

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Held at Glenamaddy Community School, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 2:00 pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

Cllr. James Charity  
Cllr Peter Keaveney  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, J. Byrne, L. Carroll, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, J. Cuddy, S. Curley, T. Ó Curraoin, Albert Dolan, G. Donuhue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, M. Kinane, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, E. Parsons, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

**Oifigh:**

Mr J. Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services County Secretary/Meetings Administrator, Mr L. Hanrahan, Ms I. Martyn A/Administrative Officer, Ms. U. Ní Eithín, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. B. Ryan, Staff Officer, Ms. E. Hoffman, Clerical Officer,

**Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

Prior to the commencement of formal business Cllr. Charity, the outgoing Cathaoirleach addressed the meeting. He expressed thanks to the Members for their support during a difficult year and noted, that together they had kept democracy going in County Galway despite the restrictions on gatherings due to the pandemic. He acknowledged the work of Mr. Owens and the Corporate Services team for their work in preparing and setting up the venues for meetings held at various locations during the year. He expressed thanks to the current Chief Executive, Mr. Jim Cullen and his predecessor, Mr. Kevin Kelly. He said both had been a fantastic source of support to him during the year. Further thanks was extended to the outgoing Leas Chathaoirleach, Cllr. Roche, for his support.

Cllr. Roche expressed sympathies to Cllr. Reddington on the death of his grandmother Kathleen Keaveney RIP. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Charity called for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

**ITEM NO.1 ELECTION OF THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY FOR YEAR 2021/2022.**

**3796**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher Members **AGREED** to elect Cllr. P. Keaveney Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway for year 2021/2022. Cllr. P. Keaveney was invested with the Chain of Office and assumed the chair.

Cllr P. Keaveney said it was a very proud day for Glenamaddy. He welcomed the Chief Executive, County Secretary and staff of Galway County Council and thanked them for their help over the last number of days.

He thanked his family for all their support. He welcomed his wife Breda, family, Peter Thomas, Caoimhe, Cailiosa, Cailin, Oisín and Aoibhinn, his mother Rose, and mother in law, Mary.

Cllr P. Keaveney thanked Cllrs. Byrne and Maher for the nomination and all of the Members for their support. Further thanks was extended to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Charity. He commended him on his work in the role during a very difficult year.

Cllr P. Keaveney welcomed Mr. Tiernan Walsh, a former member of Galway County Council, who served for 29 years on the Council. He reflected that 30 years ago Mr.

Walsh was elected Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council. He acknowledged former Members of Galway County Council, Tommy Hussey and Pat Finnegan.

A special word of thanks was expressed to Mr. James Duignan principal of Glenamaddy Community School for facilitating use of the school.

Cllr P. Keaveney said he was looking forward to taking on the role of Cathaoirleach and working with the Chief Executive over the next 12 months. He noted that there was a lot of work to be done. He highlighted the serious issue of underfunding of Galway County Council and the importance of working with Oireachtas Members in this regard, staffing levels and the County Development Plan. He remarked how communities have rallied incredibly over the last 15 months and said he looked forward to getting out and about to meet the people in those communities. Cllr P. Keaveney thanked Members for the support and expressed the hope that together they will drive Galway County Council forward. During his term, Cllr. P Keaveney said he will endeavour be fair and impartial.

Party Leaders and Members offered their individual congratulations to the newly elected Cathaoirleach acknowledging it was a very special day for him and his family. They extended best wishes to him for the year ahead.

Party Leaders and Members paid individual tributes to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr Charity.

- Complimented Cllr. Charity on his work in the past year acknowledging it was difficult to fully understand the challenges he faced as Cathaoirleach in the context of the pandemic. Despite the many challenges, he did a wonderful job.
- He brought Galway County Council in a whole new direction with online meetings ensuring democracy continued in County Galway during the pandemic.
- Complimented his professionalism and acknowledged his dedication to the role.
- Complimented him on his work in his role as Chair of the Corporate Policy Group. Complimented him on his efforts bringing Galway City and Galway County's, Corporate Policy Groups together for meetings in the past year.
- Acknowledged his professionalism and skill in steering members through the process of the draft County Development Plan over zoom and chairing meetings in a such a way which ensured everyone's voice was heard.

- Commended him on his statement on the Tuam Mother and Baby Home following the publication of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes in February.
- Acknowledged it was regrettable during his term as Cathaoirleach, due to restrictions in place, he was unable to meet people around the county or have the opportunity to represent Galway County Council abroad.

The Chief Executive paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach and congratulated him on his achievements in what was a very difficult year. Among them he noted the signing membership of the Mayors for Peace and The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life. In particular, he noted the statement Cllr. Charity made on behalf of Galway County Council on the Mother and Baby Home in Tuam following the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes. He said it was an important and poignant morning and noted Cllr. Charity marked it in an appropriate way. The Chief Executive commended him on the hosting of the Cathaoirleach's awards and acknowledged his efforts advocating on behalf of Galway County Council in terms of increased funding. In the context of the Pandemic he said civic leadership was very important, requiring someone to lead. He said it was something Cllr. Charity did very well. On behalf of the staff of Galway County Council he thanked Cllr. Charity and wished him continued success.

The Chief Executive congratulated Cllr. P Keaveney and welcomed his family. He assured him of his full support and the support of the Executive team working with him in the year ahead. The Chief Executive was joined by Members extending a warm welcome to Mr. Tiernan Walsh.

**ITEM NO.2 ELECTION OF THE LEAS-CHATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY FOR YEAR 2021/2022.** **3797**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, and **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Cuddy as Leas-Chathaoirleach of the County of Galway for 2021- 2022.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. P Keaveney congratulated Cllr. Cuddy on his appointment as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Cllr. Cuddy thanked Cllrs. Charity and Cronnelly for the nomination. He said he looked forward to working with the Cathaoirleach, Members and the Executive team for the good of the county. He stressed the issue of funding was critical for the people of Galway. He noted the County Development Plan affects the lives of many and said it was important it represented the views of the public.

**ITEM NO.3 FIXING A SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS.** 3798

The Schedule of Dates for Council Meetings as circulated prior to the meeting was noted as follows:

June	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
July	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
August	No meeting (as per standing order)
September	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
October	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
November	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021
December	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
January	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
February	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
March	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
April	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
May	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022

**Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin**

**Submitted Signed and Approved**

**Cathaoirleach** 

**Date :** 26.7.21

