

**MINUTES OF ADJOURNED JANUARY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY 2022**

C/12/22

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs J Murray, Cathaoirleach, L Blaney, K Bradley, C Brogan, P Canning, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, N Crossan, T Crossan, A Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, D M Kelly, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, M Mc Bride, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, M Mc Mahon, G Mc Monagle, A Molloy, M Naughton, J O Donnell, J S Ó'Fearraigh, Online: G Doherty, J Kavanagh, M Mc Clafferty, and B Sweeny.

C/13/22

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John Mc Laughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, A/Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Richard Gibson, Head of Finance, Brendan O' Donnell, A/Director of Roads & Transportation, Liam Ward, Director of Community Development & Planning Services, Michael Mc Garvey, A/Director of Water & Environment, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Paul Christie, Senior Executive Planner, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, William Colvin, Assistant Communications Officer, Seán O' Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeltachta, Róise Ní Laifearthaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/14/22

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

The Cathaoirleach addressing the meeting said that a difficult decision had been taken at the meeting on the 31st January 2022 to suspend Cllr Frank Mc Brearty for a period of one month given his persistent and continual interruption of the January Council Meeting.

He noted that Cllr Mc Brearty was present at the meeting today thus defying this suspension. He said that he could not see at this point how the meeting could proceed, and that consideration needed to be given as to how best the elected members could represent the people of Donegal. Members of the public had, he confirmed, voiced justifiable disgust at the failure to address a number of serious issues including mica and the implications for the many householders whose homes were falling down around them. This, he stated, was no way to do business and not acceptable when so many people were suffering as a result of the Mica crisis.

Whilst Cllr Mc Brearty continued to defy the resolution passed by the Council, it would not be possible, he said, to continue. He noted that the County Solicitor was present to provide advice and that consideration should now be given as to what the next steps were.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until 3pm.

C/15/22

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

The meeting recommenced and the Cathaoirleach noted that Cllr Mc Brearty was continuing to defy the decision taken by members at the January meeting. Discussion on several key issues was now being undermined, he said.

On the proposal of Cllr T Crossan, seconded by Cllr Bradley it was resolved at this juncture to adjourn the meeting until 3.30pm.

C/16/22

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On resumption the Cathaoirleach said that a lot had happened outside of the meeting and that it had been nothing short of appalling. It was, he said, a very low day for Donegal County Council and that some of the things that he had witnessed should not be happening in a democratically elected forum. This, he noted, was down to one member, and he applauded the fact that all others in the room had conducted themselves with dignity. He confirmed that he had spoken to the Chief Executive and to all the political groupings and thus put the following resolution to the floor:

- (i) "Having regard to the resolution passed by members in the first part of the meeting held on the 31st January, 2022 that Councillor Frank Mc Brearty be suspended with immediate effect from all meetings of the Council and any committee of the Council and all meetings of Municipal District members for a period of one month and
- (ii) Councillor Mc Brearty's refusal to comply with the suspension by attending at the Adjourned Meeting on the 7th February 2022,
- (iii) And the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach having consulted in accordance with Paragraph 13 (6) of the Local Government Act 2021,

That the Chief Executive is hereby expressly authorised to commence proceedings in the High Court by the Council against Councillor Mc Brearty seeking all appropriate orders required to enforce the said suspension for the period of same including an order for the costs of the proceedings and that the meeting be adjourned to Monday 21st February, 2022 at 11am.

Cllr T Crossan proposed, seconded by Cllr Brogan that the resolution as outlined above be adopted.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator which resulted in 29 voting for with Cllrs Mc Giolla Easbuig, Mc Bride and I Mc Garvey abstaining.

Those voting in favour included:

Cllrs Blaney, Bradley, Brogan, Canning, Conaghan, Coyle, Crawford, N Crossan, T Crossan, A Doherty, L Doherty, Donaghey, Farren, Gallagher, Jordan, Kelly, Kennedy, Mc Clafferty, Mc Dermot, N Mc Garvey, Mc Gowan, Mc Mahon, Mc Monagle, Molloy, Murray, Naughton, O' Donnell, O Fearraigh, and Sweeny. (29)

The resolution was thus adopted.