



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER AND via ZOOM AT 10.00 AM ON 27th JUNE 2024

Present in chamber	<p>Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, Joe Hannigan, Michael O Meara, John Carroll, Séamus Morris, Phyll Bugler, Ryan O'Meara, Louise Morgan Walsh</p> <p>Via Zoom: Cllr. Pamela Quirke O' Meara</p>
Also Present	<p>Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Liam Brett, Director of Services; Mr. Barry Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. Kieran Malone, Senior Engineer and Mr. Donal Murphy, Staff Officer.</p> <p>As both the Cathairleach and the Leas- Chathairleach of the last Council were not returned, it was agreed that Ms. R. Joyce would chair the meeting until the election of the Cathairleach was decided upon.</p>
Item 1. Names of Members Elected to Nenagh MD	<p>The names of the members elected to Nenagh Municipal District were noted in order of elections as follows:-</p> <p>Nenagh LEA: Joe Hannigan (Non-P), Michael O' Meara (Non-P), Ryan O'Meara (F.F.), Séamus Morris (Non-P), Louise Morgan Walsh (Lab).</p> <p>Newport LEA: Fiona Bonfield (Lab), Pamela Quirke O'Meara (Non-P), Dr. Phyll Bugler (F.G.), John Carroll (F.F).</p>
Item 2. Election of Cathairleach	<p>It was proposed by Cllr. L. Morgan Walsh, and seconded by Cllr. P. Bugler and unanimously agreed that Cllr. F. Bonfield be elected Cathairleach.</p> <p>Cllr. F. Bonfield was presented with the chain of office and spoke of her honour to be elected Cathairleach.</p> <p>Cllr. F. Bonfield thanked Cllr. L. Morgan Walsh for nominating her for the position of Cathairleach and Cllr. P. Bugler for seconding the nomination. She stated that she was looking forward to working with the elected councillors and the council officials over the next 12 months. She congratulated all councillors on their respective election campaigns and welcomed the new members. She welcomed the increase in the female representation which was a testament to the success of the Women's Caucus Group which was formed during the last council term. She thanked the people of the Newport Electoral Area who put their trust in her. She acknowledged the trojan work of her campaign team and her family who were a massive support to her.</p> <p>Cllr. F. Bonfield paid tribute to former Councillors John 'Rocky' McGrath, Ger Darcy and Hughie McGrath and wished them the</p>



	<p>very best in their new endeavours. Reflecting on the last Council term she referenced the many projects and investments that were delivered including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newport Town Park• Ballina Access Promenade• One Way System in Nenagh• Infrastructural projects in areas like Portroe Village, Nenagh Streets, Lighting up of the N52, Borrisokane Streets, Old Road Silvermines and Knockmaroe Junction amongst others. <p>Looking ahead to the next five-year term, she outlined areas that needed to be prioritised such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investment in housing that can be delivered at scale• Support for our local clubs and organisations• Key infrastructural projects which can enhance our area both economically and socially• Climate friendly projects• More supports and amenities for all generations. <p>Cllr. F. Bonfield highlighted the significant investments in recent years and noted the positive impact this had on the local economy. She cited that our area is home to sporting icons such Sharlene Mawdsley but noted we must support our local clubs so they can produce the next Sharlene. She concluded by outlining that there is no limit to what we can achieve when we work together in a dynamic partnership of the elected members, Council executive, key local agencies and the communities we serve. Our collective aim was to oversee the continued enhancement of our towns and villages.</p>
Item 3. Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach	<p>It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, and seconded by Cllr. P. Bugler that Cllr. S. Morris be elected Leas-Chathaoirleach.</p>
Item 4. To consider and adopt Draft Standing Orders of Nenagh Municipal District	<p>It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. S. Morris and agreed that that the draft standing orders as circulated and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001 be and are hereby adopted.</p>
Item 5. To agree Schedule of monthly meetings of Nenagh	<p>A schedule of monthly meetings until June 2025 was circulated by email to Members.</p> <p>Cllr. S. Morris called for some of the meetings to take place in the afternoon as there can be up to 40 meetings for councillors to attend in a year, most of which are scheduled in the morning time. He stated that this puts pressure on councillors who have to</p>



Municipal District	<p>take leave from their jobs and it was also very hard on employers. He outlined that the timing of the meetings would dissuade working people entering politics. He cited that the previous Town Council meetings were held in the evening. Cllr. L. Morgan Walsh and Cllr J. Carroll supported Cllr. S. Morris. Some members felt that the meetings should be in the mornings as workshops are often scheduled for the afternoons. Cllr. M. O’ Meara noted that councillors themselves need to be better prepared coming into meetings as there was a lot of repetition which leads to longer meetings. He cited the example of Cllr. F. Bonfield who doesn’t speak very often at meetings but when she does speak she is measured as she has put in a lot of preparation in advance.</p> <p>Cllr. F. Bonfield agreed with Cllr. M. O’ Meara that repetition during meetings needs to be reduced. She understood where Cllr. S. Morris was coming from but felt it was necessary to have the monthly meetings in the morning in order to have Council staff present. She said some meetings outside the full monthly meetings could be considered for times in the afternoon. She undertook to talk to the executive on the matter.</p>
Item 6. To select one member of Nenagh MD to participate on the Corporate Policy Group	<p>Ms. R. Joyce informed the meeting that Nenagh Municipal District does not have a Chair Designate of the Strategic Policy Committee’s and in accordance with legislation, the District is entitled to be represented on the Corporate Policy Group. The Chair Designates will remain in place for a period of 3 years. The members noted the importance of having District representation on the Corporate Policy Group. It was proposed by Cllr. S. Morris and seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll and agreed that the Cathaoirleach of Nenagh MD should sit on the Corporate Policy Group to represent Nenagh Municipal District. On that basis Cllr. F. Bonfield would be the representative for 2024/2025.</p>
Item 7. Appointment of members to boards	<p>(a) Nenagh Community Arts Centre (3 members)</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bugler, seconded by Cllr. Michael O’ Meara and resolved that Cllr. J. Carroll be appointed to the board of Nenagh Community Arts Centre.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. R. O’ Meara, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll and resolved that Cllr. L. Morgan Walsh be appointed to the board of Nenagh Community Arts Centre.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. F. Bonfield and resolved that Cllr. P. Bugler be appointed to the board of Nenagh Community Arts Centre.</p>
Item 8. To appoint Elected Members to	<p>It was unanimously resolved that Cllrs Joe Hannigan, Michael O’ Meara, Ryan O’Meara, Séamus Morris, Louise Morgan Walsh and Phyll Bugler would sit on the following Drainage Committees.</p>



Drainage Committees	<p>a) Ballycasey</p> <p>b) Ballycolliton</p> <p>c) Borrisokane</p> <p>d) Lorrha</p> <p>e) Pallas</p> <p>It was unanimously resolved that Cllrs Fiona Bonfield, Pamela Quirke O'Meara, Phyll Bugler, John Carroll would sit on the following Drainage Committees.</p> <p>f) Kilmastulla</p> <p>g) Bunkey</p> <p>Members noted that these are very important committees. It was agreed that the meetings of the drainage committees within the Nenagh LEA should take place from 2pm to 3.30 pm on the 18th July 2024. It was further agreed that meetings of drainage committees within the Newport LEA should take place 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm on the 18th July 2024.</p>
Item 14. Any other business.	<p>Cllr. J. Hannigan whilst congratulating and wishing Cllr. F. Bonfield well in the year ahead criticised the voting pact which resulted in some poll toppers not having a term as Cathaoirleach. He advocated for the D'Hondt voting system whereby the first five candidates with the highest first preference vote would get the opportunity to be Cathaoirleach for a one-year term over the five-year term of the Council. Cllr. S. Morris advised he had previously advocated for such a system but to no avail.</p> <p>Members raised the issues that had arisen on the doorsteps including speeding through villages and the challenges that businesses face. Members called on supports to be provided to businesses who are suffering dramatically. Businesses are trying to compete with the growth of online shopping and competition from multinational retailers. Recent shop closures were a serious loss to towns. Cllr. L. Morgan Walsh highlighted the need for more car parking spaces. Cllr. M. O'Meara raised the state of rural roads in his area of Lower Ormond outlining that the 'red roads' need to be addressed. Cllr. J. Carroll raised the issue of drugs in our towns and villages.</p> <p>Cllr. S. Morris highlighted the gap in supports for families with autistic children as they transitioned from primary school to secondary schools. He criticised the delays in assessments and noted the stress that this can cause for parents as they can't plan for the future of their children.</p>



Cllr J. Hannigan raised concerns in relation to water quality in Lough Derg after he learnt at a public meeting in Portumna that there are plans to develop a gas-powered power station between Killimor and Portumna. He expressed concerns that it was off the scale in terms of its size and voiced his concern that the plant could have a serious impact on the area as rivers in the catchment of the proposed site flowed into Lough Derg. The application for the development would involve oral hearings by An Bord Pleanála. He requested that Nenagh Municipal District would make a submission expressing concerns about the possible impact the plant would have on the area. Cllr. M. O'Meara supported this request and also voiced his concerns regarding the size of the development, noting that the proposal had three chimney stacks which would be higher than Croke Park.

Cllr. S. Morris criticised the governments decision to allow Uisce Éireann to continue its plans to extract huge volumes of water from the River Shannon at Parteen, near Birdhill at a potential cost of €6 billion. He expressed his dismay at the projected costs increasing from an initial €700,000 up to now €6 billion. He expressed concern of the effects of the project on Ashley Park Lake as the proposed pipeline was planned to pass under the lake. Cllr. P. Bugler also outlined that people in her area of Ballina had concerns about the impact of the extraction of such huge volumes of water would have on the local environment. She queried why water had to be pumped to the capital city to support growth when that growth could take place in the Mid-West region. Cllr. J. Carroll said one way to ensure the project did not proceed would be to have 'people power' locally that was opposed to the scheme. Cllr. R. O'Meara said the scheme was hard to stomach for people in towns and villages like Cloughjordan and Ballycommon as Uisce Éireann had not provided them with proper waste water treatment facilities. He expressed frustration that this was stalling development of new housing which was desperately needed. Cllr. S. Morris asked that Tipperary County Council would link in with other local authorities in the Mid-West to do a needs analysis on the water required in the region as the perception is that the area has loads of water which was not true.

Cllr. F. Bonfield agreed with Cllr. S. Morris regarding the water extraction and noted that it should possibly be taken to the full Council. Regarding the speeding issues that were raised by all members she noted that a Speed Limit Review would be taking place. She outlined that more meetings would be required with the Gardai to address the speeding and anti-social behaviour concerns that had been raised.

Mr. L. Brett congratulated all nine councillors noting the huge work that had gone in to their respect election campaigns and outlined that they could be rightly proud of their success. He stated that he looks forward to working with all councillors and noted that the



	real work starts from now. He congratulated Cllr. F. Bonfield on her nomination as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. S. Morris as Leas-Chathaoirleach. Ms. R. Joyce echoed this and looked forward to working with all councillors over the next five years.
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This concluded the business of the meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify:-

Signed: Fiona Bonfield
Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Fiona Bonfield

Date: 18/7/2024

Signed: Rosemary Joyce
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 18/7/2024