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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council June 2021 Annual Meeting held virtually through Microsoft 365 Teams on Friday 25 June 2021

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |  |
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| **Councillors** |  | **Councillors** |
| Bailey, C. |  | McEneaney, S. |
| Carey, W. |  | McCrave, L. |
| Casserly, V. |  | McMahon, R. |
| Collins, Y. |  | McManus, D. |
| Costello, T. |  | Moynihan, S. |
| Duff, M. |  | Murphy, E. |
| Dunne, L. |  | Ó Brádaigh, D. |
| Donaghy, L. |  | O’Brien, E. |
| Edge, A. |  | Ó Broin, E |
| Egan, K. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Gilligan, T. |  | O’Connor, C. |
| Gogarty, P. |  | O’Hara, S. |
| Hayes, A. |  | O’Toole, L. |
| Holohan, P. |  | Pereppadan, B. |
| Johansson, M. |  | Richardson, D. |
| Kavanagh, P. |  | Sinclair, L. |
| Kearns, P. |  | Timmons, F. |
| King, C. |  | Tuffy, J. |
| Lawlor, B. |  | Whelan, L. |
| Mahon, K. |  |  |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin. |
| Directors/ Heads of Function  A/Director  Head of Finance  Head of I.T. | L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, M. Mulhern, C. Ward.  L. Leonard  R. FitzGerald.  T. Kavanagh. |
| Senior Executive Officers  Assistant Head of I.T. | C. Hurson. M. McAdam,  B. Gaughan |
| Administrative Officers | M. Reilly, N. Noonan. |
| Senior Staff Officer  Assistant Staff Officer  Clerical Officer  Sord | L. Abbey.  A. Hagan.  D. Murphy.  A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillor D. O’Donovan.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, informed the Members that members of the public will be in attendance at the meeting, he then read out the etiquette for the virtual meeting:

-Members to check that they can access the “Chat Function” before we commence the meeting.

-Members must be able to be seen, specifically for roll call, when speaking and voting.

-Mics to be on mute until invited to speak through the Chair.

-Members can indicate they wish to speak on an item through the chat function – using ‘Speak Please’.

-The ‘Chat Function’ is not to be used for comments.

-The meeting will be recorded for minute taking purposes only.

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 2021.

**TRIBUTES TO OUTGOING MAYOR**

Councillors C. O’Connor, M. Duff, L. Sinclair, P. Kearns, C. King, B. Lawlor, D. McManus, C. Bailey, V. Casserly, L. O’Toole and J. Tuffy paid tribute to the outgoing mayor and commended him on his work throughout the pandemic.

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

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

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, thanked the Members, Management, and staff for all their help throughout the year.

### **H1/AM/21 ELECTION OF MAYOR/AN MÉARA**

**REPLY:**

In accordance with the provisions of [**Section 36 of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sec0036.html) a local authority shall elect a Mayor from amongst its members at every annual meeting.

The method of the election of Mayor by members of South Dublin County Council shall be in accordance with the provisions of [**Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sec0037.html#partv-chapii-sec37).

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, called for nominations for the position of Mayor.

**Councillor P. Kavanagh** was proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair and was seconded by Councillor S. Moynihan.

**Councillor R. McMahon** was proposed by Councillor D. McManus and was seconded was by Councillor A. Hayes.

Councillors L. Sinclair, S. Moynihan, C. King, A. Edge, M. Duff, P. Kearns, E Ó Broin and E. Murphy all spoke in support of Councillor P. Kavanagh’s nomination.

Councillors K. Mahon, P. Gogarty and F. Timmons informed the meeting of their intention to abstain from the vote.

Councillor M. Johansson requested that Councillor P. Kavanagh address the meeting regarding his nomination.

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, informed the member that it is not convention for nominees to address the meeting.

Councillor D. McManus, A. Hayes and B. Lawlor all spoke in support of Councillor R. McMahon’s nomination

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

**FOR Councillor P. Kavanagh: 26 (TWENTY SIX)**

**Councillors C. Bailey, W. Carey, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, T. Costello, L. Donaghy, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, K. Egan, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, P. Kavanagh, P. Kearns, C. King, S. McEneaney, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, D. Ó Brádaigh, E. O’Brien, E Ó Broin, C. O’Connor, L. Sinclair, J. Tuffy.**

**FOR Councillor R. McMahon: 6 (SIX)**

**Councillors B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, S. O’Hara, B. Pereppadan**

**ABSTENTION: 7 (SEVEN)**

**Councillors P. Gogarty, K. Mahon, G. O’Connell, L. O’Toole, D. Richardson, F. Timmons, L. Whelan**

As a result of the roll call vote **Councillor P. Kavanagh** was elected Mayor for 2021/2022.

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

The new Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh, then addressed the Members:

*Thanks everybody for their support, it is a physically heavy chain and also metaphorically; there is a lot of responsibility that I bear not only to my fellow councillors but also to every citizen in South Dublin County. Also to everyone that has ever worn the chain before me, and I want to pay special tribute to the previous Mayors that I have worked with both as a Councillor and a member of the Public Participation Network.*

*I will start with Ed O’Brien who took over the office when it was arguably the most difficult time to do it and has blown me away each week with his genuine human decency. Ed’s kindness, warmth and openness sets a benchmark of his time as Mayor and I think I cannot go any further than what was already said about him after his final speech. He is genuinely one of the very best human beings I have grown to know over the last couple of years and I am very proud to call him a friend as well as a colleague. If I can take on board some of the things he has done, his projects on car free days and trying to make South Dublin County Council a Fairtrade County. If I can achieve only those, I would have a legacy I would be proud of and it is all down to things that Ed O’Brien started. Go raibh míle maith agat a chara.*

*To Vicki Casserly who was the first Mayor that I served under; I am so incredibly proud to not only call Vicki a friend but a hero, her passion and her dedication for what is right and fair, her work on inclusivity and everything she has done continues to amaze me. Again, I am incredibly proud to work with her and she leaves big boots to fill.*

*As does Mark Ward in his own way. He is a good friend of mine and a gentleman. I have all the time in the world for him. Paul Gogarty and Guss O’Connell I remember when you were mayor both of you showed such passion for the Irish language that matches my own and that really touched me. Sarah Holland’s drive for human rights and dignity. Dermot Looney and his compassion. Fintan Warfield and his never-ending advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights and I am very proud to work with Fintan on the board of the Civic theatre.*

*Also Cathal King, he was the first mayor of South Dublin County Council that I ever had to work with, we were launching a baseball tournament in Corkagh Park. He is a decent human being and a good man, and I’m proud to call him a friend and to work with him and look forward to working with him and his group.*

*Ronan McMahon, who stood against me, is a gentleman and was one of the first to stand outside the chamber and congratulate me. The man is gracious; he is a decent man and I thank him for putting himself forward.*

*To my colleagues who nominated me I am so appreciative and to hear my old friends Councillor Gilligan and Councillor Moynihan vote in my favour and to Councillor Moynihan for his kind seconding of my nomination. It is something I will cherish forever. To my colleagues in the Green group I am so incredibly proud to sit here because you have nominated me. To Councillor Suzanne McEneaney, welcome to the party! You have had a baptism of fire, the development plan meetings were one hell of an introduction to politics and yet your contribution probably saved us hours with a small amendment to Standing Orders, every single Councillor appreciates that. To Dr. Laura Donaghy you are quite simply one of the finest political minds in this body of Councillors and I know that you will go very far, and I am very proud to call you a friend.*

*He hates when I call him my oldest friend because he is younger than me, but to my longest standing friend Liam Sinclair thank you, I will say no more, thank you. To my former colleagues Francis Noel Duffy, William Priestley and Clare O’Byrne thank you each in your own way for your ongoing guidance, support, and friendship.*

*To my colleagues in Clondalkin, on the Clondalkin ACM, you know the way I work and how I worked to support Eoin Ó Broin as chair, and I will support each of you. Councillor Carey, Councillor Timmons, Councillor Egan, Councillor O’Hara, and Councillor Gilligan thank you very much for your collaboration over the last 2 years and let us try and bring that spirit of openness and collaboration to another level across all 40 Councillors.*

*And to those who did not vote for me and in particular who wanted to offer critical support or want to judge me on my actions all I can say is, yes please. I would appreciate if you do judge me on my actions, and I will just correct the record for Councillor Mahon - the Green group voted against the data centre but it passed with a little help from outside the ruling group. My apologies we couldn’t stop that one. I think we got some good things in the development plan and hopefully we can agree on the future in the right way.*

*I want to say one last thank you and it’s the most important thank you to the most important person. She’s not here to hear this but hopefully she’ll join me for a photograph later on, to my wife Emma who walked every step with me between 2018 and 2019 when I ran for the Council, she was there every step of the way, she’s been with me every step of the way since she is quite simply the most important person in my world and every day, I’m married to her is the happiest day of my life. I am sure she is going to miss me over the next 12 months.*

*As to this year, I have had a lot of ‘thank yous’ so you will be glad that I have an uncharacteristically short speech. A lot of Councillors have mentioned inclusion or inclusivity I am not sure maybe Councillor Edge would tell me which is the preferred word we will go with inclusion. I want to ensure that we as a group of 40, including me as Mayor, do everything that we can to ensure that people in the LGBTQ+ community, members of the Traveller community, people with disabilities, migrants and the list goes on and on but generally to ensure that no one ever feels unsafe, unwelcome or afraid in South Dublin If we can work towards that goal and if we can work hand in hand and together I’ll be a very happy man. I pledge myself to my own personal values of openness and transparency I know that I follow on from Mayor Ed O’Brien form someone that had an open-door policy, I have got an open door, always-on phone whatever I can do to support you. I am answerable to every resident and citizen of South Dublin, but I am also answerable to you the 40 Councillors so I ask you to judge me on my actions and I hope that we can build a new method of working together - one of consensus, and I know that that means we will have to compromise and take decisions where not everybody is happy, and maybe sometimes we will take decisions where nobody is happy and I think at that stage you can be sure we have made the right decision. Councillor Kearns mentioned earlier on that politics is the art of the possible, but Councillor Sinclair always says what that really means is how far can you stretch the possible, can you bring it even closer to the impossible and can we do it together.*

*Ba mhaith liom tús áite a thabhairt don Ghaeilge, don chultúr Gaelach, agus do gach ghné a dhéanann contae aonarach anseo in Átha Cliath Theas. Beidh mé ag tacú le Líonra Gaeilge Chluain Dolcáin agus le grúpaí pobail eile gur mian leo treo Mhuintir Chrónáin a leanúint.*

*I want to dedicate myself not only to my own personal passion of the Irish language but to culture. To arts to heritage to everything that makes us unique as a County and I hope that we can do this together.*

*Thank you.*

Councillors R. McMahon, L. Dunne, T. Gilligan, G. O’Connell, L. O’Toole, L. Sinclair, F. Timmons, and W. Carey paid tribute to the new Mayor.

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

### **H2/AM/21 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR/LEAS MHÉARA**

**REPLY:**

In accordance with the provisions of [**Section 36 of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sec0036.html) a local authority shall elect a Deputy-Mayor from amongst its members at every annual meeting.

The method of the election of the Deputy-Mayor by members of South Dublin County Council shall be in accordance with the provisions of [**Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sec0037.html#partv-chapii-sec37).

### The outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor D. McManus congratulated the new Mayor Councillor P. Kavanagh and thanked the outgoing Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, along with the management and staff for all their help during his time as Deputy Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh, then called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

**Councillor L. Donaghy** was proposed by Councillor S. McEneaney and was seconded by Councillor D. McManus.

As no further nominations Councillor Laura Donaghy was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor.

Councillors B. Lawlor, Y. Collins, K. Mahon, J. Tuffy, L. O’Toole, A. Edge and P. Kavanagh paid tribute to the new Deputy Mayor.

The incoming Deputy Mayor, Councillor L. Donaghy, accepted the Chain of Office and addressed the Members.

**H3a/AM/21 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS** -**CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor P. Kavanagh called for nominations for Election of Chair of the Clondalkin Area Committee.

**Councillor F. Timmons** was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor and was seconded by CouncillorT. Gilligan.

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

**H3b/AM/21 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS – LUCAN/PALMERSTOWN/NORTH CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor P. Kavanagh called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee.

**Councillor J. Tuffy was** proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor and seconded by Councillor A. Hayes.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor J. Tuffy** was unanimously elected Chair of the Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee.

**H3c/AM/21 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS** - **RATHFARNHAM/TEMPLEOGUE/FIRHOUSE BOHERNABREENA AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor P. Kavanagh called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse Bohernabreena Area Committee.

**Councillor A. Edge** was proposed by Councillor Y. Collins seconded by Councillor Gilligan.

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

**H3d/AM/21 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS – TALLAGHT AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor Councillor P. Kavanagh called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Tallaght Area Committee.

**Councillor T. Costello** was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor seconded by Councillor L. Dunne

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

Meeting Finished @ 17:55

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

**Mayor**

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