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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILLARNEY HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 30th JUNE 2017

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CHÉAD CRUINNÍÚ BLIANTIÚIL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHILL ÁIRNE A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN 30 MEITHEAMH 2017

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
Ms. B. Conway	Meetings Administrator
Mr. P. Neary	SE Operations, Safety & Infrastructure
Ms. K. Lynch	SEO Finance
Ms. E. O'Donoghue	MD Officer
Mr. O. O'Shea	Press & Communications Officer
Mr. T. Sheehy	SE Capital Infrastructure Unit
Ms. C. Fitzgerald	ASO Corporate Affairs

The meeting commenced at 10.45am.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. B Cronin took the Chair.

At the outset, Cllr B Cronin welcomed everybody to the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Killarney. He took the opportunity to thank all the members for their support throughout the year and for trusting in him to be Cathaoirleach. He said he hoped that he carried out the role to the best of his ability. The position of Cathaoirleach is a central role in Local Government and acknowledged that he had a responsibility as Cathaoirleach to ensure that this position is respected and that the ballot box is always recognised. He thanked the staff of Kerry County Council for their support and help and, in particular, the staff of

the Town Hall, Killarney. He extended his gratitude to the Engineers of the Killarney Municipal District for the fantastic work carried out in Killarney over the last 12 months. He particularly thanked his wife and family for their support. As a member of Kerry County Council for the last 17 years, it was a tremendous honour to be elected Cathaoirleach of the Killarney Municipal District. It was an extremely busy role which involved meeting and visiting groups from all over the world. He made particular reference to meeting Fr. Shay Cullen. He said he never met an individual like him who made such a lasting impression on him. He too expressed what a privilege it was to meet Ms. Anna May McHugh, Chairperson of the National Ploughing Association and Mr. Michael Fassbender. Killarney is very privileged to have a fantastic voluntary association and complimented them on their work to the town. He referred to the many ongoing projects in the town, in particular the public consultation for the future of the Áras Pádraig. He complimented the improvement works to Plunkett Street and said that it is wonderful to see hundreds of pedestrians walking in comfort on this street. Works are currently ongoing to the Culture Centre and complimented all associated with Killarney National Park on retaining its UNESCO status. He acknowledged that difficult decisions also had to be made throughout the year and referred in particular to the CPO process for the acquisition of land for a burial ground at Knockeenduff. He made reference to the progression of both the Lough Leane Loop and the walkway from the National Park to Ross Road. He complimented the condition of the road from Flynn's Forge to Barleymount as part of the pipe replacement reinstatement programme. He also referred to the improvement works at Muckross Road and the Black Road. He took the opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work of the volunteers, the Tidy Towns Committee and Meitheal. People have tremendous pride in where they come from and this can be seen in their dedication and hard work they do in their area. He thanked everybody for their co-operation.

Cllr J.J. Culloty thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach and complimented him on a very successful year. He said as a previously elected Cathaoirleach in the Municipal District he could empathise on the difficulties and challenges of the role and the importance Killarney is to the whole of Kerry. He said that the outgoing Cathaoirleach showed fairness, diligence and did his Municipal District very proud. He wished Cllr. B. Cronin the very best for the future.

Cllr. N. Kelleher congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach on a terrific year and believed that he served as a great ambassador for Killarney and represented the Municipal District in a very orderly fashion.

Cllr. J. Sheahan thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach and congratulated him on a job well done. He said that Cllr. B. Cronin left no stone unturned and commended him on his assistance to the business community in Killarney. The town has a very high standard and the outgoing Cathaoirleach ensured that this standard was adhered to. He wished him well for the future.

Cllr. M. Gleeson congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach and referred in particular to the new Chain of Office for the Killarney Municipal District. The Chain represents all the multi aspects of Killarney, an area which is steeped in poetry, music, beauty and culture. He complimented the Cathaoirleach on the manner he showed in the chamber and said his comments were brief but appropriate. He wished Cllr. B. Cronin and his family the very best and good health in the future.

Cllr. D. Grady wished the outgoing Cathaoirleach the very best for the future. He made reference to the Cathaoirleach's comments on the recent works to Plunkett Street and said he did not agree with Cllr. B. Cronin's comments. Cllr. D. Grady stated that he was not satisfied with the works. He expressed dissatisfaction with the term of 'Cathaoirleach' and believed that the Chairperson of Killarney Municipal District deserves the title of Mayor. He requested that a letter would be forwarded to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Mr. Eoghan Murphy requesting that the title of Mayor would be reinstated.

Cllr. B. O'Connell congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach. He stated that he exercised his duties in a very professional manner. He complimented him the Cathaoirleach on dealing so efficiently with many controversial issues that had arisen in Killarney over the past twelve months.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach and said that he showed great pride in the Municipal District. She wished him well in the future.

Ms. K. Lynch sent apologies on behalf of Ms. Angela McAllen who was unable to attend the meeting. On behalf of the Executive, Ms. K. Lynch thanked Cllr. B. Cronin for his courtesy and manner he showed as Cathaoirleach. She wished him well for the future.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. B. Cronin referred to the newly commissioned Chain of Office for the Killarney Municipal District and stated that it signifies Killarney and connects us to our culture and background. He said he was very proud of the Chain and hoped that it will serve this Municipal District for generations to come. He welcomed the refurbishment of the Town Hall.

30.06.27.01 Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. J. J. Culloty PROPOSED that Cllr. N. Kelleher be elected as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. J. J. Culloty stated that he was very proud to propose Cllr. N. Kelleher as Cathaoirleach and believed that he will be an excellent representative for the Killarney Municipal District.

This proposal was SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin.

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

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that Cllr. D. Grady has been a public representative in Killarney Town Council for 15 years and served as an elected member to the Killarney Municipal District over the last 3 years. He is hard working and has given everything to representing both the Town Council and Municipal District.

Ms. B. Conway stated that as there were two nominations for Cathaoirleach, a vote would take place.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

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

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

Not Voting: None **(0)**

Mr. B. Conway, Meetings Administrator, deemed Cllr. N. Kelleher to be elected Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Killarney.

Cllr. N. Kelleher then took the Chair.

Cllr. N. Kelleher proceeded to read the following into the record of the meeting.

Being elected Mayor of the Killarney Municipal District is a great privilege and honour. I am immensely proud to be taking on this new role and I can say that it is very humbling. Three years into my first term as an elected representative, I believe I now have the knowledge to be able to approach the role from a different perspective.

I welcome the new chain of office which is representative of the entire municipal district and it's important because the town of Killarney and the hinterland, stretching to our other towns of Castleisland, my own native Rathmore and the wider communities, co-exist and are very much interlinked in our daily lives, whether through sport, through music, through work or through socialising.

I want to be a mayor that is representative of this wider community and to further promote inclusivity and dialogue amount all groups, both commercial and voluntary.

I look forward to working with groups such as the Chamber of Tourism and Commerce in Killarney, the Chamber in Castleisland, Rathmore Community Council and with the many community, voluntary and sporting organisations in the towns and villages of the Killarney Municipal District.

This is important as it's only through dialogue and sharing each other's experiences and motivations that we all move forward together, working for the greater good of our community as a whole.

We have a special and unique district and I believe we are the well placed to achieve many things but we need to constantly strive to build on this and make our community the best place to grow up in, to be educated in, to work in, to do business in and to grow old in.

I have a number of priorities as mayor which I hope to make progress on during my term in office. Parking and traffic management in Killarney is a major issue and we need to develop extra spaces. The Upper Lewis Road junction leading on the bypass road, along with a number of other junctions such as Madams Hill, coolcaslagh and Pike Hill all need to be made safer and I look forward to working with my colleagues to bring that about.

Buildings like the Aras Padraig and the Pretty Polly site are of unique importance to the town and I want to ensure that these sites are developed and life brought back into them and creating employment for our town.

My own town of Rathmore needs major development to one make it brighter, both during the day and at night and we need a vastly upgraded public lighting system there to entice business back onto our Main Street and to reopen some of the units closed during the recession.

Castleisland has many similar difficulties in that there are many vacant units. We need to introduce a rates incentive scheme for non-competing new businesses and proactively deal with the long-term parking difficulties on the Main Street as well as the lack of a proper infrastructure to allow safe turning around at the top of the town.

I have been in favour of broadcasting our meetings on the Internet and as we haven't been able to deliver this, for a variety of reasons, I'm hoping to bring our meetings into the heart of communities we represent. Instead of meeting in the same place all the time, I believe we should also go out into the community and meet the people, by hosting at least one meeting in our three towns and also for example at our airport where we can sit down with the stakeholders to see how we can help to promote this vitally important asset in our municipal district.

I'm not afraid to work hard and I'm passionate about the work I do. I am never afraid to speak my mind but I won't speak for the sake of it and if I feel it's for the betterment of the people and the area we live in, I shall continue speaking out for the people and raising their concerns.

Coming from a business background, I find it very hard sometimes to deal with the over-the-top bureaucracy which an organisation such as this can sometimes experience. I accept that we have to work within boundaries, however, but I just hope

we can work smarter and faster to get the job done which has to be to everyone's aspiration.

In the year ahead I pledge to work with all the elected members and the executive in the best interests of the people of the Killarney Municipal District to ensure our communities can go from strength to strength.

I would finally like to thank my family as without their support and patience, serving in elected office would not be possible. I truly appreciate the support they have given me, not just today but over the years.

Many thanks again to you all.

On behalf of the Executive of Kerry County Council, Ms. K. Lynch congratulated the newly elected Cathaoirleach. She stated that it was a fantastic day for both him and his family and wished him well for the year ahead.

Cllr. B. Cronin congratulated Cllr. N. Kelleher and wished him every success in his term as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. J. J. Culloty stated that the role of Cathaoirleach is a very important role. He wished Cllr. N. Kelleher the very best for the year ahead.

Cllr. M. Gleeson congratulated the newly elected Cathaoirleach and wished him every success for the year ahead.

Cllr. D. Grady congratulated Cllr. N. Kelleher and committed to supporting him in every way he could.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae congratulated the newly elected Cathaoirleach. She offered him her full support during his term as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. J. Sheahan wished the Cathaoirleach every success and said he hoped that it would be an excellent year for both of them.

Cllr. B. O'Connell stated that he had every confidence that Cllr. N. Kelleher would represent the Municipal District very efficiently.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. N. Kelleher thanked his fellow members for their kind words.

17.06.30.02 Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach

Cllr. B. Cronin PROPOSED that Cllr. J.J. Culloty be elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.

This proposal was SECONDED by Cllr. J. Sheahan.

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

Cllr D. Grady stated that Cllr. M. Healy-Rae has more than proven herself over the last 12 months. She would undertake the role as Leas-Cathaoirleach very well if elected.

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

Ms. B. Conway stated that as there were two nominations for Leas-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. Kelleher: Cllrs. Cronin, Culloty, Gleeson, Kelleher, O'Connell, Sheahan **(6)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

Cllr. N. Kelleher congratulated Cllr. J. J. Culloty on his appointment and said he looked forward to working with him through out the year.

Cllr. J. J. Culloty thanked his PROPOSER and SECONDER. He committed to supporting the Cathaoirleach to the best of his ability.

The meeting concluded at 11.25am.

Cathaoirleach of Killarney M.D.

Mr. B Conway
Meetings Administrator