

# MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

**MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 AT 3.00pm**  
**HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien, Cllr Shay Cullen, Cllr Gail Dunne, Cllr Mary Kavanagh, Cllr John Snell, Cllr Irene Winters

**In Attendance:** District Manager Brian Gleeson  
District Engineer Pat Clarke  
District Administrator Joan Sinnott  
Georgina Franey, Senior Staff Officer  
Assistant Staff Officer Róisín Carroll  
Wicklow People Myles Buchanan

Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

At the outset he offered condolences to Myles Buchanan on the recent loss of his mother.

## **ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH**

The outgoing Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien thanked the Members for electing him to the position and for their support during the past year. He said it was an honour to serve as Cathaoirleach and wished to thank them on behalf of his family also. He also thanked Leas Cathaoirleach Irene Winters for her assistance.

He thanked the District Manager, District Engineer and District Administrator and the administrative staff for their work and stated that they were the bedrock of local democracy. He also thanked Breda McCarthy who acted as District Manager for part of the year for her help. He thanked Brian Gleeson for his assistance both as District Manager and Acting Chief Executive.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach spoke of some of the highlights of the year as follows:

- The civic reception bestowing the freedom of the County on Charlie Bird. He said this was especially meaningful for him as his grandfather also suffered from motor neurone disease.

- His visit to Montigny Le Brettoneux two weeks previously to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning between the two towns and said he was looking forward to the return visit in September. He also visited Porthmadog.
- He said he received great feedback regarding the civic reception at St. Patricks Day for the delegation from Eichenzell.
- He said the recent sports civic reception was also a memorable occasion and thanked Georgina Franey, Acting District Administrator for doing a superb job.
- Three major festivals in the district:  
Newtown 1798  
Taste of Wicklow  
Pride – first for Wicklow Town
- A new raft was provided at Wicklow harbour for the first time in 20 years, which was very welcome.
- Provision of 14 defibrillators for housing estates.

He said two highlights in his life were his election to the County Council and his election as Cathaoirleach of WMD and that he had enjoyed every minute of his term.

He said the members worked well as a team and wished the other members well in next year's election.

The Members each paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach. They commended him on his passion and dedication to the role and on being a fantastic leader who was proud to represent the people who elected him. They said his work ethic has been recognised by all and he did the Municipal District, himself and his family proud.

The District Manager thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach and said it had been an absolute pleasure to work with him, that he had shown great passion and commitment and always worked in the best interests of the town.

Cllr. Shay Cullen proposed Cllr. Irene Winters for the office of Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Cullen stated that Irene was first elected to Wicklow Town Council in 2004 and elected as Mayor in 2009. She was elected to Wicklow County Council in 2009. She was Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District in 2015 and Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council in 2019. She has served on all the

Strategic Policy Committees and has been instrumental in town twinning, especially with Eichenzell. Cllr. Paul O'Brien seconded the proposal. There were no further nominations for the position. Cllr. Irene Winters was therefore elected.

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters thanked her fellow members for proposing her for the position. She said it will be her last year as a public representative as she will not be seeking re-election in 2024. She said she wanted the members to work as a team for everyone in the district and all to get the kudos.

The Members paid tribute to Councillor Winters saying that she will be a huge loss to her party, that she has left an amazing legacy in Wicklow for almost 20 years and can be proud of her achievements.

Outgoing Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien handed over the chain of office to the incoming Cathaoirleach Irene Winters.

#### **ELECTION OF LEAS-CHATHAOIRLEACH**

Cllr. Gail Dunne proposed Cllr. Shay Cullen for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach. Cllr. Paul O'Brien seconded the proposal.

Councillor Mary Kavanagh proposed herself for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach. Cllr. John Snell seconded the proposal.

It was agreed that Cllr. Shay Cullen and Councillor Mary Kavanagh would share the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach, with Cllr. Cullen holding office for the first six months and Cllr. Kavanagh for the remaining six months.

#### **SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY MEETINGS**

The Schedule of Ordinary Meetings as circulated was proposed by Cllr. Paul O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Shay Cullen and unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_