

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY, 12th JUNE, 2020, AT 11.00. am**

Present/ I Láthair:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí: Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Maria Dollard

Apologies: None

Also Present: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, Mr. Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer, Ms. Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Teresa Mahon, Staff Officer.

Cllr. Martin Brett opened the meeting and spoke about his year as Mayor of Kilkenny. He congratulated Mr. Malcolm Noonan on getting elected to the Dail and welcomed Ms. Maria Dollard to the Council. He stated that the world now is a different one to when he was elected last year. It has been turned upside down and unemployment has risen dramatically. It was easier to close down businesses than to open them back up. Safety of customers and Staff is now paramount. He congratulated Mr. Tim Butler and the City Task Force for the work they are doing in this regard and stressed the need for everyone to support local businesses. He emphasised the need to get visitors back in the City and show the rest of the Country that Kilkenny is opened for business with all the proper procedures in place. He praised frontline people in the Community who made such a difference during this pandemic including Nurses, Doctors, Pharmacies, Media, Cleaners etc and those who lost their lives. He talked about the kindness that people are showing to each other and the importance of health, family and the embracing of new technology. He spoke about the privilege he felt at being Mayor and although the Council had changed since he last held office, he did everything he could to maintain the traditions. He recalled that Mr. Pat Moore had attended his Mayoral Election last year and sadly passed away during the year. He thanked:

- Everyone who invited him to their functions.
- The staff from Kilkenny County Council who had retired during the year including Mr. Michael Delahunty, Mr. John Dowling and Mr. Brian Tyrrell, Anne Kelly and others too many to mention and wished them well in their retirements.
- Mr. John Dunphy and Ms. Phil Costigan for their kindness, help and attention to detail during his term of office.

- Mr. Tim Butler for his help and calm approach and Mr. Ian Gardner for seamlessly taken over from Mr. Simon Walton.
- Ms. Colette Byrne CE, Ms. Catherine Cooney and Ms. Teresa Mahon.
- Special thanks to Ms. Anne Maria Walsh for all her help during the year.
- All the Members for their help and kindness during the year.
- The people of Kilkenny.

He congratulated Cllr. Peter Cleere on his year as Cathaoirleach, Ms Marion Acreman as chair of the Chambers of Commerce and Chief Superintended Dominic Hayes on his retirement.

He finished by saying that it was an honour and privilege to serve as Mayor of Kilkenny for the last year.

Tributes were paid to Cllr. Martin Brett by Cllrs. David Fitzgerald and Cllr. Andrew McGuinness on his year as Mayor, for his skills, kindness, expertise and pride in carrying out his role.

Mr. Tim Butler on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff thanked Cllr. Brett for his professionalism and support during the year. Mr. Butler presented Cllr. Brett with a book of photographs as a reminder of his time in office.

Summons of Meeting:

Notice dated 5th June, 2020, was read, convening the Statutory Meeting of the Municipal District of Kilkenny City for this date, for the purpose of electing a Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Municipal City for the ensuing year.

Adoption of Procedure:

It was

Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
 Seconded by Cllr. David Fitzgerald
 And Agreed

“That the procedure laid out under Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2001 be adhered to for the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor”.

Item No. 1. Election of Mayor:

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
 Seconded by: Cllr. David Fitzgerald
 And unanimously resolved

“That Cllr. John Coonan be elected to fill the Office of Mayor for the ensuing year.”

Cllr. Cllr John Coonan took the chain of office. All Members congratulated the Mayor on his election and the outgoing Mayor, Cllr. Martin Brett, on his hard work and commitment during his mayoralty.

Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Service, on behalf of the Executive and all the staff, congratulated Cllr. Coonan.

Cllr. Coonan addressed the meeting. He thanked Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and Cllr. David Fitzgerald for nominating him for Mayor of Kilkenny and the rest of the Members for their support. He spoke of how honoured he was to take up the role as Mayor and the responsibility of the position. He asked for the support of all the Members and cooperation from all. In his address he referred to the following:

- Kilkenny as an attractive place for businesses and shoppers.
- Housing developments, the Western Environs and developments on the Castlecomer and Hebron Roads.
- Development of the Abbey Quarter and pedestrian links to the City.
- The Heritage, Tourism and Festivals in the City.
- the significant landmarks including Kilkenny Castle, Rothe House, Canice's Cathedral and the investment in the Medieval Mile, Butler Gallery and the proposed refurbishment of the Tholsel.
- Covid 19 and the need to adapt and evolve under the new normal. The impact of the pandemic on families and extended his sympathies to frontline staff Catherine Hickey and Jim Kenny who had sadly died from the Virus.
- introduction of one-way system in the City.

During his year as Mayor he will concentrate on:

- revitalising businesses and tourism in Kilkenny "A thriving Kilkenny is everyone's business".
- continuing to make the City feel safe and welcoming.
- local leadership and connection to communities.
- Climate change and the need for a local response.
- Age friendly initiatives, care homes and social isolation.

Cllr. Coonan conclude by thanking the local Media and the Executive. He expressed gratitude to his Family for all their invaluable support over the years.

All Members congratulated Cllr. Coonan and wished him well in his role as Mayor.

Item No. 2: Election of Deputy Mayor

Proposed by: Cllr. Martin Brett
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

And unanimously resolved

“That Cllr. David Fitzgerald be elected to fill the Office of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

All members congratulated Cllr. David Fitzgerald on his election.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald thanked everyone for their support. He accepted the chain of office but kept up the tradition of not wearing the chain in the presence of the Mayor. He hoped that everyone will continue to work together for the betterment of the community.

Item No. 3: **Fix Date of Meetings**

Proposed by: Cllr. Martin Brett
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
And agreed by all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
 MAYOR

Date: _____