



**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CHRUINNIÚ SPEISIALTA DO IARRTHÓIRÍ ATÁ AG LORG
AINMNIÚCHÁIN UACHTARÁIN AR AN LUAN, MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2025 AG 3.00 I.N. I
SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, HALLA AN CHONTAE & VIA FOIRNE MS**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING PRESIDENTIAL
NOMINATION HELD ON MONDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS**

Attendance

Chair: Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Elected Members: **Council Chamber and Online (MS Teams)**
Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Michael McCarthy, Jenny Catt Slattery, John Coonan, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Doyle, Fidelis Doherty, Patrick Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Seán Ó hArgáin, Joe Sheridan & Maurice Shortall, John Brennan, Brian Cleere, Ger Frisby, Joe Lyons,

Officials: Lar Power, Martin Prendiville, Mary Mulholland, Fiona Deegan, Tim Butler, Seamus Foley, Eimear Cody, Michael Leahy, Annemarie Shortall, Philippe Beubry, Caitriona O'Sullivan & Martina Walsh

Apologies: Cllrs. Maria Dollard, Michael Delaney and Stephanie Doheny

Meeting Procedure

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh Set out the Format for the meeting which would commence with Presentations by the candidates.

- Presentation by Candidates (with 5 minutes speaking time and 5 minutes question and answers). A bell will be rung at the 5 minutes,
- The Council will adjourn for 10 minutes.

Order of Business to take place.

- (i) The first Order of Business will be a decision of Council whether to nominate a candidate or not based on candidates' presentations. A proposer and seconder of the decision to nominate any candidate will be sought. An agreement will be sought from the Council. If a counterproposal is put forward not to nominate any candidate, the motion will be put to a vote. The motion will either be carried or not carried as an outcome of the vote in line with Standing Orders.

If there is a decision **not** to nominate any candidate, the resolution not to nominate is carried and the meeting is ended.

- (ii) If it is agreed to nominate a candidate, a proposer and seconder will be sought for candidates.

If there are two candidates proposed and seconded, a roll call vote will be taken with the candidate with the least votes being eliminated and the other candidate being the proposed nominee (*see 3 below*).

If there are more than two candidates proposed, the candidate with the least number of votes to be eliminated in the first vote and continue the process with the remaining candidates.

Elected Members may abstain, abstaining is not a vote.

- (iii) Once one potential candidate has been identified, a resolution will be put to the Members that this candidate will be put forward as the Presidential Nominee of Kilkenny County Council. A roll call vote will be taken. The Resolution must be carried or defeated by a clear majority.

Presentation by Candidates

The Cathaoirleach Invited Walter Ryan Purcell to address the meeting

Walter Ryan Purcell

Mr. Ryan Pucells spoke about Foord and Tourism and the risks to the economy and tourism by the Mercosur Trade Deals

Lorna McCormack

Ms. McCormack gave information on her background, she said it was time to write his new story and spoke of 'choice hope and courage'. she said leadership is not about power it's about connection. She said she wanted to inspire change in a modern world she said it was important to generate debate and respond to needs both home and abroad saying that the Aras is more than just a resident for the president. With regards to the nomination, she said she was disappointed with the way things had gone so far described it as an illusion of democracy saying it wasn't just about her but about all of us.

Nick Delehanty

Mr Delehanty said that the councillors should shine a light by doing the right thing today. He said the meeting should have been spaced out. Mr Delahanty mentioned fidelity to action and that it was the duty of all citizens as mentioned in our constitution He asked councillors to exercise their vote. Cllr. Shorthall wished him well with his campaign saying that Mr Delehanty had ran a brave campaign.

In response Mr Delahanty said that he understands about aspects of immigration he said it is a delicate balance at the moment. He spoke about the tax exemptions for the asylum seeking system he asked where the tax exemptions for schools and crashes are

Anthony Corrigan

Anthony Corrigan thanked everyone present for the opportunity to present. He mentioned that he was solicitor. He spoke about the elder abuse that his mother had suffered mentioning correspondence he had sent to Jim O'Callaghan and Simon Harris. He said his campaign was very much around tackling gender and domestic based violence saying his mother's illness was used against her.

Catherine Morrissey

Catherine Morrissey gave her own background. Cllr Fitzgerald asked her about her motivation to become the president which is a non-executive role. Cllr Joe Malone said she was one of the first to come to him and he thanked her. Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick thanked Catherine as well. She responded by saying as president she would have influence, she was interested in the compliance area and that she would bring a lot to the presidency.

Dolores Cahill.

Ms. Cahill introduced herself as a university professor saying she had worked in the area of informed consent, she was an immunologist. As such, she had a duty to warn people of potential danger. She said her father and her parents had modelled integrity and by coming forward she had done serious harm to her career. finances and reputation. She spoke about her leadership, her management and organisational skills saying she was well qualified to be the president. She mentioned successful companies that she founded in 1996 saying that the County Council nomination was

Diarmuid Mulcahy

Diarmuid Mulcahy thanked all present for the opportunity. He said he was originally from West Kerry living in Galway now with his partner who is a member of the Coady family who had links to Kilkenny. He mentioned the song Boulavogue. He spoke about the siege mentality and the line in 'to fight for Irish freedom we must fight or die' he said the role of president was to be as a voice for peace and freedom. He spoke about his parents on the school that they formed saying that that his family were people of service. He spoke about his role in MABs in the West of Ireland and as chair of the community forum for local government Reform Act 2014. He said that the president's office did have some power and need to be utilised.

Aodhan OhArrachtain

Mr OhArrachtain noted that he doesn't have a big budget, he didn't have a scriptwriter and that he was a bus driver. He said that if councillors don't nominate that leads to a negative perception of democracy. He mentioned voter apathy; he mentioned that government services all going online and that was discriminatory.

Gerben Uunk

Mr. Uunk spoke about animal welfare, he was coming from a platform against animal cruelty. He spoke about treating animals with respect and empathy. He asked for an end to state subsidies for fox hunting greyhound racing, horse racing and hare coursing. He mentioned the mental health issues associated with these sports including gambling addictions he spoke about the fight against racism, as an immigrant himself he said we should be inclusive and work with the migrant community. He mentioned the housing crisis he said that year on year the housing crisis was caused by planning mistakes and failed policy and that migrants were being blamed for the housing issues but that this was not the case.

Charle Keddy

Mr Keddy spoke of himself as an Irishman for an Irish nation he described himself as a 'figurehead for the unborn'. He was asked by Cllr Joe Malone where he was from, and he mentioned Wicklow.

Charlotte Keenan

Ms Keenan introduced herself an Irish woman from the Midlands, she wants to bring about change. She spoke about solidarity with the less powerful and asked that we do not stand lightly by while innocent lives are lost to conflict. She spoke about embracing peaceful negotiations which can foster growth and progress. She mentioned Palestine she said it is essential to offer refuge saying the Irish have a fighting spirit due to our own history of occupation. She spoke about working together for the common good and about suicide prevention and that needs to be a priority. She said we must appreciate our elderly people and support heritage and culture. She said as an artist 'I love Ireland and all its people'. Cllr E McGuinness asked her about peaceful new negotiation saying if she was invited to engage with the Israeli government what she would do? she responded to say yes she would, and everyone has the right to voice. She said that she would also have the Palestinians at the negotiation table.

Seana Kerr

Mr Kerr said her manifesto was around integrity over popularity she said she would endeavour to leave the world a better place in which she entered it she said that we have the power within us to impact the future.

Nomination and Voting

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh outlined the process

A rolling vote to be taken with regard to the decision nominate any candidate. The Resolutions was out to the members

"That under Section 16 of the Presidential Elections Act 1993, Kilkenny County Council hereby nominate a candidate for the Presidential Election."

A roll call vote was taken and:

Four (4) voted in favour

Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Maurice Shortall Eugene McGuinness

Thirteen (3) voted against.

Cllrs. Deirdre Cullen, Michael Doyle, Joe Lyons, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, John Coonan, David Fitzgerald, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Jenny Catt Slattery, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Dunphy & Ger Frisby, Brian Cleere, Joe Sheridan, John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh & Seán Ó hArgáin

Three (3) absent:

Cllrs. Maria Dollard, Stephanie Doheny & Michael Delaney

Therefore, the resolution was defeated by 18 votes to 3. The counter resolution 'not to nominate was proposed by Cllr Seán Ó hArgáin and seconded by Cllr John Coonan and agreed.

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh thanked all present and closed the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE