Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain

The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of the Municipal District AGM held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices on Monday 24th June 2024 at 10.00am.

Present: Cllrs. Peter Conlon, Aidan Campbell, PJ O'Hanlon, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, Paul Gibbons

In Attendance: Carmel O'Hare, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, District Co-Ordinator, Gary Toye, District Engineer, Gemma Keenan, Senior Staff Officer, Julieann O'Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

Damien Thornton, District Co-Ordinator, opened the meeting by welcoming all and congratulating the members on their election.

In relation to the draft Standing Orders, Mr. Thornton highlighted that it had been previously adopted that the July meeting of the Municipal District be scheduled for the 2nd Monday in July. Mr. Thornton further advised that the elected members will be issued with new IT equipment with a view to reducing the amount of paper waste.

1. Election of Cathaoirleach

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, the elected members unanimously agreed that Cllr. O'Hanlon take up the position of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. O'Hanlon in addressing those present, began by acknowledging the generosity of Cllr. Campbell in the inter party discussions surrounding the rotation of the chair and expressed his sincere thanks. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that it is a great honour for all to be elected and wished to acknowledge outgoing Councillor, Aoife McCooey, remarking that he has no doubt she will be back. Cllr. O'Hanlon welcomed new Councillor, Paul Gibbons and wished him all the best. Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to acknowledge the support of his wife Pauline and son Oisín.

Cllr. O'Hanlon expressed thanks to the people who voted for him, to the Municipal District staff and also commended the work of Veronica Corr and Pat Byrne as members of the press. All elected members concurred with these comments.

2. Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, the elected members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Campbell take up the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Director of Services, Carmel O'Hare expressed her congratulations to the newly nominated Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach. All elected members concurred with these comments.

All elected members congratulated Cllr. O'Hanlon and Cllr. Campbell on the election to their roles.

Cllrs. Carthy, Keelan, Conlon and Campbell conveyed best wishes to outgoing Councillor, Aoife McCooey and welcomed Cllr. Gibbons to his role.

The elected members congratulated Carmel O'Hare, Director of Services, on her success in the role of returning officer at the recent elections.

Cllr. Gibbons expressed congratulations to those re-elected and wished to pay tribute to past Councillor, Jackie Crowe.

Press member Pat Byrne congratulated the elected members on their election and re-elections.

3. Adoption of Draft Standing Orders 2024 - 2029

Cllr. Keelan proposed extending the length of ordinary monthly Municipal District meetings and it was unanimously agreed that in respect of ordinary monthly meetings commencing at 10:00a.m. it will be the intention of the Municipal District to rise not later than 12.30pm.

Discussions ensued surrounding the inclusion of AOB as an agenda item at ordinary Municipal District meetings and it was agreed by all members that AOB be included on the agenda of ordinary meetings. On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon, it was further agreed by all members that each member be limited to raising 2 No. items under AOB and that these items could not be a repeat of items raised elsewhere during the meeting.
Cllr. Carthy commented that AOB should be used sparingly.

Cllr. Keelan remarked that sometimes issues can arise over a weekend.

Cllr. Campbell sought clarification on the Rules of Debate surrounding speeches.
Damien Thornton, District Coordinator, confirmed that Section 20.1 states:
"(b) That speeches during all debates, other than those on Notices of Motion, be limited to three minutes per member."
Cllr. O'Hanlon advised he will strictly implement the Standing Orders.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, the draft Standing Orders, as amended by the elected members, were adopted.

The meeting concluded at 10:48

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Cathaoirleach Date

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Meeting Administrator