

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY 15TH JUNE, 2020 AT 11:00 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor J. Collins, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Costelloe, Daly, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, 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), A/Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. P. Williams), Staff Officer Corporate Services (Ms L. Creamer).

The outgoing Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District, Councillor Collins, welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting to elect a Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

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 Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the Office of Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

Councillor Butler proposed Councillor Kiely and in doing so said Councillor Kiely would make for an incredible Cathaoirleach, if elected. He said she was from Janesboro and was well known and respected and very active in the community there. He acknowledged Councillor Kiely’s late mother, Eileen, late husband Damien, her sisters, and her children, Emily and Tiernan. Today would be a proud moment for her family, if elected. Sarah went to school in the Presentation school, was a chef for twenty years and was a residential care assistant with Tusla. She works very hard for her area and is the new Co-Ordinator for Queen of Peace Youth Group. Councillor Butler said that Councillor Kiely would make for a strong, dynamic, hardworking and empathetic Cathaoirleach, if elected, and stressed the importance of having more female leader in senior positions in society.

Councillor Slattery, in seconding the proposal, added that it would be fantastic to have a woman as Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District.

Proposed by Councillor D. Butler;
Seconded by Councillor C. Slattery;

“That Councillor Sarah Kiely 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 S. Hartigan;
Seconded by Councillor S. Benson;

“That Councillor Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir be appointed Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been appointed”.

As there was more than one nomination a Roll Call vote was taken which resulted as follows :

For Councillor Kiely

Councillors Butler, Collins, Daly, Kiely, McSweeney, Murphy, O’Dea, O’Donovan, O’Hanlon, O’Sullivan, M. Sheahan, Slattery and Talukder (13)

For Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir

Councillors Benson, Costelloe, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, Leddin, Novak Uí Chonchúir, Secas and C. Sheehan (8)

The outgoing Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Sarah Kiely elected as Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick and congratulated her on her election.

Councillor Kiely then addressed the Chamber:

Mayor , fellow Cllrs , members of the Executive, friends and family, and members of the press

Firstly thank you to the people of Limerick who this time last year elected me . 12 short months later I stand here as Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan area. Thank you to my Fine Gael colleagues and my other Council colleagues. Two years ago if someone had told me this would be happening I wouldn't have believed them.

I feel so proud and privileged to be in this role with my Dad Martin , my daughter Emily and my son Tiernan all here today to support me. The last two years have been very tough on us all. There are two very important people missing, my late husband Damien and my late mother Aileen who I know are looking down at me too.

The last few months have been challenging for individuals, families, communities and the country as we all grapple with Covid 19. My message to you today is keep going - no matter what life throws at you. Have a goal and be brave! The road is never straight , it is meandering and sometimes rocky. Life events will bring you on detours the is important to keep your resolve.

I'm often asked how I got into politics. My response is, serendipity and pride in Limerick. Ive always lived here and know the city like the back of my hand .I was educated here and raised my family here, I worked as a chef for nearly 20 years in the private sector and the public sector with TUSLA; Ive always worked in the city , it is an integral part of who I am. I remember being in school in Presentation in Sexton Street , waiting for the Mayor to visit us, I remember the red robes , the gold chain , and the anticipation of his or her arrival , it was the first interaction with local politics for many people. From that day I aspired to be in the role, I always had the robes but not I also have the role!

Volunteers are the backbone of Limerick . Not long ago I volunteered with Limerick youth service and Limerick city community radio , one of my first achievements after my election was finding the station their home in Tait place with the help of the executive. I got so much from my time with them

I would encourage anyone with free time to give it ago, radio is part of who we are and is a very reliable source of news , we as a nation listen to more radio that most other countries. It is Team Limerick Clean up which has given our City and County national recognition together with the coaches in the soccer clubs , GAA clubs , rugby clubs who volunteer their time to help others in the community. To the volunteers in the youth clubs, mental health support services and arts organizations, I thank you for all that you do. Time is so valuable, anyone who gives their time to others , I commend you. It is often said that Limerick's biggest asset are its people and I totally with that statement . Civic pride is very strong in Limerick and that has been evident in the last few months. Billy and Andrew Grieves are a great example of that . They took it upon themselves to clean up the shores of the Shannon and we commend you for that.

The meals on wheels groups throughout Limerick city who were invaluable in helping the most vulnerable people get a hot meal every day, I saw first hand how vital that was in St Munchins during the initial Covid 19 period , well done to you all. I will continue to lend my support the voluntary sector in Limerick during my year as Cathaoirleach

The skyline of Limerick will change in the coming year. Cranes will be visible and investment apparent. The Rugby Experience has a crane onsite as we speak. The Opera Development which is a transformational project for the city will be starting in September 2020 and on completion will be capable of employing 3000 people across its 450,000 square feet. Cleves Riverside Quarter will also progress substantially over the next 12 months. The project team led by Limerick 2030 will be preparing a shortlist of concepts for the site in Autumn. It will involve significant public consultation to ensure the local community, and the wider public are afforded the opportunity to provide feedback on the evolving plan for this site, please get involved and have your say when the time comes.

The Metropolitan area of which we are the local government, must provide unwavering support to all of our citizens. Politics is for the many not just the few, we need more diversity, That means something different to everyone, when I look around the chamber today , I see people from all parties and none who do work together, most of the time. Building a new Limerick is now our focus. We need to respect each other , work together & compromise to allow everyone to be heard. This paramount going forward. To do this Elected members & the Executive must provide clear and transparent civic leadership in all decision making.

We are in unprecedented times. The ongoing impact of Covid 19, and the potential impact of Brexit, are having a massive impact on all of us -businesses and communities alike.

Balance is key to re- opening our City. I intend to listen , engage, and work with all parties, organizations and businesses who want our City to thrive. As I said before, our people are our biggest asset. We have people of such passion, energy, ability and drive in our City, often with differing view points. Difference makes us stronger as we gain knowledge from other people's perspective By listening, discussing ,negotiating and compromising we will find a path forward that benefits everyone, not just a few. We will fight-and disagree, but we should always respect each other because we will always agree on one thing, we love our City.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year. Ar aghaidh linn Le Cheile . Ill leave you with this quote for consideration , "I have never in my life learned anything from someone who agreed with me " (Dudley Field Malone)

Go raibh Maith agaibh

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 Butler;
Seconded by Councillor Talukder;

“That Councillor Daniel McSweeney 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 Secas;
Seconded by Councillor C. Sheehan;

“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 Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows :

For Councillor McSweeney

Councillors Butler, Collins, Daly, Kiely, Kilcoyne, McSweeney, Murphy, O’Dea, O’ Donovan, O’Hanlon, O’Sullivan, M. Sheehan, Slattery and Talukder
(14)

For Councillor Benson

Councillors Benson, Costelloe, Hartigan, Novak Uí Chonchúir, Leddin, Secas and C.
Sheehan (7)

The Cathaoirleach declared Councillor McSweeney elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Councillor McSweeney then addressed the Chamber:

It is a major honour to be elected Leas-Cathaoirleach of Limerick Metropolitan Area.

To be given this amazing opportunity to be elected as possibly the youngest ever Leas-Cathaoirleach (Deputy Mayor) for Limerick City.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who voted for me here today but also most importantly the people of Limerick City West who put their faith in me in May 2019 and elected me to Limerick City and County Council.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic we as a city are going to face the biggest challenges we have ever faced over the coming years. Over the coming 12 months I am ready for this challenge and look forward to working with Cllr. Kiely and you the members to address these issues and plan for the future.

Again I would like to thank the people of Limerick City West and also my family for their support over the last number of months as I begin my political journey.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and the outgoing Cathaoirleach congratulated Councillors Kiely and McSweeney on their respective appointments and wished them well for the coming year.

Members congratulated Councillor Kiely and Councillor McSweeney on their appointments and wished them every success in the coming year. Members welcomed Councillor Kiely's family to the Chamber and noted the honour of the role of Cathaoirleach. They also referenced how active and dynamic Councillor Kiely was in her local community and that they looked forward to supporting her in the Chamber and working with her on delivering the many important strategic aims for the Metropolitan District.

Mr. Kieran Lehane, on behalf of the executive, congratulated Councillor Kiely and Councillor McSweeney on their appointments and wished them every success in the coming year. He also thanked Councillor Collins for his work during his term as Cathaoirleach.

This concluded the Meeting.

SIGNED: _____
Cathaoirleach

DATE : _____