

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis held at 3.30pm in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chlair, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, on Wednesday the 24th of June, 2015.

Present:

Councillors: J. Flynn, P. Daly, M. Howard, C. Colleran Molloy, A. Norton, J. Breen and P. Murphy.

Officials: Ger Dollard, Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Catherine O’ Hara, Meetings Administrator & Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. T. McNamara.

Cllr. Johnny Flynn addressed the meeting and thanked all the members and officials for the opportunity to serve as the first Mayor of the Municipal District of Ennis. Cllr. Flynn said that everyone had worked well together and dealt with a number of key issues such as parking charges and he referred to the various parking initiatives now in place. He added that Tourism has always been the key economic driver for the town of Ennis and winning the bid for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2016 was a particular highlight as well as Clare being branded as the County of Culture for 2016. Cllr Flynn acknowledged that the number and quality of Festivals in Ennis is growing, the renewal of the Purple Flag accreditation, that the Coach park facility and the Dublin coach service is increasing, and welcomed the possibility of Ennis as a hub for the Wild Atlantic Way.

Infrastructure is also improving with contractors going ahead with critical projects to improve the town including the Garraunakilla Covered Market Project. The local area plan was progressed and will now be part of the County Development Plan.

Cllr. Flynn acknowledged the work of the various community and arts groups who work on a voluntary basis to make things happen.

Finally Cllr. Flynn thanked his wife Catherine, his children as well as the staff of Clare County Council and the media for their support during his year as Mayor of Ennis 2014/2015.

Members thanked Cllr. Flynn for the professional manner in which he represented the Municipal District of Ennis and conducted meetings in a fair manner during his tenure.

Item No. 1 Election of Mayor / Cathaoirleach:

Ar moladh Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, cuidithe ag Cllr. Ann Norton agus glacagh leis, “That Cllr. Pat Daly is Mayor of the Municipal District of Ennis for the next 12 months”.

As there were no other nominations for the position of Mayor, following Cllr. Pat Dalys acceptance of the position, Cllr. Johnny Flynn declared Cllr. Pat Daly Mayor of the Municipal District of Ennis for

the next year. Cllr. Flynn wished him every success for his year as Mayor and said that all eight members will work together for the coming year.

The Mayoral Chain of Office was presented to Cllr. Pat Daly and Cllr. Daly took the Chair and presided over the meeting.

Cllr. Daly thanked the members of the Municipal District of Ennis for their nomination and he said that it was a proud moment to accept the role as Mayor of his home town. He looks forward to good honest debate over the next year and is looking forward to representing all of the people of Ennis. It is important that all members work together for the year ahead. He acknowledged that there is much to be proud of in this town and credit was also due to the former Town Council for some of the initiatives that are now in place and progression of the Garraunakilla Covered Market Project.

Some of the issues that need addressing are the vacant businesses around the town and the Ballymaley Business Park. The issue of shopping locally needs to be supported and it is great to see Inis Fest back on track for this weekend.

The awarding of the FleaDh Cheoil na héireann 2016 to Ennis is an honour for the town and congratulations were due to Comhaltas, Clare County Council and Ennis Chamber of Commerce for their successful bid.

Cllr. Daly acknowledged the outgoing Mayor Cllr. Flynn for his excellent year at the helm and thanked the officials of Clare County Council and the media for their work and support.

The new Mayor also stated that he would like to see the members of the Oireachtas invited to an upcoming monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis for an update on the work they are doing.

Each of the members present congratulated Cllr. Daly on becoming Mayor of Ennis and agreed that they would work together as a team for the benefit of the town and Municipal District of Ennis.

G. Dollard joined the members and congratulated Cllr. Daly on behalf of the staff on becoming Mayor of the Municipal District of Ennis. He said that Cllr. Daly would have the co-operation of the executive for the year ahead. G. Dollard also complimented the outgoing Mayor Cllr. Flynn on his very successful term as the first Mayor of the Municipal District of Ennis.

Item No. 2 Election of Deputy Mayor / Leas-Chathaoirleach

Ar moladh Cllr. Paul Murphy, cuidithe ag Cllr. Johnny Flynn, agus glacagh leis,

“That Cllr. Mary Howard is Deputy Mayor of the Municipal District of Ennis for the next 12 months”.

As there were no other nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor and following Cllr. Howard's acceptance of the position, Cllr. Daly declared Cllr. Mary Howard, Deputy Mayor of the Municipal District of Ennis for the next 12 months.

Cllr. Daly and all the members present wished Cllr. Howard every success for her year as Deputy Mayor of Ennis.

Item No. 3. Approve allowance for Mayor.

On the proposal of Cllr. Paul Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Ann Norton the allowance of €12,000 for the role of Mayor was approved.

The meeting then concluded.