

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LISTOWEL HELD IN LISTOWEL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE ON THURSDAY 25th JUNE 2020

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CHÉAD CRUINIÚ BLIANTIÚIL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH LIOS TUATHAIL A THIONÓLADH IONAD ACMHAINNÍ TEAGHLAIGH LIOS TUATHAIL AR AN DÉARDAOIN 25ú JUNE 2020.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

**Cllr. T. Barry
Cllr. R. Beasley
Cllr. M. Foley
Cllr. M Kennelly
Cllr. J Moloney
Cllr. A Thornton**

In attendance/i láthair

Mr. J. Kennelly	Listowel MD Manager
Mr. P. Corkery	MD Meetings Administrator
Mr. A. Smith	MD officer
Mr D Mahony	MD Engineer
Ms. C. Fitzgerald	SO Corporate Support

The meeting commenced at 15:00

At the onset of the meeting Mr. P. Corkery advised all on the Protocol for Municipal District Meetings during COVID-19. He added that due to COVID-19 restrictions the traditional handing over of the Cathaoirleach chain wouldn't apply and the chain would be displayed on a separate table for the incoming Cathaoirleach.

20.06.25.01 Election of Cathaoirleach

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Moloney welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their support throughout the year. He stated that some of the highlights of the year included showing the Entente Floral Jury around Listowel and attending Austria where Listowel Town represented Ireland in this competition. He acknowledged the investment into the Listowel Greenway and the work which has been done on the N69 Listowel By-pass. Progression has been made on the Regional Roads and he hoped that funding would continue to advance these works. The last three months had been very strange, in particular the webex meetings and wished to thank the staff of Kerry County Council for facilitating these meetings. Due to the current crisis he noted that a number of projects are presently up in the air but hoped that they would advance.

Cllr. M. Kennelly proposed Cllr. M. Foley as Cathaoirleach for the Listowel Municipal District. Cllr. M. Foley was elected to Kerry County Council in 2019 and has been a hardworking and diligent councillor for his constituents. He is a Fine Gael party colleague and I look forward to working with him in the year ahead.

Cllr. A. Thornton seconded the proposal.

Cllr. R. Beasley Proposed Cllr. T. Barry to be elected Cathaoirleach of the Listowel Municipal District. Cllr. T. Barry has been an outstanding councillor for the Listowel Municipal District over the last number of years.

Cllr. T. Barry seconded the proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted in the following

For Cllr. M. Foley: Cllrs: M. Foley, M Kennelly. J. Moloney. A. Thornton **(4)**

For Cllr. T. Barry: Cllrs: Beasley, Barry. **(2)**

Absent – (0)

Mr. P. Corkery declared Cllr. M. Foley as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. M. Foley took the chair and proceeded to read the following into the record of the meeting.

I would like to thank Cllr. M. Kennelly for proposing me and Cllr. A. Thornton for seconding me and our outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Moloney for his impartial chairmanship over the last year. I also wish to thank those who put their faith in me around this time last year to elect me.

It is a great honour for me to get this opportunity and I look forward to working with John Kennelly our MD Manager, staff of Kerry County Council and my fellow Councillors for the betterment of the people in our area.

Living with the Coronavirus has been difficult for everyone. We should especially remember those whose lives were cut short because of the virus our thoughts are with their families at this time. We also recognise the huge sacrifices made by our front-line health workers, Doctors, Nurses, Care Staff, Catering staff and Cleaning staff who put themselves in danger every day with the possibility of endangering their own family to protect each and everyone of us. Not forgetting the unsung heroes in our retail food stores, An Garda Siochana, Council Staff, delivery drivers, An Post workers, and domestic bin collection workers who carried on regardless during the close down.

As we ease the COVID 19 restrictions this brings huge uncertainty on whether the numbers affected by the virus will stay abated and uncertainty for our economy. Here in the Listowel MD we as Councillors must ensure that businesses in particular get every opportunity to get back to trading and ensure that Kerry County Council is properly funded to deliver services to the county.

Global Tourism and travel are estimated to decline by 60-80% in 2020 and with a slight recovery projected for 2021. The tourist industry to Kerry in terms of income was worth around €550m in 2019. This year it is predicted the tourism industry in Kerry will lose €400m (approx. 70% loss). Recent reports and commentary have highlighted the huge importance of outdoor tourism into the future in contrast to

indoor activities. We now have two major assets on our doorstep: The Wild Atlantic Way and The Greenway. It is important that the Greenway Listowel is rapidly progressed and possibly expedited as the domestic tourism trade must be utilised to its full potential also taking advantage of our natural assets especially along the Wild Atlantic Way until international tourism recovers. We should also be looking at a walking trail along our coast incorporating existing trails like the North Kerry Way and the Shannon Way. This could lead to a walking trail from Tralee to Tarbert for the more adventurous walker, with the potential of making a walking route right along the west coast from Kerry to Donegal. This is something a group that I am involved in has been working on over the last year and which has been presented to Minister Brendan Griffin, Minister for Tourism & Sport called "The Slí"

With the growing numbers of unemployment due to the virus we must promote our natural resources. Located in our area is the Shannon Estuary an untapped resource and is the engine of the west of Ireland. With its deep access waters we should be encouraging the development of the Tarbert/ Ballylongford Landbank which has huge potential to deliver sustainable employment and encouraging the potential investment of 1.8bn by New Fortress Energy in the area by assisting them in every way possible. Let's see the Estuary Flow with development for our people while keeping its natural beauty.

Sometimes I feel that our large towns are more advantaged by the way of funding to the detriment of our villages. There is need for more concentration of funding towards our villages which has been neglected for the last number of years by encouraging local projects and working with local organisations such as Development Associations, Sporting Organisations & Tidy Towns Committees. Since I got elected last year, I have been raising the issue of vacant properties in our county and requesting an incentive for potential purchaser. This would revitalise our rural Towns & Villages.

I look forward to the year ahead in these uncertain times and all the challenge that they may bring.

Thank you.

Cllr. A Thornton thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach for his cooperation throughout the year and in particular for facilitating the webex meetings. She congratulated the incoming Cathaoirleach Cllr. M. Foley on his appointment and offered him her full support for the year ahead.

Cllr. R. Beasley congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach J. Moloney and complimented him on his cooperation, courtesy and treating everyone fairly. It was unfortunate the impact COVID-19 has had on the year. In addition, he complimented the outgoing Cathaoirleach on his success and involvement with the Tidy Towns Committee. He congratulated the incoming Cathaoirleach M. Foley and said he had no doubt that he will be an excellent Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. T. Barry congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach on a job well done and said that he was always a very fair Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. M. Kennelly congratulated the incoming Cathaoirleach and paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Moloney. Nobody envisaged what was ahead of you, it was a very difficult burden to carry and congratulated him on his term.

Cllr. M. Foley thanked all for their kind words. As the Listowel MD meeting will not be held in Áras an Phiarsaigh for the foreseeable future, he asked that consideration would be given to rotate the Listowel Municipal District meetings within the villages of this Municipal District. It would be an opportunity to show the public how the council meetings operate.

20.06.25.02 Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

Cllr. A. Thornton PROPOSED Cllr. M. Kennelly as Leas-Cathaoirleach.
Cllr. M. Foley SECONDED the proposal.

Cllr. R. Beasley PROPOSED Cllr. T. Barry as Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. T. Barry SECONDED the proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted in the following

For Cllr. M. Kennelly: Cllrs: M. Foley, M Kennelly. J. Moloney. A. Thornton **(4)**

For Cllr. R. Beasley: Cllrs: Beasley, Barry. **(2)**

Absent – (0)

Mr. P. Corkery declared Cllr. M. Kennelly as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. M. Kennelly thanked both his proposer and seconder and said that he looked forward to working with his fellow councillors and council staff on the year ahead.

Cllr. T. Barry congratulated Cllr. M. Kennelly and wished him well for the year.

Cllr. M. Foley congratulated Cllr. M. Kennelly on his appointment and offered him best wishes.

20.06.25.03 Consideration of urgent Listowel Municipal District Business

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. R. Beasley and SECONDED by Cllr. A. Thornton it was agreed to hold the July Listowel Municipal District meeting on 13th July at the Listowel Family Resource Centre.

SouthDoc services

Cllr. R. Beasley stated that it had recently been brought to his attention that South DOC services had returned to both Tralee and Killarney but not Listowel. A lot of people rely on this service and asked that every effort would be made to ensure the service was reinstated in the town.

Cllr. M. Foley wished to support the comments expressed by Cllr. Beasley and advised that there have been discussions to re-open the service at certain times.

Cllr. M. kennelly also wished to support the previous comments and said as a member of the H.S.E. Forum, he undertook to relay the concerns back to the committee.

Irish Water

Cllr. M. Kennelly referred to the Listowel Elected Member's request to Irish Water asking that a Senior Staff member of Irish Water attend a future Municipal District meeting to discuss the replacing of water mains in Listowel town. He expressed frustration that there has been further outbreaks in the Municipal District and in particular the Moyvane area where the pipes were supposed to be replaced in the last number of years. He proposed that the members again write to Irish Water requesting an urgent meeting with them regarding this matter.

Cllr. J. Moloney seconded the proposal and advised that Irish Water had recently responded to the initial request, advising that they wouldn't be in a position to attend the Listowel Municipal District meeting.

It was agreed that a letter would issue to Irish Water asking to reconsider this request.

Shannon LNG & Ballylongford Landbank

Cllr. M. Foley proposed that the members would offer their full support to the Ballylongford Landbank and the Shannon LNG project. It is vital for the economic viability of this area.

Cllr. R. Beasley wished to support Cllr. M. Foley's comments.

The meeting concluded at 15.25.

Mr. P. Corkery
Meetings Administrator

Cllr. M. Foley
Cathaoirleach of Listowel
Municipal District