

MINUTES OF AGM OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING, HELD IN THE CHAMBER, LETTERKENNY PSC, ON 14 JUNE 2022 AT 5:00 P.M.

MDL303/21 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Kevin Bradley
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Donal Coyle
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr. Michael Mc Bride
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle

MDL304/21 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
Bernadine McGee, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
David McIlwaine, S.E.E. / Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Francis Conaghan, Development Officer

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh

The outgoing Mayor, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh welcomed the Members, officials and media to the meeting and gave a special welcome to the Kelly family.

Cllr. Kavanagh said his year as Mayor had been busy which was great to see. The first six months had been relatively quiet but now with festivals and music events back on, there were more people out and about. He noted though that Covid numbers are on the rise and everyone needs to be careful. It was a busy year for meetings and workshops and considerable time was devoted to the Letterkenny Town Plan and Regeneration 2040 and thanked everyone involved in this. He welcomed the progress on the four-lane project.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that there had been several highlights throughout the year: -

- Congratulated Troy Gallagher on his appointment as the first Irishman to be elected Mayor of Islington. He referred to visit to the Town Hall and the Irish Ambassador's Residence in February where they met with Irish people working in many different fields of work. Mayor Gallagher used his year as Mayor to promote Donegal and Cllr. Kavanagh was delighted that Troy was in a position to attend a short reception here in May in Letterkenny with John McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Liam Ward, Director of Service, and Councillors from this Municipal District in attendance.
- Cllr. Kavanagh referred to his trip to Rudolstadt in March along with Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and Eamonn Brown, Area Manager and noted they were extremely well received and looked after. He noted that a

delegation from Rudolstadt plan to visit here in September and were looking forward to seeing Donegal.

- Following on from previous work with West Dunbartonshire Council he attended an event for the 80th Anniversary of the Blitz. The connection with Donegal shone through and it was a great opportunity to meet people from Donegal and Letterkenny. At a reception prior to the event he met with a MP for Clydebank called Martin Doherty who had roots in Donegal and turned out to be a distant cousin. He stated it was important to keep these connections / relationships going to promote Tourism etc.
- The naming of the George Boal Roundabout was a significant event.
- Recently Mayor Receptions were held for Martin Orr & Paddy Doherty and for Coláiste Ailigh.
- A plaque was unveiled in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre recently acknowledging all the former Town Council Chairs and former Town Clerks. He thanked Darran Nash who designed the plaque.
- He received invites from the Indian and Bangladeshi Communities during the year.
- He also met with the Ukrainian Community.
- He was asked to arrange for the Pride flag to be flown outside the building during the month of June.
- He acknowledged the amount of work done under URDF in Ramelton and Rathmullan with plans in progress for Milford.
- He thanked Members for their courtesy, kindness, and cooperation during the year with special mention for Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, Deputy Mayor for his support.
- He thanked Liam Ward for his help and Patricia McIntyre and Eamonn Brown noting that they were very approachable.
- He thanked Linda McCann, Bernadine McGee, and Council officials who attended the meetings.
- He also acknowledged the assistance of John McFadden and other Staff in Information Systems Department who are always helpful. Their work was important and often goes unnoticed.
- He thanked Paul Duddy who is always here and available.
- He thanked the Media for all the coverage and reporting of items.

Cllr. Kavanagh concluded by saying it had been an enjoyable experience and a privilege, pleasure, and honour to serve as Mayor. He thanked everyone for entrusting him with the role. He wished his successor all the best.

The Members in turn paid tribute to Cllr. Kavanagh in his role as Mayor in a year where there were a lot of meetings, many of which were held via ZOOM. They commended Cllr. Kavanagh and his wife, Roisin, on the work done. It was noted that the WhatsApp group he set up was a great initiative. He steered the meetings through a tough period, always punctual with fair play and patience shown to everyone.

Liam Ward said that on his own behalf and on the behalf of the staff he wished to acknowledge the courtesy Cllr. Kavanagh extended and the fair way in which

he carried out his role. It was a pleasure working with him. It was a difficult but busy year and he represented the Municipal District both at home and abroad to a very high standard. He also thanked Cllr. Gerry McMonagle for his role as Deputy Mayor.

MDL305/21 **ELECTION OF MEARA/MAYOR**

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan proposed Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly as Meara/Mayor. Cllr. Donal Cole seconded Cllr. Brogan's proposal. No other proposals were presented and Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was elected as Meara/Mayor.

MDL306/21 **ELECTION OF LEAS MHEARA/DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr. Donal Coyle proposed Cllr. Ciaran Brogan as Leas Mheara/Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Liam Blaney seconded Cllr. Coyle's proposal. No other proposals were presented and Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was elected as Leas-Mheara/Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly welcomed his family who were present and acknowledged the presence of Mandy and Charlie who were here to represent their late father Manus. He said it was an honour to be elected as Mayor and congratulated Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh who had done an excellent job as Mayor and Cllr. Gerry McMonagle on his role as Deputy Mayor. He congratulated Cllr. Ciaran Brogan on being elected as Deputy Mayor. He stated that he was forever grateful for the experience he had gained from his colleagues. He thanked Cllr. Brogan for giving him help and guidance when he became councillor.

Cllr. Kelly stated that it was a proud and honourable day for him, his wife Aislinn and son Donal and for the Glenswilly, Churchill and Gartan areas.

Cllr. Kelly referred to his late brother Manus who died in June 2019 one month after he had been elected noting that he would never forget how happy and proud he was at the time. He noted how proud he was of his father who took over the role and noted that he did everyone proud during the time he served as Councillor. He said to be elected Mayor today was a massive honour and he wished to dedicate it to Manus, his dad, and the team. He thanked Aislinn and his son Donal for their support. He thanked his parents, family, and siblings for their support.

Cllr. Kelly noted that the past two years had been tough with Covid and he expressed his condolences to those who had lost someone during that time. It was time now to move forward on a more positive note and try to address the issues that arise, in particular the housing crisis and the cost of living, increase in HAP household cap, 100% redress for Mica homeowners, improvement of facilities such as the Corn & Flax Mills, for Churchill Community Group, Gartan Heritage Centre, St. Colmcille trails and Glenveagh and said he would continue to engage with Minister McConalogue to alleviate costs for farmers.

Cllr. Kelly noted that there were lots of positive things happening such as the recent turning of the sod for the Linear Park, Regeneration Programme, revamp

of the Market Square, the Alpha & Beta buildings, improvements in Ramelton, Rathmullan and Milford. He added that the one-way system at the Cathedral and improvement works on four-lane were positive improvements. Discussions were ongoing for provision of walkways and cycleways with more in the pipeline.

Cllr. Kelly stated that he was looking forward to working with his colleagues, the Executive and various teams to ensure that projects / works were delivered as soon as possible. The role was a great honour for him and he would carry out his duties proudly and to the best of his ability.

The Members in turn congratulated Cllr. Kelly on his election as Mayor and wished him every success in the year ahead. They added that they looked forward to working with him and would support him in any way they could.

Liam Ward congratulated Cllr. Kelly on his election as Mayor and Cllr. Brogan on his election as Deputy Mayor. He noted that Cllr. Kelly had put a lot of thought into what he wanted to say in his acceptance speech which was an emotional speech. He added that it was fantastic that his family could be here for the occasion. He added that Staff and his colleagues would work with him to make the year as successful as it can be and looked forward to giving his full support to him during the year.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan congratulated Cllr. Kelly on his election and thanked the Members for their support. He noted that Cllr. Kelly had made an exceptional speech and that it was a proud day for him.

Cllr. Kelly thanked everyone for their kind words and stated that he looked forward to working with them. He thanked Liam and Cllr. Brogan for their guidance and help and noted that it will be a busy year ahead.

He concluded by advising that the next Municipal District meeting would be on Tuesday 12th July.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator