

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 6th JUNE 2014

- PRESENT** An t-Ardmhéara Comhairleoir C. Clancy and subsequently Comhairleoir M. Shields.
- NORTH EAST** Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Tynan, T. Brosnan, J. Kavanagh.
- NORTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí T. Gould, M. Barry, K O'Flynn, L. O'Donnell, J. Sheehan.
- NORTH WEST** Comhairleoirí M. Nugent, T. Fitzgerald, K. Collins, M. O'Sullivan.
- SOUTH EAST** Comhairleoirí K. McCarthy, C. O'Leary, D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, T. Shannon, N. O'Keeffe, S. O'Shea.
- SOUTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí M. Finn, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, T. O'Driscoll, S. Martin.
- SOUTH WEST** Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, H. Cremin, M. Shields, F. Dennehy, P. Hourican, T. Moloney.
- ALSO PRESENT** Mr. D. Buggy, Chief Executive.
Mr. T. Keating, Meetings Administrator
Mr. N. Carroll, Staff Officer, Corporate & External Affairs.
Ms. J. Gazely, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate & External Affairs.
Ms. Valerie O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Corporate & External Affairs.
Mr. T. Healy, Head of Finance
Mr. P. Ledwidge, Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development.
Mr. D. O'Mahony, Director of Services, Human Resource Management & Organisational Reform.
Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect, Architects.
Mr. J. O'Donovan, Director of Services, Environment & Recreation.
Mr. D. Joyce, Senior Executive Officer, ICT & Business Systems.
Ms. N. O'Sullivan, Assistant Staff Officer, Lord Mayor's Office.
Ms. G. Ni Mhuirthile, Clerical Officer, Chief Executive's Office.
Ms. A. Rodgers, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. Mr. T. Keating, Meetings Administrator read out the names of the persons duly elected as Members of Cork City Council in Local Elections held on May 23rd 2014.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

On the proposal of An tArdmhéara C. Clancy, An Chomhairle unanimously agreed to refer the meeting of An Chomhairle due to be held on Monday 9th June 2014 at 5.30 p.m. to Monday 16th June 2014 at 5.30 p.m. and to cancel the following meetings due to be held on the 16th June 2014.

1. Corporate Policy Group
2. Housing & Community Functional Committee
3. Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

2. **ELECTION OF AN tARDMHÉARA**

An tArdmhéara C. Clancy addressed the meeting:-

City Manager, distinguished guests, Councillors, in particular, our new Councillors congratulations to you all and a very special welcome to your family members who are here to support you for what must be a very proud night for them.

At this juncture also, I would like to convey my commiserations and best wishes to all the fine outgoing Councillors who were not re-elected in the recent local elections.

To acknowledge in particular the commitment of Lorraine Kingston in her role as Deputy Lord Mayor. Lorraine you were a pleasure to work with, not only as an effective and reliable Lord Mayor's Deputy when representing the city of Cork but also a treasured friend.

I would like to thank Cork City Council for their support of the Lord Mayor's Office and also in my role as Chair of the City Council for the past year.

I would like to thank the staff of Corporate & External Affairs, in particular Tadhg Keating and Jo Gazely who along with their colleagues across the City Council are exemplary public servants.

Directors of Service Valerie O'Sullivan, Pat Ledwidge, Gerry O'Beirne, Jim O'Donovan, Seamus Coghlan and Head of Finance Tim Healy.

City Manager Dan Buggy, thank you for your assistance in the last few weeks and I would like to take this opportunity to wish the new incoming Chief Executive Ann Doherty all the best in her new position.

To thank former City Manager Tim Lucey for his assistance to me during the year as Lord Mayor and wishing him well in his new role as Chief Executive of Cork County Council.

The Office of the Lord Mayor is extremely busy and the year couldn't have run so smoothly without the assistance of the staff of the Lord Mayor's Office. Thank you Catherine, Gráinne and Nicola, I couldn't have done it without you. Also, John Kenneally and the porters who are here first in the morning and last to leave at night.

To thank also the two pillar organisations that represent the business and traders of the city; Cork Chamber of Commerce and the Cork Business Association, who never tire advocating for and promoting those involved in driving the Cork economy along with Cork City Council and those in the education sector that create a solid foundation for this city's future.

Throughout the year I had many interactions and dealings with the Defence Forces and I wish to thank them for their professionalism and commitment to the city. I would like to commend An Garda Síochána Chief Superintendent Mick Finn and all his staff whose members put their lives on the line in the course of their duty on a daily basis and to acknowledge and thank them on behalf of Cork City Council and the people of Cork.

There are many men in my life but the two I spent most time with over the last year are the Lord Mayor's drivers Jordan Bracken and Finbarr Archer. They are a bit like the hairdresser in that they know everything about you, especially when the year is out. They are gentlemen to their toes and to thank them for the professional manner in which they carried out their duties.

Also to thank Eddie Murphy and Fords Cork for continuing with their generosity in making a Ford car available to the Lord Mayor's Office; a tradition that is now in its 29th year.

To thank the local media for their support of the activities of the Lord Mayor's Office and also their coverage of the Council Meetings. The Evening Echo for providing the column for the Lord Mayor's article and diary.

The year of Lord Mayor is a very special one also for the Lord Mayor's family, to thank my husband Martin for his support throughout the year. Even though last Saturday week was a devastating day for those at the tally and connected with the Labour Party, I know Martin was the only one smiling within that group as he was looking forward to having his wife back home after 10 years. But I can't promise you Martin that I'll be cooking you all those dinners that you think I will be!

Aoife, Bryan and Colin, you are the best. Growing up I used to dream about being an only child with my own bedroom but as you get older and over the years, I now know how blessed I am to have been part of a big and extended family and all the support that brings along with many friends.

And of course the icing on the cake when I was elected Lord Mayor was to have my parents, Tom and Cecelia, both parents present on the night.

The Office of Lord Mayor creates the opportunity to fundraise for many charities across the city:

- Lord Mayor's coffee morning
- Lord Mayor's Christmas Concert
- Lord Mayor's Ball

which in this term raised over €37,000. To thank all volunteers involved, in particular the Lord Mayor's Ball Committee, Ethel, Aileen, Sarah, Jordon, Valerie, and Margaret and from Corporate & External Affairs, Tadhg Keating and Jo Gazely. Thank the main sponsors of the ball Voxpro, RSVP Magazine, The Hospital Group and media sponsor the Evening Echo.

Like previous Lord Mayors, one of the highlights for me was the school visits to over 100 schools; a tradition started by Lord Mayor Terence McSweeney over 90 years ago. To thank the principals and management of the schools in their support for the leath lá or homework off. A unique tradition in Cork City and long may it continue.

As Lord Mayor, it was great to be out from 9.00am to 11.00pm most days at positive things happening in the city. Many of the events and activities taking place in the heart of communities, be it in sports centres, retirement clubs, youth clubs, all supported by volunteers who are the backbone of what makes Cork the tremendous city that it is. There is no doubt that this city's greatest assets are our people.

If I could take this opportunity to speak about a sample of the areas of interest for me during my term.

Developing Cork City as a Food Capital

Cork City's status as food capital has many of the ingredients already in place but there are many elements to this recognition. I welcome Cork Chamber's launch of Cork's Agri-foods and drinks opportunity document launched in May to promote policy recommendations and to optimise the region's economic development.

Cork is well positioned to capitalise in the agri-food and drinks business particularly in research through our third level institutions, tradition of artisan foods, dairy, beef, fish, brewing and distilling. I was privileged to give a Civic Reception for Myrtle Allen during the year who developed, along with her family, the Ballymaloe brand that now has world recognition; what a lady, what a story.

The Feed the City event organised by the Cork Food Policy Council feeding 5000 people on the Grand Parade the St. Patricks weekend also put Cork firmly on the map as a city that respects those who produce food and make their living on the delivering of food produce in a clean sustainable environment.

Age Friendly City

During the year I worked on the progression and taking the first steps to have Cork City designated and recognised by the World Health Organisation as an Age Friendly

City with the support of Cork City Council's Social Inclusion Unit, statutory bodies such as the HSE, An Garda Síochána, and the vibrant community sector across the city. A conference attracting more than 500 people took place in City Hall.

This day of consultation led to the launch last week of a plan of action supported by various bodies to put Cork City Council on the first rung of the ladder to have Cork designated as an Age Friendly City.

Cork City Centre

Cork City is very special. It is a city embraced by the River Lee, the city centre has over 600 shopping units offering a best in class shopping experience to locals and visitors alike. The city centre hosts 24 festivals a year such as the Cork Choral Festival, Ocean to City, Lee Swim, Christmas on the Grand Parade delivering events and activities such as that support city centre businesses, tourism and the hospitality industry. I believe the future of the city is bright and exciting.

The decision on the successful site for the event centre is imminent:

- the long awaited redesigning of Kent Station exiting onto Horgans Quay has been announced
- funding support of €30million for Pairc Uí Chaoimh
- the reopening of the revamped Fitzgeralds Park creating an enriched public space for all to enjoy
- the Capital Cinema site coming on the market for sale within the coming weeks is very welcome
- the completion of the works on the enhancement of Parnell place in tandem with the ongoing work of Cork City Council in upgrading the public realm; all steering the city in the right direction.

The Colliers Report will be one of the first reports to come before the new Council. It will outline strategies and major steps for a refreshed development journey that Cork City must go on. This should include an early resolution to the city and county boundary issue. Now is the time to continue the revitalisation of Cork's city centre, giving more reasons for people of all ages to come into the city and strengthen Cork as a great place to live, visit and invest.

With the amalgamations of Limerick and Waterford city councils with their respective county councils, and with the abolition of town councils, Cork, along with Galway remains the only urban areas outside Dublin with its own council.

To wish the incoming council every success. The people of cork have entrusted each and every one of you with the good governance of our city. The decisions of the city council, when taken wisely can have a significant positive impact on the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of Cork.

A decision that you make next week, next month or next year will have consequences for the city for the next 10, 20 or 30 years.

To the incoming members of the city council always remember that above personal, political or local interests, the interests of Cork and its citizens should always come first.

It has been a privilege to be Lord Mayor of this great city. I have lived the dream. What a year and what an honour.

Go raibh míle maith agait.

An tArdmhéara requested nominations for the office of Ardmhéara:

Comhairleoir S. Martin stated the following:-

“In recognition of the composition of Cork City Council and in recognising the equal democratic mandate of each member which is based of the principles of inclusion and a version D’Houndt. These principles will be reflected in the appointment of individuals over the next five years to the position of Lord Mayor and other positions “

And proposed the nomination of Comhairleoir M. Shields as a nomination for the office of Ardmhéara seconded by Comhairleoir T. O’Driscoll

Comhairleoir M. Barry proposed Comhairleoir L. O’Donnell as a nomination for the office of Ardmhéara seconded by Comhairleoir T. Tynan

A vote was called for where there appeared as follows:-

FOR COMHAIRLEOIR M. SHIELDS

Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Brosnan, J. Kavanagh, T. Gould, K. O’Flynn, J. Sheehan, M. Nugent, T. Fitzgerald, K. Collins, C. O’Leary, D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, T. Shannon, N. O’ Keefe, S. O’Shea, M. Finn, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, T. O’Driscoll, S. Martin, J. Buttimer, H. Cremin, M. Shields, F. Dennehy, P.J Hourican, T. Moloney. (26)

FOR COMHAIRLEOIR L. O’DONNELL

Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, M. Barry, L. O’Donnell, M. O’Sullivan. (4)

ABSTAIN: K. McCarthy. (1)

An tArdmhéara C. Clancy declared Comhairleoir M. Shields elected to the office of Ardmhéara.

An tArdmhéara then addressed An Chomhairle,

Bhainisteoir Chathair Chorcaí, Chomhleoiri, Uachtaran Fianna Fail, Micheal Martin TD, Theachtai Dala, A dhaoine Uaisle go leir

Councillors, City Manager, Leader of Fianna Fail, Public Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen.

To athas orm failte a chur romhaibh go leir go dti an chrinniu seo, an chead chrinniu den gComhairle Cathrach nua tofa.

I wish to welcome you all here this evening to this first meeting of the new Cork City Council which was recently elected.

The Mayoralty has a particular historical role in Cork and was indeed raised to a very special relationship in 1920 because of the sacrifice in office of Tomas McCurtain and Terence McSweeney, the title was cherished by two martyred republicans.

Quote “I would rather die than part with this chain” said Terence McSweeney when his captors tried to take it from him after his arrest here in City Hall on 12th August 1920.

To wear this chain is for me a great privilege and honour and one which I will cherish forever.

Both these Lord Mayors and indeed many successive ones had a remarkable exalted sense of “their great city” and one in which I will try to follow during my term of office.

My aim for the coming year will be to give service above for the people of Cork and for the city.

My motto is: Is feidir linn ag obair le cheile
For me – Authority Truly is Giving Service

From my recent travels in the hustings during the election campaign I found that disillusionment prevails. This is not limited to any one party or group of people. It is shared by people from all walks of life, people who are tired of being disappointed by the partisanship and petty politics that are stopping us from solving our problems and challenges at both local and national levels.

This election now in Cork offers us the opportunity to change this culture and attitude.

We must now in the New Council come together and continue to choose a better future for Cork.

I have a vision for Cork rooted in the values that have always made our City unique.

Values that have been articulated and expressed to me at front porches, family businesses, church gates, community halls, sporting events, etc, during the past two months and indeed further back. Many of the people I have met know that the City Council cannot solve all our problems and indeed they don't expect it to so.

But they believe in Fairness, Opportunity, and the responsibilities we have to one another. They believe in a City where jobs are there for the willing, where hard work is rewarded with a decent living and that a sound economy requires thriving businesses and flourishing families.

Forging this kind of Future will not be easy. It will require from us all a new spirit of co-operation.

And a kind of politics that truly reflects the best values of Cork.

We must now seize this moment to look beyond our differences and focus on the challenges that affect us all.

I wish at this stage to pay a particular tribute to our out-going Lord Mayor Catherine Clancy. Catherine has represented the City during the past year with Dignity, Gracefulness, Distinction and Integrity.

Also I must not forget her extremely able Deputy Lord Mayor Lorraine Kingston.

They both worked unselfishly on behalf of our city and its citizens.

I wish to thank my own Party Fianna Fail for the enormous confidence they have shown in me, by nominating me to be the first Lord Mayor of this new council.

Also a special thanks for my supporters who worked so tirelessly to have me elected to this new council- and my fourth term.

I'm delighted to see many of you here tonight.

Also my thanks to all my colleague councillors who supported my nomination and electing me as Lord Mayor here tonight. It is a night I will long remember.

On a personal level my sincere thanks to all my family (here tonight) and in particular Mick for his constant support and encouragement.

The soul of our city is its people and a major concern for me during the coming year will be to lead the way in making Cork

- A thriving City of Culture,
- A Vibrant and sustainable City that is Safe/Secure,
- A City that is Cleaner and Greener,

- Accessible, inclusive and that cherishes the many diverse communities that are living within its boundaries,
- A City where its citizens are gainfully employed and everyone is housed, and where businesses flourish. Great credit to Cork City Council for the refurbishment to date of Fitzgeralds Park. It is a huge asset to the City and well worth a visit.
- A City that inspires pride in its inhabitants and a positive experience for its visitors. And Cork to be the Jewel in the Crown of European Cities.

In achieving these goals I believe that Cork City Council, its elected members must be the driving force of policy information and at our meetings ahead I will be dwelling on the many issues requiring prioritisation.

Indeed I must briefly refer and single out mention of some of these priorities.

1. Finalising the City Draft Development Plan 2015-2020.
2. Building of the Events Centre.
3. Building the new Park Úi Chaoimh GAA Stadium and centre of Sports Excellence.

Our bid to have the National Diaspora Centre situated in Cork. This is hugely important from a tourism and economic prospective and – very important from an economic point of view. I am aware TEAM are actively involved in bidding to have this centre located in Cork.

Approving the estimates and passing the budget are major issues to be dealt with by the New Council.

These and others will be the basis for future growth and development of the City and for consideration by council during the coming year.

Finally I hope that the changes voted for at the ballot box will be reflected in the smooth operation of the new city council.

I am really looking forward to my year ahead and my new term of office working with you all and particularly the new City Manager and her staff in striving to achieve a better newer vision for our rebel city and its citizen.

2. **ELECTION OF LEAS ARDMHÉARA**

Nominations were requested for office of Leas Ardmhéara.

Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald proposed and Comhairleoir T. Shannon seconded the nomination of Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn.

Comhairleoir M. Barry proposed and Comhairleoir M. O’Sullivan seconded the nomination of Comhairleoir T. Tynan.

A vote was called for where there appeared as follows:-

FOR COMHAIRLEOIR K. O’FLYNN

Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Brosnan, J. Kavanagh, T. Gould, K. O’Flynn, J. Sheehan, M. Nugent, T. Fitzgerald, K. Collins, C. O’Leary, D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, T. Shannon, N. O’Keefe, S. O’Shea, M. Finn, F. Kerins, T. O’Driscoll, S. Martin, J. Buttimer, H. Cremin, M. Shields, F. Dennehy, P.J Hourican, T. Moloney. (25)

FOR COMHAIRLEOIR T. TYNAN

Comhairleoir T. Tynan, M. Barry, L. O’Donnell, M. O’Sullivan, K. McCarthy. (5)

An tArdmhéara M. Shields declared Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn elected as Leas Ardmhéara

An Leas Ardmhéara then briefly addressed the meeting.

3. On the proposal of An t-Ardmhéara An Chomhairle unanimously agreed to defer the remaining items on the agenda to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held on the 16th June 2014.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH**