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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TRALEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ÁRAS AN CONTAE, TRALEE ON THURSDAY 25th JUNE 2020.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CHÉAD CRUINIÚ BLIANTIÚIL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH THRÁ LÍ A THIONÓLADH IN I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, THRÁ LÍ, AR AN DÉARDAOIN, 25Ú MEITHEAMH 2020.

PRESENT/ LÁTHAIR
Councillors/Comhairleoirí

Cllr. D. Ferris
Cllr. J. Finucane
Cllr. C. Foley
Cllr. S. Locke
Cllr. M. Sheehy
Cllr. J. Wall
Cllr. T. O' Brien (Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE/ AG FREASTAL

Mr. M. Scannell	Delegated Executive for Tralee Municipal District
Mr. C. O' Connor	Meetings Administrator
Ms. Jean Foley	Municipal District Officer
Mr. O' O' Shea	Press & Communications Officer
Ms. M. C. Sweeney	A.S.O. Corporate Services

The meeting commenced at 9:30am.

Mayor J. Finucane took the Chair.

Mr. C. O' Connor outlined details of the protocols in place in relation to attendance at Council meetings which were in place to protect public health.

Mayor J. Finucane stated that this has been a very challenging year. We began advertising for expressions of interest for a permanent structure for the Rose of Tralee.

This project is more important than ever, and we cannot relent in our efforts to bring this to fruition.

As the county continues to deal with Covid-19, the economic fallout and the maintenance of employment has to be our main priority. Mayor Finucane advised that he had been involved in a number of presentations to prospective investors and a direct flight to a European Hub airport is now essential if the

whole issue of access is to be dealt with. The attempt to get a flight to Schiphol from Farranfore must now be re-energized.

The efforts to utilize public spaces to ease the pressures on small businesses will shortly come to fruition and the parking initiative begins on the 1st of July from 9a.m. to 11a.m. Free parking in all of our car parks will assist shoppers and create an ambiance in our town centre.

The Munster Technological University avenue is a significant boost as we can begin to evaluate investment in research and development.

Mayor Finucane thanked Mr. Michael Scannell, Director of Service for his commitment and his interest on the challenges that have been faced by the Municipal District. Ms. Jean Foley our Administrator, for her diligence and professionalism.

Mr. Colm Nagle, Mr. Paul O'Connor and all of the Municipal District staff for their courtesy and anxiousness to drive on. The elected members are very fortunate with the calibre of people in Tralee Municipal District and owe them a debt of gratitude.

Mayor Finucane also wished to thank and pay tribute to his Deputy Mayor Cllr. Sam Locke for his endeavours and his assistance throughout the year.

Cllr. S. Locke thanked Mayor Finucane for his leadership as Mayor and stated that it was a pleasure to serve with him as he had been excellent in the role.

Cllr. T. O' Brien thanked Mayor Finucane and stated that he was a very honourable Mayor, who was always fair in the Chamber and led with a steady sure hand for the benefit of Tralee and it's people.

Cllr. D. Ferris stated that as she had only recently been co-opted to the Council, she had found Mayor Finucane's support in this new role as a Councillor to be very beneficial.

Cllr. M. Sheehy congratulated Mayor Finucane on his term in office and stated that the last 3 months have been particularly difficult. The assistance he had personally received from Mayor Finucane since his election the previous year had been of tremendous benefit to him.

Cllrs. J. Wall and C. Foley echoed the sentiments of the previous speakers.

Mr. M. Scannell thanked Mayor Finucane for his leadership over the previous year and stated that the consistency shown by the Tralee Municipal District Members in relation to the promotion of the Municipal District had been exemplary. There have been tough decisions made over the course of the year, but we are all working toward the development of Tralee and its environs.

Election of Mayor

Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED that Cllr. T. O' Brien be elected as Mayor of Tralee and stated that Cllr. O' Brien is a shining example to all of us, someone with great personal integrity.

The PROPOSAL was SECONDED by Cllr. M. Sheehy who stated that Cllr. O' Brien has been a steadfast public servant over many years and always works extremely hard for the benefit of Tralee and its people. Cllr. O' Brien's stewardship of Tralee Warriors has been fantastic.

As there were no further nominations, Cllr. J. Finucane declared Cllr. T. O' Brien to be elected Mayor.

Cllr. T. O' Brien took the chair.

Mayor T. O' Brien stated that he was delighted to become Mayor. That this was his 5th time and it is always a special honour as Tralee is a great town to be the Mayor of. We are facing very difficult times; we have no formal government and are unsure of what funding will be available for the year.

Mayor T. O' Brien stated that as the Municipal District is now faced with the challenge of economic recovery in the town, there was no doubt in his mind that Tralee would rise to this challenge and overcome it.

Mayor T. O' Brien further stated that the Municipal District always do what is best for the town because everyone is united in their love for it.

In the coming year there are a number of initiatives:

- ***Safe Destination Programme***
- ***Built Heritage Grant funding Scheme***
- ***Application to Urban Regeneration Development Fund***
- ***Denny site development – for public access and their benefit – next phase hopefully investment ready***
- ***Town regeneration – shared space***
- ***Tralee to Fenit Greenway***
- ***Link from Cockleshell to The Spa***
- ***Blennerville (Windmill Centre) has rich history***

Mayor T. O' Brien stated that the county will be the hardest hit in this economic crisis but if we all work together, we will make a full recovery.

The housing programme is very strong and compared to some other places we are doing well. Connolly Park, Ballyrickard and Ashgrove are examples of this.

One of the most important projects for the county is the new University status for the ITT. The benefits of this will be seen for many years to come.

This year Tralee has lost the Rose of Tralee Festival, but it will be back bigger and better next year. The Mayor asked whether the Féile na mBlath Festival could be held the last week in August or the first week of September.

With regard to the Tidy Towns, volunteers will be able to recommence their valuable work in the coming weeks. Our volunteers are very important and should never be taken for granted.

Mayor T. O' Brien thanked his wife Teresa and his children Mark and Millie, stating that it was very important to him that they were present on the day. There are two other important people who would normally have been in attendance who unfortunately cannot be here, and we are thinking of them both.

Mayor T. O' Brien thanked those present in the Chamber for electing him as Mayor and looked forward to the year ahead.

Cllr. C. Foley extended his congratulations to Mayor O' Brien and stated that the county will face many challenges in the coming months but that they were very well equipped to deal with it.

Cllr. D. Ferris extended her congratulations to Mayor O' Brien and added that she wanted to personally thank him for always being honest and speaking his mind. Cllr. Ferris stated that she looked forward to working with him in the coming year.

Cllr. J. Wall stated that Mayor O' Brien had years of experience and that he would be a great leader for Tralee.

Cllr. S. Locke stated that it was a great achievement to have been selected as Mayor of Tralee for a fifth time. This will be a very difficult year as we look to recover from this crisis but that he fully supported Mayor O' Brien in helping Tralee get back on its feet. Cllr. Locke further added that there were no doubts in his mind that Mayor O' Brien would make the best decisions for Tralee in the coming year.

Mr. M. Scannell stated that he has worked with the Mayor in previous years and had no doubt that he would do a fantastic job in his capacity as Mayor. We have stunning amenities, Tralee Bay Wetlands, Tralee Town Park, Canal Bank, Cockleshell walk and the Tralee to Fenit Greenway. Tralee is fast becoming an outdoor destination of choice. The last 3 months have given us time to reflect on what amenities we actually have.

20.06.25.02 Election of Deputy Mayor

Cllr. S. Locke PROPOSED that Cllr. J. Finucane be elected as Deputy Mayor and stated that Cllr. Finucane had shown fantastic leadership over the previous year and it would be advantageous to have him in the role of Deputy Mayor this year.

The proposal was SECONDED by Cllr. M. Sheehy.

As there were no further nominations, Mayor T.O'Brien declared Cllr. J. Finucane to be elected Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. T. O' Brien congratulated Cllr. J. Finucane on his election as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. J. Finucane said that he was very pleased and honoured to be elected as Deputy Mayor of Tralee Municipal District. He thanked his proposer and seconder and stated that there is an excellent team in the Tralee Municipal District whom he was proud to work with.

Mayor T. O' Brien stated that he wanted to make the Chamber aware of a campaign currently running in relation to a local child who was seriously ill, which he wished to support - "Help bring Ducky O' Sé home". He belongs to a Noísiu Laide and if anyone sees him please return him to his rightful owner.

Any Other Business

To agree a date for the following meetings of Tralee Municipal District.

It was agreed that the next Tralee MD meeting would be held on Monday 06 July 2020 @10:00a.m.

The meeting concluded at 10.10am.

Christy O' Connor
Meetings Administrator

Cllr. Terry O' Brien
Mayor of the Municipal District of Tralee