

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON FRIDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019 AT 9.45 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor D. Butler, Mayor

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Benson, Collins, Costelloe, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, B. Leddin, J. Leddin, McSweeney, Murphy, O'Dea, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Secas, Sheahan, Sheehan, Slattery and Talukder

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Service Operations (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. J. Clune), Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. L. Creamer).

The outgoing Mayor of the Metropolitan District, Councillor Butler, welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting to elect a Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick. He thanked his family, friends and supporters for all their help and advice over the last year, which was extremely busy. He thanked his Party colleagues for their support, advice and guidance, his fellow councillors from the last term for working with him in such a positive and efficient manner.

The Members congratulated Councillor Butler on his year as Mayor of the Metropolitan District and paid tribute to the manner in which he carried out his duties both inside and outside the Chamber.

**1. To elect a Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold Office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been elected**

The outgoing Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;  
Seconded by Councillor Talukder;

"That Councillor James Collins be appointed Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been appointed".

Proposed by Councillor J. Leddin;  
Seconded by Councillor B. Leddin;

"That Councillor Elena Secas be appointed Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been appointed".

A vote was taken which resulted as follows :

**For Councillor Collins**

Councillors Butler, Collins, Kiely, McSweeney, Murphy, O'Dea, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, M. Sheahan, Slattery and Talukder

**For Councillor Secas**

Councillors Benson, Costelloe, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, B. Leddin, J. Leddin, O'Donovan, Secas and Sheehan (9)

The outgoing Mayor declared Councillor James Collins elected as Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick and congratulated him on his election.

Members congratulated Councillor James Collins on his election as Cathaoirleach and wished him and his family every success in the coming year. The newly elected Cathaoirleach spoke of the honour of becoming the first Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District and looked forward to working with the Members in the coming year.

**2. To elect a Leas Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold Office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been elected.**

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the Office of Leas Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O'Dea;  
Seconded by Councillor Slattery;

"That Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon be appointed Leas Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor is appointed".

Proposed by Councillor Costelloe;  
Seconded by Councillor Secas;

"That Councillor Sharon Benson be appointed Leas Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor is appointed".

A vote was taken which resulted as follows :

**For Councillor O'Hanlon**

Councillors Butler, Collins, Kiely, McSweeney, Murphy, O'Dea, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Sheahan, Slattery and Talukder (11)

**For Councillor Benson**

Councillors Benson, Costelloe, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, B. Leddin, J. Leddin, O'Donovan, Secas and Sheehan (9)

The Mayor declared Councillor O'Hanlon elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Cllr O'Hanlon thanked the Members for nominating him and he looked forward to the year ahead.

Councillor Costelloe proposed that a Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council be held in relation to the proposed closure of the recycling depot on Park Road.

This was seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon.

The Director (Service Operations) congratulated Councillor Butler on his year as Mayor and wished the incoming Cathaoirleach, Councillor James Collins, every success in the year ahead. He stated that he was looking forward to working with all the Members in the year ahead.

Members stated that they had received a large volume of telephone calls and texts from the public objecting to such closure. A lot of elderly people use this recycling facility and they expressed their total opposition to the closure of same. They requested that the present facility should remain open and if it has to close due to health and safety reasons, then an alternative site should be identified. Members requested a copy of the health and safety report on the site.

Councillor Butler cautioned Members that there is a Report from experts recommending the closure of the site on health and safety grounds and asked if the Councillors would take responsibility if any accidents occurred there.

The Cathaoirleach asked that the relevant officials be in attendance at the Special Meeting.

He confirmed that the recycling plant in Park Road had to be closed down on health and safety grounds and pointed out that Limerick City and County Council is required by law to provide safe services for staff and for members of the public. A Safety Audit was undertaken in the end of 2018 which required the Centre to be closed down on health and safety grounds as it 'posed a serious risk of accidents'. The advice he received was that the site was too small and the risk too great to remain open. He fully appreciated the loss of this facility. He added that the most usage of the site is paper and cardboard with small amounts of electrical items. He informed Members that the Council will be spending a lot of finance on the site and it is intended to keep the bottle, cans and clothes banks open. He pointed out that most people have wheelie bins which can be used for dry recyclables.

It was proposed by Councillor Joe Leddin, seconded by Councillor Costelloe and agreed that there would be no changes to the current services pending Special Meeting.

Members pointed out that there has been no accidents or incidents there to date and enquired if the Report was carried out in December why had an alternative site not been identified. They stated that a commitment is needed that another site will be identified in the area.

Councillor O'Hanlon suggested that the site remain open with no vehicle access into the site.

The Director (Service Operations) stated that he delayed the closure of the site until he went out to inspect the site himself and confirmed that it does pose a health and safety risk. He stated that his job is to make sure risks are minimised and that the health and safety of employees and members of the public are observed at all times. He indicated that there is a health and safety concern also about the roadway outside the facility and pointed out that this facility would not be closing if there was any other choice.

He pointed out that a number of alternative sites were examined and a proposal on Childers Road in the mid 1990's was met with considerable local opposition.

He confirmed that the recycling depot on Park Road will be closed on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.

It was agreed to organise a special meeting to allow for further discussion as soon as possible.

This concluded the Meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

**DATE :** \_\_\_\_\_