

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON FRIDAY, 9TH MAY, 2025, AT 12 NOON, IN ORDER TO PASS A VOTE OF SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF FORMER MAYOR OF LIMERICK, KATHLEEN LEDDIN, RIP.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor D. McSweeney.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (M), Donoghue, Foley, Galvin, Gavan, Hartigan (S), Hartigan (T), Hickey-O'Mara, Keary, Kiely, Leddin, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan (O), Pond, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Scanlan, Secas, Slattery, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey, Ward.

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director General (Dr. P. Daly), Deputy Director General and Director, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Housing (Mr. B. Kennedy), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Director, Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services (Mr. M. White), A/Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. H. McGrath), A/Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. D. White).

Also in Attendance: Senator Maria Byrne.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir welcomed all present to the Special Meeting which he had convened to pass a Vote of Sympathy on the passing of former Mayor of Limerick, Kathleen Leddin, RIP.

He noted that the late Kathleen Leddin had served as an Independent Councillor on the former Limerick City Council between 1999 and 2014. She was the 817th Mayor of Limerick serving from 2013 to 2014. He referred to her commitment to Limerick as unwavering, stating that she was a strong advocate for environmental conservation, which was particularly evident in her efforts to preserve the Westfields Wetlands, and she was passionate about heritage and community. The Príomh Chomhairleoir noted that Kathleen Leddin was the Sixth female Mayor of Limerick.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir extended his deepest sympathy to her sons Timothy, Morgan, Brian and Gregory, stepchildren Deirdre, Anthony, Desmond and Joan, her extended family, neighbours and friends, her nephew, Councillor Joe Leddin, and relative Councillor Joe Pond.

Councillor Leddin thanked the Príomh Chomhairleoir for calling the Special Meeting. He also expressed his appreciation to his colleagues and the officials for their kind words on the passing of his aunt. He referred to Kathleen as a very determined lady with a huge appreciation for community organisations and events, including Féile Luimnigh and the Community Games. He said Kathleen loved to encourage young people to get involved in Sport and the Arts. He echoed the sentiments of the Príomh Chomhairleoir and commended Kathleen for her courage and passion in local politics. Some of her proudest moments were being elected as the 817th Mayor of Limerick, an historic title as she was the last Mayor of Limerick prior to the merger of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council. She also took huge pride in her son Brian's election to the Council and subsequently to Dáil Éireann.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir noted that the Mayor sent his apologies as he was absent on Council business and extended his sincere sympathies to Kathleen's family, friends and wider community.

The Members joined in the tributes paid and associated themselves with the Vote of Sympathy, in particular Members noted Kathleen's instrumental work and commitment to the Westfields Wetlands. They, too, acknowledged her commitment and work ethic for her community and said she was a trailblazer in leading the way for women in politics. They described her as a very pleasant, warm and friendly person and considered that she was an inspiration to many people and an example of what it meant to give back to the city; she was a dedicated public representative, with a genuine empathy and compassion for people, and had given years of public service to the people of Limerick. Members added that she was also a great story-teller and a great people's person who was a highly regarded and respected politician, had represented Limerick with distinction, and would be a huge loss to her wider community. Councillor Pond, in particular, fondly remembered his childhood visits with Kathleen.

The Director General, on behalf of the Management and Staff, joined in extending his condolences to Kathleen's family, friends and former colleagues. He said her tenure as a Councillor, and Mayor, was marked by her dedication to the social and economic development of Limerick; and that she was as a dedicated and passionate public servant who was always courteous in her dealings with staff.

Senator Maria Byrne, who was present in the Chamber, extended her condolences to Kathleen's family, referring to her election to Limerick City Council, with Kathleen, in 1999. In paying tribute to her, she described her as a great lady and a great colleague who was very knowledgeable and was also a very sincere politician. She acknowledged her commitment to Limerick and, in particular, her community. She extended her sympathies to her family, Councillor Leddin and Councillor Pond.

The Meeting concluded with a minute's silence.

Signed: _____
Príomh Chomhairleoir

Date: _____