

## **Annual Meeting - Municipal District of Dundalk – June 2016**

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Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Maria Doyle

**Members:** Councillors: M. Butler, E. Coffey, M. Dearey, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, J. McGahon, K. Meenan, P. Savage, M. Yore

**Officials:** Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer  
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer  
Fiona Downes, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Frank Pentony, Director of Services

### **Minute No.64/16**

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Maria Doyle, welcomed the members to the Annual General Meeting and outlined that the business of the meeting was to elect the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Doyle wished to thank the members, the Chief Executive, Director of Services and the staff for all their support and guidance during her term in office.

Cllr. Doyle also extended her thanks as Cathaoirleach to Cllr. C. Keelan for fulfilling his role as Leas Cathaoirleach and to the members of the press and media for their role in reporting on the business of the Council.

Cllr. Savage and Cllr. Keelan in thanking Cllr. Doyle on behalf of the Fianna Fáil group thanked the Cathaoirleach for the dignified way she carried out her role, her attendance at events throughout the year and that the meetings were conducted very well.

Cllr. Dearey on behalf of the Green Party paid tribute to her for the dignified way she performed the functions of Cathaoirleach and stated that she did the town and district proud.

Cllr. Sharkey on behalf of the Sinn Féin group thanked the Cathaoirleach for being firm and fair in carrying out her duty as Chair and that she facilitated all the members in having a voice at the meetings.

## **Minute No.65/16**

### **Election of Cathaoirleach**

***To elect the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Dundalk for the ensuing year, in accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Act, 2001.***

Cllr. M. Dearey was proposed by Cllr. M. Butler and seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan.

As there were no other nominations Cllr. M. Dearey was declared as the Cathaoirleach for the ensuing year.

Cllr. Doyle congratulated Cllr. Dearey and wished him success as the Chair of the Municipal District in the coming year and stated that there are many challenges facing Dundalk but there are many opportunities with the Urban Development Fund and it being a market town.

## **Minute No.66/16**

Cllr. Dearey as incoming Chair thanked those who proposed and supported his election as Cathaoirleach. He thanked the outgoing Chair for the work she has done as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Dearey advised that he felt that a sense of honour was conferred on him. He stated that the brief was wide with limited powers. He advised that he respected the regulations but that there is always room for collaboration and partnership. He would like to see the municipal districts having more power such as the case in England with the Localism Act which aim is to devolve more decision making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. The act covers a wide range of issues related to sustainable transport, budgeting and education.

All the members congratulated Cllr. Dearey and concurred with him re the municipal district having more powers and having meaningful engagement at local level. The indicators on poverty require policy decisions to be made to gain financial equality and access to education.

## **Minute No.67/16**

### **Election of Leas Cathaoirleach**

***To elect the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Dundalk for the ensuing year, in accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Act, 2001.***

Cllr. J. McGahon was proposed by Cllr. M. Doyle and seconded by Cllr. M. Butler.

As there were no other nominations Cllr. J. McGahon was confirmed as the Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

Cllr. McGahon thanked the members for their nomination and support, and looked forward to working with the Cathaoirleach in the coming year.

### **Minute No.68/16**

#### **Any other business**

Cllr. McGahon requested the use of the chain of office for the Cathaoirleach for events as it gives prestige to the office of Cathaoirleach. It will also lead to consistency across the county. He suggested that it be brought before the Protocol Committee.

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services, on behalf of the Chief Executive, congratulated Cllr. Dearey and Cllr. McGahon and stated that he looks forward to working with them in the year ahead.

This concluded the business of the AGM.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Council held on:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_