence of the EU it is up to each local authority to ensure that some alternative way of positively discriminating in favour of local people is found.

He stated that during his last term as Mayor of Kerry he learned a lot but most of all he learned that the real pleasure was in giving, in sharing and commitment. He assured the council that he would discharge his duties to the best of his ability, showing respect for the council, its members, management and staff and most importantly to the people of Kerry. He said that he was confident with the collective wisdom of the twenty seven members and the co-operation of all the staff of the council, the coming year would be a rewarding year for the County of Kerry.

In conclusion he informed all present that lunch would be served in Ballygarry House Hotel and all were invited to attend.

Cllr. B. Cronin congratulated Mayor M. Healy-Rae on his election as Mayor and said that he respected the democratic vote. He wished the Mayor well in office and said that the position of Mayor is very prestigious. He thanked his proposer, his seconder and all members of the Fine Gael and Labour Parties and independents who voted for him.

On behalf of the Fianna Fáil party Cllr. P. O'Donoghue congratulated Mayor M. Healy-Rae on his election as Mayor and he also welcomed Deputy Jackie Healy-Rae to the Chambers. The coming year will be a very busy one with a number of Local Area Plans to be made. He called on the Mayor to come to an arrangement with all parties that when the members from the relevant area make a recommendation regarding a Local Area Plan that this



recommendation is honoured by all members. He requested the Mayor to arrange a meeting of the party whips to discuss this matter.

On behalf of the Fine Gael party Cllr. B. O'Connell wished Mayor M. Healy-Rae and his wife Eileen, every success in the coming year. He complimented Deputy Jackie Healy-Rae on his re-election in the recent General Election.

On behalf of the Labour Party Cllr. T. O'Brien wished Mayor M. Healy-Rae every success in the coming year and assured him of his support.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae congratulated Mayor M. Healy-Rae on his election as Mayor of Kerry and he thanked all those who voted for him. He said that it was a proud day for the Healy-Rae family and supporters and he said that the people of South Kerry deserve the credit for their election.

Cllr. R. Beasley congratulated Mayor M. Healy-Rae on his election as Mayor and said that he would be an excellent ambassador for the county. He wished him every success in the coming year.

Cllr. M. Gleeson congratulated the Mayor on his election and said that being leader of the county is a great responsibility.

#### **07.06.29.02 Election of Deputy Mayor**

The Mayor, Cllr. M. Healy-Rae invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr P. O'Donoghue PROPOSED Cllr. D. Healy-Rae for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. C. Miller SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. B. O'Connell PROPOSED Cllr. L. Purtill for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. T. Buckley SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For Cllr.D. Healy-Rae:** Cllrs. Beasley, Cahill, Ferris, T. Fitzgerald, Fleming, Foley, D. Healy-Rae, MacGearailt, McEllistrim, Miller, O'Donoghue, O'Shea, O'Sullivan, M. Healy-Rae (14)

#### **For Cllr.Putill:**

Cllrs. Buckley, Cronin, Gleeson, Leahy, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Connor, Purtill, Sheahan (9)

The Mayor declared Cllr. D. Healy-Rae elected Deputy Mayor as he received the majority of the votes of members present. He congratulated Cllr. D. Healy-Rae on his election.

#### **07.06.18.03 Review of the Chairs of the SPC's.**

Mayor M. Healy-Rae informed the meeting that there were a number of resignations by Chairs of SPC's and these vacancies would have to be filled.

**1. Roads & Transportation**

The Mayor requested nominated for the position of Chair of the Roads & Transportation SPC.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue PROPOSED Cllr. N. O'Sullivan as Chair of the Roads and Transportation SPC.

Cllr. T. Fitzgerald SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed.

**2. Planning and Development SPC**

Cllr. B. Cronin PROPOSED Cllr. T. O'Brien as Chair of the Planning and Development SPC.

Cllr. P. Leahy SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed.

**3. Housing and Social Support SPC**

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue PROPOSED Cllr. C. Miller as Chair of the Housing and Social Support SPC.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed.

**5. Environment and Water Services SPC**

Cllr. J. O'Connor PROPOSED Cllr. B. O'Connell as the Chair of the Environment and Water Services SPC.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed.

The Mayor complimented all the outgoing Chairs of the SPC's and the excellent work carried out by them over the past 3 years. He asked all members to convene at the front door for a group photograph.

The meeting concluded at 12.50 pm.

**Mr. J.D. Flynn**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

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**Mayor of Kerry**