

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Council
held at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 24 June 2016
at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillor B Weld (Mayor), Councillors M Aspell, A Breslin, A Breen, F Brett, K Byrne, B Caldwell, D Callaghan, R Cronin, I Cussen, M Dalton, D Fitzpatrick, B Hillis, I Keatley, C Kelly, P Kennedy, A Larkin, P McEvoy, J McGinley, M. Miley Jnr, S Moore, T Murray, J Neville, S O'Neill, J Pender, R Power, S Power, D Scully, M Stafford, M Wall, P Ward and B Young

Apologies: Councillors Coleman, Doyle, Durkan, Lynch, McCabe, McLoughlin-Healy, O'Cearuil, and Redmond

Also Present: Mr. P Carey, Chief Executive, Mr. J Boland, (Director of Services), Ms. E Hanlon (Head of Finance), Ms. M Mclvor (Meetings Administrator) and other officials.

1/0616

Election of Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor Brendan Weld welcomed members' staff and guests to the meeting and thanked everyone for their help, co-operation and kindness during the year. He said that it had been a very good year and he extended his sincere thanks to the Chief Executive and his wife Catherine on a personal and professional level for their support over the past year. He thanked all the Directors and staff, in particular Peter Minnock and his wife Anne who accompanied him to several social events and who showed extreme kindness to him and his wife Jetta.

The Mayor paid tribute to Annette Aspell, Maura Mclvor, Bernadette Tutty and all the staff in Members Services and on Level 7 who had been so helpful and efficient over his term of office. He said that the staff throughout the whole organisation had been excellent and he thanked them all for their help and co-operation.

The Mayor said that it was an honour to have been nominated by his party colleagues last year and he thanked the group leaders, except Sinn Fein, Councillor Miley of the Fianna Fail

group, Councillor McGinley and the members of the Labour Party and Councillor McEvoy leader of the Independent Group for their support and cooperation during the year. He said that it had also been a sad year and he remembered the late Councillor Willie Crowley, Eileen Nolan and Tommy Skehan, all of whom died during his year in office. He thanked his wife Jetta and his family for their support during a particularly busy year.

Councillor Keatley on behalf of the Fine Gael group congratulated Mayor Weld for the distinguished and unassuming way that he had carried out his duties over the past year. He said that he made his job as Deputy Mayor very easy because he was so hard working and conscientious over his term of office. He wished him, his wife Jetta, their family and in particular his week old grandchild the very best for the future.

Councillor Cussen on behalf of the Sinn Fein group thanked Councillor Weld for his time as Mayor. She said that the Sinn Fein group do not discriminate who they work with or vote with and have supported motions for the better of the county from all groups in Kildare County Council and will always second a motion even if we don't support the motion. Councillor Cussen said as the Sinn Fein group hadn't been included in the predetermined process of appointing the new Mayor, we have no further input to this meeting or purpose in being here today and therefore withdrew.

Councillor Miley on behalf of the Fianna Fail group said that all members are working together on behalf of the people of Kildare. He congratulated Councillor Weld on his year in office extended his best wishes to his new grandchild.

Councillor McEvoy stated that Councillor Weld in his time as Mayor had demonstrated equity and fairness over his term of office. He said that he had the pleasure of meeting Jetta who indirectly over the past year had given great service to Kildare County Council. He wished Councillor Weld well in the future.

Councillor Moore thanked Councillor Weld for his fairness to all the elected members over the year. He said that it was difficult to manage 40 members with time allocation in accordance with standing orders but that Councillor Weld could be proud of his term in office.

Councillor Caldwell said that Councillor Weld had been a great Mayor and he wished him a long and happy life.

The Chief Executive agreed with the members and said that Councillor Weld as Mayor did Kildare proud on the national and international stage. He was very involved in the merger of the Education Training Boards as chair of the ETB, the Local Economic and Community Plan was adopted, the County Development Plan was taken to draft stage, he represented the members at all of the 1916 Commemoration events and attended the formal opening of the Kerry Group.

Mr Carey said that Councillor Weld got through the business of the meetings in an efficient manner and he thanked him for his courtesy and respect to staff throughout the year. He paid particular tribute to Jetta for the hugely supportive role that she played in supporting the Mayor over the past year.

Mr Carey said he was delighted that the Mayor had remembered Councillor Crowley, and deceased members of staff. They are sadly missed.

Mr Carey congratulated the Mayor on a job well done; it had been a great year which Councillor Weld could remember with pride and he made a presentation to him on behalf of the members and staff.

The Mayor thanked the members and the Chief Executive.

The Mayor invited nominations for the post of Mayor for the coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Scully seconded by Councillor Stafford, Councillor Ivan Keatley was nominated. In proposing Councillor Keatley, Councillor Scully stated that hardworking and honest, that he had represented Kildare at Under 21 level and he believed that Councillor Keatley will represent this county with pride.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Keatley was deemed elected and took the chair.

In accepting the position, Mayor Keatley thanked Councillor Scully and Councillor Stafford for their nomination and the members for their support. He said it was a great honour to be selected and assured the members, the Chief Executive and staff that he will be a fair and impartial Mayor.

The Mayor acknowledged the work of the outgoing Mayor and thanked the Fine Gael party, Deputy Martin Heydon and the girls in the constituency office, Mary and Rosemary for their support. He thanked his wife Elena, his children Quin and Eliza, his mother Breda and his grandmother Nan Fogarty. He welcomed Elena's parents Paddy and Bernie, Maria, Adrian and their children to the gallery. He thanked all his family and his friends for their ongoing support.

The Mayor stated that the role was an important ceremonial one and that it is vital that the delivery of social housing is progressed, that the effect of Brexit on tourism, sport and the equine industry is monitored and that the Blueway project and the redevelopment of the Curragh racecourse are brought through to completion.

He said that he was an avid sportsperson and that with his GAA background with Kildare he would foster a sense of solidarity over the next twelve months and he concluded by wishing Kildare and Ireland well in their forthcoming matches.

2/0616

Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the post of Deputy Mayor for the coming year. On the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Stafford, Councillor Hillis was nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Hillis was deemed elected to the post of Deputy Mayor. The Mayor and members congratulated Councillor Hillis on his election as Deputy Mayor for the county. Councillor Hillis thanked his colleagues for their nomination and the members for their support.

The Mayor thanked all the members and welcomed Councillor Hillis as Deputy Mayor.

This concluded the annual meeting.