

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Offaly County Council

Held on 21 June 2024 at 2pm, in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

The Meetings Administrator carried out a roll call to confirm attendance.

Present

Present	
Cllr. Ollie Bryant	Cllr. Tony McCormack
Cllr. John Clendennen	Cllr. Fergus McDonnell
Cllr. Noel Cribbin	Cllr. Frank Moran
Cllr. Hugh Egan	Cllr. Claire Murray (SF)
Cllr. Neil Feighery	Cllr. Claire Murray-Smale (FF)
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr. Sean O'Brien
Cllr. Declan Harvey (R)	Cllr. Peter Ormond
Cllr. Audrey Hennessy-Kennedy	Cllr. Liam Quinn
Cllr. John Leahy	
Cllr. Sean Maher	
Cllr. Aoife Masterson	

Apologies

Officials in Attendance

Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Ms. A. Dillon, D.O.S.; Mr. T. Mawe, A/H.O.F.; Ms. J. Ryan, A/D.O.S.; Ms. C. Dempsey A/D.O.S., Ms. M. Cleary, S.E.O., Mr. J. Cunningham, S.E., Ms. D. Hunt, A/S.E.O., Mr. B. Lennon S.E., Ms. O. Martin, Head of LEO, Mr. M. Mahon, S.E. Ms. L. Giles, Meetings Administrator, Ms. AM Kelly, S.S.O., Mr. G. Bruton, A.O.

Ms. L. Giles, Meeting Administrator conducted a roll call of the members present at the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran it was agreed that the outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick would chair the meeting until the election of the new Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick welcomed the members, their families and members of the public to the Annual Meeting. He thanked the members for affording him the honour of serving as Cathaoirleach for the past year. He welcomed the new members and welcomed back the continuing members, he wished the retiring members all the best for their future endeavours. He expressed his sympathies to Cllr. John

Clendennen on the sudden passing of his mother-in-law. The Members joined with the Cathaoirleach and extended their sympathies to Cllr. Clendennen and his extended family.

1. Names of persons duly elected as members of Offaly County Council

Ms. L. Giles, Meetings Administrator read out the names of the persons duly elected as members of the Local Authority as follows:

Birr LEA

Peter Ormond	Fianna Fáil
John Leahy	Non-Party
John Clendennen	Fine Gael
Hugh Egan	Fine Gael
Audrey Hennessy-Kennedy	Fianna Fáil
Sean Maher	Sinn Féin

Edenderry LEA

Eddie Fitzpatrick	Fianna Fáil
Fergus McDonnell	Independent Ireland
Claire Murray-Smale	Fianna Fáil
Liam Quinn	Fine Gael
Noel Cribbin	Fine Gael
Claire Murray	Sinn Féin

Tullamore LEA

Neil Feighery	Fine Gael
Frank Moran	Fianna Fáil
Sean O'Brien	Non-Party
Tony McCormack	Fianna Fáil
Aoife Masterson	Sinn Féin
Declan Harvey	Fianna Fáil
Ollie Bryant	Fianna Fáil

2. Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Fitzpatrick invited nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. F. Moran nominated Cllr. T. McCormack, as Cathaoirleach seconded by Cllr. O. Bryant.

Cllr L. Quinn nominated Cllr. J. Clendenen, as Cathaoirleach, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin

There being two nominees, the Meeting Administrator called a vote.

Voting in favour of Cllr. McCormack were:

Cllr. Moran, Bryant, Harvey, McCormack, Ormond, Hennessy-Kennedy, Fitzpatrick, Murray-Smale, Leahy and O'Brien.

Voting against Cllr. McCormack were:

Cllr. Quinn, Cribbin, Clendennen, Egan, and Feighery.

Abstaining were:

Cllr. Maher, Masterson, Murray and McDonnell.

Voting in favour of Cllr. Clendennen were:

Cllr. Quinn, Cribbin, Clendennen, Egan, and Feighery.

Voting against Cllr. Clendennen were:

Cllr. Moran, Bryant, Harvey, McCormack, Ormond, Hennessy-Kennedy, Fitzpatrick, Murray-Smale, Leahy and O'Brien.

Abstaining were:

Cllr. Maher, Masterson, Murray and McDonnell.

The Meeting Administrator declared that Cllr. Tony McCormack was elected Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council.

Cllr. McCormack took the Chair.

The Cathaoirleach addressed the meeting, he thanked his proposer and seconder and the other members for supporting his nomination as Cathaoirleach. He said that he was greatly honoured to be elected as Cathaoirleach of the County Council. He thanked his family and supporters for their tireless efforts during the election campaign.

He outlined his priorities for the coming year. He stated that he would continue the campaign to have the N52 upgraded to help relieve the traffic speed and safety problems affecting the people of Durrow. He noted that the County needed new industrial parks to help attract international businesses and employment for the County. He advised that he would be meeting with the IDA to see how the Council could help address this need. He stated that he would be meeting with the business leaders in the county to explore ways that the Council could assist them in developing their businesses.

He stated that he would support the vulnerable of our society and hoped that the Council could increase its funding to the Disabled Persons Grant schemes and shorten the timeframes for the delivery of the supports under these schemes. He stated that he would support the Housing section in addressing issues of Anti-Social Behaviour and help ensure that Housing Tenancy Rules would be adhered too. He stated that during his term as Cathaoirleach he intended to address the issue of traffic calming in housing estates in the county.

3. Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Cllr. Audrey Hennessy-Kennedy was proposed by Cllr. P. Ormond and seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy.

Cllr. Neil Feighery was proposed by Cllr. L. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen.

There being two nominees, the Meeting Administrator called a vote.

Voting in favour of Cllr. Hennessy-Kennedy were:

Cllr. Moran, Bryant, Harvey, McCormack, Ormond, Hennessy-Kennedy, Fitzpatrick, Murray-Smale, Leahy and O'Brien.

Voting against Cllr. Hennessy-Kennedy were:

Cllr. Quinn, Cribbin, Clendennen, Egan, and Feighery.

Abstaining were:

Cllr. Maher, Masterson, Murray and McDonnell.

Voting in favour of Cllr. Feighery were:

Cllr. Quinn, Cribbin, Clendennen, Egan, and Feighery.

Voting against Cllr. Feighery were:

Cllr. Moran, Bryant, Harvey, McCormack, Ormond, Hennessy-Kennedy, Fitzpatrick, Murray-Smale, Leahy and O'Brien.

Abstaining were:

Cllr. Maher, Masterson, Murray and McDonnell.

Cllr. A. Hennessy-Kennedy was deemed elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach. Cllr. Hennessy-Kennedy thanked her proposer and seconder and the other members for supporting her nomination.

Cllr. A. Masterson congratulated Cllr. Hennessy-Kennedy on her election, noting that it was heartening to see a woman being elected to this office.

4. Fixing of Annual Meeting Date for the Municipal Districts

Ms. L. Giles, Meeting Administrator informed the meeting that in accordance with the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 that the Council is required to set the dates for the Municipal District Annual Meetings.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery the members agreed to the following schedule for the Annual Meetings:

- Municipal District of Birr: Annual Meeting to be held on Monday 24th June 2024 at 4.00 pm in the Birr Civic Offices.
- Municipal District of Edenderry: Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 3.30 pm in Edenderry Town Hall.
- Municipal District of Tullamore: Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday 27th June 2024 at 2.30 pm in Tullamore Town Hall.

5. Schedule of Ordinary Meetings

Ms. L. Giles, Meeting Administrator informed the meeting that the next Ordinary Meeting of Offaly County Council was scheduled for Monday 15th July 2024 at 2.00 pm. She noted that the Ordinary Meetings of Council were held on the third Monday of every month, except in August or where a bank holiday coincides. She advised that the July meeting of the Corporate Policy Group would be held on Monday 8th July 2024 at 11.00 am in Áras an Chontae.

She noted that an Information / Briefing meeting, for all Elected Members, was scheduled for 10.00 am on Monday 24th June 2024, in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae.

The Chief Executive advised that all Section Heads and Senior Staff of the organisation would be in attendance at the Briefing meeting also.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. A. Hennessy-Kennedy the members resolved to adopt this Meeting Schedule.

6. Election / Appointment / Nomination of members to the following Bodies / Committees:

	Committee	No. of Members
	<p>Ms. Giles advised the members that in the case of certain committees as set out in the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014, Schedule 10, Paragraphs 18 and 19, as circulated with the Agenda, the Members had the right to form groupings for the nomination of Members to committees. The Members were required to state in advance of the nomination if there was a grouping formed and the names of the persons in the groupings, for the record.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond advised that as agreement had been reached in advance there would be no groupings formed.</p> <p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited three nominations to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA)</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran the members resolved to nominate Cllr. T. McCormack and Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick to serve on the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA)</p>	3
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited three nominations to the Association of Irish Local Government AILG</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to nominate Cllr. S. O'Brien, Cllr. C. Murray-Smale (FF) and Cllr. J. Clendennen, to serve on the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG).</p>	3
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited one nomination Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)</p>	1

	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick the members resolved to nominate Cllr. F. Moran, to serve on the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA).</p>	
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited two nominations to the Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid Leinster</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to nominate Cllr. S. O’Brien, and Cllr. C. Murray-Smale (FF) to serve on the Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid Leinster</p>	2
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited one nomination to the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members resolved to nominate Cllr. H. Egan, to serve on Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance.</p>	1
	<p>Ms. Giles advised that the Education and Training Boards Act, 2013 (Local Authorities Members) Regulations 2019 [S.I. No 142 of 2019] ruled that Offaly County Council could nominate 6 members to serve on the ETB. She advised the meeting that the Regulations stipulated that there should be a gender balance regarding the nominees from the County Council. She advised that they required two panels to be formed, comprising of all the female Members who wished to serve on the Board and all the male Members who wished to serve also.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to nominate Cllr. C. Murray-Smale (FF), Cllr. C. Murray (SF) and Cllr. A. Masterson to serve on the LOETB from the female panel to the Laois Offaly Education Training Board (LOETB).</p> <p>They also resolved to nominate Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. H. Egan and Cllr. N. Feighery to serve on the LOETB, from the male panel to the Laois Offaly Education Training Board (LOETB).</p>	6
	<p>Ms. Giles advised that the new Corporate Policy Group (CPG) will consider a draft Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme (developed in accordance with the SPC June 2024 Guidelines) at its first meeting in July and for recommendation to Council also in July.</p> <p>Following a period of consultation, a summary of submissions received and a final draft SPC scheme will be considered by CPG and Council in September. Sectoral representatives and Public Participation Network representatives will also be sought/confirmed during this time. In September also, a revised schedule of meeting dates for SPCs for the remainder of the year will issue - likely to be in October and December.</p> <p>It was proposed to continue to have 4 SPC’s, monitoring, reviewing and recommending policy to Offaly County Council.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to nominate the following members to the relevant SPC as Chairpersons Designate:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action, Transport and Environment SPC – Cllr. O. Bryant • Community, Culture, and Emergency Services SPC – Cllr. S. O'Brien • Housing and Integration SPC – Cllr. N. Cribbin • Economic Development, Planning and Regeneration SPC – Cllr. F. Moran <p>Those appointed as SPC Chairs, along with the Cathaoirleach, will form the Corporate Policy Committee for the first 3 years of the Council term.</p>	
	<p>The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) is a Committee of the Council and is established under <i>Section 133</i> of the <i>Local Government Act 2001</i>. The role of the CPG is to advise and assist Elected Members in the formulation, development, monitoring, and review of policy.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy it was agreed that the Corporate Policy Group shall consist of the Cathaoirleach, the Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy Committees. As there was no nominee from the Birr Municipal District on the CPG, in accordance with Standing Orders, it was agreed that the members of the Birr MD would nominate one of the MD members to serve on the CPG at the Annual Meeting of Birr MD.</p>	
	<p>Ms. Giles advised that the Cathaoirleach or a nominated Member and the Chief Executive served on the Midlands Regional Transition Team.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. C. Murray-Smale it was agreed that the Cathaoirleach would serve on the Midlands Regional Transition Team.</p>	1
	<p>The EU Just Transition Fund Programme Monitoring Committee this item was for noting, the Midland Regional Transition Team Steering Committee would decide on the nomination to this Committee.</p>	1
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited three nominations to the Offaly Local Community Development Committee</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery, the members resolved to nominate the following members to serve on the Offaly Local Community Development Committee, Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. N. Cribbin, and Cllr. J. Leahy.</p>	3
	<p>Ms. Giles advised that the Offaly Sports Partnership required a gender balance in the members nominated, also there was a requirement for a member from each MD to be nominated.</p> <p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited three nominations to Offaly Sports Partnership.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery, the members resolved to nominate Cllr. A. Hennessy-Kennedy (<i>Birr MD</i>) and Cllr. O. Bryant (<i>Tullamore MD</i>) to serve on this committee. On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to nominate Cllr. F. McDonnell (<i>Edenderry MD</i>) to serve on the Offaly Sports Partnership.</p>	3
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited three nominations to Offaly Film Commission</p>	3

	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members resolved to nominate the Chairperson Designate of the Community, Culture, and Emergency Services SPC, Cllr. S. O'Brien, Cllr. D. Harvey, and Cllr. J. Clendennen to serve on the Offaly Film Commission.</p>	
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited three nominations to the Offaly Local Development Company</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members resolved to nominate Cllr. A. Hennessy-Kennedy, Cllr E. Fitzpatrick and Cllr. N. Feighery to serve on the Offaly Local Development Company.</p>	3
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited one nomination to Offaly Innovation and Design Centre</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to nominate Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. McCormack to serve on the Offaly Innovation and Design Centre.</p>	1
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited one nomination to Offaly Tourism Marketing CLG</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to nominate Cllr. J. Clendennen to Offaly Tourism Marketing CLG</p>	1
	<p>Ms. Giles advised that this item was for noting.</p> <p>She advised that in accordance with <i>S.I. No. 244/2014 - Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014</i>.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(6) Nominations for appointment to an audit committee shall be made by the Corporate Policy Group to the local authority following consultation with the Chief Executive.</i></p> <p>The Chief Executive would consult with CPG the in relation to the nominations to the Offaly County Council Audit Committee.</p>	
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited one nomination to the Midland Regional Drugs Taskforce</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. A. Hennessy-Kennedy, the members resolved to nominate Cllr. C. Murray-Smale (FF) to serve on the Midland Regional Drugs Taskforce.</p>	1
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited five nominations to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. A. Masterson, the members resolved to nominate Cllr. T. McCormack, Cllr. C. Murray-Smale (FF), Cllr. J. Leahy, Cllr. S. O'Brien, and Cllr. S. Maher to serve on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.</p>	5
	<p>Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach invited three nominations to Rural Water Monitoring Committee.</p>	3

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to nominate Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. O. Bryant and Cllr. H. Egan to serve on the Rural Water Monitoring Committee .	
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Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) / Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

Ms. Giles advised the meeting that this new committee replaced the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and was established under the *Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024*. She advised that expressions of interest for the role of independent Chairperson of the LCSP would be sought in the coming weeks. She noted that the Minister, having consulted with the other relevant Ministers, shall make regulations concerning the establishment and operation on LCSP's. She advised that the Council are awaiting the adoption of the regulations. On receipt of these, nominations to the LCSP will be brought back for consideration by the members, at a future meeting of Offaly County Council.

Each Partnership will have a maximum of 30 members, with 20 specified in regulations and the remaining 10 appointed by the Chairperson in consultation with the Partnership. Membership of the LCSPs will include residents, community representatives, local councillors, business and education representatives, and relevant public services such as the HSE, Tusla, An Garda Síochána, and the local authority

7. Induction Training for new Elected Members

Cllr. McCormack, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) are organising a series of six weekly online webinars commencing on Friday, 28th June, and continuing every Friday until 2nd August 2024 and an in-person induction training module scheduled for 11th and 13th July. The details will be made available to all elected members.

He also reminded the members that an Information / Briefing meeting, for all Elected Members, was scheduled for 10.00 am on Monday 24th June 2024, in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae.

8. Appointment of Nominated Members to Witness Affixing of Official Seal

The members resolved on the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery, that the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach be approved for the purposes of witnessing the affixing of the official seal to documents.

The Cathaoirleach noted the proposal from Cllr. L. Quinn that the CPG should consider establishing a sub-Committee to review the existing RESS Guidelines. He noted that the outgoing Council had considered this issue at their last meeting. He noted that the Chief Executive and the Management Team had commenced the development of a policy and programme based on these discussions and following on from the meetings with Minister's Ryan and Burke. He agreed that that this item would be included on the Agenda for the first meeting of the CPG, scheduled for Monday 8th July 2024.

MINUTES CONFIRMED

CATHAOIRLEACH

RUNÁÍ

15 July 2024

