

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH JUNE, 2024, AT 12.00 NOON.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor T. Ruddle, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Foley, Galvin, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor of Limerick (Mr. J. Moran), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. H. Supple), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism (Mr. G. Daly).

Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. J. Sheehan).

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ruddle, opened the Meeting and thanked the Mayor of Limerick for his attendance at the Meeting. He also welcomed the new Director of the District (Mr. V. Murray). The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the excellent work of the former Director (Mr. G. Daly) on the progression of a number of projects including the Limerick Greenway, Limerick Regional Athletics Hub and Fuller's Folly while in the District. The Cathaoirleach congratulated all the Members on being re-elected to the Council. He wished the very best to the incoming Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach.

All the Members concurred with the Cathaoirleach in welcoming the Mayor of Limerick to the Municipal District of Newcastle West and wished him well in his role for the next five years. The Members also welcomed the new Director to the District and acknowledged his knowledge in economic development and planning. Reference was made to the excellent work which was carried out in the District over the last five years and the Members thanked the Meetings Administrator, Roads and Housing staff for their assistance throughout the term. The Members looked forward to working with the Mayor in progressing various projects in the District.

The Members thanked Councillor Ruddle for his time as Cathaoirleach and wished him well.

1. Election of Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District

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

Proposed by: Councillor Ruddle

Seconded by: Councillor Collins

“That, Councillor Liam Galvin be appointed Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until his successor is appointed”.

As there were no other nominations, the outgoing Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Galvin elected as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District.

The Members congratulated Councillor Galvin on his appointment as Cathaoirleach and wished him well in the year ahead.

On taking the Chair, Councillor Galvin expressed his appreciation on being appointed Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West and thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach. He stated that he was looking forward to working with the Mayor and the Members in the progression of various projects in the District. He wished the previous Director well in his new role and welcomed the new Director to the District.

Councillor Galvin expressed sympathy to the family of Micheál Ó’Muircheartaigh, Irish Gaelic Games Commentator and to the family of Tommie O’Gorman, RTE Broadcaster, who had sadly passed away this week.

The newly elected Cathaoirleach referred to the issue of speeding in the District, safety outside national schools, Irish Water and sewerage, progression of Part 8’s and to the need for more housing in the District.

2. Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Municipal District

The Cathaoirleach then invited nominations for the office of Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Municipal District for the coming year.

Proposed by: Councillor Ruddle

Seconded by: Councillor Collins

“That, Councillor John Sheahan be appointed Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until his successor is appointed”.

As there were no other nominations, the Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Sheahan elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Municipal District.

The incoming Leas-Chathaoirleach wished the very best to the incoming Cathaoirleach, assuring him of his full support.

The Members congratulated Councillor Sheahan on his appointment as Leas-Chathaoirleach and wished him well in the year ahead.

The Mayor addressed the Meeting. He stated that Limerick is not just a City Council but a County Council together with the staff in both city and county. He referred to his own aspirations over the next five years including forward and strategic planning, progression of offshore wind and setting a path for Limerick for the next 25/30 years. He referred to the Housing Commission Report and to the proposed scale of housing development in Limerick over the next five years.

The Mayor called on the Members to identify the five biggest priorities in the District over the next five years and to forward these priorities to the Mayor before the 11th July, 2024. He stated that these priorities will then feed into the Mayoral Programme and will become part of his priorities over the next five years. Following discussion, the Members agreed to hold a Workshop to identify items for consideration on the Mayoral Programme on Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024, in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West, at 8.45 a.m.

The Mayor referred to the holding of the Ryder Cup in 2027 and to everyone who visits Limerick to have a clear vision of what Limerick is likely to look like in 25 years time. The Mayor also referred to two obvious points in the Mayoral role including the actual programme and the advocacy role.

The Members referred to a number of challenges facing the District over the next term of the Council and beyond. Some of these challenges include policing, new Garda Station for Newcastle West, Garda reserves, Irish Water, housing and suitable zoned lands, health and education.

The Director thanked all for the welcome received and looked forward to working with the Members given his experience in rural and economic development.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____

