

Special Meeting

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MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAIN 22 NOLLAG 2014.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2014.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

R. Beasley	J. Brassil	P. Connor-Scarteen
B. Cronin	J.J. Culloty	T. Ferris
J. Finucane	J. F. Flynn	N. Foley
M. Gleeson	D. Grady	D. Healy-Rae
J. Healy-Rae	N. Kelleher	S. Locke
D. McCarthy	P. McCarthy	T. McEllistrim
J. Moloney	N. Moriarty	D. Nolan
B. O'Connell	M. O'Shea	D. Quigg
J. Sheahan		

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. M. Murrell Chief Executive	Mr. J.D. Flynn, Dir. of Corp. Servs.
Mr. M. McMahon, D. Job Creation/Sust. E.D.	Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. Op., Health & S.
Mr. O. Ring, Director IW Operations	Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance
Mr. J. Breen, Dir. Sust. Comm./Q of L	Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Administrator
Mr. P. Corkery, Press & Comm. Off.	Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corporate Affairs

The meeting commenced at 12.05pm.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Brassil took the Chair.

The Cathaoirleach said the special meeting was convened to pay tribute to the late Jackie Healy-Rae. Jackie served on Kerry County Council and also three terms in Dáil Éireann with great dignity. He welcomed the Healy-Rae family to the meeting including Cllrs. Danny and Johnny Healy-Rae and Deputy Michael Healy-Rae.

Cllr. M. O'Shea welcomed Deputy Michael Healy-Rae, the Healy-Rae family, friends and supporters to the meeting. The late Deputy Jackie Healy-Rae was one of the greatest politicians who was witty and had a great sense of humour. He first met Jackie in his father's house in the 1970's where he made an excellent speech. Jackie had a fantastic understanding of people and he had great memories of him. It was a great honour for him and his family to have known Jackie.

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Cllr. B. O'Connell said he served with Jackie Healy-Rae when he was first elected in 1991 and he also served with him on the Health Board for 12 or 13 years. Jackie served as Chairman of the Health Board and he fought very hard to secure health services for Kerry. Jackie was a legend and a father figure in the Council and much of what has been achieved for Kerry can be attributed to Jackie. His legacy has now been passed to his sons Michael and Danny and his grandson Johnny.

Cllr. M. Gleeson welcomed the family and friends of the late Jackie Healy-Rae to the meeting. It is almost 30 years since they first sat together on the Council in the Ashe Memorial Hall. There is an old bard that states 'All the world's a stage' and Jackie loved the stage whether it was on the hurling field, in the Council or in the Dáil. He was a speedy corner forward and he was sad to leave the Council when the dual mandate was abolished. It is appropriate to remember Jackie's commitment to his community and to offer sympathy to his family.

Cllr. D. Quigg said on behalf of the Sinn Féin team in Kerry and as an elected member from South Kerry he wanted to extend their deepest sympathy to the Healy-Rae family. Jackie Healy-Rae is a name that is synonymous with politics in Kerry. He was a character who captured the attention of all. When one considers the incredible coverage his passing received it is obvious that he will continue to be recalled fondly by the people of this county and beyond. On a personal note Cllr. Quigg said he would like to say what a good and valued friend Jackie was to his late father-in-law, Michael Hoare and the rest of his wife's family. He proved on every level to be loyal to those he cared about, family friends and constituents. Cllr. Quigg said while there has been controversy in recent weeks about the dedication of a road but whether Jackie receives the honour he deserves now or later, it makes no difference. Jackie is the one politician from this county who will not need a road or a roundabout named after him to be remembered. Because of the character and the politician that he was Jackie will be remembered regardless for many years to come.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen said he wanted to be associated with the tributes to the late Jackie Healy-Rae who was a legendary figure and a tough negotiator. He was very witty and had a great way about him. It was a great honour to have his two sons and grandson follow in his footsteps in politics. Jackie was co-opted in 1973 and served with his father and they were great friends. He did a lot for Kilgarvan and South Kerry.

Cllr. P. McCarthy welcomed the Healy-Rae family to the meeting. He got to know Jackie and his brother Dan about 42 years ago when they struck up a great friendship. Jackie was a very hard worker, a good family and community man. He had a quick wit and he presented the best case in an effort to get a successful outcome. Cllr. McCarthy said he had great respect for Jackie and hard work was his motto.

Cllr. B. Cronin said he wanted to be associated with the words of sympathy to the Healy-Rae family and said it is important to recognise a lifetime of work for the general public. He served on the Council with Jackie from 1999 to 2003 and his late father also served on the Council with him. On the public side his life in

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Kerry County Council and in Dáil Éireann was recognised by the general public on his passing. However on the personal side Jackie was a partner, father and a grandfather and for his family his passing has left a void. Michael, Danny and Johnny have carried on his legacy and he expressed his sympathy to the Healy-Rae.

Cllr. N. Foley welcomed the Healy-Rae family, friends and supporters to the meeting and said this is a very difficult yet a proud day for the family. Kerry County Council is the bed rock of politics in the county. Jackie served on the Council and in Dáil Éireann with such distinction it is only right that members record their sympathy on his passing. He was a great friend of her late father and she has tremendous memories of Jackie. She accompanied her father to meetings and she had great affection for Jackie. He had 'grámhar' speech that was peppered with marvellous sayings. Jackie was always witty and members respected him. He was a very astute politician who was close to his people and she wanted to sincerely acknowledge that. He proved himself to be capable and loyal to local issues and local issues are in fact national issues. Politically Jackie's word was his bond and whenever he gave his word he delivered on it. He entered into agreements with various governments and even when difficult decisions had to be made he would not pull out as he had given his word. Jackie was true to himself and the county and that is an accolade few can aspire to in politics. On behalf of her family she extended her sincere sympathy to the Healy-Rae family on Jackie's passing and said local politics is the better for his involvement. Danny and Johnny have given excellent service in Kerry County Council while nationally Michael is carrying on the legacy and she wished them well in the future.

Cllr. S. Locke said unfortunately he never worked with Jackie Healy-Rae but he met him on journeys up and down to Dublin. He had a grá about him and when he was defeated in numerous elections Jackie gave him great advice. Jackie always worked on the train to Dublin and he believed he was a man for the people. He thanked Jackie for the work he did for the people of the county and he extended his condolences to the Healy-Rae family.

Cllr. D. Grady welcomed the Healy-Rae family to the meeting and said while it is a difficult time for them it is also important that tributes are paid to Jackie. When Jackie left Fianna Fáil he built a new empire with great supporters. It is great to see his legacy being continued by his family as they work for the people of South Kerry.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty welcomed the Healy-Rae family and supporters to the meeting. He never really got to know Jackie but he had a charisma about him and he was a very astute politician. Jackie remained true to his constituents and supporters and his family are following in his footsteps. It is not easy to loose a parent but Jackie lived a full and meaningful life and that is a great consolation to his family. His hard work and commitment to the people of South Kerry was very evident and nationally his achievements speak for themselves.

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Cllr. R. Beasley welcomed the Healy-Rae family to the meeting and said he wanted to be associated with the tributes to Jackie. He served on the Council with Jackie from 1989 to 1994 when he served with distinction. He appreciated the help Jackie gave him at that time. Much of the work and improvements in South Kerry can be attributed to Jackie Healy-Rae. Jackie's legacy will live on and he extended his deepest sympathy to Michael, Danny and Johnny and to the Healy-Rae family.

Cllr. J. Sheahan extended his sympathy to the Healy-Rae family. To say Jackie was a great politician would be an understatement as he worked hard for his constituents and will always be remembered.

Cllr. J. Finucane said Jackie Healy-Rae was a self made man who had a tremendous work ethic. As a politician he fought for services for the county and he will long be remembered for that. He came from a small community but he had the drive and determination that was the envy of other politicians. Cllr. Finucane extended his sympathy to the Healy-Rae family.

Cllr. N. Kelleher said he wanted to be associated with the tributes paid by previous speakers to the late Jackie Healy-Rae. As a new councillor he heard a lot about Jackie from his grandfather (Name withheld for data protection purposes). A paper copy of the Minutes are available on request and his uncle Denis. When Jackie ran in the 1997 General Election he was 11 years old and Jackie captivated him. He was a very generous man who worked tirelessly for his constituents. Cllr. Kelleher extended his condolences to the Healy-Rae family.

Cllr. T. McEllistrim extended his sincere sympathy to Michael, Danny and Johnny Healy-Rae and said he served with Jackie on the Council and in the Dáil. He was an excellent politician who was a great character and was very witty. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn welcomed Michael, Danny and Johnny Healy-Rae together with the extended Healy-Rae family to the meeting. He admired Jackie and in 1997 there was a lot of young people in his victory parade. Jackie was a massive loss to the Fianna Fáil party as he was an excellent Director of Elections. He extended his deepest sympathy to the Healy-Rae family.

Cllr. D. McCarthy welcomed the Healy-Rae family to the meeting. Jackie was a great musician and he played at his parents wedding 56 years ago. He extended his deepest sympathy to the Healy-Rae family.

Cllr. N. Moriarty welcomed the Healy-Rae family to the meeting and said she met Jackie on one or two occasions. He was very charismatic and full of energy with a great love of life and a joy that was infectious. He always did his best for his constituents. She extended her sympathy to the Healy-Rae family.

Cllr. T. Ferris said her earliest memory of Jackie Healy-Rae was in 1997 at the Count Centre listening to his victory speech. He had a unique language and the level of coverage in the media that his passing received is testament to the character that Jackie was. Jackie's priority was his constituents and he always

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worked to the best of his ability for them. She extended her family's deepest sympathy to the Healy-Rae family.

Cllr. D. Nolan said she wanted to be associated with the tributes to the late Jackie Healy-Rae. Her uncle Jerry served on the Council with Jackie and some of his best stories revolved around Jackie. She extended her deepest sympathy to the Healy-Rae family.

The Cathaoirleach said Cllr. O'Brien sent his apologies as he could not attend the meeting. He acknowledged the presence of Deputy Martin Ferris and Senator Ned O'Sullivan who were present and he invited them to address the meeting.

Deputy Ferris extended condolences to the Healy-Rae family and said the first time he met Jackie was when Cllr. Beasley had to emigrate and he was co-opted to the Council. At that time it was virtually impossible to get a co-option but Jackie gave him his word that he would support him and he did. Jackie was a great Kerryman and the day John O'Donoghue was elected Ceann Comhairle Jackie told him he would look after South Kerry well in his absence. Deputy Ferris said he served with Michael in the Dáil and they work together for the county. He was aware that Danny and Johnny are doing tremendous work on the Council and said the Healy-Raes have a major role to play in Irish politics.

Senator Ned O'Sullivan thanked the Cathaoirleach for the opportunity to pay tribute to his long time friend the late Jackie Healy-Rae. When he was first elected in 1985 Jackie was very helpful and friendly. He was one of the straightest politicians he knew and if he could help anyone he would do so. Jackie was a down to earth character who had a huge heart and he will be a huge loss to politics in Kerry.

The Cathaoirleach said he wanted to be associated with the kind words of tribute to the late Jackie Healy-Rae. Jackie and his late father Noel were great friends and he was a particularly nice man. Everyone liked Jackie and he had a fantastic command of the English language. He was a very effective politician and he extended his sympathy to Michael, Danny, Johnny and the Healy-Rae family.

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae said in 1999 he became a member of Kerry County Council and served with Jackie on the Council. They were great years and Jackie taught him how to serve the people. He introduced him to all the staff and he respected them for their work. While Jackie was sad to leave the Council when the dual mandate was abolished it worked in their favour as Danny was co-opted to the Council and he would never forget the years they spent on the Council together. He welcomed all their supporters present at the meeting and said they supported his father down through the years. Jackie had a lot of work done prior to his election to the Dáil in 1997 and he was assisted by an able team who gave him great advice. Jackie was delighted when he was elected in 2007 and his nephew Johnny was co-opted to the Council. He thanked the members, Deputy Ferris and Senator O'Sullivan for their kind comments. Deputy Healy-Rae said he has great memories of Jackie who was a good man who worked hard. When Jackie held the balance of power he was never carried away by it and his priority was to deliver for the county. In the 2010 Budget an issue was brought to their attention by students and if it was implemented no family could

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afford to send two children to college. Jackie arranged meetings with the Minister for Finance and the proposed cuts were reduced. Jackie did a lot of work behind the scenes that benefitted people and he never wasted a minute of any day. His motto was to help people in any way he could. It was fantastic for Jackie that he was elected to the Dáil in 1997 and he took great pride in the Council.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae thanked the Cathaoirleach and Management for arranging the meeting and he also thanked the members for their kind tributes to Jackie. He thanked Deputy Martin Ferris and Senator Ned O'Sullivan for their contributions. He welcomed his family, supporters and former Councillor Danny Kissane to the meeting. He also thanked the Press who gave him fair mention and Aidan O'Connor, who was an opposing candidate in an election and who paid tribute to Jackie in the press. He thanked all the press who paid tribute to him. He thanked all those who attended the funeral, sent mass cards, those who managed the traffic for the two days of the funeral and all those who helped in any way during Jackie's funeral. Jackie was a mighty man and everything he did was done well. He started working in 1952 in forestry and the man who showed him how to drive a bulldozer was at his funeral. He worked for different people before starting his own plant hire business in 1955. He could mow, weld and blast rock for ESB poles. He played hurling and he was fast and effective and he scored the winning goal in the Murphy Cup. He remembered when Jackie was co-opted to the Council in 1973 to fill the late Michael O'Doherty seat there was a cavalcade through Rathmore etc. with music playing through loud speakers on the car. Jackie fought his first Council election in 1974 when his area was divided and Bonane and other areas were taken from it. Despite this he headed the Poll as he did on many occasions. Once he finished work on the farm he would be on the phone to the engineers trying to get work done and he had many battles with Morgan O'Connell and Colm Kennelly. He always tried to do his best by and for the people. He had excellent people working with him and he knew every road and house in east and south Kerry. When it was announced that Kerry would be one constituency for the next General Election Jackie said he had cycled to North Kerry as his step sister lived in Listowel. People always came first for Jackie and he could not understand why people were stopped from cutting turf as turf was always cut in their area. Safety was a priority for him and for this reason he advocated the cutting of hedges. He was very good natured and he never took a holiday. His phone was always on and there was never a dull moment in their home or in the car. Jackie was always discussing what the Taoiseach or the leader of the opposition was doing or what President Clinton was doing. He was with him every day and he misses him terribly. Jackie would phone him regularly and always at 12 midnight as he was closing the bar. He would miss his advice and Cllr. Danny Healy-Rae said Kilgarvan will be a lonelier place without Jackie.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae thanked everyone for their kind tributes to Jackie Healy-Rae. He thanked the members that served with him for portraying him as a large than life character that was unique. He went to a Council meeting with Jackie before he went to school. Danny and himself try to carry on his legacy and that is to serve the people that elected them. At the time of the 1997 General Election he was only 12 and Jackie decided he and his brothers would stay at home and look

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after the farm. But they were enthralled at the election and they spent their time making posters for it. When Jackie was canvassing the Ring of Kerry they could not be held at home and Kilgarvan was deserted. He wanted to portray that Jackie was an ordinary man in that he milked cows, cut turf and drove a machine in the dump in Kenmare. Jackie's mother lived to 96 and they hoped he would also live that long. He was always interested in what his children and grandchildren were doing. After every Council meeting Jackie would be interested in what happened at the meeting. His style, charisma and turn of phrase were what made him unique. Jackie loved the simple things in life and he bought his pony Peg in 2000 at a fair for €500 and everyone knows Peg was stolen but was subsequently found. Money could not buy the publicity he got when Peg was stolen. He thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive and members who paid tribute to Jackie. In 2011 Michael was elected to the Dáil and he was co-opted to Kerry County Council and Jackie was delighted to see him in the Council. Cllr. J. Healy-Rae said it was a very proud day for him at the last Local Election when Jackie voted for him.

The Chief Executive said on behalf of the current and retired staff she extended her sympathy to the Healy-Rae family. Jackie was a member of Kerry County Council for 30 years and he served as Cathaoirleach on two occasions. He was held in high regard by staff and he was relentless in his representational role. He worked hard and was fair minded and reasonable. He respected management and there was strong mutual respect for him.

The meeting concluded at 1.20pm.

Gerard O'Brien

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council