

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Friday, 21 June 2024

Members Present: Councillor Mary Bohan
Councillor Enda McGloin
Councillor Sean McGowan
Councillor Brendan Barry
Councillor Pdraig Fallon
Councillor Paddy Farrell
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Felim Gurn
Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn
Councillor Enda Stenson
Councillor Cormac Flynn
Councillor James Gilmartin
Councillor Roisin Kenny
Councillor Eddie Mitchell
Councillor Gary Prior
Councillor Maeve Reynolds

Councillor Justin Warnock (Cathaoirleach) presiding

Officials Present:

Joseph Gilhooly, Deputy Chief Executive
Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services
Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services
Justin Fannon, A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services
Suzanne Duffy, SEO Corporate Services
Johanna Daly, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development
Pauline Brennan, County Librarian
Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads - South Leitrim Area
Shane Mulvey, Executive Engineer, Housing
Michelle Reynolds, Economic Development
Sarah Duffy, Economic Development
Annette McCormack, Corporate Services
Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

MM.80.24 Names of persons duly elected as members of Leitrim County Council

Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator read the names of the persons duly elected to Leitrim County Council as a result of the Local Elections 2024, to the meeting, as follows;

Ballinamore Local Electoral Area

Paddy O'Rourke
Enda McGloin
Brendan Barry
Gary Prior
Ita Reynolds Flynn
Roisin Kenny

Carrick on Shannon Local Electoral Area

Enda Stenson
Des Guckian
Maeve Reynolds
Sean McGowan
Cormac Flynn
Paddy Farrell

Manorhamilton Local Electoral Area

James Gilmartin
Mary Bohan
Felim Gurn
Padraig Fallon
Justin Warnock
Eddie Mitchell

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Chief Executive (Interim) welcomed all the Elected Members returned and the 6 newly Elected Members. Mr Gilhooly said at the previous meeting there was a very positive reflection on the last 5 years and he said he is looking forward to the county continuing on its growth trajectory growth over the next 5 years. Mr Gilhooly said he looked forward to working with the Elected Members and the staff, moving forward collectively for the good of the county over the next 5 years.

MM.81.24 Election of Cathaoirleach

Proposed by Councillor Gary Prior, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan

“That **Councillor Paddy O’Rourke** be elected Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council for the ensuing year.”

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Proposed by Councillor Cormac Flynn, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry;

“That **Councillor Padraig Fallon** be elected Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council for the ensuing year.”

Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator outlined that as there were two proposals for the position of Cathaoirleach a vote would have to be taken. Mr Kieran Brett outlined that the original proposal would be considered in the first instance and a vote called. The result of the poll taken was as follows:

Proposal for Councillor Paddy O’Rourke to be elected Cathaoirleach for 2024/2025

For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Bohan, Mary	Barry, Brendan		
Farrell, Paddy	Fallon, Padraig		
Gilmartin, James	Flynn, Cormac		
Gurn, Felim	Guckian, Des		
McGloin, Enda	Kenny, Roisin		
McGowan, Sean			
Mitchell, Eddie			
O’Rourke, Paddy			
Prior, Gary			
Reynolds, Maeve			
Reynolds Flynn, Ita			
Stenson, Enda			
Warnock, Justin			
13	5	0	0

As Councillor Paddy O’Rourke obtained 13 votes, which was the majority of the members present and voting, the proposal to elect him as Cathaoirleach succeeded and consequently the proposal to elect Cllr Padraig Fallon as Cathaoirleach was defeated. Mr Kieran Brett deemed Cllr Paddy O’Rourke elected as Cathaoirleach for the year 2024/2025.

Councillor Paddy O’Rourke thanked his proposer and seconder. He congratulated everyone who got elected and secured a seat on the council at the recent elections. Councillor O’Rourke said he was pleased to see that all the 12 outgoing members who sought to be re-elected were re-elected comfortably and he said that this says something about the view the public have on the way they are operating the Council. Councillor O’Rourke said there are not many other counties where all of the outgoing members who sought re-election were returned by the electorate, and he said this is a testament to the calibre of the people who sought to be re-elected and were duly re-elected. Councillor O’Rourke welcomed the six new elected members and he wished them every success for the next five years.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke complimented the professional way in which the Local Election count was conducted and was complimented the count staff for their work and professionalism. He said the venue for the Election Count was excellent.

The members congratulated Councillor O'Rourke and wished him every success as Cathaoirleach for the forthcoming year.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of Leitrim County Council, congratulated Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and wished him well in role as Cathaoirleach for the forthcoming year. He assured him of the full support and co-operation of the staff throughout his term of office.

MM.82.24 Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach

Proposed by Councillor Paddy Farrell, seconded by Councillor Maeve Reynolds

"That **Councillor Sean McGowan** be elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council for the ensuing year."

Councillor Sean McGowan thanked his proposer and seconder. He also wished Councillor Paddy O'Rourke success as Cathaoirleach for the forthcoming year and assured him of his full support.

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his dissatisfaction with the appointments and said he was very concerned with the low turnout at Local Elections were which reflects how politics is being carried out in Leitrim. He said he was appalled at Fianna Fáil for grabbing all the roles in the Council, and he queried what they are doing and covering up.

Having made his statement, Councillor Des Guckian left the meeting in protest.

Councillor Mary Bohan rebutted the allegations made by Councillor Des Guckian and she said some of the remarks made are not fair to staff and elected members. Cllr Bohan said if all members were to take the approach of walking out of meetings, a Commissioner would be put in place to run the Local Authority.

MM.83.24 Election of Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Chairpersons

Ms Mary Quinn, outlined the proposed remit and responsibilities of the 4 Strategic Policy Committees. Ms Quinn outlined that Climate Action will be considered across all Strategic Policy Committees.

Economic and Enterprise Development	Physical Environment	Local Development	Social Development
<p>This SPC is responsible for all areas of policy concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development • Tourism • Planning • Enterprise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Regeneration • Broadband/Digital 	<p>This SPC is responsible for all areas of policy concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads and Active Travel • EV Charging • Climate Action • Environment • Heritage • <u>Bio-diversity</u> • Rural Water • Water Quality • Emergency Services <p>Note: Climate will transcend work prog of all SPCs in context of adopted climate action plan</p>	<p>This SPC is responsible for all areas of policy concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placemaking – towns and villages • Community Development • Agriculture sector • Creative sector • Local Transport • Parks Open Spaces • Burial Grounds • Recreational Trails and Facilities, Playgrounds 	<p>This SPC is responsible for all areas of policy concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Community Integration/Social Inclusion • Arts and Culture • Sports • Libraries • Children and Youth • Needs of People with Disabilities • Older People/Age Friendly • Healthy Ireland

She outlined that the Chairperson of each SPC together with the Cathaoirleach, will assist the Chief Executive in drafting the SPC Scheme which will be available at the July Council meeting. She advised 4 Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons are to be elected.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin

“That Councillor Gary Prior be elected as Chairperson of the Economic and Enterprise Development SPC.”

“That Councillor Eddie Mitchell be elected as Chairperson of the Physical Environment SPC.”

“That Councillor Justin Warnock be elected as Chairperson of Local Development SPC.”

“That Councillor Enda McGloin be elected as Chairperson of Social Development SPC.”

Councillor Brendan Barry referred to Circular 07 2024 and outlined that the allocation of the SPC Chairs should reflect equitably the spread of elected representation of the council appropriately across the county.

Councillor Rosin Kenny proposed that Councillor Pdraig Fallon be elected as Chairperson of the Social Development SPC and Councillor Cormac Flynn seconded this proposal.

Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator outlined that as there were two proposals for the position of Chairperson of the Social Development SPC a vote would have to be taken on the counter proposal.

The result of the poll taken was as follows:

Proposal for Cllr Pdraig Fallon be elected as Chairperson of the Social Development SPC

Against	For	Abstain	Absent
Bohan, Mary	Barry, Brendan		
Farrell, Paddy	Fallon, Pdraig		
Gilmartin, James	Flynn, Cormac		
Gurn, Felim	Kenny, Roisin		Des Guckian
McGloin, Enda			
McGowan, Sean			
Mitchell, Eddie			
O'Rourke, Paddy			
Prior, Gary			
Reynolds, Maeve			
Reynolds Flynn, Ita			
Stenson, Enda			
Warnock, Justin			
13	4	0	1

As 13 votes were against the counter proposal, 4 votes for the counter proposal and 1 absent. Councillor Enda McGloin was deemed elected Cathaoirleach of the Social Development SPC.

MM.84.24 Appoint three (3) Members to the Local Community Development Committee for the administrative area of County Leitrim

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Gary Prior, Councillor Paddy Farrell and Councillor Felim Gurn be appointed to the Local Community Development Committee”.

MM.85.24 Appoint two (2) Members to the Northern & Western Regional Assembly

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, Seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Eddie Mitchell and Councillor Enda McGloin be appointed to the Northern & Western Regional Assembly”.

MM.86.24 Appoint two (2) Members to the Irish Central Border Areas Network

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, Seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Paddy O’Rourke and Councillor Felim Gurn be appointed to the Irish Central Border Areas Network.”

MM.87.24 Appoint three (3) Members to the Association of Irish Local Government

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan and Seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Maeve Reynolds, Councillor Paddy Farrell, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke be appointed to the Association of Irish Local Government.”

MM.88.24 Appoint one (1) Member to the Local Authority Members Association

Proposed by Councillor Paddy Farrell, Seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Sean McGowan be appointed to the Local Authority Members Association.”

MM.89.24 Appoint two (2) Members to the Leitrim County Enterprise Fund Limited

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin Seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Enda Stenson be appointed to the Leitrim County Enterprise Fund Limited.”

MM.90.24 Appoint one (1) Representative from the County Council to attend General Meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, Seconded by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Mary Bohan be appointed as representative from Leitrim County Council to attend the General Meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited.”

MM.91.24 Appoint one (1) Member to the NW Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force

Proposed by Councillor Gary Prior, Seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Mary Bohan be appointed to the NW Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force.”

MM.92.24 Appoint six (6) Members to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, Seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock and RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Eddie Mitchell, Councillor Paddy Farrell, Councillor Sean McGowan be appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee”

Proposed by Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Seconded by Councillor Roisin Kenny and RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Brendan Barry and Councillor Cormac Flynn be appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee”

Proposed by Councillor Paddy Farrell, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Enda Stenson be appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee”

MM.93.24 Appoint three (3) Members to the Regional Health Forum, West

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn, Councillor Paddy Farrell and Councillor Felim Gurn are appointed to the Regional Health Forum West.”

MM.94.24 Appoint three (3) Members to the Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim Education & Training Board

Proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn, Seconded by Councillor Gary Prior AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor James Gilmartin be appointed to the Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board.”

MM.95.24 Appoint three (3) Members to the County Leitrim Local Sports Partnership

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, Seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fallon

“That Councillor Cormac Flynn be appointed to the County Leitrim Local Sports Partnership.”

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, Seconded by Enda McGloin

“That Councillor James Gilmartin, Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Gary Prior be appointed to the County Leitrim Local Sports Partnership”.

Councillor Enda Stenson proposed that the membership of this partnership committee could be extended. Councillor Enda McGloin seconded this proposal. Councillor Padraig Fallon was also in favour of this proposal.

The Executive agreed to extend the membership of the County Leitrim Local Sports Partnership to 4 members.

MM.96.24 Appoint three (3) Members to the PEACE IV Partnership

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, Seconded by Councillor Cormac Flynn AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Brendan Barry be appointed to the PEACE IV Partnership.”

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Gary Prior and Councillor Justin Warnock be appointed to the PEACE IV Partnership”.

MM.97.24 Appoint two (2) Members to the Audit Committee

Proposed by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Enda McGloin are appointed to the Audit Committee.”

MM.98.24 Appoint six (6) Members to the Heritage Forum

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, Seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn, Councillor Eddie Mitchell, Councillor Gary Prior, Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Paddy O’Rourke be appointed to the Heritage Forum”.

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, Seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Cormac Flynn be appointed to the Heritage Forum”.

MM.99.24 Appoint three (3) members to the County Tourism Forum

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, Seconded by Councillor James Gilmartin AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Maeve Reynolds, Councillor Paddy Farrell and Councillor Felim Gurn are appointed to the County Tourism Forum.”

MM.100.24 Appoint three (3) members to the Community Integration Forum

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, Seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Gary Prior and Councillor Eddie Mitchell are appointed to the Community Integration Forum.”

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, Seconded by Councillor Cormac Flynn AND RESOLVED:

“That Councillor Róisín Kenny is appointed to the Community Integration Forum.”

MM.101.24 Agree date and time for the Annual Meetings of the Municipal Districts

Ms. Mary Quinn advised that the date and time of the First Annual Meetings of the Municipal Districts are proposed as follows:-

- Annual Meeting for the Ballinamore Municipal District is Friday, 28th June 2024 at 10 am in the Island Theatre, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim.
- Annual Meeting for the Manorhamilton Municipal District is Friday, 28th June 2024 at 14.30 in the HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton.
- Annual Meeting for the Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District is Friday, 28th June 2024 at 10 am in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Stenson advised he would be unable to attend the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Meeting on the 28th June 2024.

Ms Quinn advised that an item will be listed on the Municipal District Agendas for the nomination of one member from each Municipal District to join the Leitrim Biodiversity Working Group. The Biodiversity Working Group will be a sub-group of the existing Heritage Forum.

Proposed by Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and RESOLVED:

“That the date and time of the First Annual Meetings of the Municipal Districts be as follows:

- Annual Meeting for the Ballinamore Municipal District is Friday, 28th June 2024 at 10 am in the Island Theatre, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim.
- Annual Meeting for the Manorhamilton Municipal District is Friday, 28th June 2024 at 14.30 in the HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton.
- Annual Meeting for the Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District is Friday, 28th June 2024 at 10 am in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon.

MM.102.24 Fix dates and times for Meetings of Leitrim County Council until the next Annual Meeting

Ms Mary Quinn advised that it is proposed that the Council Meetings would take place on a bi-monthly basis on the first Monday of the months of January, March, May, July, September and November, with Municipal district meetings to take place monthly. She advised that it is proposed that, where a meeting, either Council or Municipal, falls on a Public Holiday the meeting will take place on the day after the Public Holiday i.e. the Tuesday.

Ms. Mary Quinn advised that the July Council meeting will take place on Monday, 8th July 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, Seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND RESOLVED:

“That Council meetings be held bi-monthly on the first Monday of alternate months. Where the first Monday falls on a Public Holiday the meeting will be held on the day after the Public Holiday i.e. the Tuesday. There will be no Council meetings in the month of August.”

MM.103.24 Note Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended by the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2012

Ms Mary Quinn informed the members that the Statement of Election Expenses at the Local

Elections on 7th June 2024 in accordance with Section 13 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999, as amended, must be returned within 90 days following polling day i.e. by Thursday 5th September 2024.

This was noted by the members.

MM.104.24 Note requirements in relation to Ethics Declarations for newly elected Councillors

Ms. Mary Quinn informed the Members that the Ethics Declarations for newly elected Councillors should be returned by 5th July 2024.

MM.105.24 Any other matters relevant to an Annual Meeting of the County Council

Ms Quinn advised that the Joint Policing Committee has now been replaced by the Community Safety Partnership and expressions of interest in the position of an independent Chairperson for this committee will be sought. When more information becomes available on this, it will be issued to the Elected Members.

Ms Quinn advised that the Corporate Policy group will meet in person on the 4th July 2024 at 10 am.

Mr Gilhooly congratulated Councillor Paddy O'Rourke on his election as Cathaoirleach and Councillor Sean McGowan as Leas Cathaoirleach and all the members appointed to their respective committees, and he said he looked forward to working with the new Council for the betterment of the County.

Councillor Enda McGloin congratulated Cllr O'Rourke on being elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr Sean McGowan elected as Leas Cathaoirleach for the term 2024/2025. Councillor McGloin said he hoped we will achieve as much as we have achieved in the last 5 years.

Councillor Enda McGloin thanked the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officers and the count staff who were very fair, efficient and professional and carried out their duties in a jovial manner.

Councillor Enda Stenson thanked Cllr Justin Warnock outgoing Cathaoirleach and welcomed Cllr O'Rourke as the incoming Cathaoirleach. Cllr Stenson welcomed all the new members, and he said all members do what is best for County Leitrim. Councillor Stenson also paid tribute to Mr Willie Donnellan, Photographer for the way in which his pictures captured the scenes at the Landmark Hotel on the day of the Local Elections Count.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 12.55 pm

Signed:

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
Cathaoirleach

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator

Dated: Monday, 8 July 2024