Minutes of First Annual Meeting of Westmeath County Council
held at 2:30pm on Friday, 7th June 2019
in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar

Presiding: (1) Anne Galvin, Meetings Administrator (Item No. 1)
(2) Cllr. John Dolan (former Cathaoirleach, for Item No. 2, by established convention)
(3) Cllr. Paddy Hill (upon election as Cathaoirleach) for remainder of meeting.


Officers Present: Pat Gallagher, Chief Executive.
Barry Kehoe, Director of Service.
Martin Murray, Director of Service.
Jimmy Dalton, Head of Finance.
Mark Keaveney, A/Director of Service.
Geraldine Barden, Clerical Officer.

Item No. 1: Declaration of result of Local Election and roll call of persons duly elected to Westmeath County Council.

Anne Galvin, Meetings Administrator declared the results of the 2019 Local Elections and read into office the names of the Elected Members.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Dolan then took the chair for the election of Cathaoirleach. He thanked all the Members for their courtesy and help during his term as Cathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council. He also thanked all the staff of Westmeath County Council and the Chief Executive, Mr. Pat Gallagher for all their work over the past year. Cllr. Dolan also thanked the group leaders and the Mayors of the Municipal Districts.

On behalf of the Fianna Fáil party, Cllr. Glynn congratulated An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Dolan on being re-elected and paid tribute to Cllr. Dolan on his year as Cathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council.

Cllrs. Farrell, O’Rourke, Penrose and Keena also associated themselves with the tributes paid to Cllr. Dolan, as did all the Members present.
Mr. Pat Gallagher, Chief Executive, joined with all of the Elected Members in their tributes and thanked An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Dolan for his co-operation over the past year.

Mr. Gallagher also acknowledged the support given by the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. Aengus O’Rourke and the District Mayors, Cllr. Bill Collentine and Cllr. Frankie Keena. On behalf of the staff of Westmeath County Council, Mr. Gallagher thanked all the outgoing Members and he welcomed all the new Members of Westmeath County Council. Mr. Gallagher acknowledged the presence in the Chamber of Minister Moran, Deputy Burke, Senator Daly and Senator Davitt, who previously sat in the Chamber as Members of Westmeath County Council.

Mr. Pat Gallagher, Chief Executive of Westmeath County Council presented Cllr. Dolan, outgoing Cathaoirleach, with a photographic record of his year in office.

Item no. 2: Election of Cathaoirleach


Cllr. John Shaw proposed Cllr. Paddy Hill as Cathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Ken Glynn.


Cllr. Paddy Hill thanked his proposer and seconder and he also thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Dolan and paid tribute to the work which had been carried out by him.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill acknowledged the presence of the Oireachtas Members and noted apologies on behalf of Deputy Robert Troy. Cllr. Hill welcomed the newly elected Council Members and those re-elected to the Council. He also thanked the Members who lost their seats. An Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Executive and the management team and all staff of Westmeath County Council.

Chief Executive, Mr. Pat Gallagher, acknowledged the election of the new Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paddy Hill and congratulated him on behalf of the staff on being elected on his second term as Cathaoirleach and assured him of the support of the staff throughout the year.
Item no. 3 : Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllr. Shaw as Leas-Chathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Keena.

As there were no other nominations, An Cathaoirleach Cllr. P. Hill declared Cllr. John Shaw elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council.

Chief Executive, Mr. Pat Gallagher expressed his congratulations to Cllr. John Shaw on his election as Leas-Chathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council.

An Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. John Shaw thanked his proposer and seconder and thanked his colleagues and the Executive of Westmeath County Council.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paddy Hill proposed to adjourn the meeting for a short time.

15:15: The meeting was adjourned.

15:30: The meeting resumed.

Item no. 4: Strategic Policy Committees

To appoint 4 Members to be Chairpersons designate of the 4 no. Strategic Policy Committees to be formed in accordance with the S.P.C. Scheme.

Anne Galvin, Meetings Administrator, advised the Members in relation to the procedures under Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001, advising them of the grouping system which is available to Members as per paragraph 18, and to show fairness and equity in appointments, as per paragraph 19 of schedule 10.

Cllr. Keena proposed Cllr. Glynn to be elected as Chairperson designate to one of the 4 no. Strategic Policy Committees to be formed in accordance with the S.P.C. Scheme. This was seconded by Cllr. O’Rourke.

Cllr. O’Rourke proposed Cllr. Shaw to be elected as Chairperson designate to one of the 4 no. Strategic Policy Committees to be formed in accordance with the S.P.C. Scheme. This was seconded by Cllr. Keena.

Cllr. Farrell proposed Cllr. McDermott to be elected as Chairperson designate to one of the 4 no. Strategic Policy Committees to be formed in accordance with the S.P.C. Scheme. This was seconded by Cllr. Dolan.
Cllr. Smyth proposed Cllr. Heavin to be elected as Chairperson designate to one of the 4 no. Strategic Policy Committees to be formed in accordance with the S.P.C. Scheme. This was seconded by Cllr. McDaniel.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill, declared Cllr. Glynn, Cllr. Shaw, Cllr. McDermott and Cllr. Heavin elected as Chairpersons designate of the 4 no. Strategic Policy Committees to be formed in accordance with the S.P.C. Scheme.

**Item no. 5: Westmeath Local Community Development Committee**
To nominate 3 Members to the Westmeath LCDC.

Cllr. Shaw proposed Cllr. Collentine and Cllr. McCormack to be elected to the Westmeath Local Community Development Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. O’Rourke.

Cllr. McDermott proposed Cllr. Farrell to be elected to the Westmeath Local Community Development Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Dolan.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllr. Collentine, Cllr. McCormack and Cllr. Farrell elected to the Westmeath Local Community Development Committee.

**Item no. 6: Finance Committee**
To resolve that the Council as a whole shall form itself into a Finance Committee. All Members of the Council to meet as appropriate to consider the financial management of the Council.

This was unanimously agreed by the members on the nomination of Cllr. Shaw, seconded by Cllr. Farrell. The full Council form this Committee and therefore no nomination is required.

**Item 7: County Westmeath Joint Policing Committee**
To appoint 13 Members to County Westmeath Joint Policing Committee.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllrs. McDaniel, Hill, Keena, Collentine, Dollard and Smyth to be appointed to the County Westmeath Joint Policing Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

Cllr. Shaw proposed Cllr. Glynn to be appointed to the County Westmeath Joint Policing Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. O’Rourke.
Cllr. Farrell proposed Cllrs. Leonard, Dolan, McDermott, Duncan and Wallace to be appointed to the County Westmeath Joint Policing Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Penrose.

Cllr. Dolan proposed Cllr. Farrell to be appointed to the County Westmeath Joint Policing Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. McDermott.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. McDaniel, Hill, Keena, Collentine, Dollard, Smyth, Glynn, Leonard, Dolan, McDermott, Duncan, Wallace and Farrell as appointed to the County Westmeath Joint Policing Committee.

**Item 8: Local Traveller Consultative Committee**
To appoint 2 Members to the Local Traveller Consultative Committee.

Cllr. Farrell proposed Cllr. Duncan to be appointed to the Local Traveller Consultative Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. McDermott.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllr. Dollard to be appointed to the Local Traveller Consultative Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. McDaniel.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill, declared Cllrs. Duncan and Dollard to be appointed to the Local Traveller Consultative Committee.

**Item 9: Westmeath Heritage Forum**
To appoint a Chairman to the Westmeath Heritage Forum.

Cllr. O’Rourke proposed Cllr. Heavin to be appointed as Chair of the Westmeath Heritage Forum. This was seconded by Cllr. Smyth.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill, declared Cllr. Heavin to be appointed to Chair the Westmeath Heritage Forum.

**Item 10: Westmeath County Council Road Safety Working Together Committee**
To appoint 2 Members to Westmeath County Council Road Safety Working Together Committee.

Cllr. McDaniel proposed Cllrs. Smyth and McCormack to be appointed to the Westmeath County Council Road Safety Working Together Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Davitt.
As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill, declared Cllrs. Smyth and McCormack to be appointed to the Westmeath County Council Road Safety Working Together Committee.

**Item 11: Midlands Region Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum**
To nominate one Member to the Midlands Region Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllr. Dollard to be appointed to the Midlands Region Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum. This was seconded by Cllr. McCormack.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllr. Dollard to be appointed to the Midlands Region Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum.

**Item 12: Association of Irish Local Government**
To appoint 3 Members to the Association of Irish Local Government.

Cllr. Farrell proposed Cllr. Duncan to be appointed to the Association of Irish Local Government. This was seconded by Cllr. Dolan.

Cllr. Shaw proposed Cllrs. O’Rourke and Davitt to be appointed to the Association of Irish Local Government. This was seconded by Cllr. Glynn.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. Duncan, O’Rourke and Davitt to be appointed to the Association of Irish Local Government.

**Item 13: The Local Authority Members’ Association**
To appoint 1 Member to the Local Authority Members’ Association.

Cllr. McCormack proposed Cllr. McDaniel to be appointed to the Local Authority Members Association. This was seconded by Cllr. Keena.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllr. McDaniel to be appointed to the Local Authority Members’ Association.

**Item 14: Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Limited**
To appoint a representative to attend the Annual Meeting of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Limited.
Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllr. McCormack to be appointed to Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Limited. This was seconded by Cllr. Keena.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllr. McCormack to be appointed to Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Limited.

**Item 15: Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly**
To appoint 2 Members to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

Cllr. Shaw proposed Cllrs. Hill and O’Rourke to be appointed to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly. This was seconded by Cllr. Keena.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. Hill and O’Rourke to be appointed to Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

**Item 16: Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**
To appoint 8 Members to the Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board.


*In respect of the female panel, the following nominations were proposed:*

Cllr. Shaw proposed Cllrs. Heavin and Davitt. This was seconded by Cllr. Glynn.

Cllr. Farrell proposed Cllr. Wallace to be appointed to Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board. This was seconded by Cllr. Dolan.

*In respect of the male panel, the following nominations were proposed:*

Cllr. Shaw proposed Cllrs. Keena, Glynn and Dollard. This was seconded by Cllrs. Glynn and Keena.

Cllr. Farrell proposed Cllrs. Dolan and Leonard. This was seconded by Cllrs. McDermott and Dolan respectively.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. Heavin, Davitt, Wallace, Keena, Glynn, Dollard, Dolan and Leonard to be appointed to the Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board.
Item 17: Dublin – Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum
To appoint 3 Members to Dublin-Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllrs. Keena and Smyth to be appointed to Dublin-Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum. This was seconded by Cllr. O’Rourke.

Cllr. Dolan proposed Cllr. Farrell to be appointed to Dublin-Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum. This was seconded by Cllr. McDermott.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. Keena, Smyth and Farrell to be appointed to Dublin-Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum.

Item 18: Mullingar Arts Centre CLG
To appoint 4 Directors to Mullingar Arts Centre CLG.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllrs. McDaniel and Dollard to be appointed as Directors of Mullingar Arts Centre CLG. This was seconded by Cllr. Keena.

Cllr. Farrell proposed Cllr. McDermott to be appointed as Director of Mullingar Arts Centre CLG. This was seconded by Cllr. Duncan.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllr. Smyth to be appointed as Director of Mullingar Arts Centre CLG. This was seconded by Cllr. Keena.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. McDaniel, Dollard, McDermott and Smyth to be appointed as Directors of Mullingar Arts Centre CLG.

Item 19: Belvedere House and Gardens Committee
To appoint 3 Members to the Belvedere House and Gardens Committee.

Cllr. Shaw proposed Cllrs. Collentine and Davitt to be appointed to the Belvedere House and Gardens Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. O’Rourke.

Cllr. Penrose proposed Cllr. Leonard to be appointed to the Belvedere House and Gardens Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Farrell.
As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. Collentine, Davitt and Leonard to be appointed to the Belvedere House and Gardens Committee.

Item 20: Athlone Arts and Tourism Ltd
To appoint 2 Members as Directors to Athlone Arts and Tourism Ltd.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllrs. O’Rourke and Heavin to be appointed to Athlone Arts and Tourism Ltd. This was seconded by Cllr. Smyth.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. O’Rourke and Heavin to be appointed to Athlone Arts and Tourism Ltd.

Item 21: Athlone Regional Sports Centre Ltd
To appoint 2 Members as Directors to Athlone Regional Sports Centre Ltd.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllr. Keena to be appointed as a Director to Athlone Regional Sports Centre Ltd. This was seconded by Cllr. O’Rourke.

Cllr. Farrell proposed Cllr. Dolan to be appointed as a Director to Athlone Regional Sports Centre Ltd. This was seconded by Cllr. Duncan.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. Keena and Dolan to be appointed as Directors to Athlone Arts and Tourism Ltd.

Item 22: Dean Crowe Theatre Trust
To nominate 1 Member to the Dean Crowe Theatre Trust (Athlone).

Cllr. Shaw proposed Cllr. Keena to be appointed to the Dean Crowe Theatre Trust (Athlone). This was seconded by Cllr. O’Rourke.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllr. Keena to be appointed to the Dean Crowe Theatre Trust (Athlone).

Item 23: Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee
To appoint 3 Members to the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

Cllr. Farrell proposed Cllr. McDermott be appointed to the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Dolan.
Cllr. Collentine proposed Cllrs. McCormack and McDaniel to be appointed to the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Keena.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllrs. McDermott, McCormack and McDaniel to be appointed to the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

**Item 24: Midland Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce**
To appoint 1 Member to Midland Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce.

Cllr. Glynn proposed Cllr. Dollard to be appointed to Midland Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce. This was seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

As there were no further nominations, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared Cllr. Dollard to be appointed to Midland Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce.

**Item 25: Longford Westmeath Community Transport CLG**
To nominate one Member to the Board of Longford Westmeath Community Transport CLG.

Cllr. Farrell proposed that this item be deferred in light of changes being made to Longford Westmeath Community Transport CLG.

Chief Executive, Mr. Pat Gallagher advised the Members that it would be prudent to defer this item until the July Council meeting, pending discussions regarding the restructuring of Longford Westmeath Community Transport CLG. This was agreed and An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Hill declared this item deferred until the July monthly Council meeting.

**Item 26: Tender opening procedures**
To consider the nomination of Members to be present at the opening of Tenders as per procedures.

Chief Executive, Mr. Pat Gallagher advised the Members that the usual procedure was to appoint the Cathaoirleach or his nominee to be present at the opening of tenders. This was proposed by Cllr. McDermott and seconded by Cllr. Glynn and declared agreed by An Cathaoirleach.

**Item 27: Fixing of first Annual Municipal District Meetings:**
The fixing of the day/s for the first annual meetings of the Athlone-Moate Municipal District Members and the Mullingar-Kinnegad Municipal District Members.
Cllr. Glynn proposed that the first annual meeting of the Mullingar-Kinnegad Municipal District Members be held on Monday, 17th June 2019 at 3.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Mullingar. This was seconded by Cllr. Shaw and declared agreed by An Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Dolan proposed that the first annual meeting of the Athlone-Moate Municipal District Members be held on Monday, 17th June 2019 at 3.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Athlone. This was seconded by Cllr. Keena and declared agreed by An Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Dollard enquired if Municipal Districts Members would decide their schedule of meetings. The Chief Executive, Mr. Gallagher, confirmed that they would consider this at their first annual meetings.

**Item 28: To confirm Council Meeting dates for the remainder of 2019**

The following schedule was proposed by Cllr. Farrell and seconded by Cllr. Glynn and unanimously approved by the Members:

- Monday, 24th June 2019
- Monday, 22nd July 2019
- Monday, 23rd September 2019
- Monday, 21st October 2019
- Monday, 25th November 2019
- Monday, 16th December 2019

**Item 29: To review Standing Orders of Westmeath County Council**

Anne Galvin, Meetings Administrator, advised the Members that it is proposed that any reference in the Standing Orders of the Council to Athlone Municipal District and Mullingar Municipal District be amended to refer to Athlone-Moate Municipal District and Mullingar-Kinnegad Municipal District respectively.

This was proposed by Cllr. Dollard and seconded by Cllr. McCormack and declared agreed by An Cathaoirleach.

**Item 30: Training**

(a) To approve the attendance of all Elected Members of Westmeath County Council at local induction training to take place on Monday, 24th June 2019 at 11.30 a.m. in Áras an Chontae, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.

(b) That Westmeath County Council nominates all Elected Members of the Local Authority to attend the training seminar being organised by the
Association of Irish Local Government for Elected Members to take place on 11th July 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hill and seconded by Cllr. Mc Dermott, these were unanimously approved by the Members.

**Item 31: To undertake any other business proper to an Annual Meeting.**

In response to Cllr. Penrose, Chief Executive, Mr. Pat Gallagher advised that the key contacts staff list for the Districts would be circulated at the Municipal District Annual Meetings to be held on Monday, 17th June 2019 and that the key contacts staff list for the full Council will be circulated to all Members at the Induction Training to be held on Monday, 24th June 2019.

Cllr. Glynn expressed his gratitude to Mr. Ciaron Martin, Local Elections Returning Officer, Westmeath County Council regarding the manner in which the count was performed so swiftly and he passed on his best wishes to Ciaron Martin and all count staff. This was endorsed by all the Members.

Cllr. Farrell proposed that the Council send a letter of appreciation to all outgoing Members and this was seconded by Cllr. Glynn an unanimously agreed.

Chief Executive, Mr. Pat Gallagher thanked An Cathaoirleach, Members and group leaders for their co-operation in conducting the business of the meeting, as well to staff members Mark Keaveney, Anne Galvin and Geraldine Barden for their assistance. An Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Hill expressed similar compliments and invited all present for refreshments following the meeting.

*This concluded the business of the meeting.*

______________________________________________
Cathaoirleach

______________________________________________
Date