

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Ennis Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Tuesday, 10th June 2014 at 3 p.m.

Present:

Councillors J. Breen, J. Flynn, P. Daly, A. Norton, T. Mc Namara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy.

Officials: Gerard Dollard, Director of Services, Catherine O' Hara Meetings Administrator, Gordon Daly, Senior Planner, Robert Burns A/ Senior Executive Engineer, Fiona Whelan Staff Officer.

G. Dollard welcomed everyone present and invited the members to select one from amongst them to take the Chair to commence the meeting.

Ar moladh Cllr Cllr. T. Mc Namara, cuidithe ag Cllr P. Murphy agus glacagh leis, "that Cllr James Breen take the Chair for the start of the meeting".

Cllr J. Breen took the Chair and welcomed everyone present to what was an historic occasion as it was the first AGM of the members of the Ennis Municipal District.

Item 1 Election of Mayor / Cathaoirleach

Ar moladh Cllr P. Murphy, cuidithe ag Cllr P. Daly, agus glacagh leis, "That Cllr J. Flynn is Mayor of the Ennis Municipal District for the next 12 months"

As there were no other nominations for the position of Mayor, Following Cllr Flynn's acceptance of the position, Cllr J Breen declared Cllr J. Flynn Mayor of the Ennis Municipal District for the next year. Cllr Breen wished him every success for his year as Mayor and said that all eight members will work together over the year.

The new Mayoral Chain of Office was presented to Cllr J. Flynn.

Cllr Flynn then took the Chair and presided over the meeting.

Cllr Flynn thanked the members of the Ennis Municipal District for their nomination He said that the Ennis Municipal District faces significant challenges and that it is also a time of change for Ennis. He added that he was delighted to accept the role as Mayor and that his duty was to be fair and impartial and to conduct the meetings in a mutually respectful manner. Cllr Flynn thanked his wife Catherine and his family for their support over the years.

Cllr Flynn acknowledged the work of each of the previous Mayors during the last 401 years of local government in Ennis who have helped make Ennis what it is today. He added that while there are a number of significant national issues to be dealt with, that a number of key local issues , which were raised and dealt with by the members of the previous Ennis Town Council, that will now need to be

dealt with by the members of the Ennis Municipal District. These include: a new public car park, market redevelopment project, investment in infrastructure and promotion of the area for employment and tourism.

Each of the members present congratulated Cllr Flynn on becoming the first Mayor of the Ennis Municipal District, and agreed that they would work together as a team for the benefit of the entire Ennis Municipal District.

Cllr J Breen called for the issue of anti social behaviour in Ennis to be dealt with under a new stricter code. Concerns in relation to anti social behaviour were echoed by the other members.

G. Dollard joined with the members on behalf of the staff in congratulating Cllr Flynn on becoming Mayor of the Ennis Municipal District and added that it is as a team that the challenges ahead will be responded to.

Item 2. Election of Deputy Mayor / Leas- Chathaoirleach

Ar moladh Cllr T. Mc Namara, cuidithe ag Cllr P. Daly, agus glacagh leis,

“That Cllr J. Breen is Deputy Mayor of the Ennis Municipal District for the next 12 months”

As there were no other nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor and following Cllr Breen’s acceptance of the position, Cllr J Flynn declared Cllr Breen, Deputy Mayor of the Ennis Municipal District for the next year.

Cllr Flynn wished him every success for his year as Deputy Mayor. These sentiments were reiterated by the other members present.

Cllr Breen thanked the members for nominating him and said that he looked forward to working with the Mayor and all of the members over the coming year.

Item 3.

(a) Confirm titles of Mayor / Cathaoirleach and Deputy Mayor / leas-Chathaoirleach

(b) Approve allowance for Mayor / Cathaoirleach.

Ar moladh Cllr T. Mc Namara, cuidithe ag Cllr A. Norton, agus glacagh lei,

“confirmed that the titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor is to be used by the Ennis Municipal District members.

Ar moladh Cllr T. Mc Namara, cuidithe ag Cllr A. Norton, agus glacagh lei, “Approved the allowance for the Mayor for the year in the sum of €12,000”

Item 4. Consideration of Standing Orders (draft)

G. Dollard advised the members that Standing Orders are the rules governing the operation of the meetings for the Ennis Municipal District. A working draft standing orders has been circulated which is based on the draft standing orders provided by the Department of the Environment but which also incorporates some local arrangements which were used by both Clare Co Council and Ennis Town Council.

Members were asked to consider the draft standing orders for discussion at the next meeting.

In the absence of agreeing the draft standing orders the following was agreed by general consensus by the members of the Ennis Municipal District:

- Members of the Ennis Municipal District will take place at 10 am, in the Council Chamber of Clare Co Council, on the same day as the Clare Co Council monthly meeting with the exception of August.
- That each member can submit two (2) notices of motion for inclusion in the agenda for each monthly meeting.

It was agreed that these arrangements would be incorporated into the draft Standing Orders.

It was also agreed that the members would review these arrangements after 12 months.

It was agreed that the draft Standing Orders would be referred to the Standing Orders committee of Clare Co Council with a view to ensuring consistency across all of the Municipal Districts.

Item 5. Commencement of the preparation of Draft Ennis & Environs Local Area Plan 2015- 2021.

Report and map had been circulated to the members.

G. Daly confirmed that the draft Ennis & Environs Local Area Plan for the period 2015 – 2021 would include Ennis Town, Clarecastle and the Environs of Ennis. He added that the villages and towns in the Ennis Municipal District are included in a separate volume dealing with Towns & Villages.

The members expressed concern over the delineation between the Ennis & Environs on the map and the towns and villages within the Ennis Municipal District. G Daly confirmed that the planning requirements for urban and rural areas are different and that the Ennis Municipal District boundary as per the map circulated was indicative only and that the area depicting the Environs has included all areas such as Ballyalla and other hinterlands that have a direct impact on or are of significance to the Town of Ennis.

He added that it is a reserved function of Clare Co Council to adopt the plan and that the members are being asked for agreement to commence the process for the development of a draft Ennis & Environs Local Area Plan 2015 – 2021. It was noted that workshops to discuss the submissions received would be held in September 2014 and the plan to be completed within the next 12 months.

G Dollard advised that there is a legal requirement to develop a local Area Plan for Ennis & the Environs based on population. He added that where a town in the Ennis Municipal District is included in another Local Area Plan that the members will be consulted as part of the process.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Environs area would be amended to include the Woodstock area. The Members also agreed to proceed to commence the process for the preparation of a new Local Area Plan.

Item 6. Fix future meeting dates

It was agreed by the members that the next meeting of the Ennis Municipal District is to take place on **Monday July 14th at 10 a.m.**

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____

Mayor

Signed: _____

Director of Services

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator