

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Tullow
held in Teach Bhríde, Tullow, Co. Carlow, on Thursday, 27th June at 4 pm**

- Present:** Cllr. John Pender, (Online)
Cllr. Ben Ward
Cllr. Jim Deane
Cllr. William Paton
Cllr. Charlie Murphy
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue
- In Attendance:** Michael Brennan, Director of Services
Rachel Dowling, A/Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Pat Harrington, Area Engineer

Michael Brennan, Director of Services, welcomed everybody to the Annual General meeting of the Municipal District of Tullow and congratulated the members who were re elected to the Municipal District and new elected members Cllr B Ward and J Deane. He also wished Cllr John Murphy a long, happy and healthy retirement and commiseration to Cllr John McDonald who was unsuccessful in the local elections.

1.0 Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolution of the Municipal District Members.

1.1 Election of Cathaoirleach

Michael Brennan Director of Services sought nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach for the period 2024/2025

Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue was **Proposed by** Cllr. Ben Ward and **Seconded by** Cllr John Pender

As there were no further nominations

Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue was elected Cathaoirleach for the Municipal District of Tullow for the coming year.

Cathaoirleach Brian O'Donoghue asked that a minutes silence be observed as a mark of respect to the late Ger Dooley, Procurement Officer, who passed away suddenly on 24th June, 2024.

Cllr. O'Donoghue outlined the following as being what he considers to be priorities in the coming year: -

- Arrange for Tidy Towns workshops commencing immediately
- Improvement of playgrounds, in particular Carrigduff and Rathvilly
- Tullow Town Centre Plan
- Work with colleagues for the benefit of the Municipal District of Tullow.

1.2 Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

Nominations were taken for the new Leas Cathaoirleach and as Cllr. Ben Ward was the

only nomination, he was deemed elected.

Proposed: Cllr. Brien O'Donoghue

Seconded: Cllr. Jim Deane

And resolved that Cllr. Ben Ward be elected Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

2.0 Consideration of Report and Recommendations

2.1 Standing Orders of the Municipal District of Tullow

It was agreed that the Standing Orders of the Municipal District of Tullow remain, with no amendments to be made.

2.2 Fix date of meetings of the Municipal District of Tullow

Following discussion, it was agreed that the preferred option for the Municipal District of Tullow monthly Meetings is the third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m.

Proposed: Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue

Seconded: Cllr. Jim Deane

And resolved that the meetings of Municipal District of Tullow be held on the Third Thursday of every month at 5 pm.

3.0 Any Other Business

Cllr. Charlie Murphy raised the matter of people on the voting register not being in a position to cast their vote due their polling cards not being delivered.

He also raised the issue of ballot papers not being sealed at Polling stations and the consequences of same on the outcome of the election results and called for the individual(s) to be sacked from their position(s)

While acknowledging the work undertaken by Jim Woods, Administrative Officer and his staff in updating the electoral register prior to the Local Elections, the members voiced concerns at the large amount of errors in the current register, with reference in particular made to the number of deceased people still appearing on the register and also the number of people registered at wrong addresses. It was also mentioned that people must take responsibility for ensuring their entry on the current register is correct.

Cllr. Will Patton asked if correspondence could be forwarded to the Department requesting a two-inch square black box to be placed on the top corner of the ballot paper where the paper can only be stamped during the count process. It was also suggested that the Department be

asked to have the postal vote less restrictive to allow more people to vote by post

Cllr Pender raised the issue of access to polling stations and adequate space at polling stations for electors to mark their ballot papers.

A discussion took place emphasising that this election proved that every vote counts, as the result in the Municipal District of Tullow was so close. The

members complimented the meticulous manner in which the re-count was conducted. The members complimented Catherine Callaghan on her result, having come so close to being elected.

Cllr. Ben Ward raised the issue of graffiti in Tullow and asked if the Council could offer some assistance with painting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.