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MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CRUINNITHE BLIANTUIIL DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAIN 22 MEITHEAMH, 2015.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY 22ND JUNE 2015.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

R. Beasley	J. Brassil	M. Cahill
P. Connor-Scarteen	B. Cronin	J. J. Culloty
P. Daly	J. Finucane	S. Fitzgerald
J.F. Flynn	N. Foley	M. Gleeson
D. Grady	D. Healy-Rae	J. Healy-Rae
N. Kelleher	M. Kennelly	S. Locke
D. McCarthy	P. McCarthy	T. McEllistrim
J. Moloney	N. Moriarty	D. Nolan
T. O'Brien	B. O'Connell	M. O'Shea
L. Purtill	D. Quigg	J. Sheahan
G. Spring		

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive	Mr. J.D. Flynn, Director of Corp. Servs.
Mr. P. Stack, A/Director of Planning	Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. Of Ops.
Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance	Mr. O. Ring, Dir. Water Services
Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Admin.	Ms. B. Reidy, S.S.O. Corporate Affairs
Ms. O. O'Shea, C.O. Corporate Affairs	

The meeting commenced at 12.10pm.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Brassil took the Chair and welcomed all present in the public gallery to the meeting.

Mr. G. O'Brien advised all present at the meeting of the procedures to be followed in the event of the fire alarm being activated. He also advised that the meeting would be streamed live on the internet and he asked members to ensure their microphones were on before they spoke. Lunch would be provided in Ballygarry House Hotel for councillors and the Press and a group photo would be taken outdoors after the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach called on Cllr. Moloney to address the meeting as he wanted to propose a vote of sympathy.

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr. J. Moloney stated, in light of the tragic loss of life in Berkley, California the previous week, on behalf of the members of Kerry County Council he expressed his sympathy to all the families involved in particular the family of the late Nick Schuster who have Kerry connections. He also wished *(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* and all those injured a speedy recovery.

All members stated they wanted to be associated with this expression of sympathy.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting a minutes silence would then be observed as a mark of respect for those who lost their lives in the Berkley tragedy.

The Cathaoirleach stated he had a very eventful year as Cathaoirleach and it was a great honour to serve the county. It was a very challenging but rewarding year, there was a new Council, a new Chief Executive and the amalgamation of the Town Councils. The following were the main issues dealt with by Council over the past twelve months:

- Local Property Tax
- Budget 2015 under new Guidelines.
He commended the Council on supporting the Budget and in particular for making provision for the Community Support Fund
- Review of the County Development Plan and the adoption of the new Plan
- 1916 Commemorations Policy
- LEO established
- Adoption of the Corporate Plan
- Establishment of the Local Economic Forum
- Many Civic Receptions including the one for the three All Ireland winning teams and particularly the Reception for the Special Olympic athletes
- Meeting to pay tribute to the late Jackie Healy-Rae
- Setting up of new Municipal Districts . the Cathaoirleach thanked the Chairs of the four Municipal Districts for their stewardship and hard work over the past 12 months

The Cathaoirleach thanked his Deputy, Cllr. Thomas McEllistrim for his assistance. During the year he attended functions all over the county and indeed the country and he saw what it meant to local communities when the Cathaoirleach makes an effort to attend their event. Some of the highlights of the year were:

- The night the Kerry Senior and Minor All Ireland winning teams returned to Kerry.

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- The home coming for the Kerry Senior Hurling Team who won the Christy Ring Cup.
- Visit to New York for St. Patrick's Day and in particular taking part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade as his late father also had that honour.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Executive for her assistance during the year. He thanked the Executive and all the staff who supported him throughout the year. At the start of his term he set out his goals and these included managing the reorganisation and that was achieved. He welcomed the new Councillors Representation system for Housing which is now in place. The Cathaoirleach thanked all members for their co-operation and respect for the Chair. Finally the Cathaoirleach thanked his wife, Bernadette and children for their support over the past twelve months. He wished the incoming Cathaoirleach every success and offered his support to him/her.

Cllr. S. Locke commended Cllr. Brassil on an excellent year in office and stated he always promoted the county.

Cllr. M. Gleeson thanked Cllr. Brassil for his work as Cathaoirleach which is a very important role as he was working on behalf of the county. The Cathaoirleach was a tremendous representative for the county and he served with distinction, integrity and honour.

Cllr. T. O'Brien thanked the Cathaoirleach for an incredible year in office. He was fair to all members and on his own behalf, and on behalf of Cllr. Spring, he wished him well for the future.

Cllr. B. Cronin complimented the Cathaoirleach on a successful year in office and said he served with honour and dignity.

On behalf of the Fianna Fáil Party Cllr. N. Foley congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his excellent year in office. He brought efficiency and good humour to Council meetings particularly for those who were first elected to the Council. She was very proud that Fianna Fáil held the position of Cathaoirleach for the first year following the Local Election and she wished the Cathaoirleach well for the future.

Cllr. M. Cahill stated the Cathaoirleach can be very proud of his year in office. He oversaw many changes with an enlarged Chamber of 33 members. He was fair to all members and he wished him well for the future.

Cllr. R. Beasley thanked the Cathaoirleach for his tireless work over the past 12 months. He was a great ambassador for the county and he wished him well for the future.

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Cllr. D. McCarthy complimented the Cathaoirleach on the efficient and fair way he fulfilled his role as Cathaoirleach. He thanked him for his assistance to new councillors and he wished him well for the future.

Cllr. B. O'Connell said the Cathaoirleach was a credit to the Chamber, the county and Ballyheigue and he wished him well for the future.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae complimented the Cathaoirleach on a very successful year in office. He thanked him for organising the Special Meeting to pay tribute to his late father and for attending his funeral. He wished him every success in the future.

On behalf of Management and staff the Chief Executive congratulated the Cathaoirleach on an excellent year in office. He oversaw a year of huge change and steered the Council through it. He set the tone for the new Council and she commended him on being very fair, reasonable and strong. She wished him well for the future.

15.06.22.01 Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. B. O'Connell said it was an honour for him to PROPOSE his friend and colleague Cllr. P. McCarthy for the position of Cathaoirleach. Pat was first elected to Kerry County Council in 2004 but he was also elected to Tralee Town Council for the period 1994 to 1999. Pat's late father Tom had a passion for politics and would be very proud of Pat. Pat was a lecturer in the IT Tralee where he served with great distinction. If elected Cathaoirleach he will do Fine Gael, Ballymac and the county proud.

Cllr. J. Finucane SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. R. Beasley PROPOSED Cllr. D. Grady for the position of Cathaoirleach and said he is an outstanding councillor and has represented the people of Killarney for many years.

Cllr. S. Locke SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For Cllr. McCarthy:	Cllrs. Connor-Scarteen, Culloty, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Flynn, Foley, Kelleher, Kennelly, P. McCarthy, McEllistrim, Moloney, Moriarty, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Shea, Purtill, Sheahan, Spring, Brassil (19)
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For Cllr. Grady:	Cllrs. Beasley, Cahill, Cronin, Daly, Gleeson, Grady, D. Healy-Rae, Locke, D. McCarthy, Nolan, Quigg (11)
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Not Voting: None (0)

Mr. G. O'Brien declared Cllr. P. McCarthy elected Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council.

Cllr. McCarthy then took the Chair.

Cllr. McCarthy thanked his proposer and seconder and those who voted for him and said it was a great honour for him to be elected Cathaoirleach for the coming year. He welcomed all present in the public gallery especially his family and friends. In particular he welcomed (*Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request*) a former Council worker and great friend. The Cathaoirleach congratulated the new Mayor of Tralee and the Cathaoirligh of the Municipal Districts. Councillors owe a debt of gratitude to their families and all those who elected them and they are eternally grateful for that support. The Cathaoirleach referred to the Berkley tragedy and extended his sympathy to the families of those involved. Emigration, whether voluntary or by necessity is always difficult and it is incumbent on elected members to ensure people have the option to remain in Ireland rather than having to emigrate for economic reasons. Ireland was brought to its knees by a small number of people and legislation should be introduced for economic treason with a jail sentence of up to 30 years. Kerry is a beautiful county and it is important to reduce crime particularly crime committed against the elderly. There is also a need to protect the environment and to try to improve employment after a very difficult number of years for many families. Workers pay additional taxes and it is sad that some people cannot afford to pay their mortgage and it is sad to see the banks repossessing houses. Kerry has a strong economy and we must promote that. The Cathaoirleach said he would like to set up an all-party working committee to advance job creation and industry in the county. This committee could liaise with the work already done by the Chief Executive and the previous Cathaoirleach on the new economic plan. He would also encourage people to participate in more healthy activities and he would like to open up some of the lovely walks in the county to people with a disability. The Cathaoirleach welcomed the fact that Kerry was selected as a pilot county to work with the diaspora. He hoped to see IT Tralee, where he learned and taught, become a University. The Cathaoirleach added that he looked forward to the 1916 Commemorations next year. The past year was difficult with the reorganisation but councillors and management worked together and it is now up and running and he hoped services would be delivered more efficiently. On the 25th July the Vice Governor of Zhejiang province will visit the county with the Girls Butterfly Band. Kerry County Council and the Province of Zhejiang have a Memorandum of Understanding and he hoped there would be investment in the county and job creation as a result of this agreement. In conclusion the Cathaoirleach thanked his wife and family for their support.

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Cllr. D. Grady congratulated Cllr. McCarthy on his election and he thanked his proposer and seconder and those who voted for him. He wished the Cathaoirleach well for the coming year.

Cllr. P. Daly congratulated Cllr. McCarthy, his family and the Fine Gael Party on his election. It is a great day for Ballymac and he was confident the Cathaoirleach would be fair and give all members a voice.

On behalf of the Labour Party Cllr. T. O'Brien congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his election and wished him well for the coming year.

Cllr. S. Locke congratulated Cllr. McCarthy on his election and said he was confident he would promote Tralee to the best of his ability.

Cllr. M. Gleeson congratulated Cllr. McCarthy on his election and he stated it is a wonderful distinction for Ballymac.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Senators Tom Sheahan and Paul Coghlan and Deputy Griffin to the meeting. He also welcomed John Lenihan a wonderful athlete who has brought great pride to Ballymac and the county. John is an excellent organiser and he established a set of walks in Glanageety.

Cllr. M. Cahill congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his election and said it was a great honour for him, his wife and family. He was confident he would carry out his duties in a professional manner. He agreed that walks should be made accessible for the disabled. South Kerry has been savaged by emigration but when the proposed Greenway is open it will bring life to the area and will provide badly needed employment. He called on the Cathaoirleach to ensure this project is brought to a successful conclusion as soon as possible.

Cllr. B. Cronin congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his election and said it is a tremendous honour for him and he wished him success for the coming year.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae congratulated Cllr. McCarthy on being elevated to the position of Cathaoirleach for the coming year and he wished him well. He assured Cllr. McCarthy of his support going forward.

Cllr. N. Foley stated she served with Cllr. McCarthy on Tralee Town Council and later on Kerry County Council and his work ethic is second to none. She wished him well for the coming year.

Cllr. T. McEllistrim congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his election and said he was confident he would represent the county well.

Cllr. D. McCarthy also congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his election and wished him well for the coming year.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the Press, councillors and officials are all part of the democratic process and without the dedication of the Press the work of councillors would not be known.

The Chief Executive wished the Cathaoirleach well for his year in office and she congratulated him and his family on this great honour. She assured him of her full support and she welcomed the priorities which he outlined in his speech.

The Cathaoirleach stated there would be a Barbeque in the Half Way Bar, Ballymacelligott that night and all were welcome to attend.

15.06.22.02 Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

Cllr. B. O'Connell PROPOSED Cllr. J. Finucane for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. T. O'Brien SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. D. Nolan PROPOSED Cllr. S. Locke for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. D. Grady SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For Cllr. Finucane: Cllrs. Brassil, Connor-Scarteen, Culloty, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Flynn, Foley, Kelleher, Kennelly, D. McCarthy, McEllistram, Moloney, Moriarty, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Shea, Purtill, Sheahan, Spring, P. McCarthy **(20)**

For Cllr. Locke: Cllrs. Beasley, Cahill, Cronin, Daly, Gleeson, Grady, D. Healy-Rae, Locke, Nolan, Quigg **(10)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

The Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. J. Finucane elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Cllr. Finucane and asked all members to assemble at the front of the building for the photo and said this would be followed by lunch in Ballygarry House Hotel.

The meeting concluded at 1.25pm.

Gerard O'Brien
A/SEO Corporate Affairs

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council