

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riathóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
Leifear
24 Meitheamh, 2025

FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Beidh Cruinniú Blaintúil de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain, 30u Meitheamh 2025, ag **11.30 in Áras an Chontae, Leifear.**

Ta clár an chruinnithe leis seo.

Mise, le meas



Pádraig Ó Laifearaigh
Riathóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
24th June, 2025

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

The Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 30th June 2025, at **11.30am in the County House, Lifford.**

The agenda for the meeting is attached.

Yours sincerely



Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Election of Cathaoirleach.
2. Election of Leas - Cathaoirleach.

<p align="center">MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 30th JUNE 2025 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD</p>

C/243/25

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs P Canning, Cathaoirleach, J Beard, L Blaney, M Boyle, F Bradley, C Brogan, J Brogan, P Canning, B Carr, D Coyle, T Crossan, T. S Devine, A Doherty, A Farren, M Harley, J Kavanagh, D. M Kelly, N Kennedy, M. C. Mac Giolla Easbuig, M Mc Bride, M Mc Dermott, P Mc Gowan, G Mc Monagle, D Meehan, A Molloy, M Naughton, D Nic Mheanman, J S O' Fearraigh and M Scanlon.

Online: Cllrs G Doherty, M Farren, N Jordan, Mc Clafferty, P Mc Garvey, D Mc Gee, Mc Mahon, and J Murray.

C/244/25

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John Mc Laughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services/Meetings Administrator, Bryan Cannon, Director of Roads & Transportation, Richard Gibson, Director of Finance, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, William Colvin, Assistant Communications Officer, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Clíona Ní Ghallachoir, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/245/25

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for a short recess to facilitate online access to the meeting.

C/246/25

ELECTION OF THE CATHAOIRLEACH

On re-commencement of the meeting, Cllr Kennedy as outgoing Cathaoirleach thanked the elected members, staff and management of Donegal County Council, together with the general public and members of the media for their assistance and support over the past year.

She said that it had been a fantastic year and one in which she had got to visit most of the county while also having the privilege of making many new connections and friends both at home and abroad.

Cllr Kennedy acknowledged the assistance provided by the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh alluding to the excellent work that he had carried out over the past year. It had been a good partnership, she added, and had worked well in terms of covering and attending the numerous events and functions.

Looking back over the last 12 months, she said that she had been privileged to nominate Jim Mc Guinness and Enya for Freedom of the County awards. Another highlight, she said, had been to name the "Donegal Camino Day".

The past year, she said, had given her the opportunity to attend a vast range of events and launches associated with the various council services. The holding of Special Housing meetings, she said, had been very worthwhile, and that efforts would continue to address the many associated issues including the provision of new homes.

Alluding to the vast amount of work ongoing throughout the county particularly in relation to roads, piers and harbours, house retrofitting, tourism development, marketing etc, she said that it had been particular highlight to see and be involved in the level of activity associated with these vital services. Tribute was paid to the Economic Development Team, the Climate Action Team, the Planning Regeneration Team, Community Development Team and the Emergency Services personnel for all their hard work and dedication.

Thanks, was also extended to the staff in the following areas:

- Age Friendly Team
- Healthy Donegal
- Library Services
- County Museum
- PEACEPLUS Initiative
- Cross Border Working Groups
- LCDC Team
- Cultural Services Team

Cllr Kennedy thanked the Cultural Service team for their assistance in making the recent Cathaoirleach's Concert in An Grianan Theatre an outstanding success with the proceeds going to Donegal Domestic Violence.

Concluding Cllr Kennedy thanked all staff members who had assisted her in any way through the year and said that it was with great pride that she now handed over the position of Cathaoirleach.

Members from the various groupings congratulated Cllr Kennedy on what had been an excellent year in office and one in which she had excelled as Cathaoirleach. They acknowledged the fair and respectful manner in which she had conducted the meetings thus cultivating an atmosphere of mutual respect in the chamber.

It was acknowledged that she had been an excellent representative for the county creating a positive impression wherever she went. There were calls also for more diversity within the Council given that the level of female representation was one of the lowest in the country.

Members noted that Cllr Kennedy had taken part in a wide range of events, meetings and seminars over the past year all of which she had attended with enthusiasm, whilst representing the people of Donegal in a professional and competent manner.

Members then thanked Cllr Kennedy and wished her well for the future. The Chief Executive on behalf of the management and staff of Donegal County Council thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach for her great work. One of her greatest attributes, he said, was the fact that she had been a good listener whilst holding her own counsel on the various issues that had arisen. These qualities had, he advised, made Cllr Kennedy an excellent ambassador for Donegal creating a modern and positive image of the county. He paid tribute to her skill in conducting meetings and the courtesy that she had extended to all.

He proceeded to acknowledge the work ethic of the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh who also played an important role in events over the past year.

Members acknowledged the presence in the Chamber of Mr Charlie Mc Conlaogue, T.D, Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and Senator Niall Blaney.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed concern that nine councillors were effectively excluded from access to the role of Cathaoirleach and said that this was not acceptable in the interests of democracy.

Cllr Mc Dermott at this juncture proposed Cllr Paul Canning for the position of Cathaoirleach for the period 2025-2026.

This, he said, was a proud day for Fianna Fáil in Inishowen and for the Canning family. He welcomed Cllr Canning's wife, Stephanie, his daughter, Vanessa together with his parents Noel and Annie to the meeting.

Cllr Canning, he contended, had an immense knowledge of the planning system and the Council in general and would be an exceptional representative for Donegal, having ably represented the people of Inishowen over the last 11-12 years. He would, he added, play a leading role in making Donegal better and said that he was honoured to propose Paul Canning for this role.

Cllr Bradley seconded the proposal, noting that Cllr Canning would be an excellent representative and would fight hard for the people of Donegal.

As there were no other nominations Cllr Canning was elected Cathaoirleach for the period 2025-2026.

Taking the Chair, Cllr Canning thanked all who had supported him for the position and said that it was an honour to have been selected. He thanked all his political colleagues, his parents Noel and Annie, his wife Stephanie and daughter Vanessa together with his extended family circle for their ongoing support and co-operation. The Cathaoirleach welcomed his uncle Patsy and wife Margaret who had travelled from Scotland for the occasion.

He paid tribute to Cllr Kennedy who, he contended, would be a hard act to follow and thanked his proposer and seconder for their support.

He said that he would aim to be fair and honest in his dealings with all and hoped to concentrate on the development of the county and in ensuring that the best use was made of all national allocations. There was much to do in terms of housing aspect, he added. Donegal, he advised, had a natural unspoilt landscape and it was a priority going forward that the county would become a prime tourism destination. He was, he said, looking forward to working with all concerned to make Donegal a better place to live and work in.

Members congratulated him on his election acknowledging that his capability and considerable experience would be of great benefit in the year ahead. He was, they advised someone who had his finger on the pulse emanating from his chairmanship of the A5/N2 Cross Border Committee and the Donegal PEACEPLUS Partnership.

This, they said was a proud day for his constituents and assured him of their support and co-operation in the year ahead.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig asked that the Gaeltacht and the Islands be included as a priority for the Cathaoirleach during his year in office

The Chief Executive on behalf of the management and staff of the Council assured him of his ongoing support and co-operation noting that the Cathaoirleach with his cross-border experience was well aware of the need to promote and enhance the shared vision for the Northwest. He welcomed Minister Mc Conalogue and Senator Blaney to the meeting.

C/247/25

ELECTION OF THE LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

Cllr Canning proceeded to invite nominations for the office of Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Brogan proposed, seconded by Cllr Coyle that the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach be taken by Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly.

He welcomed Cllr Kelly's wife Aisling and son Donal to the chamber together with his father former Cllr Donal Kelly and his mother Jacquie. He said that Cllr Kelly would be an able assistant for the Cathaoirleach and an excellent ambassador for the county. At this juncture he paid tribute to the outgoing Leas -Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh who, he contended had excelled in the role.

Cllr Coyle said that Cllr Kelly's hard work and determination had seen him top the poll in the Letterkenny Electoral Area at the 2024 Local Election and that this was a testament to his strong work ethic. These, he said, were excellent skills which he would bring to the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

As there were no other nominations it was thus resolved to appoint Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly as Leas-Chathaoirleach for the period 2025-2026.

Cllr Kelly paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach and the Leas Chathaoirleach. Continuing, he thanked his proposer and seconder and his fellow councillors for their support. It was, he advised a proud day for his family, and he thanked and acknowledged the support that they had shown him over the past number of years. He said that he would work hard and do his best to represent the Council to the best of his ability.

Members congratulated him on his appointment and assured him of their support and assistance in the months ahead.

The Chief Executive extended congratulations on behalf of the management and staff of Donegal County Council and said that he was looking forward to working with him during his term in office.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach:_____

Dated:_____