

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
17TH JANUARY 2024 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD**

C/1/24

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs M Harley, Cathaoirleach, C Brogan, P. Canning, T Conaghan, D. Coyle, G. Crawford, R Donaghey, D M Kelly, P Mc Gowan, G. Mc Monagle, A Molloy, and B. Sweeny.

Online: Cllrs L Blaney, K. Bradley, N. Crossan, T. Crossan, A. Doherty, G. Doherty, L. Doherty, N Jordan, J. Kavanagh, N. Kennedy, M.C Mac Giolla Easbuig, M. McBride, M Mc Clafferty, M. Mc Dermott, P Mc Garvey, J Murray, M Naughton, and J.S. O' Fearraigh.

C/2/24

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John Mc Laughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services, Meetings Administrator, Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, Eamon Brown, Divisional Manager, Housing & Corporate, John Gallagher, Senior Engineer, Gillian Dempsey, Senior Executive Engineer, Donal Walker, Senior Engineer, Donna Mc Groarty, Area Manager, Housing Capital, Services, Claire Burke, Senior Executive Architect, Housing Capital, Jim Boner, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Capital, Seán O' Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Daniel Mc Crystal, Economic Development, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Cliona Ní Ghallachóir, Tacaíocht do Sheirbhísí Aistriúchain, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/3/24

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CLLR NOREEN MC GARVEY

The Cathaoirleach addressing the meeting said that the death of Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey had been a great shock. He extended deepest sympathy to her daughter, Amy, her parents Susie and Seamus and the extended Mc Garvey family.

Sympathy was also extended to the Fianna Fáil members on the loss of a valued colleague and hard-working councillor.

Cllr Brogan on behalf of the Fianna Fáil grouping proposed that the meeting be adjourned as a mark of respect. This was seconded by Cllr Canning.

He said that the late Cllr Mc Garvey whilst only a member of the Council since 2019 had a vast knowledge of the political system which she used to great effect in the Glenties Municipal District. She was, he said, passionate and hardworking and had enjoyed a good working relationship with members and staff. Her death, he contended, was a huge blow and a devastating loss to her colleagues in the Glenties MD

This had also been reflected, he noted in the numbers who had attended her wake and funeral and reflected the esteem in which she was held.

She had over the years, he added, been involved in numerous projects and community events. Noreen, he stated, was a people person who worked for the betterment of all and that it had indeed been a privilege to work with her over the last number of years.

Cllr Molloy said that she had been a great friend and colleague and he had greatly appreciated the help that she had given him as a new Councillor. Her involvement in so many different aspects of community life was to be applauded, he said, and complemented by her interest in the Irish language and culture.

He said that it had been an honour and a privilege to work with the late Cllr Mc Garvey and that she would be sorely missed by all.

Cllr Mc Monagle extended sympathy on behalf of the Sinn Fein grouping. She would, he said, be sorely missed and had left a lasting legacy and one which was an example to all.

Cllr Kavanagh on behalf of the Fine Gael party said that he wished to be associated with all of the previous remarks. She was, he advised, a talented individual who was dedicated to her family and friends.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he had worked with Cllr Mc Garvey on many projects and that he had not only lost a colleague but also a friend. She was, he stated, a humorous and intelligent lady who at all times displayed great compassion and had borne her illness with great dignity.

Cllr Donaghey said that it had been with great shock that she had learned of the death of her good friend and colleague. She had been, she said, an integral part of community and political life in south Donegal. Noreen, she noted, had always adopted an open-door approach, and was prepared to listen and offer a helping hand, all of which had helped her get elected in 2019. A lady of many talents and skills, she had, she said, battled her illness bravely and would be missed by all who knew her.

Cllr Mc Gowan paid tribute to her work ethic and the quiet and unassuming way she had worked for the betterment of the Glenties Municipal District.

There was acknowledgement of the excellent contribution and impact that Cllr Mc Garvey had made during her time in office and many alluded also to the impact that she had on the local community.

She was, they advised, a true lady and a gentle soul whose calm and unassuming nature endeared her to all who came in contact with her.

Members sympathised with the late Cllr Mc Garvey's daughter Amy, her parents Susie and Seamus together with her extended Mc Garvey

family circle, her friends and colleagues. The Chamber and the County, they contended, would be a much poorer place without her.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment acknowledged the many tributes that had been paid and said that in all his time working with the late Cllr Mc Garvey she had displayed an extremely positive attitude to any task that she undertook. Her death, he said, was a great loss to her family and friends and she would be sorely missed.

The Chief Executive extended sympathy on behalf of the Senior Management Team, the staff in Donegal County Council and the Glenties Municipal District. He said that the tribute had been fitting. The late Cllr Mc Garvey, he noted, had a calm and quiet nature and always adopted a professional approach to any task that she undertook. This had been reflected, he said, in her many accomplishments.

The meeting was thus adjourned until 10am on Thursday 18th January 2024.