

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Council
held at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 25 June 2015
at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillor F O'Loughlin (Mayor), Councillors A Breslin, A Breen, F Brett, K Byrne, B Caldwell, D Callaghan, R Cronin, W Crowley, I Cussen, M Dalton, S Doyle, T Durkan, D Fitzpatrick, B Hillis, I Keatley, A Larkin, J Lawless, P McEvoy, P Kennedy, J McGinley, F McLoughlin-Healy, M Lynch, M. Miley Jnr, S Moore, J Neville, N O'Cearuil, F O'Rourke, J Pender, R Power, S Power, T Redmond, D Scully, M Stafford, M Wall, P Ward, B Weld and B Young

Apologies: Councillors T Murray and S O'Neill

Also Present: Mr. P Carey, Chief Executive, Messrs. J Boland, E O'Sullivan, P Minnock and T McDonnell, (Directors of Services), Ms. E Hanlon (Head of Finance), Ms. S Kavanagh (A/Director of Services), Ms. A. Aspell (Meetings Administrator) and other officials.

1/0615

Election of Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor O'Loughlin recalled her election in June 2014 and said that on that day she was nervous, excited but exhilarated to be elected Mayor of Kildare. She said it was a singular honour to be the first citizen of her county where she has served 20 years as an elected representative. Her family have a long history with Kildare County Council and her father Jimmy and grandfather Joe also served as members of Kildare County Council and held the position of Chairman.

The Mayor recalled the challenges of the past year, and she identified the provision of housing or assistance to people to provide a home for themselves as being the single biggest crises in Kildare. She commended the work of the staff in the Housing Department and noted that the Peter McVerry Trust are doing an excellent job providing homeless accommodation in Michael Garry House, a service that was threatened with closure in 2014. She said that Kildare is the lead authority for the Mid East Region for the purpose of

Homelessness but that the funding allocation was particularly low and did not compare favourably with adjoining regions. There are 6,575 applicants on the Kildare housing waiting list with an additional 100 applicants seeking assistance each month.

The Mayor welcomed the appointment of Peter Carey as Chief Executive during 2014, thanked him for his collaborative partnership approach and noted a cultural change in the organisation which had started at the top.

The Mayor recalled representing Kildare at home and abroad during her tenure with a huge sense of pride. There were many highlights in the year, but the opening of the Rathangan Community centre was particularly special to her.

The Mayor recalled Councillor Willie Callaghan, R.I.P. and former staff members Pat Whelan and John Carrick.

She thanked her family and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Frank O'Rourke for their support and assistance during the year.

The Mayor noted the dedication of the staff in Kildare County Council and thanked them for their assistance during the year.

Councillor O'Rourke thanked the Mayor and paid a special tribute to the media who reported in a fair and impartial manner on the business of the meetings of Kildare County Council.

The members commended the Mayor for carrying out an excellent job and setting a very high standard for the role. They agreed that Councillor O'Loughlin represented the county very well, at home and abroad and showed great patience and respect to fellow members. She showed particular courtesy and kindness to new members and was fair and impartial to all. She excelled in linking in with communities and that was appreciated and acknowledged. The Chief Executive, on behalf of management and staff, joined with the members in their tributes. He said that she brought dignity and professionalism to her role as first citizen and had worked incredibly hard. She was a wonderful ambassador for Kildare and had shown great courtesy to him. Mr Carey presented the Mayor with an album of photographs to mark the memories of her year in office.

The Mayor said it was humbling to listen to so many positive accolades and thanked the members and the Chief Executive.

The Mayor invited nominations for the post of Mayor for the coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Scully, seconded by Councillor Keatley, Councillor Brendan Weld was nominated.

Councillor Scully said that Councillor Weld was a dedicated, hardworking and honest man who loved his role as councillor. He said that he would bring pride and distinction to the role. In seconding the motion, Councillor Keatley thanked Councillor Weld and said that he had battled personal adversity over the past number of years.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Weld was deemed elected and took the chair.

In accepting the position, Mayor Weld thanked Councillors Scully and Keatley for their nomination and the members for their support. He said it was a great honour to be selected and assured the members, the Chief Executive and staff of his support and assistance.

2/0615

Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the post of Deputy Mayor for the coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Durkan, Councillor Ivan Keatley was nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Keatley was deemed elected to the post of Deputy Mayor. The Mayor and members congratulated Councillor Keatley on his election as Deputy Mayor for the county. Councillor Keatley thanked Councillors Stafford and Durkan for their nomination and the members for their support.

The Mayor thanked all the members and welcomed Councillor Keatley as Deputy Mayor. He said that he will be an all inclusive Mayor, that his door will be open and that he will be fair to all. He thanked his wife Jetta for her unwavering support and welcomed her, his aunts, his grandchildren Bobby, Trevor and Isabel and his extended family to the Chamber. The Mayor said that he is dedicating this year to the awareness of organ donation and he asked all to carry a donor card where possible. He said that he had been very ill for quite a while but that on 7/10/2012, he received a life changing kidney transplant. He thanked the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor and said that he was looking forward to the year ahead but that he was aware of the challenges. He said that it had been a pleasure to work with the Maynooth Municipal District members and paid tribute to Councillor Fitzpatrick in his role of Cathaoirleach. He welcomed Deputies Lawlor and Heydon and former Councillors Hendy and Griffin to the Chamber and thanked them for their support.

The Mayor said that the relationship between members and staff will be strengthened if there is respect and tolerance of one another. He thanked the staff and in particular, the Chief Executive, Peter Carey. He noted that there will be an election in the coming year but cautioned members that he will not allow electioneering in the chamber.

The members joined in their congratulations and well wishes to the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

This concluded the annual meeting.