

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 12th June, 2019 at 3pm. in the West Clare MD Offices, Kilrush, Co. Clare

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. I Lynch,

I Láthair:

Cllr. P.J.Kelly, Cllr. S. Talty, Cllr. C. Murphy, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. J. Killeen, Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. R. Garvey, Cllr. J. Garrihy

Officials present:

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service
Mr. J. O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Engineer ,West Clare Municipal District
Mr. M. Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Engineer ,West Clare Municipal District
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

Cllr. Lynch convened the meeting & welcomed those in attendance in particular welcoming the newly elected MD members. He emphasized that it was very important to give the Council credit for decisions taken. He complemented the Executive and said that they were very progressive in assisting the Elected Members. He referred to the unique situation which existed in the West Clare MD with two Electoral areas contained within the Municipal District. He added that if they worked together as a team of 9 members that they would have a strong influence with what was decided at Full Council meetings of Clare Co Council. He added that he would like to see the MD be strategic in its aims for the next 5 years. He added that the role of the elected member nominated to the CPG had a very important role and he said that he would like to see this position rotated within the MD membership over the 5 years. He concluded by thanking all of the Elected Members for their support over the past year in his role as Cathaoirleach.

1. Election of Cathaoirleach for 12 months

Cllr. B. Chambers was proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

Cllr. Chambers took the Chair. He thanked Cllr. Lynch for his role as Cathaoirleach for the past twelve months and he said he was looking forward to serving as Cathaoirleach for the next twelve months.

2. Election of Leas Cathaoirleach for 12 months

Cllr. J. Garrihy was proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

He thanked the Members for his nomination. He added that there were tremendous opportunities in Rural Development.

3. Approval to payment of Allowance to Cathaoirleach of Municipal District

This was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Keating and agreed.

4. Nomination of one representative to Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

Cllr. Keating proposed Cllr. Kelly for the position and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

Cllr. Chambers proposed that the Cathaoirleach would be the representative and that this position would rotate with the Cathaoirleach each year. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Cllr. Kelly thanked Cllr. Keating for the nomination and he indicated that he would like the honour of being the representative on the CPG. He added that he would have differences on some policies with the Cathaoirleach. He suggested that in accordance with the legislation (S48 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014) that it was only if the MD failed in securing a nomination that then the Cathaoirleach could be the nomination.

As there were two proposals for the position it was decided to put the decision to a vote.

J. Corry sought details as to who supported Cllr Keatings motion proposing Cllr. Kelly for the position. Cllrs Keating, Killeen, Garvey and Kelly supported Cllr. Kelly.

J. Corry sought details as to who supported Cllr Chambers for the position. Cllrs Murphy, Lynch, Talty, Garrihy and Chambers supported Cllr Chambers.

Cllr Chambers as Cathaoirleach was chosen as the representative and it was agreed that this position would rotate with the Cathaoirleach of the MD for the lifetime of the MD.

Cllr. Kelly accepted the result.

5. Nomination of two representatives to Board of Kilrush Amenity Trust Ltd

It was confirmed that these representatives had been selected at the AGM of the Full Council.

6. Nomination of two representatives to the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland

Cllr. Garrihy was proposed by Cllr. Talty and seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

Cllr. Keating was proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Kelly

7. Nomination of one representative to Clare Rural Development Forum

Cllr. Killeen was proposed by Cllr. Garrihy and seconded by Cllr. Talty

8. Nomination of one representative to Management Committee of Active Kilrush

It was proposed by Cllr. Lynch that two representatives would be selected.

Cllr. Lynch was proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Murphy

Cllr. Chambers was proposed by Cllr. Lynch and seconded by Cllr. Keating

9. Nomination of one representative to Kilrush Tidy Towns Committee

Cllr. Lynch was proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Talty

10. Fix date of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next MD meeting would take place at 4pm in the Ennistymon MD offices on 2nd July.

L. Cleary emphasized that the MD with 9 Members could work together as a very strong unit. He suggested that the Agenda of the West Clare MD meetings might be more strategic going forward with headed items mirroring each of the individual Directorates. He suggested that a lot of the items historically being raised were roads related which could be dealt with by engaging with the area engineers outside of the MD meetings. He also suggested that as there were 9 Elected Members going forward that they might consider reducing their no of motions to 1 per meeting. He suggested that consideration needed to be given to see what were the key projects for the next 5 years.

Cllr. Keating indicated that there were outstanding projects from the last Council and that these should be looked at.

Cllr. Kelly referred to Planning Development Contributions and as to how they were used. He indicated that 79% of all levies collected were used in the environs of Ennis. He also referred to the importance of the GMA for rural communities and suggested that the GMA allocation should be increased for 2020.

Cllr. Murphy referred to rural depopulation. He suggested that there should be a target of increasing population in rural areas over the next 5 years.

Cllr. Killeen referred to the projected increased visitor numbers to the Cliffs of Moher over the next few years and he suggested that there needed to be an overall plan for North Clare. He also referred to rural depopulation and the importance to improving the population of rural areas.

Cllr. Lynch suggested that one of the representatives on Active Kilrush would also be nominated as a representative on Active Ennis. He also referred to the non statutory plan done in Kilkee and he suggested that this was very progressive & that the template be used again.

Cllr. Garvey referred to Climate Change. She suggested that there should be a specific SPC for Climate Change. She also referred the importance of Greenways in helping combat rural depopulation as well as to promote cycling.

L. Cleary indicated that he would arrange a Workshop for the MD facilitated by an independent facilitator. He also mentioned that Inductions would be arranged for the Cllrs to update them on each of the Directorates of the Council.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed :

Cllr. B. Chambers

Cathaoirleach

Signed :

J. Corry

Meetings Administrator

Dated this the 2nd day of July 2019.