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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LISTOWEL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ÁRAS AN CONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY 30th JUNE, 2017.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CHÉAD CRUINNÍÚ BLIANTIÚIL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH LIOS TUATHAIL A THIONÓLADH IN I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN 30 MEITHEAMH, 2017.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

**Cllr. R Beasley
Cllr. J Lucid
Cllr. M Kennelly
Cllr. L Purtill
Cllr. D Nolan
Cllr. A Thornton**

Absent

Cllr. J Moloney

In attendance/i láthair

Ms. J McCarthy	Delegated Executive for the Listowel MD
Mr. P Neary	SE
Ms. B Conway	Meetings Administrator
Mr. A Smith	MD Officer
Mr. O O'Shea	Press & Communications Officer
Ms. S Broderick	SO

The meeting commenced at 10.30am.

Cathaoirleach A Thornton welcomed the visitors who were observing the meeting from public gallery.

She said that she and her family have had some extremely dark and debilitating days over the past year due to the untimely death of her brother. She thanked Mr. A Smith, Ms. J McCarthy, Mr. O O'Shea, Ms. B Conway, Ms. B Reidy & Ms. S Broderick, the staff of the Listowel Municipal District offices and management and staff of Kerry County Council for their kindness, help and co-operation during her year as Cathaoirleach of the Listowel Municipal District.

As she was on leave for the retirement of Mr. Johnny Sheehan former senior executive engineer, she wished him a healthy and happy retirement and the very best for the future.

She welcomed Mr. Eamon Scanlan to Listowel and said that she looked forward to working with him.

She said that she had the pleasure of welcoming a new baby boy into her family during her term as Cathaoirleach and acknowledged the support of Cllr. M Kennelly while she was on leave. She thanked him sincerely and said that it would not have been possible to manage without his help.

She said that it is not surprising that there is a lack of females, particularly young females in politics as they have no right to maternity leave. She intends to pursue this matter to ensure that women have equal opportunities to represent the people of this country in local and national government.

She said that there has been considerable progress with regard to projects in North Kerry in the past year. The North Kerry Greenway has progressed to design stage. Works on William Street Listowel have been completed. The Heritage Plan has the potential to transform the town and Listowel is to be connected to the existing natural gas network.

Cllr. M Kennelly said he was glad to be able to assist while the Cathaoirleach was on leave. He commended her on her term as Cathaoirleach and said she was always very accommodating and inclusive of the other members.

Cllr. L Purtill congratulated Cllr. Thornton on an excellent year as Cathaoirleach of the Listowel Municipal District and said that she did a fantastic job.

On behalf of Cllr. R Beasley and herself, Cllr. D Nolan congratulated Cllr. Thornton on her achievements as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Listowel and said that she had been very fair to all parties.

On behalf of management and staff of the Listowel Municipal District, Ms. J McCarthy said that it was a pleasure to work with Cllr. A Thornton as Cathaoirleach. She thanked her for her work in promoting Listowel and wished her well for the future.

17.06.30.01 Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. M Kennelly PROPOSED that Cllr. A J Lucid be elected Cathaoirleach of the Listowel Municipal District. He said that since being co-opted to Kerry County Council in 2016, Cllr. Lucid has been a diligent and efficient representative for the people of North Kerry and is a pleasure to work with.

The proposal was SECONDED by Cllr. L Purtill who said that Cllr. J Lucid is a great communicator and would be an excellent Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

Cllr. R Beasley commended Cllr. A Thornton on doing an excellent job in her role as Cathaoirleach in the past year and said that he would be very happy to support the nomination of Cllr. J Lucid as Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

As there were no other nominations, Ms. B Conway deemed Cllr. J Lucid to be elected Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. A Thornton congratulated Cllr. J Lucid on being elected Cathaoirleach and said that she could not speak highly enough of him in the context of the honesty and integrity that he would bring to the role of Cathaoirleach of the Listowel Municipal District.

Cathaoirleach J Lucid took the Chair and welcomed all present to the meeting on this very special occasion, in particular his family and neighbours who were observing the meeting from the public gallery. He thanked his proposer and seconder and said that it was a great honour and privilege for him to be elected Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Listowel:

He read the following into the record of the meeting:

“Less than a year and a half ago I could not have possibly envisaged being in this position as the incoming Mayor of the Listowel Municipal District. Not even in my wildest dreams.

Today is a great day for me; it is a huge honour and privilege for me personally, for my family, my wider family, relations, my friends, neighbours, my parish and my own area.

I am proud to have this opportunity and I can assure you that I will carry out my new role to the best of my ability.

In March 2016 I was co-opted onto the Council seat vacated by Deputy John Brassil after his election to Dail Eireann. Since then I have learned great deal about the workings of Kerry County Council and the role it plays in the affairs of this county. Indeed that role is wide ranging and vast.

Kerry County Council is essentially about providing services such as housing, roads, footpaths, lighting, planning, environment etc, all issues that are very important to the people we represent. The Council also is about promoting, enterprise, tourism, heritage and development schemes and so son.

Our own work as Councillors has great variety, is very interesting and we get the opportunity to meet people all the time.

I look forward to the 12 months ahead with great anticipation. I look forward to promoting the Wild Atlantic Way. This tourism marketing initiative has been very successful to date and is of vital importance for the promotion of tourism in our area. It is more important now than ever given the threat of Brexit to the tourism sector. I look forward to the Wild Atlantic Way conference in September which is to be hosted in Listowel.

I will use my position to assist and drive for progress on LNG. I see this development as very important for the future of North Kerry. If it goes ahead it could well bring the beginning of the long awaited development of the landbank on the Shannon Estuary and other industries will follow. The jobs that will result will secure the future of North

Kerry and give the area a huge advantage in the fight against rural decline. We need this to give our young people the opportunity to work and live in our county.

Roads have been a constant issue since I came into the Council, I will be working together with my fellow Listowel Councillors and with management in our customary spirit and co-operation and unity to address this issue going forward.

I look forward to representing Listowel, a town famous for its great literary tradition, its heritage, sport and culture and equally to representing the other towns and villages from Tarbert to Ballybunion to Ballyheigue on the northern side and Duagh to Kilmoyley on the southern side and those in between”.

Cllr. R Beasley on behalf of Cllr. D Nolan and himself welcomed Cllr. J Lucid's election as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Listowel. He said that Cllr. Lucid would make a huge contribution to North Kerry during the coming year and it was a great honour for him and his family.

Cllr. M Kennelly congratulated Cllr. Lucid on his election as Cathaoirleach and wished him the very best for the coming year.

On behalf of management and staff of the Municipal District of Listowel, Ms. J McCarthy congratulated Cllr. Lucid on his election and said that she looked forward to working with him.

17.6.30.02 Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

Cllr. M Kennelly PROPOSED that Cllr. J Moloney be elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

The proposal was SECONDED by Cllr. L Purtill and unanimously agreed.

As there were no other nominations, Ms. B Conway deemed Cllr. J Moloney to be elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

The meeting concluded at 10.45am

Ms. B Conway
Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Listowel
Municipal District