

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON FRIDAY, 30th JUNE, 2023, AT 3PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor F. Foley, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Collopy, Daly, Donegan, Egan, Foley, Galvin, Hartigan, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Mitchell, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Pond, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheahan (C), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Dr. P. Daly), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Support Services (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Planning, Environment & Place-Making (Mr. Vincent Murray), Director, National & Regional Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Rural, Community & Culture Development (Mr. S. Duclot), A/Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. B. Troy), Meetings Administrator, (Ms. L. Flannery), Administrative Officer (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. A. Foley),

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting.

Votes of Sympathy

With the permission of the Mayor, the Council expressed its sympathy to the following:

- The family and friends of James McNamara, Claughan Avenue, Garryowen, former Chairman of Geraldine's AFC;
- The family and friends of John Joe O'Dea, Ballyclough, father of the late Cllr Jerry O'Dea.

The Mayor informed Members that the media were present and may wish to record elements of the meeting. In accordance with Standing Orders, the Mayor sought agreement from the Members in this regard. All Members were in agreement for recording to proceed if required.

The Mayor referred to the very sad and untimely passing of Cllr Jerry O'Dea, at the start of his term. He acknowledged the commitment of Council Members to the work of the Local Authority over the previous 12 months on behalf of all the citizens of Limerick City and County. He also thanked the Chief Executive, Management and staff across all Departments, including District Offices, and outdoor staff, for their work on a daily basis for all of Limerick. He thanked the staff in Corporate Services for their support during the year and in particular, Eleanor Buckley, in the Mayor's Office who kept his diary going at all times.

The Mayor noted all the many special moments and events during his year as Mayor and he stated he was proud to represent Limerick and celebrate all that was good in Limerick City and County. He referred to the great sense of optimism and positivity he had encountered as Mayor over the past 12 months in both the City and the County. The Mayor thanked all his family and friends for their support during the year and in particular his wife and children who were so supportive to him. In conclusion, the Mayor thanked the outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor O'Hanlon, for his experience and invaluable support with what was a very busy schedule of events during the year.

1. Election of Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

The outgoing Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Mayor of the City and County of Limerick for the coming year.

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

“That, Councillor Gerald Mitchell be appointed Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until his successor is appointed.”

As there were no other nominations, the outgoing Mayor declared Councillor Mitchell elected as Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and offered him his congratulations and best wishes for the coming year.

Having taken the Chair, the incoming Mayor, Councillor Mitchell, gave the following address:

Colleagues, Chief Executive and officials of Limerick City and County Council, family and friends. It is such a huge honour for me to be elected as the first citizen of Limerick today. It is a position that all local politicians strives for, but not all are elected, so I am so proud to now being among that number. There is a long and valued history of Mayors of Limerick and I intend to uphold that honoured tradition and do my best for the people of Limerick. I would like to congratulate Cllr Foley and Cllr O'Hanlon on their very successful term as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively.

Being Mayor is a responsibility that I will take very seriously, with the humility that the office deserves. I am custodian of these chains for the next 12 months and I will do my best for all communities right across our great city and county. We all stand for election and become involved in politics for the right reasons, representing our communities and peers and seeking to make our collective lives better and more progressive.

I wish to thank my proposer Cllr John Sheahan and seconder Cllr John Egan for proposing me for the position of Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and I want to thank all those who have supported me in the election today.

I intend to make investment in rural communities a priority during my term, as more needs to be done to make the countryside more attractive for investment and residential development. In particular, I want to see pressure put on Uisce Eireann to improve water and sewage facilities in our county towns and villages, many of which are not fit for purpose. This lack of important development is stifling growth and investment and must be addressed as soon as possible, if we are to stem the flow of young people from the countryside. People need options for employment and housing in their local areas.

In Limerick, we are enjoying strong economic growth, and I hope to see strong levels of investment continuing in our city. Limerick needs a strong city at its core and the benefits will reverberate out across the county as a rising tide lifts all boats. Limerick is a place that people from many different countries and backgrounds call home. I will represent all communities in Limerick during my term and ensure that every section of these communities receives the due recognition they deserve.

I am proud to be continuing a family legacy of public representation as the fifth Mitchell involved in Limerick local politics following Thomas B. Mitchell who was the first Chairman of Limerick County Council in 1899. I also think of my parents Eileen and Edmond J. Mitchell who always used to help people in the locality and being good neighbours came naturally to them both. There were many sacrifices made by previous generations and now it was up to the current generation to build on the progress made to date.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge John Kiely, the Limerick Senior Hurling Team, and the success that they have brought to Limerick over the past few years, and I wish them well in their forthcoming All Ireland Senior Hurling Semi-Final against Galway.

Luimneach Abú-Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

2. Election of Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick for the coming year.

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

“That, Councillor Dan McSweeney be appointed Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until his successor is appointed.”

As there were no other nominations the Mayor declared Councillor McSweeney elected as Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and congratulated him on his election.

The incoming Deputy Mayor, Councillor McSweeney, then addressed the Meeting:

I am delighted to be elected today to the post of Deputy Mayor and thanks to my Fine Gael colleagues for nominating me, and all my colleagues who supported me here today. I am honoured to take up the position of Deputy Mayor of our fine city and county. I will endeavour to work hand-in-hand with Mayor Mitchell in supporting him in carrying out his duties as Mayor and I know we will work very well together. This is also a huge honour for my family, friends and wider community as well.

I was elected in 2019 to the Limerick City West Electoral Area in the Metropolitan District of Limerick at the age of 20, but I learned the ropes of how to operate as a Councillor very quickly. I have worked hard to represent the people of Limerick City West and the wider Metropolitan District to the best of my ability. I acknowledge the important work being done across many areas of our city and county by the management and staff of Limerick City and County Council, in conjunction with the Elected Members. My key focus will be to continue to enhance the provision of Community, Sport and Recreation facilities, the delivery of Affordable and Social Homes, tackling dereliction in our communities and improving connectivity with Limerick City Centre.

The Members welcomed the guests who were present. They congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their election and assured them of their full support. They wished them well in the year ahead and expressed confidence in their ability to carry out the duties of Mayor and Deputy Mayor with great honour and distinction.

Tributes were also paid to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Foley, and the outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor O'Hanlon. Members commended them for the manner in which they had performed their roles during the year.

The Chief Executive congratulated Councillor Mitchell and Councillor McSweeney on their election to the Office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick respectively. He stated that it was an honour to hold the Office of Mayor, a responsible position that carried with it the challenge of delivering leadership for and on behalf of the people of Limerick. He looked forward to working with them over the next twelve months to promote Limerick. He also acknowledged the accomplishments of the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor and their work over the past year.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Mayor

Date:
