## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS** **SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

Minutes of South Dublin County Council June 2020 Annual Meeting held on Friday 26 June 2020.

### **PRESENT**

**PRESENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillors** |  | **Councillors** |
| Carey, W. |  | Mahon, K. |
| Casserly, V. |  | McMahon, R. |
| Collins, Y. |  | McManus, D. |
| Costello, T. |  | Moynihan, S. |
| Duff, M. |  | Murphy, E. |
| Dunne, L. |  | O’Brien, E. |
| Edge, A. |  | Ó Broin, E. |
| Egan, K. |  | O’Byrne, C. |
| Fay, S. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Gilligan, T. |  | O’Connor, C. |
| Gogarty, P. |  | O’Donovan, D. |
| Hayes, A. |  | O’Hara, S. |
| Holohan, P. |  | O’Toole, L. |
| Johansson, M. |  | Pereppadan, B. |
| Kavanagh, P. |  | Priestley, W. |
| Kearns, P. |  | Richardson, D. |
| King, C. |  | Seery-Kearney, M. |
| Kinsella-Colman. L. |  | Sinclair, L. |
| Lawlor, B. |  | Timmons, F. |
|  |  | Tuffy, J. |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin. |
| Directors/ Heads of Function  Head of Finance | L. Maxwell, F. Nevin, T. Walsh, M. Mulhern, C. Ward.  R. FitzGerald. |
| Senior Executive Officers | C. Hurson. |
| Administrative Officers | M. Reilly, N. Noonan. |
| Staff Officer  Assistant Staff Officer  Clerical Officer  IT. Support  Sord | L. Abbey.  K. Gainford.  D. Murphy.  R. Saiz.  A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor V. Casserly, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillor C. Bailey.

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, to the Annual Meeting 2020.

As the meeting was being held in the National Basketball Arena, the Mayor outlined the emergency exits and read out the following in relation to Covid 19 :-

It is essential that we follow the Government and HSE guidelines during this meeting.  If anyone has a positive response to any of the following questions, I request that you absent yourself immediately from the meeting:

* If you have symptoms of cough, fever, high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, breathlessness or flu like symptoms now or in the past 14 days?
* If you have you been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days?
* If you are a close contact of a person who has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
* If you have been advised by a doctor or the HSE to self-isolate at this time?

As there was no response in the affirmative, the meeting proceeded. As previously agreed, the meeting would conclude after 2 hours.

The Outgoing Mayor addressed the Members and thanked her colleagues, management and staff for all their help during her time as Mayor.

**TRIBUTES TO OUTGOING MAYOR**

Tributes were paid to the outgoing Mayor by Councillors K. Egan, E. O’Brien, P. Kearns, C. King, P. Kavanagh, E. Murphy, T. Gilligan, R. McMahon, K. Mahon, M. Seery-Kearney, A. Edge and S. Moynihan.

The Chief Executive Mr. D. Mc Loughlin expressed his thanks to the outgoing Mayor for all her hard work and endorsed all the comments made. He thanked Councillor V. Casserly for everything she did throughout the year while carrying out her duties.

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

The Mayor Councillor V. Casserly then made a presentation to Ms. Karen Gainford for all her work throughout the year on behalf of herself and the Deputy Mayor T. Gilligan.

### **H1/AM/20 ELECTION OF MAYOR/AN MÉARA**

The Outgoing Mayor Councillor V. Casserly called for the election of Mayor.

**Councillor E. O’Brien** was proposed for Mayor by Councillor C. O’Connor, seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh.

**Councillor P. Holohan** wasproposed by Councillor L. Dunne, seconded by Councillor C. King

**Councillor S. Fay** was proposed for Mayor by Councillor K. Mahon, seconded by Councillor M. Johansson.

**Councillor F. Timmons** was proposed for Mayor by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor E Ó Broin

A Roll call vote was taken and the result was as follows:

**FOR Councillor E. O’Brien: 22(TWENTY-TWO)**

**Councillors V. Casserly, Y. Collins, T. Costello, M. Duff, K. Egan, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, P. Kavanagh, B. Lawlor, R. McMahon, D. McManus, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, E. O’Brien, C. O’Byrne, C. O’Connor, D. O’Donovan, S. O’Hara, B. Pereppadan, W. Priestley, M. Seery-Kearney** and **L. Sinclair.**

**FOR Councillor P. Holohan: 5 (FIVE)**

**Councillors W. Carey, L. Dunne, P. Holohan, C. King** and **L. Kinsella-Colman.**

**FOR Councillor S. Fay: 3 (THREE)**

**Councillors S. Fay, M. Johansson** and **K. Mahon.**

**FOR Councillor F. Timmons: 6 (SIX)**

**Councillors A. Edge, P. Gogarty, E Ó Broin, G. O’Connell, L. O’Toole** and **F. Timmons.**

**ABSTENTION: 2 (TWO)**

**Councillors P. Kearns** and **J. Tuffy.**

As a result of the roll call vote **Councillor E. O’Brien** was elected Mayor for 2020/2021.

The outgoing Mayor presented the new Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien with the Chain of Office, and the Mayor then took the chair.

The Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien addressed the Members.

*A stiúrthoiri, príomhfheidhmeannaigh agus mo chomh chomhairleoirí, téann sé go croí ionam, seasamh anseo os bhur gcomhar inniú, agus an ról seo mar Mhéara an Chontae a glacadh. Fáiltím an deis iontach seo chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh daoibhse go léir agus don chontae sna dhá mhi deag ar aghaidh agus a bheith ar thus cadnaíochta sna míonna dúshlanach ar aghaidh freisin. Gan dabht ar bith, is onóir mor é domsa agus do mo phairtí ach thar aon rud eile, seo curadh chun ceangail a dhéanamh le pobal comhairle chontae Atha Cliath Theas ar bhur leas. Seo rol a ghlacfaidh mé le brod agus deanfaidh me mo dhicheall e a dhéanamh le fuinneamh.*

*Chief executive directors my fellow councillors I'm truly humbled to stand before you today and accept the role of mayor of this County. I welcome the opportunity to represent you and our County for the next 12 months and to be a standard bearer in the challenging months which lie ahead. Whilst this is a great honour for me and my party , this is first and foremost an invitation to connect with the community of South Dublin County Council on your behalf and this is a role which I will embrace and carry out with great energy .*

*I firstly want to thank everyone who has made today possible. My colleagues in the Fianna Fail group who have given me the opportunity to fulfil this ambition and to become the first Fianna Fail Mayor in 17 years. I'm so grateful to all of you for the manner in which you have worked with me over the past 12 months and I'm proud to represent Fianna Fail with you, cognizant as we are of the responsibilities which come with being the largest group on this council. We have consistently worked as a team to fulfil the mandate given to us by our constituents to lead this council in a fair and forthright manner.*

*I am grateful to my colleagues in Fine Gael and the Green Party and independents councillors for showing me your support and I hope that the close relationship which we have worked to find in the last year can be replicated at national level today. I want to thank my wonderful wife and family for allowing me the space to pursue my role as a public representative to its fullest. The role that we all fulfil can be an incredibly selfish one at times and without the support out of my family for the times that I am not at home and when constituents monopolise my time I would not be accepting this role today and I am forever grateful to them.*

*I take up this position at a time of great uncertainty and indeed great worry for a lot of our community. We have been exposed to a danger which we could not have imagined or foreseen a matter of months ago. From the elderly and those with underlying conditions asked to hide themselves away from loved ones, to business owners and employees of all shape and sort trying to adapt to new very trying environment, to the rest of the general public who have had to take on multiple new roles while at the same time turning our homes into workplaces. In this environment, the role of a public representative has in my opinion rarely been as important.*

*Over the next 12 months as we emerge from under the fog that is this virus, we must find new ways to connect with our community and deal with the new tests which that community now faces. In this year I will be conscious of the role that I, as your Mayor, must play in assisting you and this Council to tackle these issues together. There will be unique challenges, some of which we possibly don't know the nature of yet and we will often disagree on the measures we need to take to meet these challenges. That is how it should be. But, our community will not forgive us if we do not make a concerted effort to come together to face these challenges collectively as often as we can. My door will be open, my time will be yours and I will work with you to find the solutions we need.*

*Experts have differed as to how this virus will disappear, some predict repeated waves, some predict a larger wave in autumn or winter, some believe it will burnout slowly. Whatever way this happens, it cannot allow this chamber to resile from its responsibilities. We will have a budget to negotiate and pass, housing developments to discuss with our community and debate and social and recreational projects which are now providing relief for locked away families to promote and deliver. We owe it to our community to work these issues out, because now more than ever we owe our community a debt of gratitude. The manner in which they have faced the challenges which have presented over the last number of months has been remarkable, and the manner in which they have worked with government both national and local to ensure that the virus was limited in its spread throughout our community, should be a great source of pride.*

*Over the course of the next year I want to work with you and council management to re embrace our community. It is my fervent wish that we can find a way to memorialise those who have regrettably lost their lives due to covid 19 , to honour the heroic efforts of all frontline workers throughout our County and to celebrate the many and wonderful voluntary efforts of the entire community. We should make it our goal to look to leave a lasting reminder of this time that we have come through together and acknowledge that no virus is as infectious as the spirit of those we represent in this County. My first goal will be to see this happen.*

*HOUSING*

*As I have said our role will now come into sharp focus and will be more important than it ever has been. This will be especially true as we continue to tackle the housing crisis which gripped us before this virus arrived and which cannot be allowed to continue as the virus disappears. While many of us have longed for the announcement that we could leave our homes without restriction, many have dreaded that day coming. Many have experienced briefly the feeling of having the security of a home and a roof over their heads during the past number of months. This council must make every effort to ensure that they do not again roam the streets during the day waiting for a bed and return to a life where a virus is the least of their worries. I welcome the provision set out in the programme for government currently being considered by my partner parties on this council the Green Party & Fine Gael. It is my ambition to see a number of those policies embraced by this council during my time as Mayor.*

*Houses must be provided, they must be built and they must be delivered with the amenities which have been embraced by everyone coming out of lockdown. Houses are no longer just bricks and mortar. The last four months have highlighted that as well as a roof over our heads, houses are schoolrooms, play spaces and offices. We must ensure that we scrutinise all developments which come before us. We must ensure that we are innovative in our design and construction. We must ensure that we deliver communities with the houses. But most importantly we must ensure that we deliver the houses. The desperately needed houses. I welcome proposals brought forward by my party to deliver a proper functioning and properly funded affordable housing scheme. I support the case for quick access to government funding and thinking in this field and I look forward to working closely with council management over the next 12 months to avail of any such scheme which comes to pass and I know that this council stands ready to work with me.*

*These schemes once they become available will be a cause for great debate I have no doubt but I for one am of the view that ideology should not be allowed stand in the way of building the houses and creating the communities which our constituents have told us in no uncertain terms that they want.*

*TRANSPORT*

*COVID-19 has caused great hardship, it has crushed the spirit of many whilst we tried to crush it, but there have been positives. We have pressed pause, we have stopped and we have had a look at the places we live in, taking stock of the way we are living our lives and for many have made decisions that it is time for a change. The silence which has greeted us due to the constant hum of traffic being removed from our roads has given us some relief as we took our daily walks to unexplored parts of our towns villages and now the wider County. How many of us have taken on five km challenges, how many of us have re acquainted ourselves with our bicycles, how many others have simply thrown the car keys in a drawer and decided to make a change.*

*In this sphere we as councillors can play a real role in making permanent the harmony which we have found in a world with reduced noise. We have an opportunity like we have never had before to reshape our towns and villages , to make them more accessible, to work with the local businesses who have become so vital to us over the past four months, to create environments in our towns and villages which encourage more and more of our community to stay local and shop local.*

*We can now make real efforts to crush the choking din of constant commuter traffic as we have crushed the corona virus. We can start by reclaiming our streets and footpaths and making them spaces more friendly to pedestrians and cyclists. I know in my own village that both traders and the wider community realise this opportunity and I hope that my home of Lucan can be the Vanguard and the example to the rest of the County. I intend to work with our planners and our road engineers to try to make real and lasting changes in Lucan village so that a fairer distribution of space increases the footfall in the village where I have worked my entire adult life. A village which is picturesque. A village which I know can thrive if we work together to reimagine it. I encourage you my fellow councillors in all parts of our County to take up this challenge as well so that we can create beautiful links between all parts of our County so that that wonderful silence which gave us comfort whilst we hid away from each other to defeat COVID-19 can sustain us as we reappear and watch that virus disappear.*

*CONCLUSION*

*And so I wish to start my year as I mean to go on. In any other year thousands of us would be gathering in Dublin city centre to march with pride for pride with the LGBTQ community. Though this is not possible this year, we can still show our support. I invite all of you to join me tomorrow at 10:00 AM in front of the pride flag in County Hall to record a message which will be shared across our community as the Virtual Pride parade continues over the weekend. Ni neart go chur le cheile. There is strength in our numbers. While maybe we cannot walk together with our community right now, this can be a message that despite restrictions they will never walk alone. I thank you for giving me your time today and am excited about the prospect of working with you all and look forward to seeing you in the coming days and weeks. Thank you all.*

Councillors P. Gogarty, B. Lawlor, L. O’Toole, C. King, M. Duff, W. Priestley, P. Kearns, E. Murphy and E. Ó Broin paid tribute to the new Mayor.

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

### **H2/AM/20 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR/LEAS MÉARA**

### The outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor T. Gilligan congratulated the new Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien and thanked the outgoing Mayor Councillor V. Casserly along with the management and staff for all their help during his time as Deputy Mayor

### Councillors B. Lawlor and L. Sinclair paid tribute to the outgoing Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien then called for the election of the Deputy Mayor

### **NOMINATIONS:**

**Councillor D. McManus** was proposed by Councillor M. Seery-Kearney seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh.

**Councillor W. Carey** was proposedby Councillor L. Kinsella-Coleman, seconded by Councillor P. Holohan.

**Councillor M. Johansson** was proposedby Councillor S. Fay, seconded by Councillor K. Mahon.

A Roll call vote was taken and the result was as follows:

**FOR Councillor D. McManus: 22 (TWENTY-TWO)**

**Councillors** **V. Casserly, Y. Collins, T. Costello, M. Duff, K. Egan, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, P. Kavanagh, B. Lawlor, R. McMahon, D. McManus, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, E. O’Brien, C. O’Byrne, C. O’Connor, D. O’Donovan, S. O’Hara, B. Pereppadan, W. Priestley, M. Seery-Kearney,** and **L. Sinclair**.

**FOR Councillor W. Carey: 5 (FIVE)**

**Councillors W. Carey, L. Dunne, P. Holohan, C. King and L. Kinsella-Colman.**

**FOR Councillor M. Johansson: 9 (NINE)**

**Councillors A. Edge, S. Fay, P. Gogarty, M. Johansson, K. Mahon, E Ó Broin, G. O’Connell, L. O’Toole, F. Timmons**

**ABSTENSIONS: 2 (TWO)**

**Councillors P. Kearns and J. Tuffy**

As a result of the roll call vote **Councillor D. McManus** was elected Deputy Mayor for 2020/2021.

The outgoing Deputy Mayor Councillor T. Gilligan then presented the new Deputy Mayor Councillor D. McManus with the Chain of Office.

The incoming Deputy Mayor Councillor D. McManus addressed the Members.

**H3a/AM/20 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS** - **CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Clondalkin Area Committee.

**Councillor E Ó Broin** was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor and seconded by Councillor E. O’Brien**.**

As there were no further nominations **Councillor E Ó Broin** was unanimously elected Chair of the Clondalkin Area Committee.

**H3b/AM/20 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS – LUCAN / PALMERSTOWN FONTHILL AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Lucan Area Committee.

**Councillor A. Hayes** was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor and seconded by Councillor E. O’Brien.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor A. Hayes** was unanimously elected Chair of the Lucan / Palmerstown / Fonthill Area Committee.

**H3c/AM/20 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS – TALLAGHT AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Tallaght Area Committee

**Councillor L. Sinclair** was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor and seconded by Councillor E. O’Brien.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor L. Sinclair** was unanimously elected Chair of the Tallaght Area Committee.

**H3d/AM/20 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS** - **RATHFARNHAM /TEMPLEOGUE / FIRHOUSE / BOHERNABREENA AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee.

**Councillor Y. Collins** was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor and seconded by Councillor E. O’Brien.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor Y. Collins** was unanimously elected Chair of the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors K. Mahon, C. King and E. O’Brien.

### **H4/0620 VENUE FOR JULY and SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management, and was **CONSIDERED:**

At the May Council meeting is was agreed by resolution under Section 6 of the Standing Orders of South Dublin County Council to hold the June Council meeting and Annual meeting at the National Basketball Arena or such other suitable venue in recognition of the Covid 19 Emergency and the Council's obligation to comply with social distancing requirements, while at the same time ensuring that the democratic process is preserved.

Members are asked to extend agreement of the resolution for the July and September Council meetings to be held in the National Basketball Arena to provide for the same public health and safety requirements.

The Item was **AGREED**.

### Meeting concluded @ 5:40pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

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