

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 14TH MARCH, 2016, AT 1.30PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor G. Mitchell, Deputy Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Butler, Byrne, Collins (J), Collins (M), Daly, Donegan, Foley, Gilligan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, McMahon, O'Brien, O'Dea, O'Donnell, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, Prendiville, Ryan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Home, Community and Sport (Mr. P. Dowling), Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Economic Development and Strategic Planning (Mr. P. Daly), A/Head of Finance/Human Resources/Corporate/ICT (Mr. S. Coughlan), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox).

1. Support Services Directorate

(a) Filling of Casual Vacancies

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 4th March, 2016.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council was required to consider filling a number of casual vacancies on the Council as follows:

- Casual vacancy consequent on the resignation of Councillor Shane Clifford.
- Casual Vacancy consequent on the death of Councillor Joe Crowley, RIP.
- Casual Vacancy consequent on the election of Councillor Maurice Quinlivan to Dáil Éireann.
- Casual Vacancy consequent on the election of Councillor Tom Neville to Dáil Éireann.

The procedure was set out in Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, a copy of which had been circulated to Members. He also confirmed that all the required documentation in relation to the co-options for three of the vacancies had been received and was in order.

(i) Casual Vacancy – Councillor Shane Clifford

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Collins (J);

“That, Mr. Joe Pond, Annacotty, Castletroy, Limerick, be co-opted to the Council to fill the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Councillor Shane Clifford.”

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Mr. Joe Pond co-opted as a Member of the Council for the Metropolitan District of Limerick and welcomed him as a Member of the Council.

Councillor Pond then took his seat in the Chamber.

Councillor Pond stated that he wanted to thank his colleagues in Fianna Fáil for voting for him to take the seat on the Council following the resignation of Councillor Shane Clifford. He said that he was looking forward to working with his fellow Fianna Fáil Councillors and also with the Councillors of all parties, as well as with the Staff and Management of Limerick City and County Council. He added that he was aware of how much of an honour it was to be selected as a Councillor and that he hoped to represent the people of his local electoral area to the best of his ability. He said that he knew he would be working with a great team.

(ii) Casual Vacancy – Councillor Joe Crowley, RIP

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Collins (J);

“That, Ms. Vivienne Crowley, 29 Westfield Park, North Circular Road, Limerick, be co-opted to the Council to fill the casual vacancy caused by the death of Councillor Joe Crowley, RIP.”

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Ms. Vivienne Crowley co-opted as a Member of the Council for the Metropolitan District of Limerick and welcomed her as a Member of the Council.

Councillor Crowley then took her seat in the Chamber.

Councillor Crowley said that she would firstly like to thank the Fianna Fáil Party and her colleagues for the overwhelming support she had received. She added that addressing the Meeting as a Councillor was a huge honour and that although she had always had a keen interest in politics, it was a privilege beyond her wildest dreams.

She stated that filling her father’s seat was a bittersweet consequence of his being taken far too soon. She said that she could only hope to live up to his reputation as a passionate and driven Councillor who had loved both his community and his party. She added that making her father proud had never been a difficult task to her or her siblings since her father had relished even their smallest achievements. She stated that she knew

that he would have been overjoyed to see her taking a seat on the Council that he had held in such high regard.

She said that, going forward, she hoped that she would be able to commit the same energy and enthusiasm to the challenging responsibility of representing the people of her local electoral area.

She added that she looked forward to building strong relationships and working with her fellow Councillors of all parties or non-party, along with the Staff and Management of the Council, for the benefit of Limerick City and County.

(iii) Casual Vacancy – Councillor Maurice Quinlivan

On the proposal of Councillor McCreesh, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), it was agreed to defer the filling of this casual vacancy to a Special Meeting of the Council to be held on Monday, 21st March, 2016, at 9.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay.

(iv) Casual Vacancy – Councillor Tom Neville

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Keary;

“That, Mr. Adam Teskey, Killeheen, Reens, Ardagh, Co. Limerick, be co-opted to the Council to fill the casual vacancy caused by the election of Councillor Tom Neville to Dáil Éireann.”

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Mr. Adam Teskey co-opted as a Member of the Council for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale and welcomed him as a Member of the Council.

Councillor Teskey then took his seat in the Chamber.

Councillor Teskey thanked his proposer and seconder. He said that he had a lot to contribute to local politics and to the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale. He said he was looking forward to working with his fellow Councillors and the Staff of the Council. He added that he would do his best to deliver for the people in an honourable, fair, transparent and upfront manner. He concluded by stating that he knew what people were looking for in terms of law enforcement, policing, crime, commercial rates and farming. He thanked his proposer, seconder and branch members for their support.

The Mayor and Members congratulated the incoming Members and extended a very warm welcome to them and wished them well in their new roles and future political careers. They also paid tribute to the outgoing Members and again expressed their sadness at the untimely loss of their colleague, Joe Crowley, RIP.

The Chief Executive, on behalf of Management and Staff, congratulated the new Members and welcomed them to Limerick City and County Council, saying that staff would do everything possible to assist them in their roles in serving the people of Limerick. He stated that these were challenging times but that he was confident that if the staff and Members worked closely together, it would be for the betterment of Limerick.

Newly elected Dáil Deputy, Tom Neville, who was present in the Chamber, thanked the Members and Staff for their support during his term on the Council. He wished the new Members the best for the future. He added that he was a strong believer in Local Government and stressed the importance of preserving the structure and what it represented going forward.

(b) European Cities and Regions of the Future Awards

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development and Strategic Planning, dated 8th March, 2016.

The report stated that The Financial Times sponsored Foreign Direct Investment (fDi) Awards were taking place in Cannes, France, on 15th March, 2016, and that Limerick had been successful under a number of Award categories.

The City had been awarded first place in the fDi's Micro Cities of the Future Award 2016/17 and had been placed tenth overall in the Northern European Cities of the Future 2016/17. It had also been placed in the following categories: Economic Potential (2nd), Human Capital and Lifestyle (4th), Business Friendliness (2nd) and FDI Strategy (2nd).

The report was proposing that a member of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee, together with a Council Official, would travel to Cannes to receive the Winner's Certificate. In accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council was being sought for the proposed visit to Cannes with an estimated cost of €842.06.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to proposed attendance of Councillor Noel Gleeson, Chair of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Planning Committee, at the European Cities and Regions of the Future Awards in Cannes, France, in accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended."

Signed:

Mayor

Date:
