**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS**

**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of South Dublin County Council held on 29th June **2018**.

PRESENT

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillors** |  | **Councillors** |
| Bonner, B. |  | Lawlor, B. |
| V. Casserly. |  | Leech, B. |
| Donovan, P. |  | Looney, D. |
| Duff, M. |  | Mahon, K. |
| Duffy, F. |  | Mc Cann, C. |
| Dunne, L. |  | McMahon, C. |
| Egan, K. |  | McMahon, R. |
| Ferron, B. |  | Murphy, E. |
| Foley, P. |  | Murphy, M. |
| Genockey, M. |  | Nolan, R. |
| Gilligan, T. |  | O’Brien, D. |
| Gogarty, P. |  | O’Brien, E. |
| Graham, J. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Hendrick, E. |  | O’Connor, C. |
| Higgins, E. |  | O’Donovan, D. |
| Holland, S. |  | O’Toole, L. |
| Johansson, M. |  | Richardson, D. |
| Kearns, P. |  | Russell, R. |
| King, C. |  | Timmons, F. |
| Lavelle, W. |  | Ward, M. |
|  |  |  |

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin. |
| Directors/ Heads of Function  A/Head of Function  Head of Finance | L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, F. Nevin.  L. Leonard.  R. FitzGerald |
| Senior Executive Officer | H. Hogan, M. Staunton, S. Deegan |
| Administrative Officers | C. Murphy, N. Noonan, |
| Clerical Officer  IT. Support  Sord | M. Dunne.  R. Saiz.  A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor Councillor P. Gogarty presided.

At the commencement of the meeting and in advance of the execution of statutory business as set out on the agenda, the Mayor welcomed all Members, management, staff, and the public to the Annual Meeting 2018.

**TRIBUTES TO OUTGOING MAYOR**

The Chief Executive Mr. D. Mc Loughlin expressed his thanks to the outgoing Mayor for all his hard work during his term in office.

The Chief Executive Mr. D. McLoughlin presented the Mayor with a photographic record of his year as Mayor.

**H1/AM/18 ELECTION OF MAYOR / AN MÉARA**

The outgoing Mayor Councillor P. Gogarty called for nominations for the position of Mayor.

**Councillor Vicki Casserly** was proposed by Councillor Guss O’Connell and was seconded by Councillor Emer Higgins.

**Councillor Mark Ward** was proposed by Councillor Cathal King and was seconded was by Councillor Breeda Bonner.

**Councillor Madeline Johannsson** was proposed by Councillor Emma Hendrick and was seconded by Councillor Mick Murphy.

A roll call vote was then taken

**For Councillor V. Casserly: 15**

**Cllr V. Casserly, Cllr P. Donovan, Cllr K. Egan, Cllr T. Gilligan, Cllr P. Gogarty, Cllr J. Graham, Cllr E. Higgins, Cllr W. Lavelle, Cllr B. Lawlor, Cllr C. McMahon, Cllr R. McMahon, Cllr G. O’ Connell, Cllr D. O’ Donovan Cllr L. O’ Toole** and **Cllr F. Timmons**

**For Councillor M. Ward: 16**

**Cllr B. Bonner, Cllr M. Duff, Cllr F. Duffy, Cllr L. Dunne, Cllr B. Ferron, Cllr M. Genockey, Cllr S. Holland, Cllr P. Kearns, Cllr C. King, Cllr D. Looney, Cllr C. Mc Cann, Cllr R. Nolan, Cllr D. O’ Brien, Cllr D. Richardson, Cllr R. Russell** and **Cllr M. Ward**

**For Madeline Johannsson: 5**

**Cllr E. Hendrick, Cllr M. Johannsson, Cllr B. Leech Cllr K. Mahon** and **Cllr M. Murphy**

**Abstention: 4**

**Cllr P. Foley, Cllr E. Murphy, Cllr E. O’Brien** and **Cllr C. O’ Connor**

As no candidate received the vote of the majority of the members present the candidate receiving the least number of votes is to be eliminated and another roll call vote taken.

As **Councillor M. Johannsson** received the least number of votes she was eliminated.

A second roll call vote was then taken

**For Councillor V. Casserly 15**

**Cllr V. Casserly, Cllr P. Donovan, Cllr K. Egan, Cllr T. Gilligan, Cllr P. Gogarty, Cllr J. Graham, Cllr E. Higgins, Cllr W. Lavelle, Cllr B. Lawlor, Cllr C. McMahon, Cllr R. McMahon, Cllr G. O’ Connell, Cllr D. O’ Donovan Cllr L. O’ Toole** and **Cllr F. Timmons**

**For Councillor M. Ward: 16**

**Cllr B. Bonner, Cllr M. Duff, Cllr F. Duffy, Cllr L. Dunne, Cllr B. Ferron, Cllr M. Genockey, Cllr S. Holland, Cllr P. Kearns, Cllr C. King, Cllr D. Looney, Cllr C. Mc Cann, Cllr R. Nolan, Cllr D. O’ Brien, Cllr D. Richardson, Cllr R. Russell** and **Cllr M. Ward**

**Abstention: 9**

**Cllr P. Foley, Cllr E. Hendrick, Cllr M. Johannsson, Cllr B. Leech, Cllr K. Mahon, Cllr E. Murphy, Cllr M. Murphy, Cllr E. O’Brien** and **Cllr C. O’Connor**

**Councillor Mark Ward** was elected Mayor for 2018/2019

The outgoing Mayor Councillor Paul Gogarty presented the new Mayor Councillor Mark Ward with the Chain of Office, and the Mayor then took the chair.

The new Mayor then addressed the Members:

*A Chairde,*

*Before I start I want to extend my commiserations to Cllr Casserly and I’ve no doubt that you will make an excellent Mayor sometime in the future.*

*I want to acknowledge the year that outgoing Mayor Paul Gogarty had. One memory I will keep is when the Dublin Team visited Clondalkin. The Mayor was carrying out his duties on the bus with the team and I was to take over for the reigns at the function in my club Round Towers. I was walking up Tower Road when all of a sudden the Mayor came running towards me from the crowds and gave me a big high five saying you’re on now.*

*I proudly seconded the nomination of the deputy mayor Breeda Bonner last year and I want to congratulate her on a wonderful year and in fulfilling the role with such class.*

*I am extremely humbled today to be elected as the Mayor of South County Dublin, the first citizen of this County. It’s an honour to represent the County. As a North Clondalkin boy I am the first person from my area to hold this office. This fills me with pride, not only for myself but my area in general.*

*My 3 children are here today, Aibi, Muirinn and Oisin who inspire me every day and I probably embarrass them in equal measures. Oisin thinks the Mayor is a bad guy out of Gotham and that somehow I out to thwart Batman. I’m not sure I’ve convinced him that this is not the case.*

*My parents are also here and I know this is a proud day for them. My Dad Billy has worked his whole life to provide for us. He spent 25 years in the Irish Army and served his country both at home and abroad with distinction. Army pay as we know is poor and my Dad sometimes worked up to 3 jobs to put food on the table. His hard work was defiantly something that I got from him.*

*When my Dad was in the Army it was prohibited for him to support Sinn Fein as we were seen as a subversive organisation. My Dad actively spoke against this and said that he would be voting Sinn Fein. I remember as a child that here was my Dad, who was honest and hardworking breaking the rules for something he believed in. This was my first experience of pushing back against the status quo.*

*I want to acknowledge my Mam Joan who carried out the important matriarchal role in our home. She was always there for us and often went without so we could have something. Then my Mam did something that turned my world upside down. She got a job. I didn’t know Mammy’s worked. In her own way my Mam pushed back against the oppression that women were under in the 80s.*

*I want to recognise the anniversary of the suffragette movement. It is 100 years since the suffragette movement that seen women get the right to vote in 1918 but not every woman – just women over 30, who had property rights or a university education.*

*100 years later and women are still unshackling the chains of oppression. The repeal the 8th referendum has gone some way in restoring parity and to erode our two tiered society.*

*My Mam gave me the nickname of Citizen Smith early on as I was always in the middle of some protest or dispute in my community. She told me on a number of occasions that if I kept going the way I was going I would end up in chains. As usual you were right Mammy.*

*Just today I was on the picket line with Lloyds Pharmacy workers across 3 different locations. I want to send them my solidarity and support as they strike for fair pay, sick pay and the end to zero hour contracts.*

*On local level I want to thank the members of the Cumans in Dublin Mid-West. I and Danny are just the public face to all your hard work and dedication to our cause.*

*I want to acknowledge the advice and guidance I get from the man I replaced on this Council Deputy Eoin O Broin.*

*King for all your help since I started this role and the leadership you have shown during my time on the Council.  Hopefully my days of giving you sleepless nights have stopped.*

*I want to recognise the members of the progressive alliance who despite making some big decisions recently based on principles before personalities, have managed to maintain a level of stability in this Council and I look forward to working with you for the betterment of this County in the year to come.*

*Growing up in North  Clondalkin Sinn Fein were the only party that I could see that was visible on the ground but could never get elected due to some controversial boundary changes.  A lot of people became frustrated and left the party over the years. One man who didn’t give up was Tommy Grant. I’d say I’m in trouble with him as he is a man who stays behind the scenes, he is like the wind that shakes the barley. Under Tommy’s stewardship DMW Sinn Fein have a TD, councillors in Clondalkin and Lucan and now a Mayor. Go raibh maith agat.*

*North Clondalkin was a hub of republicanism when I was growing up and I naturally was attracted to these beliefs. The curriculum that I was thought in school was not the history of my country. I had to go out and find and discover our rich history myself.*

*I became enthralled by the likes of Wolf Tone the Father of Republicanism .I am mindful that this is the 220 anniversary of his execution after he led the 1798 Irish Rebellion. His words are still relevant today “Many suffer so that someday all Irish People may know justice and peace”*

*I discovered the heroes of 1916 who were rightly commemorated across the country two years ago. This is something we do in Sinn Fein every Easter.*

*The hunger strikes of 1981 still enthral me to this day and fill me with such reverence to the men that sacrificed themselves for the betterment of their comrades and the advancement of our cause.*

*Irish unity is a core belief of Sinn Fein and I was proud that a motion co-signed by myself and Cathal King calling for a border poll in Irish Unity was the first such motion passed in the wake of Brexit in the Country.*

*Its 20 years since the Good Friday agreement and being a Republican in the modern day is different in many ways. Personally I believe that in my role as local Councillor that every footpath I get fixed, every person that gets housed, every tree that gets cut brings us closer to Irish Unity*

*I have been asked what my theme or goals of my year in Mayor is going to be and I’ve only 3 words to answer that , housing, housing and housing.*

*Housing is my number one priority as mayor.  
  
I want to see South Dublin County Council be the lead agency in the delivery of social and affordable housing.  
  
To address the homelessness crisis, to cut council housing waiting lists and to provide a real supply of affordable rental and sale properties.  
  
This means increased funding for central government.  
  
But is also means increasing the pipeline of Part 8 planning permissions through the Council.  
  
And increasing the return of vacant homes into active use.  
  
We need to change the debate about public housing.  
  
We need to see large scale public housing built on public land with public finance.  
  
We need to see mixed income and mixed tenure communities with social, affordable rental and affordable sale homes alongside proper amenities and economic opportunities.  
  
The Governments imposing off public private partnerships and joint venture-land initiatives are not the answer.  
  
They limit the supply of social housing, provide no guarantee of affordable housing, they take too long and are legally complex and risky  
  
As Mayor I will promote public housing on public land funded by Central Government, the Housing Finance Agency and the Credit Union Movement.  
  
And I will oppose any proposal that does not ensure an adequate supply of social and genuinely affordable homes for working people.  
  
Councils must play the lead role, supported where appropriate by the Approved Housing Sector.  
  
We need to see an end to the Governments over reliance on the private sector to meet social and affordable housing demand*

*In this County we have thousands of people on the social housing waiting list. We have families in emergency accommodation across the County. The idea that placing a family in a Hub is sense of improvement just goes against the grain.*

*These families need the stability a home offers. The children need stability. I fear the trauma of homelessness is going to be something that will affect us as a society for years to come.*

*We also have many people that are excluded from Social Housing assistance as they are over the income threshold. These people will never be in a position to buy homes due to the amount of rent they are paying. This Government needs to introduce both an affordability purchases scheme and an affordability rental scheme.*

*I will use this position to challenge the Government and this Council to build more Social and Affordable homes.*

*I am going to invite the Minister to meet this Council and hear first-hand the problems that we face in increasing public housing to meet the demand.*

*The housing crisis is across the 4 local authorities and I want to set up a task force that will include the Department of Housing and the Mayors, CEO’s and Chairs of the Housing SPC’s of South Dublin, Dublin City, Dun Laoighre/Rathdown and Fingal Councils meeting at least twice during my term goal is to increase public housing and decrease the numbers on our waiting lists and homelessness.*

*People in Social Houses are stigmatised in Irish Society. We need to change that narrative. We need as a Council be mindful that we do not add to it. I’ve been on the record in saying that as a child I didn’t know I lived in a social house, I just knew I lived in a home. The language that we use in here is very important and has the ability to add or to reduce the stigma associated in recent years to Social housing. I will use my year to help break the stigma with your help.*

*There is also a stigma associated with homelessness. That somehow it’s the people’s fault that they end up without a home. I can testify that this can happen to anyone. Not long after I became a Councillor I received a notice to quit from my landlord. He was an accidental landlord who due to increases in his own rent was forced into selling the property I was living.*

*I immediately started looking for accommodation that was suitable for me and my children. I had to over hold the property I was living in for 3 months and in November 2016 I became officially homeless. I sofa surfed with family and friends, stayed in emergency accommodation, including staying in Apollo House over the Christmas. I was in Apollo House as a volunteer therapist but used the opportunity to also provide me with a roof over my head.*

*I was active in trying to secure a home through the homeless HAP scheme and went from viewing to viewing, with scores of other desperate families. As a member of this chamber I went about my duties as best I could despite the circumstances that I was in. It took me 6 months to find accommodation through Homeless HAP. I didn’t realise the affect this had on me until after I secured a home. I think I slept for a week. I did my best to shield my children from the situation but it still affected them and worried them that their Daddy had no home. The biggest challenge for me during this time was to maintain my relationship with my children.*

*I didn’t go public at the time as I did not want to be seen as using my position as a way of solving my housing problem. I see at first hand the difficulties that face our constituents. I am going public today with my families blessing to show that homelessness can happen to anyone at any time in the current climate.*

*In Greenfort there is an unused Council depot known locally as the “Coffee Shop”. This unit has been vacant for 20 years now. I have been pushing at area level for this unit to be refurbished and returned to housing stock. At the moment we are waiting on an architects report from the Council.  I would like to see this matter progressed during my year as Mayor. This vacant unit is symbolic of the public’s perception that we are not doing everything within our powers to solve the housing crisis.*

*I look forward to the building of the North Clondalkin Library and I want to pay testament to Eddie Conroy and his staff for listening to the community and making radical changes to the original plans. This will be a mayor asset to our community.*

*I have mentioned my hometown but I plan to a Mayor for the whole County and look forward to representing you at these events. You never know I might even get an invitation to a parade or two.*

*I will endeavour to be impartial as Mayor during business and I am asking for all your help in getting through the next year. I am on another steep learning curve and will be brushing up on the practicalities of conducting meetings.*

*I will have an open door policy as mayor to everyone in this chamber and will extend an olive branch to anyone that I have had past political differences with to use that open door.*

*In the year of an election I’m sure that all our very important motions will become just that bit more important. I am asking members to work with me and not against me.*

*In the words of Voltare “I may disapprove what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it”*

*I hope to continue the good working relationship I have with the Chief Exective and the staff and will work collaboratively to achieve the goals I have set out. I will continue to challenge the status quo and strive to maximise our housing output.*

*I am aware of senior staff leaving recently and they rightly received many plaudits. However I want to mention Pat Scully who is the porter in Clondalkin and is retiring next month after many years’ service to the Council. I want to publicly thank him for helping this rookie councillor out.*

*I will finish off with a quote from James Connolly who this year sees the 150th anniversary of his birth. This quote sums up what I want to achieve in terms of housing as Mayor*

*“Our Demands are most modest we only demand the earth”*

The following Councillors paid tribute to the new Mayor Cllr M. Murphy, Cllr M. Duff, Cllr D. Looney Cllr C. King Cllr, E. Higgins, Cllr B. Bonner, Cllr L Dunne, Cllr K. Mahon and Cllr E.O’Brien

Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive welcomed the new Mayor.

**H2/AM/18 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR / LEAS MHÉARA**

The Mayor Councillor Mark Ward then called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

**Councillor Cathal King** was proposed by Councillor Louise Dunne and was seconded by Councillor Dermot Looney

**Councillor Trevor Gilligan** was proposed by Councillor Brian Lawlor and wasseconded by Councillor Emer Higgins

**Councillor Mick Murphy** was proposed by Councillor Brien Leech and was seconded by Councillor Madeline Johannsson.

A roll call vote was then taken.

**For Councillor Cathal King: 15**

**Cllr B. Bonner, Cllr M. Duff, Cllr F. Duffy, Cllr L. Dunne, Cllr B. Ferron, Cllr M. Genockey, Cllr S. Holland, Cllr P. Kearns, Cllr C. King, Cllr D. Looney, Cllr C. Mc Cann Cllr D. O’ Brien, Cllr D. Richardson, Cllr R. Russell** and **Cllr M. Ward**

**For Councillor Trevor Gilligan: 15**

**Cllr V. Casserly, Cllr P. Donovan, Cllr K. Egan, Cllr P. Foley, Cllr T. Gilligan, Cllr P. Gogarty, Cllr J. Graham, Cllr E. Higgins, Cllr W. Lavelle, Cllr B. Lawlor, Cllr C. McMahon, Cllr R. McMahon, Cllr G. O’ Connell, Cllr D. O’ Donovan** and **Cllr L. O’ Toole.**

**For Councillor Mick Murphy: 6**

**Cllr E. Hendrick, Cllr M. Johannsson, Cllr B. Leech Cllr K. Mahon, Cllr M. Murphy** and **Cllr R. Nolan**

**Abstention: 3**

**Cllr E. Murphy, Cllr E. O’Brien** and **Cllr C. O’Connor**

As no candidate received the votes of the majority of the members present, the candidate receiving the least number of votes is to be eliminated and another roll call vote taken.

As **Councillor Mick Murphy** received the least number of votes he was eliminated.

A second roll call vote was then taken

**For Councillor King: 18**

**Cllr B. Bonner, Cllr M. Duff, Cllr F. Duffy, Cllr L. Dunne, Cllr B. Ferron, Cllr M. Genockey, Cllr E. Hendrick, Cllr S. Holland, Cllr M. Johannsson, Cllr P. Kearns, Cllr C. King, Cllr D. Looney, Cllr C. Mc Cann, Cllr R. Nolan, Cllr D. O’ Brien, Cllr D. Richardson, Cllr R. Russell** and **Cllr M. Ward**

**For Councillor Gilligan: 15**

**Cllr V. Casserly, Cllr P. Donovan, Cllr K. Egan, Cllr P. Foley, Cllr T. Gilligan, Cllr P. Gogarty, Cllr J. Graham, Cllr E. Higgins, Cllr W. Lavelle, Cllr B. Lawlor, Cllr C. McMahon, Cllr R. McMahon, Cllr G. O’ Connell, Cllr D. O’ Donovan** and **Cllr L. O’ Toole.**

**Abstention: 6**

**Cllr B. Leech, Cllr K. Mahon, Cllr M. Murphy, Cllr E. Murphy Cllr E. O’Brien** and **Cllr C. O’Connor**

**Councillor Cathal King** was elected Deputy Mayor for 2018/2019

The outgoing Deputy Mayor Councillor Breeda Bonner then presented the new Deputy Mayor Councillor Cathal King with the Chain of Office.

The new Deputy Mayor then addressed the Members.

The following Councillors paid tribute to the new Deputy Mayor:

Cllr T. Gilligan, Cllr B. Ferron, Cllr M. Genockey, Cllr E. Higgins, Cllr C. Mc Cann. Cllr L. Dunne, Cllr M. Ward. Cllr G. O’Connell and Cllr B. Leech.

**H3a/AM/18 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS** -**CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor Mark Ward called for nominations for Election of Chair of the Clondalkin Area Committee.

**Councillor Breeda Bonner** was proposed by Councillor Mark Ward and was seconded by CouncillorMartina Genockey.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor Breeda Bonner** was unanimously elected Chair of the Clondalkin Area Committee.

**H3b/AM/18 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS – LUCAN AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor Mark Ward called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Lucan Area Committee.

**Councillor Danny O’Brien was** proposed by Councillor Mick Duff and seconded by Councillor Dermot Richardson.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor Danny O’Brien** was unanimously elected Chair of the Lucan Area Committee.

**H3c/AM/18 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS – TALLAGHT AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor Mark Ward called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Tallaght Area Committee.

**Councillor Charlie O’ Connor** was proposed by Councillor Ed O’Brien seconded by Councillor Trevor Gilligan.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor Charlie O’ Connor** was unanimously elected Chair of the Tallaght Area Committee.

**H3d/AM/18 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS** - **RATHFARNHAM /TEMPLEOGUE –TERENURE AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor Mark Ward called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Rathfarnham/Templeogue –Terenure Area Committee.

**Councillor Emma Murphy** was proposed by Councillor Paul Foley seconded by Councillor Trevor Gilligan.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor Emma Murphy** was unanimously elected Chair of the Rathfarnham/Templeogue-Terenure Area Committee

Meeting concluded at 5.25pm.

**Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Mayor**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**