

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, ON FRIDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2013 at 2.00 PM**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

Cllr. T. Welby, Mayor of the County of Galway  
Cllr. L. Carroll, Mayor of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, Cllrs. M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, M. Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh. S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh T. Walsh & B. Willers.

**Oifigigh:**

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. E. Cummins, F. Gilmore, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; M. Lavelle, A/Director of Services, M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; ; P. O'Neachtain, Oifigigh Gaeilge & G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an Cruinniú leis an Paidir.

**ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR YEAR 2013/2014**

**1469**

Cllr. Welby, outgoing Mayor, was in the Chair.

Cllr. Welby stated that it was a great honour to be Mayor of the County and he thanked all of the Members for the support they gave him during the year. He reflected back on his term of office, outlining some of the many events he had attended as follows:

He said his term began with the Volvo Ocean Race, and as he escorted the Galway Rose through the streets of Galway on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, he felt at the time that this would be the highlight of his term as Mayor, but later realised that this was only the beginning of a very exciting and rewarding year as Mayor of the County.

He was proud to host a Mayoral Reception for Ireland Reaching Out "Week of Welcomes" on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and he said that this initiative is close to his heart and he will continue his involvement with this very worthwhile initiative.

His visit to the Milwaukee Irish Festival in August will remain in his memory as a very important event as it is much more than a music festival, with the Cultural Village and Marketplace, where he experienced a great sense of being Irish, meeting so many people of Irish descent and where all

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things Irish are celebrated and promoted in order to instil in future generations an appreciation of Irish Heritage.

He said he was very fortunate to have been invited to attend the House of Lords by Baroness McDonagh with representatives from the Galway Associations of London, Coventry and Luton all delighted to be there, along with people from An Cheathrú Rua, Tuam, Ballinasloe who have lived in London for years and were delighted to get the opportunity to visit the House of Lords for the first time.

He recalled his strong association with and support for the Made in Galway initiative recalling his promotional visit to France and acknowledging the role of Mr. Alan Farrell, SEO in promoting the trade and promotional visit.

He referred to the Pride of Place Awards where three Galway locations; Clifden, Inisbofin and Inis Oírr were proud recipients of the awards which were presented at a gala ceremony in Thomand Park Stadium, Limerick, in November 2012. In addition, he said, Inis Oírr has been selected by the Co-Operation Ireland's Pride of Place Judging Committee to represent Ireland at International level in the 2013 'LivCom' Sustainable Living Communities competition and he wished them every success in this nomination.

He said that one event which he was proud to host was the Reception held by the Council to honour the National Tidy Town award winners. He said he was delighted to honour these communities who deserve great credit for their hard work and dedication to the betterment of their towns and villages.

He said other highlights of his term included the Mayoral Awards, which acknowledged and celebrated the great work that people and communities are involved in around the county. He said he was also delighted to have hosted the Mayoral Ball and he thanked the staff of Corporate Services for their help in organising this event.

Another highlight was the Launch of the Galway Gatherings 2013 which took place in Áras an Chontae on the 27th March 2013 which was jointly led by Galway County and City Councils and where details of over 200 Galway Gatherings were announced spanning a variety of fields including Culture, Sport, Food, Music and Heritage.

He referred to the success of MeetWest, a networking conference to promote and sustain economic development in the County and wider Western Region

The Mayor referred to his excellent working relationship with the Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty, and he said they had both worked together for the betterment of Galway City & County and he said that it is important that the working relationship between the City and County Mayors would continue to be nurtured.

The Mayor expressed his appreciation to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Peter Roche for his excellent support during the year and for undertaking the responsibilities of Deputy Mayor with such ability and distinction.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to the County Secretary for his support, assistance and advice given during his term as Mayor. The Mayor proceeded to make a presentation to the County Secretary as a token of his appreciation.

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The Mayor thanked the County Manager for her support during this term stating that she was always available to support, guide and assist him. The Mayor proceeded to make a presentation to the Manager as a token of his appreciation.

The Mayor concluded by expressing his sincere appreciation to the Members, the Manager and Staff, Members of the Press and Media, his wife Bernie and his daughters Louise and Sharon, the staff in his business in Oughterard, his friends and supporters for their support and encouragement during what he described as being a very enjoyable and memorable year.

Cllr. McDonagh lead warm tributes to the Mayor stating that he had represented the Council and the County of Galway with distinction, both nationally and internationally during his term of Office. The Members paid tribute to Cllr. Welby for carrying out all of his duties as Mayor of the County with great commitment, distinction and professionalism. They stated that he was an excellent ambassador for the Council and the County during his term of Office, noting that he was always fair and courteous in conducting the business of Council and was a very democratic Chairperson. The Members also paid tribute to Cllr. Roche in his role as Deputy Mayor during the period.

The County Manager thanked the Mayor on behalf of Management and staff and said it was important to acknowledge the great co-operation and courtesy he displayed as Mayor of the County and complimented him on the excellent manner in which he represented the Council throughout the year. She referred to significant highlights of his year, including the visit to the House of Lords, the Ireland Reaching Out Initiative, the Launch of the Galway Gatherings, his strong interest in the "Made in Galway" Brand, his support for MeetWest, the Mayoral Charity Ball, and the Civic Receptions held at Áras an Chontae during the year. She referred to the leadership he demonstrated in chairing meetings of the Council and she thanked him for the encouragement he showed to staff and the value he obviously placed on them in their diligent day-to-day work. She also thanked him on a personal note for the co-operation she had received from him during his term as Mayor of the County of Galway. The County Manager also thanked the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Roche, for his work during the year.

The outgoing Mayor asked for nominations for the position of Mayor of the County of Galway for the year 2013/2014

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn that Cllr. Carroll be elected Mayor.

As there was no other nomination, and as Cllr. Carroll accepted his nomination, he was declared elected Mayor of the County of Galway for the year 2013/2014 and he was invested with the Chain of Office.

#### **CLLR. CARROLL THEN TOOK THE CHAIR**

**1470**

Cllr. Carroll thanked his proposer and seconder and the Members of the Council who supported his election and his family and friends for their support. He paid tribute to Cllr. Welby for his dedication to his duties over the year and he also thanked the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Peter Roche for his work during the year.

He said he was honoured to take up the position and looked forward to representing the county during his term as Mayor of the County. He said it is the people who make the county, including those from the political, business, sporting, voluntary and public service area.

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He said that during the coming year he intends to support and encourage the work of so many wonderful volunteers throughout the county who carry out such splendid work, such as Members of Community Development Associations, coaches and mentors in the sporting area, Faróige Groups, the St. Vincent de Paul organisation etc.

He promised to nurture young people as much as possible as they are our greatest asset and he will endeavour to use his experience as Chairperson of the Youthwork Sub-Committee of the County Galway Vocational Education Committee in this regard.

He outlined his intention to invite Co. Galway Comhairle na nÓg to the Council Chamber.

He welcomed members of the Oranmore U10 and U12 Hurling and Camogie clubs who were present in the Chamber to witness his election as Mayor.

He referred to the Job-Bridge Scheme which has been embraced by the Council in order to facilitate unemployed people back into the workforce and he said that he will urge the Council to get the new Labour Activation Programme up and running in order to get some necessary works carried out around the county.

He stated his intention to invite the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Udarás Members to the Chamber during the year to inform the Members of their initiatives and ideas for business promotion.

He said he will be contacting Minister Brian Hayes to express his dissatisfaction with the National Procurement Policy, which he referred to as counter-productive in relation to employment and which is forcing small companies to shed jobs, as it is creating a monopoly for larger companies in the area of supplies.

He said that the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and he welcomed the fact that through strong persuasion, the Annual Conferring of Safety Awards 2013 will take place in Galway in October. He thanked Mr. Padraic Horrigan of NISO for his work in this regard and he welcomed to him to the Meeting.

He referred to the M17/M18 Motorway from Gort to Tuam stating that work is due to commence on this project during his term of Office and he looks forward to this very important work progressing and also work on the N59.

He said that he will promote three Charities during his term as Mayor, i.e. Act for Meningitis, the Galway Hospice and the Brothers of Charity Service.

He noted that Galway County Council's maintenance budget has been cut from €160m in 2008 to €127m in 2013, and he said that although the number of staff has also been reduced, remaining staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that the highest level of service possible is provided to the people of County Galway. He said he will endeavour to support staff in their work and intends to meet all staff in the coming weeks.

He said that during his Term as Mayor of the County of Galway he will endeavour to promote Galway at every opportunity for the betterment of its citizens.

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He thanked his wife Allison, his business associates at Anchor Safety, his friends and colleagues and Padraic Horrigan of NISO for their continued support to him in his career.

The Mayor welcomed Deputy Sean Kyne, Deputy Brian Walsh, Senators Michael Mullins and Fidelma Healy Eames and Galway City Councillor, Cllr. Padraic Conneely to the Meeting.

The Members congratulated Cllr. Carroll on his appointment and wished him well during his term of Office. The County Manager on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff congratulated Cllr. Carroll on his election as Mayor of the County of Galway.

### **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR YEAR 2013/2014**

**1471**

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Comh. Ó Laoi, that Cllr. E. Mannion be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2013/2014.

As there was no other nomination, and as Cllr. E. Mannion accepted her nomination, the Mayor declared Cllr. E. Mannion elected as Deputy Mayor of the County of Galway for the year 2013/2014 and she was invested with the Chain of Office.

The Members congratulated Cllr. E. Mannion on her appointment and wished her well during her term of Office. The County Manager on her own behalf, and on behalf of the Management and staff of the Council, also congratulated Cllr. E. Mannion.

### **SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY MEETINGS FOR NEXT TWELVE MONTHS.**

**1472**

Mr. Owens referred to the consideration of a schedule of ordinary meetings for the next twelve months, stating that this was for information purposes and for noting by the Members.

Cllr. McDonagh asked that the Parties consider the times the Council Meetings should commence so that agreement on same could be reached at the June Monthly Meeting.

Cllr. McClearn referred to the Meeting Scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 stating that it will be four days after the Local Elections. The Mayor said that this date can be adjusted if required.

## **CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN**