

**COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 30th JUNE 2022 HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, THE MALL, WATERFORD**

Present

Cllr. Joe Kelly (Mayor)	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Joeanne Bailey	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr Adam Wyse
Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Cristiona Kiely	Cllr. Pat Nugent

Officials in Attendance

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
 Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate Services, Planning, Culture, HR & IS
 Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
 Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Service, Roads Water & Environment
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Mr. D. Mitchell, Corporate

The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming all present. In his address which followed he spoke of how he had attended 162 events over the period he was in office and how he worked to make all the events meaningful while engaging with all sectors of the community. His goal had been to be the "Mayor for Everyone" especially as we emerged from the period of lockdown. He mentioned that all events were important but wanted to highlight some that were particularly significant to him. He spoke of the Mayors Ball and praised the generosity of the business community with their sponsorship and contributions which resulted in almost €50,000 being raised for five charities. He thanked Cha O'Neill and Amanda Nolan-Reade for the huge amount of work they did in making the Ball possible. He highlighted the planting of the Covid Remembrance Tree in the People Park which would be an important symbol for people in the future. He also recalled the great day of the Royal visit to Waterford in March by HRH Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and the lasting contribution it would make to tourism. He cited the Blackwater Opera Festival and West Waterford Festival of Food as marvellously successful events which the people of Waterford should be proud of. He was especially happy to recall his visit to St Joseph's School in Parnell St for their graduation ceremony and spoke of how impressed he was with the way the students used sign language with their songs to ensure all their fellow student were include in the occasion and said

they should be very proud. He highlighted accepting the European Silver Greenway award and the award of Best Place to Live in Ireland from by the Irish Times as two significant achievements in his year in office. He also said that he was proud to have been part of the Africa Day which brought the community together with its colour, food music and dance. He commended the Council staff, members and the people of Waterford for the terrific welcome and hospitality that was extended to those fleeing the war in the Ukraine. He also spoke of his twining events and how they brought people together such as his visits to our oldest and newest twins in St Herblain and Tønsberg. Concluding his address, he thanked his deputy Cllr. S. Power and his fellow members for their support during the year. He also thanked the CEO, Directors of Service, indoor and outdoor staff for the work done in delivering the councils services in an excellent manner to the people of Waterford. Finally, he wanted to thank his wife Francis, whose support he could not be without.

Cllrs. Geoghegan, S. Power, McGuinness, Phelan, E. Quinlan, Barry, J. Power, Murphy, Daniels, Conway, F. Quinlan, C. Kiely congratulated the outgoing Mayor and his family. They spoke of the huge workload he had undertaken and the way he had treated all the members fairly and with respect during the year. The members also emphasized his accessibility and energy in attending events and representing Waterford as First Citizen.

1. Toghchán an Mhéara – Election of Mayor

The Mayor called for nominations for the incoming Mayor.

Cllr. Tobin nominated Cllr. O’ Leary and spoke of his suitability and credentials. He highlighted Cllr. O’ Leary’s long public and community service through the numerous leadership positions he had held locally, provincially, and nationally.

Cllr. Clune seconded Cllr. O’Leary and explained how he had worked with him on the Comeragh Council and how he was universally respected, he highlighted his great experience in organisations locally and beyond.

Cllr. McGuinness nominated Cllr. Joanne Bailey and highlighted her many years of community work for workers and families. He also emphasised her care for the environment and how she had become an approachable and formidable politician in her time on the Council.

Cllr. Griffin seconded Cllr. Bailey and spoke in support of her.

There were no further nominations and the Mayor called for a roll call vote and the votes were cast as follows:

Name:	Cllr. O’ Leary	Cllr. Bailey	Abstain	Absent
Joeanne Bailey (SF)		Yes		
Ger Barron (Lab)	Yes			
Donal Barry (Ind)			Yes	
Liam Brazil (FG)	Yes			
Declan Clune (Ind)	Yes			
Joe Conway (Ind)	Yes			
Tom Cronin (FF)	Yes			
Conor D. McGuinness (SF)		Yes		
Davy Daniels (Ind)			Yes	
Declan Doocey (FG)	Yes			
Pat Fitzgerald (SF)		Yes		

Damien Geoghegan (FG)	Yes			
Jim Griffin (SF)		Yes		
John Hearne (SF)		Yes		
Joe Kelly (Ind)	Yes			
Cristiona Kiely (GP)	Yes			
Eddie Mulligan (FF)	Yes			
Jason Murphy (FF)	Yes			
Pat Nugent (FG)	Yes			
Seamus O'Donnell (Ind)	Yes			
John O'Leary (FF)	Yes			
Lola O'Sullivan (FG)	Yes			
Thomas Phelan (Lab)	Yes			
Jody Power (GP)	Yes			
Seanie Power (FG)	Yes			
John Pratt (Lab)	Yes			
Eamon Quinlan (FF)	Yes			
Frank Quinlan (FG)	Yes			
Seamus Ryan (Lab)	Yes			
Mary Roche (Ind)			Yes	
James Tobin (FF)	Yes			
Adam Gary Wyse (FF)	Yes			
TOTAL	24	5	3	

Cllr. O' Leary received majority of votes and was deemed elected to the post of Mayor of Waterford City and County.

Cllr. Kelly then handed over chair to the incoming Mayor who then addressed the meeting. He spoke of the honour and the privilege of being elected Mayor of Waterford City and County Council especially as he was the first member from the Comeragh District to hold this office. He thanked Cllr. Tobin and Cllr. Clune for proposing and seconding him and all those that took part in the democratic process. He also congratulated Cllr. Bailey for her courage and ambition in putting herself forward for election and he said he was very impressed with her work at Plenary level since she joined the Council.

The Mayor then congratulated the outgoing Mayor, Cllr. Joe Kelly for the dedication and commitment he exhibited while in office and how his great pride in Waterford City and County shone through in all his work. He spoke of his belief that the rising tide of developments such as the South Plaza, North Quays infrastructure and the plans for Michael Steet would benefit all. He spoke of the Airport runway development and how it would benefit Waterford in tourism, FDI and the local businesses. The Mayor also spoke of the benefits that would be gained from the formation of SETU and the Urban Development Fund and the Rural Development Fund, the Greenway extensions, Rural Broadband and Digital Hubs, the Mount Congreve Visitor Centre, the opening of the new museums and amenities such as the Skate Park in Dungarvan and how we had the cleanest city in Ireland. He went on to state that we must not rest on our laurels in keeping Waterford on an upward trajectory particularly as we had a very good Development Plan in place to help increase housing provision, which was very important. He also stated that Carbon Neutrality

was a priority and the 24/7 Cardiac Care had to be achieved as we continued to be the best place to live, work, play and invest. He hoped to engage with all bodies and how we should continue to welcome the Ukrainian people open hearts and to show the generous and inclusive nature of the people of Waterford. He praised the work of volunteers in our communities and how they were their lifeblood. Finally, he spoke about his family and thanked his wife Eileen, his daughter Edwina, his son Brian and his wife Laura. He mentioned his grandchildren Cathal, Chloe and Phoebe and hoped they would remember this special day for all the family.

Cllr. Bailey thanked the Mayor for his kind words and her colleagues in Sinn Fein for supporting her. She wished the Mayor the best and was sure he would be excellent and fair in his term.

Cllr. Kelly congratulated the Mayor and wished him every success in the year ahead and was sure he would do an excellent job and hoped he would enjoy it.

Cllrs McGuinness, S. Power, J. Murphy, Brazil, Pratt, J. Power, Kiely, Geoghegan, Fitzgerald, Daniels, Ryan, Nugent, O' Donnell, Cronin, E. Quinlan, Wyse, Phelan, Barry, Roche, Tobin, Mulligan, Doocey and Clune extended their congratulations and wished them Mayor and his family every success in the year ahead.

M. Walsh, CEO asked to be associated with the remarks directed at both the Mayor and Cllr. Kelly by the members. He wished the Mayor the very best of luck and assured him of the support and commitment of all the staff in the Council. He stated that he was sure that the Mayor would lead in great heart and good humour.

2. Toghchán an Leas Mhéara – Election of Deputy Mayor

The meeting proceeded with the election of the Deputy Mayor. Cllr. Cronin proposed Cllr. Tobin and seconded by Cllr. O' Sullivan. As no other candidates were proposed Cllr. Tobin was duly elected by acclamation. Cllr. Tobin acknowledged the support of all his colleagues in his election as Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor then brought the meeting to a close and invited all present to partake of refreshments in the vestibule.

3. A.O.B.

None

This closed the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____