



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER AND via ZOOM AT 10.00 AM ON 15TH JUNE 2023

Present	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, John Carroll, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, John "Rocky" McGrath, Michael O' Meara, Phyll Bugler, Séamus Morris and Ger Darcy
Also Present	Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services; Mr. Barry Murphy, District Engineer and Ms. Sinead Moriarty, Staff Officer. Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, attended via Zoom
Item 1. Election of Cathaoirleach	<p>Cllr. H. McGrath welcomed everyone including the Chief Executive to the Annual Meeting. He thanked everyone and said he was delighted with how the year went but thought it was a very quick year. He thanked the executive and staff for the support he received. He believes that the elected members are in a privileged position but they don't deliver as individuals. An individual member can start something and sow the seed for it but it will go nowhere without the support of the other members.</p> <p>He referred to the number of projects that are on-going and particularly the Historic & Cultural Quarter. He said he would really like to see the Nenagh River Walk completed as he felt this was a very important project that would be of benefit. He thanked all the members for their support during the year and thanked Cllr. Phyll Bugler who was Leas Chathaoirleach.</p> <p>Cllr. H. McGrath then informed members that he will not be contesting the next local election. He thanked every one for their help, everyone who voted for him and his family and friends. In particular, he thanked his wife, Breda. He said he had a great 20 years and really enjoyed it. He said it was his friends who canvased for him and it was the same friends that helped with the St Patrick's Day Parade and the Castlefest. While he enjoyed his time, he doesn't find a place for himself in the County Council. He was very much a town councillor and believes it has been a mistake to abolish the Town Councils. He hoped that there would be a big effort to support the Castlefest this year and he called on the Council to continue to deliver projects for Nenagh.</p> <p>Cllr. Morris stated that he has served with Cllr. McGrath since 2004 in the Town Council days and he is leaving a legacy behind. He remembered being at a meeting with Cllr. H. McGrath when he was fighting for the return of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Nenagh. He is a man of principle and was always a very good friend. He said Cllr. McGrath had fought hard to get the walkway</p>



on the N52 by-pass lit up and he had achieved this. He hoped the river walk is completed before the end of Cllr. McGrath's term and referred to his input in negotiation with landowners.

Cllr. O'Meara paid tribute to Cllr. H. McGrath's work over the last 20 years. He was always there to have a chat to and get advice from, would also help people around the town and is very well thought of. He wished him and his family well and said he would be sorely missed. He also hoped the Riverwalk could be completed before the end of the term.

Cllr. Darcy congratulated Cllr. H. McGrath on his term as Cathaoirleach and on the legacy he will be leaving behind after 20 years. Some of the things his time as Councillor will be remembered for are the Parade, the Castlefest, lights on N52 and the Riverwalk. Cllr. Darcy said that Cllr. McGrath is a worker and not interested in headlines. He wished him the best of luck in the future.

Cllr. Carroll stated that Cllr. H. McGrath will be missed, he was very easy to work with throughout the years. The town was always at the heart of his work and his supporters were as passionate about it. They would work to ensure these projects come to fruition and he offered his best wishes to his family.

Cllr. Bugler wished him well and complimented the work done. She said he will be remembered for the Castlefest and the Parade. Cllr. Hannigan congratulated him on the last 12 months and said he was a good chairman. He was glad he has got to know him since 2014. He acknowledged Cllr. H. McGrath as a great character around the table, he has a quality in how he approaches things with a great interest in the arts and music. He said Nenagh Municipal District had a good team and that everyone worked together. He hopes people understand the role Hughie played on the team in conjunction with the executive to get all the work done for Nenagh. He will be a loss to the town of Nenagh and to the team. Cllr. Hannigan wished him well and said he will be missed.

Cllr. Bonfield said she is sorry to hear he is not running again. She believes he is a real people person and it is a testament to him that you always see him talking to people down town. He would give great assistance to business people and is a great friend. She also acknowledged his term representing the Council at European level.

Cllr. J. McGrath concurred with what the members had said, if he hadn't known him from politics he would have known him from around the town. He is a great leader and was calm and a gentleman as Cathaoirleach. He is a credit to himself and his family.



Mr. J. MacGrath apologised for not being able to be present in person at the meeting and said he was delighted to be able to attend via Zoom especially in light of Cllr. H. McGrath's announcement. He acknowledged the extraordinarily good year and thanked Cllr. McGrath for his commitment and time. He said he could reflect on the year with satisfaction and pride.

Mr. MacGrath said many people would be sorry to hear of Cllr. McGrath's decision not to contest the next election but he has made an extraordinary contribution over the last number of years, the town and District owe him a lot. He was a proud Nenagh man. After Covid the events with which Cllr. McGrath was associated gave us a reason to go out and meet people. He had shown an extraordinary level of commitment. He should enjoy the last year of his term and hopefully will be able to get time to reflect on his achievements and spend time with his family and music. Mr. J. MacGrath offered his sincere thanks for the friendships and connections that they have developed over the years and would hope this would continue.

Ms. R. Joyce congratulated Cllr. McGrath on his term, he was always a pleasure to deal with and willing to take a call. She was speaking on behalf of the staff when saying that he was always a gentleman to deal with. She said she would be sorry to see him go, he is a great Nenagh man and leader in his own quiet way. She wished him well in the future and hoped they would remain friends.

Mr. M. O'Connor congratulated Cllr. H. McGrath on a great year and acknowledged what was achieved during the year. He expressed disappointment that he will not be standing again and he will be a huge loss to everyone. He is unapologetically a proud Nenagh man and a St. Joseph's Park man and wears his heart on his sleeve. He achieved a lot for the town, it is always easy to get things done when you get money but Cllr. H. McGrath would keep pushing until he got there. He has strong family support and even though he is not standing he will still help the community.

Cllr. McGrath thanked everybody for their kind words and then sought nominees for the position of Cathaoirleach.

It was proposed by Cllr Michael O' Meara, seconded by Cllr Séamus Morris and unanimously agreed that Cllr John "Rocky" McGrath be elected as Cathaoirleach of Nenagh MD for 2023/2024.

Cllr. J. McGrath thanked his proposer and seconder and the members for the nomination. He believes the Nenagh District is a very important area in the county and the region. The members are a great team and work well with the support of the executive. While there may be issues at different times everyone generally pulls together. He is looking forward to the year ahead.



	All the members wished Cllr. J. McGrath the best of luck for the year ahead. Mr. Joe MacGrath, Mr. Marcus O'Connor and Ms. Rosemary Joyce joined in the good wishes to Cllr. J. McGrath.
Item 2. Election of Leas- Chathaoirleach	Cllr. Séamus Morris proposed and Cllr. Michael O' Meara seconded Cllr. H. McGrath as Leas Chathaoirleach. This was agreed unanimously. Cllr. McGrath thanked the members for the nomination.

This concluded the business of the meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify:-

Signed: John Patrick McGrath
Cllr. J. McGrath
Cathaoirleach

Date: 27/7/23

Signed: Ms. Rosemary Joyce
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 27/7/23