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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council June 2023 Annual Meeting held on Friday 30 June 2023

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bailey, C. | McCrave, L. |
| Carey, W. | McMahon, R. |
| Casserly, V. | McManus, D. |
| Collins, Y. | Moynihan, S. |
| Costello, T. | Murphy, E. |
| Donaghy, L. | Ó Brádaigh, D. |
| Duff, M. | O’Brien, E. |
| Dunne, L. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Edge, A. | O’Connell, G. |
| Egan, K. | O’Connor, C. |
| Gilligan, T. | O’Hara, S. |
| Gogarty, P. | O’Toole, L. |
| Guéret, L. | Pereppadan, B. |
| Hagin Meade, L. | Richardson, D. |
| Hayes, A. | Sinclair, L. |
| Kearns, P. | Timmons, F. |
| King, C. | Tuffy, J. |
| Lawlor, B. |  |
| Lynch, M |  |
|  |  |
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### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors  Head of Finance | J. Frehill, M. Mulhern, L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, E. Leech  R. FitzGerald |
| Senior Executive Officer | M. Murtagh. |
| Administrative Officers | D. Healy, M. Reilly |
| Senior Staff Officer  Staff Officer | L. Abbey K. McLoughlin |
| Assistant Staff Officer | D. Murphy |
| Sord | A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors K. Mahon, P. Holohan, L. Whelan and M. Johannson.

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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You should be aware that the Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the Data Protection Act 1988, General Data Protection Regulations (EU) 2016/679 and the Defamation Act 2009. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the legislation.

Therefore, by entering the Council Chamber and using the seats around the meeting tables, public gallery etc. you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting.

The Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, addressed the members.

**TRIBUTES TO OUTGOING MAYOR**

Councillors S. Moynihan, W. Carey, L. Hagin Meade, D. McManus, C. Bailey, P. Kearns and M. Duff paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, and commended her on her work over the year.

The Chief Executive, Mr. C. Ward, thanked the Mayor for her service and commended her hard work over the last year. The Chief Executive also thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor J. Tuffy, for her service.

The Chief Executive, Mr. C. Ward presented the Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, with a photographic record of her year as Mayor.

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, thanked the Members, Management, and staff for all their help throughout the year.

### **H1/0623 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. Murphy, called for nominations for the position of Mayor.

**Councillor A. Edge** was proposed by Councillor M. Duff and seconded by Councillor L. Hagin Meade.

**Councillor D. McManus** was proposed by Councillor S. O’Hara and seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor.

Councillors C. King, S. Moynihan, P. Kearns, F. Timmons, G. O’Connell, W. Carey and C. Bailey all spoke in support of Councillor A. Edge’s nomination.

A Roll Call Vote was taken, and the result was as follows:

**FOR Councillor A. Edge: 28 (TWENTY-EIGHT)**

**Councillors C. Bailey, W. Carey, Y. Collins, T. Costello, L. Donaghy, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, T. Gilligan, P. Gogarty, L. Guéret, L. Hagin Meade, A. Hayes, P. Kearns, C. King, M. Lynch, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, D. Ó Brádaigh, E. O’Brien, E. Ó Broin, G. O’Connell, C. O’Connor, L. O’Toole, D. Richardson, L. Sinclair, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy.**

**FOR Councillor D. McManus: 7 (Seven)**

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

As a result of the roll call vote **Councillor A. Edge** was elected Mayor for 2023/2024.

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, presented the new Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, with the Chain of Office, the Mayor then took the chair.

The new Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, then addressed the Members:

*Thank you all so much. I’m immensely grateful, humbled and proud to be taking over the reins for the last year of this Council term and doubly proud to be taking over from an outstanding and trailblazing Mayor, my friend Emma Murphy, I’m proud to follow in the footsteps of her Rainbow kitten heels – I did ask if I could borrow them for the year but we both agreed haven’t the ankles for them. I wish you and Caroline and all the family the very best for what I’ve a sense is not going to be a quiet year ahead but I know a happy one.*

*This isn’t a situation I’d have envisaged for myself a few years ago. If you’d said to me a few years ago that I’d wind up here, I’d have suggested you seek help immediately. I didn’t come to local politics by the usual route through a party. There wasn’t a plan whereby I had it all mapped out. It’s really down to a series of happy accidents that followed on from two referendums we had in this country which brought about the most momentous and profound societal change imaginable and which made me feel after many years living and working in the UK that this was home again. So I really know how important it is to feel welcome and valued and respected in your home and I came to politics really with those core values of equality, inclusion and fairness uppermost in my mind.*

*These days there are still huge numbers of young Irish people making that journey that I made as a 22 year old and leaving Ireland but for different reasons. An acute and prolonged housing crisis, a cost of living crisis, lack of services, a two-tier health system and a widening of the gulf between rich and poor are just some of the issues they face. These core values of equality, inclusion and fairness are fundamental in meeting these challenges …. It’s not about the rights of LGBT+ people, migrants, and minority groups on the one hand and the economic factors that are squeezing the life out of people on the other – it’s all part of the same struggle for equality and inclusion and fairness.*

*And they might sound like very lofty ideals for a politician in local government and very far removed from day to day of local councillors but it’s true when they say all politics are local and we shouldn’t for one moment underestimate our role in this as local representatives who are in many ways at the coal face of our democracy – Our goal, no matter what our political persuasion is, must be to ensure that people have access to decent homes, that they have the very best local amenities available to them, that they have access to the means to express their creativity and fulfil their potential, that they have a local authority that’s leading the way in terms of tackling climate change and that they have a real sense of community and belonging in a county that’s a safe and welcoming and vibrant place so that everyone who lives here no matter who they are, where they’re from, where they live or how much they earn can be proud to call South Dublin home…*

*And in this election year, I think it’s important to recognise the other duty we have as elected representatives, the duty to combat the hate-mongering and the misinformation of people who would capitalise on the fact that people are hurting in order to pit one minority against another or to create a false narrative that scapegoats one sector of the community or another for the difficulties being faced by many. And as local councillors who are inextricably bound to the communities we represent, we have a vital role in that in terms of engaging people, engaging them with local democracy and engaging them with the wider community and fostering understanding between people. It’s a pivotal moment for us. We need to work together to do our bit to counter the growing sense of them and us. And we can do our part by engaging with people from across all backgrounds and ensuring their participation in the work of the local authority on issues like climate change, active travel, active senior citizenship, community development, and culture, heritage and art.*

*And in setting out my core priorities for my year as Mayor I have those values of equality, diversity and fairness foremost in my mind.*

* *I plan to introduce a Charter which I hope every community group, sports club and volunteer organisation in the county will sign up to, stating that its members will stand up to all forms of discrimination, whether it be racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia and ableism so that we can stand together and form a united front to support residents of this county in all their wonderful diversity…*
* *I will launch a campaign to encourage people to use their local Community Centres where people come together, meet their neighbours and come to better understand each other. I pledge to visit every community centre in the county during my term of office and to support them in any way I can and to promote the adoption of Slaintecare programmes within them all for the betterment of the communities they serve.*
* *I will also seek to carry on the great work which is already taking place in the county in terms of engagement with the public, to have them participating in and better understanding the work we do as a Council. For many years, local democracy has been seen as the preserve of a certain demographic. But happily that’s changing. For example, we have in this country amazing young people energised to fight climate change and the biodiversity crisis that is looming. How many of them know about the amazing work that their local authority is doing in terms of ambitious pollinator action plans or the huge strides being taken towards a circular economy… I want to pay tribute to the amazing work being done by young people in the county through organisations such as Comhairle na nOg. There’s more that we can do as a Council to increase our reach and to secure the and active participation of the entire public of South Dublin in the work that we’re doing here.*
* *As a proud resident of the Glenasmole Valley, I’ll also be using this year in office to highlight the importance of our rural communities– who are small in number and who are therefore sometimes overlooked when we talk in terms of 15 minute cities and transport hubs, very laudable objectives in themselves to be sure but not the whole story. If we don’t act now to preserve and sustain our rural communities, something very valuable will be lost and lost forever and it’s incumbent on us as local councillors to address their needs, particularly in terms of housing and rural planning to ensure that young people who are the lifeblood of those communities are able to stay within those communities.*
* *And finally, for the past couple of years it’s been my privilege to be Chair of the Arts, Culture, Gaelige, Heritage and Libraries SPC – in whatever order you like, it’s important work!. I’ve seen the tremendous impact that arts and culture can have in terms of bringing people together, most recently when I was proud to march alongside many of you with South Dublin libraries at Dublin Pride. On the very same day, Tallaght Community Arts hosted a family day in MacUallaim which was a further example of the great work that’s being done there bringing diverse communities together through culture and art and I pledge myself to support these wonderful initiatives and to champion diversity and inclusion using the amazing cultural and artistic resources that we have available to us here in this County.*

*To you my colleagues and to all the Council staff, I want to acknowledge that this is an election year and while it will be my first rodeo as an elected councillor, I know that there are many here who’ve been through this before and who know that tempers and nerves can be frayed. But I want to say as referee, sorry, as Mayor, that one of the lessons on the steep learning curve I’ve been on as a councillor first elected in 2019 is that there is more that unites us here, councillors and staff, than divides us. We are all working hard according to our own lights to make South Dublin the best it can be for the people who live here. It’s a misapprehension that Independents don’t want to work with anyone. One of the greatest joys of being an independent I’ve found is that you can work with everyone. So as we enter this busy electoral year, I pledge to you all to work collaboratively and collegially with you all wherever we can to improve the lot of all the people we represent and with that in mind, my door will be open to each and every one of you to discuss how we can best achieve that shared goal and that common purpose.*

*I want to thank Cllr Murphy for her friendship and for the work that she and her predecessors, Vicky Casserly, Ed O’Brien and Peter Kavanagh have done during this uniquely challenging council term, I want to give a huge thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Tuffy for her hard work over the year. I want to thank all my colleagues in the lead group, Fianna Fail, the Green caucus, Labour and independents with whom it’s been an absolute pleasure to work over the last year and a bit. I want to thank the residents of Firhouse-Bohernabreena whom I’m proud to represent and all the various community groups who’ve supported me, in particular Dodder Action and the Litter Mugs who are represented in the public gallery. I want to thank all of my colleagues in the Chamber as well as those who’ve left it but I want to say a particular thanks to my friend Pamela, who mammies me and makes me curries when she feels I’m not looking after myself, Charlie, who keeps me posted about what’s going on in the Council and who’s been an information superhighway since long before the internet was even conceived, Fran who brought me out for coffee when he heard I was running in 2019 to give me some words of friendly advice, which for an independent just starting out was a kindness that I won’t forget and Mick and the entire Duff clan, not just for the lovely tribute but for their wisdom and his unwavering friendship since our paths first crossed during the Repeal campaign. I would be lost without you.*

*To my amazing campaign team of women and men but mainly women, your support for me humbles me every single day and I can never find enough ways to thank you for what you do – this is down to you guys. And lastly to my family and friends, in particular my best mate and sometime political advisor Iain who’s travelled over from the UK to be here, it means a lot buddy. Sadly my dad passed away more than 20 years ago and so isn’t here to share in this day with me but I’ve lucked out in finding a sister I never knew I had and so Roisin I’m glad you’re here representing Dad today, to my Mum whose love and support has been a constant on every step on the fairly windy road my life has taken,– love ya Ma. Thanks folks*.

Councillors M. Duff, F. Timmons, E. Murphy and V. Casserly paid tribute to the incoming Mayor.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive welcomed the new Mayor.

### **H2/0623 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 J. Tuffy addressed the Members.

Councillors A. Edge, M. Duff, V. Casserly, W. Carey, P. Kearns, L. Hagin Meade, E. Murphy and F. Timmons paid tribute to the outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor J. Tuffy.

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, then called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

**Councillor Y. Collins** was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor and seconded by Councillor P. Kearns.

Councillors D. McManus, L. Hagin Meade and C. Bailey spoke in support of Councillor Y. Collins’ nomination.

As there were no further nominations Councillor Y. Collins was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor.

The incoming Deputy Mayor, Councillor Y. Collins, accepted the Chain of Office and addressed the Members.

**H3a/0623 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS** -**CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, called for nominations for Election of Chair of the Clondalkin Area Committee.

**Councillor F. Timmons** was proposed by Councillor L. Donaghy and was seconded by Councillor T. Gilligan.

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

**H3b/0623 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS – LUCAN/PALMERSTOWN/NORTH CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee.

**Councillor V. Casserly** was proposed by Councillor A. Hayes and seconded by Councillor S. Moynihan.

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

**H3c/0623 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS** - **RATHFARNHAM/TEMPLEOGUE/FIRHOUSE BOHERNABREENA AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse Bohernabreena Area Committee.

**Councillor P. Kearns** was proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade seconded by Councillor Y. Collins.

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

**H3d/0623 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS – TALLAGHT AREA COMMITTEE**

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, called for nominations for Election as Chair of the Tallaght Area Committee.

**Councillor L. Dunne** was proposed by Councillor M. Duff seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor.

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

**Meeting finished at 17:25**

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

Mayor

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