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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KENMARE HELD IN POBALSCOIL INBHEAR SCÉINE, KENMARE ON FRIDAY 26th JUNE 2020.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CRUINNÍÚ BLIANTIÚIL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH NEIDÍN A THIONÓLADH I POBALSCOIL INBHEAR SCÉINE NEIDÍN. AR AN hAOINE 26 MEITHEAMH, 2020.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR
Councillors/Comhairleoirí

Cllr. M. Cahill
Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen
Cllr. D. McCarthy
Cllr. N. Moriarty
Cllr. J. F. Flynn.

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Mr. M. O' Donoghue	Delegated Executive Kenmare MD
Mr. P. Corkery	Meetings Administrator.
Ms. S. Griffin	Municipal District Officer
Mr. O' O' Shea	Press Officer
Ms. C. Fitzgerald	S.O Corporate Affairs

The meeting commenced at 10.40am.

At the outset of the meeting Mr. P. Corkery, Meetings Administrator went through the protocol for Municipal District Meetings during COVID-19.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach D. McCarthy welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said when elected as Cathaoirleach in June 2019, nobody could have envisaged what the next twelve months would bring. He wished to thank everyone for their efforts in the fight against COVID-19, the Healthcare workers and the various organisations. He wished to thank the staff of Kerry County Council for their help and assistance and in particular the MD Manager Mr. M. O' Donoghue, Ms. S. Griffin, Mr. P. Teahan, the extended staff of the Kenmare Municipal District and the staff of Corporate Services. He said that it was a very proud honour for both himself and his family to be the first Cathaoirleach of the Kenmare Municipal District.

Mr. M. O' Donoghue thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach for his help and assistance over the last twelve months and said that he was always very sincere and courteous to the staff. It was an honour for both himself and his

family to be the first Cathaoirleach of the Kenmare Municipal District of what was an exceptional year. He wished him the very best for the future.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach on being a fantastic Cathaoirleach. He said that it has been an honour for him that the Municipal District Meetings have been held in his hometown of Kenmare. He acknowledged that this has been a very unusual year during the COVID-19 pandemic and hopefully the county is starting to reopen and begin to recover. He wished him the best for the future.

Cllr. J. F. Flynn wished to congratulate the outgoing Cathaoirleach on a very successful year. He said that he had been a very fair Cathaoirleach and wished him well for the future.

Cllr. N. Moriarty congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach on a very successful year and said that it was a very challenging year and he was without doubt the man for the job. She complimented him on his leadership, in particular his role within the Kenmare Mart. She said that he is an absolute gentleman and has been very easy to work with, found solutions and was always very fair to everyone and have no doubt he would be back in the future.

Cllr. M. Cahill congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach on a very successful year. He said that he was always very fair, very courteous and allowed the members raise very important issues for their constituents. It has been a great honour for him and his family and wished him the best for the future.

20.06.26.01 Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. N. Moriarty PROPOSED Cllr. J. F. Flynn to be elected Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED the Proposal.

Mr. P. Corkery stated as no further proposals were made, he deemed Cllr. J. F. Flynn to be elected Cathaoirleach.

Cathaoirleach J. F. Flynn took the chair.

Cllr. D McCarthy congratulated the newly elected Cathaoirleach. He said that it is a very proud day for both himself and his family and wished him the best for the year ahead.

The newly elected Cathaoirleach thanked his proposer Cllr. N. Moriarty and seconder Cllr. M. Cahill. It has been a very difficult year, however as a council we have learned how to adapt and referred in particular to the webex meetings and complimented the council staff on facilitating these meetings so smoothly. He thanked the media for their continuous coverage of the Municipal District meetings and informing the public on council issues. He welcomed the announcement of funding for just over €1m for Caherciveen Town from the Department of Rural and Community Affairs and the Community

Development's Rural Regeneration Fund which will be used to fund the Caherciveen Town Regeneration Project. He said that it was very important that the hospitals begin to operate all services again as normal. He offered a vote of sympathy to the family of Niall Crowley who recently passed away. He said that Mr. Crowley was the Director of Elections for Fianna Fáil and was always very helpful to both himself and Cllr. Norma Moriarty. In conclusion he wished to thank the Municipal District staff, Mr. M. O' Donoghue, M. S. Griffin, Mr. P. Teahan, the M.D. Engineers and Mr. P. Corkery Meetings Administrator and all the staff of Corporate Services.

Mr M. O' Donoghue congratulated the incoming Cathaoirleach and assured him of the support of both himself and the staff and management of Kerry County Council. He also wished to be associated with the sentiments expressed for Mr. Niall Crowley.

Cllr. M. Cahill congratulated the incoming Cathaoirleach and wished him the very best on his term. There will be difficult decisions to be made over COVID-19. This county is facing huge issues in particular the hospitality sector and need assistance from the incoming Government. It is also a very tough time for students who are facing the cost of accommodation and for some students who have been unable to get employment during the Summer months, it is particularly difficult. He welcomed the funding for Caherciveen Town under The Town Regeneration Project which will hopefully lead to a big investment into the town. He thanked Mr. P. Teahan, Ms. S. Griffin and Mr. D. Doyle for all the work they put into the application. In addition, he hoped that planning would be granted for the South Kerry Greenway. In Conclusion, he too wished to be associated with the comments expressed for Mr. Niall Crowley. He was a brilliant man to Killorglin, he helped with the setting up of Library Place and Fexco. May he Rest in Peace.

Cllr. N. Moriarty congratulated the newly elected Cathaoirleach and wished to be associated with the sympathies expressed for Mr. Niall Crowley and said that he had left a void that will never be filled. This county has an enormous challenge given our dependency on tourism. It is critically important that funding is sought from Central Government and Europe to assist businesses. Clarity must be sought on the allocation of grants from Fáilte Ireland which will assist Hotels to open. She too wished to be associated with the comments expressed following the announcement of the funding for Caherciveen Town. The funding is very welcomed and wished to thank all who worked on the application. It has lifted the town. It is also important that the development of the South Kerry Greenway is supported, the Iveragh Peninsula is hugely important to the economy of this county and along with the Dingle Peninsula it is what the county is marked on. She too wished to support the comments expressed by Cathaoirleach regarding the opening of all Medical Services and hospitals. She also stated that it is hugely important that the SME (Small to Medium Enterprise) sector is supported, a steady, cohesive hand is needed in this sector to leverage funding from LEADER. It is money unspent and if this county doesn't submit projects, the funding will go elsewhere.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen congratulated the newly elected Cathaoirleach and said that as Cathaoirleach of the former South & West Kerry Municipal District he did his duties very well and made himself available to his constituents and have no doubt he will again for the year ahead. This county is entering into very difficult times and it is important that the Elected Members lobby the county's Oireachtas members and Government for funding. In relation to the Health Services, he welcomed the commencement of services. He welcomed the funding for Caherciveen Town, it is a great boost for the town following the issues with the Direct Provision Centre. He proposed that a letter would issue to the incoming Minister for Justice requesting that they would consider meeting with the members of the Kenmare Municipal District to discuss the issue of Direct Provision Centres in the Kenmare Municipal District. Cathaoirleach J. F. Flynn seconded the proposal. It was agreed that a letter would issue to the incoming Minister for Justice regarding this matter. In conclusion, he asked that all would be done to provide additional car parking in this Municipal District.

Cllr. D McCarthy congratulated the newly elected Cathaoirleach and wished him the best for the year ahead. This pandemic has devastated our economy and asked that everyone would support local businesses and promote holidaying locally. From a farming prospective it has been a very difficult time trying to sell cattle. He referred to the €50m support package for beef farmers recently announcement by the Government and said he was hoping that similar funding schemes will be introduced for both the dairy farmers and sheep farmers. In conclusion he too welcomed the funding for Caherciveen Town.

20.06.26.02 Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

Cllr. N. Moriarty PROPOSED that Cllr D. McCarthy be elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen SECONDED this proposal.

Mr. P. Corkery stated as no further proposals were made, he deemed Cllr. D. McCarthy to be elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.

20.06.26.03 Consideration of urgent Kenmare Municipal District Business

On the PROPOSAL of the Cllr. D. McCarthy and SECONDED by Cllr. N. Moriarty it was agreed that that next Kenmare Municipal District meeting would be held on Friday 31st July 2020 in Pobalscoil Inbheár Scéine, Kenmare.

Mr. M. O' Donoghue referred to the protocol for meetings during COVID-19 and said that due to the time restrictions of two hours for the meeting, it is important

that the time is managed to allow all Notice of Motions and Questions be dealt with.

Cllr. M. Cahill asked that consideration be given to hold future Municipal District meetings in the Killorglin Community Centre or the Glenbeigh Sports Hall.

Cathaoirleach J. F. Flynn said that due to the success of the web ex meetings, he asked that this Municipal District could look at the possibility of facilitating future Municipal District briefings through web ex if required.

The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.

Pádraig Corkery
Meetings Administrator

J. F. Flynn
Cathaoirleach of Kenmare
Municipal District