

These Minutes are edited for Data Protection purposes because in effect putting them on the Internet is publishing them. An unedited paper copy is available on request.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILLARNEY HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 27th JUNE 2016.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CHÉAD CRUINNÍÚ BLIANTIÚIL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHILL ÁIRNE A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN 27 MEITHEAMH, 2016.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

**Cllr. B. Cronin
Cllr. N. Kelleher
Cllr. J.J. Culloty
Cllr. D. Grady**

**Cllr. M. Gleeson
Cllr. M. Healy-Rae
Cllr. B. O'Connell
Cllr. J. Sheahan**

In attendance/i láthair

Mr. M O'Donoghue	Director of Corporate Affairs
Mr. P. Neary	SEE Killarney
Mr. L. Quinlan	Meetings Administrator
Mr. T. Hayes	Head of Local Enterprise
Ms. B. Reidy	SSO Corporate Support
Ms. M. Galvin	CO Corporate Affairs

The meeting commenced at 10.45am.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. B O'Connell took the Chair.

At the outset, Cllr. O'Connell thanked everyone for their support during the year and he hoped that the Members found that the meetings were run efficiently during his tenure. Cllr. O'Connell also paid tribute to Cllr. M. Gleeson, Leas-Cathaoirleach who he advised more than adequately fulfilled his role.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. A. McAllen, Mr. J. Breen, Ms. N. O'Sullivan and Ms. E. Connor and everyone who supported the Killarney Municipal District Councillors during the year. Killarney is a busy place and it was unusual to have a Mayor from

outside Killarney Town. Killarney is probably economically, one of the best towns in Ireland. It has a great Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Towns Committee. It is constantly in the midst of progress.

Cllr. M. Gleeson congratulated Cllr. O'Connell and advised that Cllr. O'Connell established himself well in Killarney. Cllr. Gleeson referred to the Government decision to abolish the Town Councils and the impact that this has had on local democracy in Killarney Town. Cllr. Gleeson concluded by saying the Cllr. O'Connell had served the people well.

Cllr. B. Cronin complimented Cllr. B. O'Connell during his time as Cathaoirleach stating that he fulfilled his role with dignity and efficiency. Meetings can be difficult but Cllr. O'Connell got through them and kept them going which was much appreciated. Cllr. Cronin expressed his thanks to Ms. A. McAllen and Mr. J. Breen and all the administrative staff who supported the Councillors.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated he would like to be associated with the previous comments. The Mayor of Killarney takes in the whole Municipal District and advised that Cllr. B. O'Connell served the Municipal District well in that regard. Cllr. Culloty stated that he had the privilege as serving as Mayor of Killarney himself. It was a fulfilling role but it takes up a lot of time.

Cllr. J. Sheahan congratulated Cllr. B. O'Connell stating he had a great year as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. D. Grady thanked Cllr. O'Connell for the courtesy and fairness afforded to him and also thanked everyone in the Executive for their assistance. Cllr. Grady stated that he would like to see all the Elected Members working more closely as a Council in future. He stated he was very disappointed that Minister Phil Hogan had changed the title of Mayor to Cathaoirleach and in doing so, undermined towns like Killarney. The people deserve better than that. Cllr. Grady Proposed that a letter issue to the Department of the Housing, Planning & Local Government requesting that the title of Mayor be reinstated.

Cllr. N. Kelleher Seconded the Proposal and agreed that a letter should issue from the Members. Cllr. Kelleher stated that Cllr. O'Connell served Killarney excellently as Mayor. Castleisland is one of the three towns in the Municipal District and it is important that the role goes out to Members from other towns in the area. Cllr. Kelleher complimented the Cathaoirleach on his efficient running of the meetings and his adherence to Standing Orders. Cllr. Kelleher also thanked Cllr. M. Gleeson in his role as Leas-Cathaoirleach in which he ably assisted the Cathaoirleach and he also thanked Ms. A. McAllen, Ms. N. O'Sullivan, Ms. Eileen Connor and Ms. M. Galvin for their assistance during the year.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae complimented Cllr. B. O'Connell on a job well done and stated that his time management at meetings was impeccable. Cllr. Healy-Rae thanked the Cathaoirleach for the kindness and fairness shown to her since her co-option.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue informed the Members that Ms. A. McAllen was unable to attend the meeting and sent her apologies. On behalf of Management and staff, he thanked Cllr. B. O'Connell for the manner in which he discharged the role of Cathaoirleach during the year. The role is an important and challenging one and Mr. O'Donoghue thanked the Cathaoirleach for his commitment to same.

16.06.27.01 Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. D. Grady PROPOSED that Cllr. M. Healy-Rae be elected Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Grady stated that Cllr. M. Healy-Rae was a school teacher, was very articulate and was working well in her role as a Councillor. Cllr. Grady stated Cllr. Healy-Rae would make an excellent Cathaoirleach if elected.

This Proposal was SECONDED by Cllr. M. Healy-Rae.

Cllr. N. Kelleher PROPOSED that Cllr. B. Cronin be elected Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Kelleher stated that Cllr. B. Cronin was elected to Kerry County Council in 1999 carrying on from his father, Cllr. PJ Cronin and has successfully been elected to Kerry County Council on four occasions. Cllr. Cronin served as Chair of the Killarney Area Committee. He would be a great ambassador serving as a hard working public representative as he has done during the past 17 years.

This Proposal was SECONDED by Cllr. J. Sheahan.

Cllr. Sheahan stated that Cllr. B. Cronin has served in the Municipal District area for many years and has worked very hard during that time. He would carry out the role of Cathaoirleach well if elected.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated that as there were two nominations for Cathaoirleach, a vote would take place.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For Cllr. Healy-Rae: Cllrs. Grady, Healy-Rae **(2)**

For Cllr. Cronin: Cllrs. Cronin, Culloty, Gleeson, Kelleher, O'Connell, Sheahan **(6)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, deemed Cllr. B. Cronin to be elected Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Killarney.

Cllr. B. Cronin then took the Chair.

Cllr. Cronin thanked his Proposer, Cllr. N. Kelleher and Seconded, Cllr. J. Sheahan and also thanked the other Councillors who voted for him. Cllr. Cronin wished to commiserate with Cllr. M. Healy-Rae but was confident that as a newly co-opted politician, she would have a successful career as an Elected Member. This was a democratic process.

Cllr. Cronin stated he was honoured and humbled to be elected Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Killarney. He stated he has been a Councillor for the past 17 years, first being elected in 1999. The Cathaoirleach stated this was a great privilege and he was very proud for his family and the people of Killarney Municipal District who over the past four elections had the confidence to vote for him. Cllr. Cronin stated it was very easy to be popular but it was important to stand your ground which he has tried to do. For clarity purposes, the Cathaoirleach stated that agreement was reached regarding the election of Cathaoirleach at the end of February and he wished to thank the Councillors involved for their support. Cllr. Cronin also thanked and respected the Councillors involved for honouring his request to keep the matter confidential and his wish that no public statements were to issue on the matter. He acknowledged the extreme pressure the Councillors underwent to honour this request over the course of the past few weeks. The Members wanted stability, experience and leadership in the Municipal District and Cllr. Cronin wanted to make sure there were no attempts to undermine this. Cllr. Cronin assured the Members and the general public that he intends to carry out his duties and responsibilities in an honourable and dignified manner.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty congratulated Cllr. Cronin on his election as Cathaoirleach and stated he will be a worthy Mayor but will face a big role and task. He referred to Cllr. Cronin's late father and Councillor, PJ Cronin and said he would be looking down today with pride. Cllr. Culloty said the Cathaoirleach was a man of principle and that they did not always agree. Fairness is an attribute that is required for the role. As Cathaoirleach, you will meet a lot of people and you will experience a lot of goodwill. Cllr. Culloty said that he could not stress enough how important the role of Mayor is to Killarney. We will have to fight hard to get the title back. It is important for the villages and towns to have a Mayor. Cllr. Culloty concluded by stating that Cllr. Cronin will be a great ambassador and it was his view that this Municipal District is the best one in the country. He wished Cllr. Cronin well for the year ahead.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that the term "Mayor" was one which he has used the entire year and it was his privilege to serve as Mayor on three occasions. The role of Mayor will place an extraordinary amount of time on Cllr. Cronin's family. Cllr. Gleeson referred to the Féile Peile na nÓg which took place in Kerry over the weekend. It was

organised by the GAA and there is no other organisation that could have arranged an event like this. Mr. Donal Barry, son of former Cllr Dan Barry, was involved in the event. While at the function on Saturday night, Cllr. Gleeson was approached by a member of the European Parliament, Mr Sean Kelly who raised the matter of the importance of the term Mayor and Cllr. Gleeson asked him to raise the issue with his Party and seek its re-introduction. Cllr. Gleeson said that we live in a special place with cultural richness in the entire area which must be celebrated and promoted. He wished Cllr. Cronin well and offered his full support.

Cllr. J. Sheahan offered his congratulations to Cllr. Cronin and stated that he will be addressing him as "Mayor". This is something that we should collectively appeal to Government to reverse the use of "Cathaoirleach" and make the term "Mayor" a permanent part of this structure. He stated that Cllr. Cronin had many years of experience and will have a busy year ahead. He offered Cllr. Cronin his support and wished him the best of luck.

Cllr. B. O'Connell congratulated Cllr. Cronin and said he was delighted for him and his wife, *(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)*. Cllr. O'Connell stated that he had served with his father, the late Cllr. PJ Cronin for 8 years and he would be thrilled today if he were here. Cllr. O'Connell wished him well in his role as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae thanked Cllr. Cronin for his kind words and wished him the best of luck for the coming year. She congratulated him and his family who would be proud today. Cllr. Healy-Rae referred to a pact that her father, Deputy D. Healy-Rae had entered into 2 years previous when he was a Killarney MD Councillor. Cllr. Healy-Rae concluded by congratulating Cllr. Cronin and stated that she would continue to represent the people of her area.

Cllr. D. Grady stated that he respected the Chair of Mayor and he also was very lucky to be Mayor of Killarney in 2010 and 2011 and his father and brother, Sean served before him. He noted that Cllr. Cronin was walking in his father's footsteps. He congratulated his wife and family. This will be a hard year and offered his assistance if so required.

Cllr. B. Cronin wished the following statement to be read into the record of the meeting:

"I Brendan Cronin wish to confirm that agreement is between me solely and with the Elected Members and that no member of my family, be it my wife, my children or any other relative have any sense of entitlement if I couldn't fulfil the agreement".

Cllr. N. Kelleher congratulated Cllr. B. Cronin on being elected to the role. Cllr. Kelleher then referred to Cllr. M. Healy-Rae's comments. He stated that as Secretary of Fianna Fáil on Kerry County Council, he had entered an agreement with Cllr. D. Healy-Rae together with the Whip of Fianna Fáil, Cllr. J. Brassil. The agreement with

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae was made prior to any co-options on Kerry County Council. This agreement fell when Deputy Danny Healy-Rae was elected to Dáil Éireann. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae did not approach any member regarding creating a new deal after her co-option.

Cllr. Kelleher stated he was glad and honoured to Propose Cllr. B. Cronin. He has been an Elected Member for 17 years and was Chair of the Killarney Area Committee. This new role is an honour for both Cllr. Cronin and his wife. He stated that Cllr. Cronin was a committed public servant. He said that today was a day for him and his family and congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his election.

Cllr. B. Cronin thanked everyone for their kind words which were appreciated.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue stated that on his own behalf and on behalf of the Management, he wished to congratulate Cllr. Cronin on his election as Cathaoirleach of Killarney Municipal District. He said that Cllr. Cronin would serve with great honour and distinction. There is a social aspect to the role and it too should be enjoyed. He said this was a good day for his family and supporters. Mr. O'Donoghue wished Cllr. Cronin the very best for the year ahead.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated that his wife could not be present at the meeting but often asked if he would become Mayor. He was sure that a few people in the clouds were smiling today. He was aware of the challenges that the role posed. He referred to Britain's decision to leave the EU and the implications this may have. He stated it was time for our National Government to unite and work for common good and be sensible.

16.06.27.02 Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach

Cllr. J.J. Culloty PROPOSED that Cllr. N. Kelleher be elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.

The proposal was SECONDED by Cllr. B. O'Connell and unanimously agreed.

As no further proposal was received, Mr. L. Quinlan deemed Cllr. N. Kelleher to be elected Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Killarney.

Cllr. N. Kelleher thanked his Proposer, Cllr. J.J. Culloty and Seconder, Cllr. B. O'Connell and his other colleagues for making it a unanimous decision.

The meeting concluded at 11.15am.

Cathaoirleach of Killarney M.D.

Mr. L Quinlan
Meetings Administrator