

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTAIN**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 19TH JUNE, 2017 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS,  
WICKLOW AT 2.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLOR P. FITZGERALD, CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLORS T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, S. CULLEN, T. CULLEN , P. DORAN, G. DUNNE, C. FOX, M. KAVANAGH, P KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, M. MCDONALD, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY D. NOLAN, O. O'BRIEN, M. O CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL, E. TIMMINS, P. VANCE, G WALSH J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS.**

**APOLOGIES: CLLR. T. FORTUNE AND CLLR G. MCLOUGHLIN**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MR. B. DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MR. T. MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. S. QUIRKE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
MS. THERESA O'BRIEN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,  
MS. ALLYSON MINION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,  
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER  
MS. KAREN BOYLE, IT**

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Elected members passed a vote of sympathy to the family and friends of the late Mr. Tommy Metcalfe, Donard, and to the victims of the Westminster Terror Attack, the Grenfell Tower Fire and the Portugal Forest Fire. In this regard elected members requested for a letter of sympathy issue to Westminster Council and to Manchester City Council in respect of the deceased. Elected members also passed a vote of sympathy to Minister Catherine Zapone on the recent loss of her spouse, Ms. Ann Louise Gilligan. A minutes silence was observed for all of the deceased.

**ITEM NO: 1**

**Election of Cathaoirleach**

Prior to calling for nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P. Fitzgerald thanked the elected members for their support and for giving him the opportunity to carry out the role of Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council which he was delighted to do. He said that he gave it his best and that he hoped it had been good enough. He wished the new incumbent well and thanked the elected members for their co-operation throughout the year.

Cllr. Fitzgerald thanked the Chief Executive, senior management and all of the staff of Wicklow County Council whom he said had supported him in his role, as well as the Members and Staff of the Arklow Municipal District. Cllr. Fitzgerald paid tribute to the Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. E. Timmins for the support and assistance given to him throughout his term. He thanked his family for their continued help and support throughout his tenure as Cathaoirleach.

Elected members and the Chief Executive collectively paid tribute to Cllr. P. Fitzgerald on the manner in which he carried out his duties as Cathaoirleach commending his strong work ethic. He was congratulated for the manner in which he carried out his role both at County level and abroad, for his impartiality and fairness and that he made himself available to Members to discuss issues and concerns when requested. The Chief Executive and Members wished him well for the future.

Cllr. P. Fitzgerald called for nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach for the forthcoming year.

1. Cllr. V. Blake proposed Cllr. E. Timmins as Cathaoirleach. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. I. Winters.
2. Cllr. N. Lawless proposed Cllr. M. McDonald as Cathaoirleach. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. O'Connor.

Following a roll call, Cllr E. Timmins was elected Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council by a margin of: 23 votes for Cllr. E. Timmins, 6 votes for Cllr. M. McDonald, and 3 not present viz;

<b>Councillor E. Timmins (23)</b>	Councillors T. Annesley, J. Behan, V. Blake, S Bourke, S. Cullen, T. Cullen, P. Doran, G. Dunne, P. Fitzgerald, C. Fox, P. Kennedy, S. Matthews, D. Mitchell, M. Murphy, D. Nolan, J. Ruttle, J. Ryan B. Thornhill, E. Timmins, P. Vance, G. Walsh, J. Whitmore and I. Winters
<b>Councillor M McDonald (6)</b>	Councillors M. Kavanagh, N. Lawless, M. McDonald, O O'Brien, M. O Connor and G. O'Neill
<b>Not present (3)</b>	Councillors T. Fortune, G. McLoughlin and J. Snell

Cllr. E. Timmins accordingly took the Chair. Before calling for nominations for Leas Cathaoirleach, the newly elected Cathaoirleach addressed the Council firstly as gaeilge.

He thanked the elected members for their support advising that he was privileged to take up the position as Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council for the next 12 months and pledged to devote all of his energies to the role. He paid tribute to Councillor P. Fitzgerald for his commitment and dedication to the role of Cathaoirleach over the last 12 months and outlined the areas he intended to focus on, viz:

- That Wicklow County Council receives its fair share of national funding by working closely with the Management team of Wicklow County Council
- The allocation of additional funding to municipal districts
- Engagement with the elected members in relation to areas they would like to see discussed at Council meetings
- Progression of specific projects such as walking and cycling routes, the development of civic space for the public to enjoy (new river board walk in Bray and the lake walk at Blessington for example), the development of a literary trail
- The end to the restriction on persons who can purchase houses in our towns and villages
- To ensure that Wicklow County Council receives its fair share of national funding for the provision of social housing
- The progression of roads projects such as the R747 linking the east coast at Arklow to the M9, west of the county boundary.
- The development and support to business in the County
- Commencing the budget process early

He concluded by saying that County Councillors are the closest elected representatives to the public, the first port of call and the closest point in democracy to the people. He said looked forward to working with the elected members, Chief Executive and all staff of Wicklow County Council.

The elected members joined together in congratulating Councillor E Timmins on his election. The Chief Executive congratulated the Cathaoirleach and assured him of the support of the staff of the Council.

**ITEM NO: 2**

**Election of Leas Cathaoirleach**

The Cathaoirleach called for nominations for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

1. Cllr M. O Connor proposed Cllr. N. Lawless, which was seconded by Cllr. M. McDonald.
2. Cllr. G. Walsh proposed Cllr. P. Vance which was seconded by Cllr. P. Doran.

Following a roll call, Cllr P. Vance was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council by a margin of: 19 votes for Cllr. P. Vance, 8 votes for Cllr. N. Lawless, 3 not present and 2 abstaining viz:

<b>Councillor P. Vance (19)</b>	Councillors T. Annesley, J. Behan, V. Blake, S Bourke, S. Cullen,, P. Doran, G. Dunne, P. Fitzgerald, C. Fox, P. Kennedy, D. Mitchell, M. Murphy, D. Nolan, J. Ruttle, J. Ryan E. Timmins, P. Vance, G. Walsh and I. Winters
<b>Councillor N. Lawless (8)</b>	Councillors T. Cullen, M. Kavanagh, N. Lawless, S. Matthews, M. McDonald, O Connor, B. Thornhill and J. Whitmore
<b>Not present (3)</b>	Councillors T. Fortune, G. McLoughlin and J. Snell
<b>Abstaining</b>	Councillors O OBrien and G. O Neill

The elected members collectively paid tribute to Cllr. P. Vance and wished him well in his role as Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year. The Chief Executive joined with the elected members in congratulating Cllr. P. Vance advising him of his support and the support of the staff of the Council over the coming year.

**ITEM NO: 3**

**To Agree Schedule of Ordinary/Special Meetings for the coming year**

Cllr. J. Behan asked for the number of meetings to be increased to two a month, the first meeting to be the ordinary meeting and the second to be a housing meeting, as had been the case pre 2010. He referred to the lack of housing available for young people, and the current housing crisis and proposed that in addition to the current meetings schedule there should be an additional meeting per month to deal with the Housing crisis. This was seconded by Cllr. T. Cullen.

The following views were expressed by elected members present:-

- The proposal be should be brought to the protocol committee for discussion
- The time of the meeting to be flexible – 4 pm to 7 pm suggested
- There is merit in the proposal, a bi-monthly or quarterly meeting suggested
- There is little feed back from the SPC
- Meetings should be action orientated
- Reports should be circulated monthly

- View expressed that a monthly meeting would not solve the problem and that a one page report monthly would suffice. Discussion time is increasingly being taken up with areas that have little relevance to the Council

L. Gallagher advised that there was not sufficient numbers in the Council Chamber at this point to consider a proposal to amend standing orders. At the conclusion of the discussion it was agreed to ask the protocol committee to consider the matter the suggestion being a meeting every two months to consider housing matter, the circulation of a housing report to the elected members each month, which could be added to the Management report.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Ruttle, seconded by Cllr. D. Mitchell and agreed to adopt the meetings schedule as circulated.

### **THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**Cllr. E. Timmins**  
**Cathaoirleach**

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**Ms. L. Gallagher**  
**Senior Executive Officer,**  
**Enterprise & Corporate Services**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_