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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 14 MÁRTA 2016.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY 14TH MARCH 2016.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

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

APOLOGIES/LEATH SCÉAL

T. O'Brien G. Spring

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. M. Murrell Chief Executive Mr. J. Breen, Dir. Sust. Comm./Q of L.
Mr. M. Scannell A/D. Job Cr./Sust. ED Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance
Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. Op., Health & S. Mr. O. Ring, Director Water Services
Mr. M. O'Donoghue, A/Dir. Corp. Serv. Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Admin.
Mr. O. O'Shea, Media & Comm. Officer Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corporate Support
Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corp. Support

The meeting commenced at 10.30am.

The Leas Chathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Finucane took the Chair.

The Leas-Chathaoirleach congratulated Danny Healy-Rae and John Brassil on their election to Dáil Éireann and stated it was a great honour for them, their families and the county. Following their election there are two vacancies on Kerry County Council and he invited nominations for the filling of these positions.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae PROPOSED that Maura Healy-Rae would be co-opted to replace Danny Healy-Rae on the Council. Maura is diligent, hard working and steeped in politics all her life. He wished her well in her new role and stated he looked forward to working with her to represent their constituents. While Danny Healy-Rae announced his candidacy for the General Election on the last day it was a very proud day when he was elected to Dáil Éireann to represent Kerry with his brother Michael. Cllr. Healy-Rae thanked everyone who voted for both Danny and Michael in the General Election and added that Danny Healy-Rae is a tireless worker. He has a great interest in people and the problems they face on a daily basis. He wished Danny and Michael well for the future.

Cllr. S. Locke SECONDED Cllr. Healy-Rae's proposal and complimented Danny and Michael Healy-Rae on being elected to Dáil Éireann.

It was unanimously agreed that Maura Healy-Rae be co-opted to Kerry County Council to replace Danny Healy-Rae T.D.

The Leas-Cathaoirleach congratulated Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae on her co-option and invited her to take her seat.

Cllr. N. Foley congratulated Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae on her co-option and stated it is a huge honour to represent the people in your constituency. She acknowledged the contribution of Danny Healy-Rae to Kerry County Council and said he brought terrific banter, good humour and energy to the Council. On behalf of the Fianna Fáil Party Cllr. Foley also paid tribute to John Brassil on his election to Dáil Éireann. While he will be missed from the Council he will represent the people of Kerry with honour. John has great energy and worked well with his colleagues. She wished him well for the future. Cllr. Foley PROPOSED that John Lucid would be co-opted to replace John Brassil on the Council. John comes from an excellent background in community service and he is people focussed whether with the GAA or with Comhaltas. He is hardworking and diligent and the Council will be enriched by his addition.

Cllr. M. O'Shea commended Deputies John Brassil and Danny Healy-Rae on their election to Dáil Éireann. He also congratulated Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae on her co-option and wished her well for the future. Cllr. O'Shea SECONDED Cllr. Foley's proposal.

It was unanimously agreed that John Lucid be co-opted to Kerry County Council to replace John Brassil T.D.

The Leas-Cathaoirleach congratulated Cllr. Lucid on his co-option and invited him to take his seat. He welcomed Deputy Michael Healy-Rae who was present in the public gallery.

16.03.14.02 Filling of Vacancies on outside Bodies

(a) Regional Health Forum South

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen PROPOSED that Cllr. J. Healy-Rae be nominated to fill the vacancy on the Regional Health Forum South.

Cllr. S. Locke SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed.

(b) Kerry Education and Training Board

Cllr. N. Foley PROPOSED that Cllr. J. Moloney be nominated to fill the vacancy on the Kerry Education and Training Board.

Cllr. M. O'Shea SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed.

The Leas Cathaoirleach then invited Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae to address the meeting.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae read the following into the record of the meeting.

"I am extremely honoured to have been co-opted to Kerry County Council to work and represent the people of the Killarney Electoral Area which stretches from Clonkeen, up to Rathmore, over to the great town of Killarney, all of East Kerry and to the top of Castleisland.

This Council seat is special and significant for one single reason – this was Jackie Healy Rae's Council Seat which he held from 1973 for 30 years. If it was not for him they would not be there that day. His legacy is written all over this constituency. Cllr. Healy-Rae stated she was sad that he was not there to see her and to see where he stared all those years ago, but she knew in her heart and soul that he would be extremely proud.

After Jackie, came her father Danny and she paid a special tribute to him for the work he has given as a Kerry County Councillor for the past 14 years. Nobody inside in this room could disagree that he was the hardest working councillor that graced the Chamber. His work ethic, the dedication he gave and the sheer responsibility he felt towards representing the people of the Killarney Electoral Area was unwavering. He has put her in a spot now to match him and he is a hard act to follow. She knew he was sad to leave here today no longer a councillor as he genuinely enjoyed every second.

While it was a huge day for her she would not be carried away by the sentimental side of it as there is a huge amount of work to be done. She knew from the doorsteps the issues that people in her area are concerned about. For example:

Health – the wait for Beds, Ambulances, Medical Cards, and Carer's Allowance etc. is leaving people at their wits end.

Education - Schools are under pressure to support the needs fully of SEN students and those with disabilities as resource hours and SNAs are cut, leaving their parents in desperation for the future of their children.

Housing – Housing is a major issue with no social housing available in or around Killarney town and Grants for the Elderly and People with Disabilities cut by over 50%.

Roads – Many roads are in an awful state, many local roads and Class 3 roads are left in a desperate state after the flooding. Local Improvement Schemes must be brought back. This leads me to another issue, insurance for cars has seen a 30% increase while some roads are not even roadworthy. Also there is a shortage of road workers.

Farmers – Farmers are caused unnecessary distress with inspections being carried out, which then jeopardise their livelihoods as payments are under threat.

These are the issues that she will highlight and fight for because these are the issues that matter to the people of the Killarney Electoral Area.

Perhaps, I have gone on too long and councillors might be thinking she's a chip off the old block because as we all know when her Dad starts talking – he's hard to stop."

Finally, Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae again stated she is very proud to be a Kerry County Councillor for the Killarney Electoral Area. She looked forward to working with the CEO, Management and staff of all grades and sections and of course with her fellow councillors. Last but not least she thanked her family, friends and supporters for being present to support her.

Cllr. John Lucid then addressed the meeting.

Cllr. Lucid stated he was very honoured and privileged to be co-opted to Kerry County Council. It is indeed a great honour for him, his wife Katrina and his children.

He stated he was proud to be a member of Kerry County Council where so many great people have served the people of our county honourably with dignity and decency.

He thanked the Fianna Fáil party for giving him the opportunity to represent the people of the Listowel Electoral Area and he assured them he would not let them down.

Cllr. Lucid thanked Deputy John Brassil and his late father Noel for their excellent work done on behalf of people over many years. He wished John the very best in his new career in Dáil Éireann and stated he was sure he will be a great success.

In conclusion Cllr. Lucid stated he looked forward to the challenge before him and he would endeavour to do his very best on behalf of the people of the Listowel Electoral Area.

The Leas Cathaoirleach then invited Deputy Danny Healy-Rae to address the meeting.

Deputy Danny Healy-Rae thanked his family and all his supporters. When Deputy Tom Fleming announced he was not seeking re-election he felt it was an opportunity to win a second seat in Kerry. Both he and Deputy Michael Healy-Rae give a good service to the entire county. They have a good team of workers and they work well with other Departments on behalf of all the people of the county. He stated it was a bitter sweet day as he really enjoyed being a member of Kerry County Council. He did his best as a councillor and it was an honour to follow in the footsteps of his late father, Jackie Healy-Rae on the Council. He congratulated his daughter Maura on her co-option to the Council and said he would continue to work with her. Johnny Healy-Rae is also an excellent worker and he represents the people of South & West Kerry well. He thanked Management, especially the Chief Executive, Ms. Murrell and all staff, both indoor and outdoor, at every grade for their hard work and assistance to him. Deputy Healy-Rae stated it is important that staff numbers are increased. He thanked his fellow councillors especially those in the Killarney Electoral Area who work tirelessly. Deputy Healy-Rae thanked the Press for their representation of the work of councillors and he wished all members well for the future. He thanked all those who voted for him in the last Local Election and those who voted for him and Deputy Michael Healy Rae in the General Election.

The Leas-Cathaoirleach invited Deputy John Brassil to address the meeting.

Deputy Brassil thanked the Leas-Cathaoirleach for the opportunity to address the Chamber for the last time. He has many fond memories of the Chamber and it was an emotional day for him. He congratulated Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae on her co-option and Deputies Danny and Michael Healy-Rae on their election to Dáil Éireann. Deputy Brassil congratulated Cllr. Lucid on his co-option and wished him well for the future. John was a very good hurler and is a great community activist. Last Christmas twelve months his sister's house burned down and thanks to the fundraising efforts of John, Katriona and a few others the house has been rebuilt. He complimented Cllr. Norma Moriarty on her performance in the General Election and added that without her transfers he would not have been elected. He thanked Cllr. Moriarty and the Fianna Fáil Party for their work during the recent General Election. He added that Fianna Fáil is rebuilding the Party and he hoped to do justice for the people who voted for him.

Deputy Brassil complimented Council staff on their work. At every Council meeting the full Management team are present and they respond to queries from members. He was very proud of a number of achievements during his time on Kerry County Council including the adoption of the Playground Policy which resulted in a number of playgrounds being provided throughout the county. The Roads Programmes from 1997 to 2007 resulted in many roads being improved but it will take a lot of funding and work to restore them. The Library Service and street cleaning impacts on the lives of all citizens of the county and it is important that these services are maintained. Deputy Brassil wished the councillors going for the Senate every success. His late father Noel was first elected to the Council in 1974 and he and Jackie Healy-Rae were great friends. In conclusion Deputy Brassil thanked the Council for all their work and stated he enjoyed working with both members and staff. He looked forward to representing the people of the county with dignity.

The Chief Executive, Ms. M. Murrell, congratulated Deputies Danny Healy-Rae and John Brassil on their election and she welcomed Deputy Michael Healy-Rae to the Chamber. She wished them well for the future and stated the county will be well represented in Dáil Éireann. She welcomed Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae and Cllr. John Lucid to Kerry County Council and stated she looked forward to working with them.

The meeting concluded at 11.10am.

Gerard O'Brien
Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council