

<b>In the Chair:</b>	Cllr. D. Dunne
<b>Members Present:</b>	Cllr. K. Bourke, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. I. Goldsboro, Cllr. K. O'Meara.
<b>Apologies:</b>	None
<b>Attending:</b>	Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive; Mr. B Beck, A/Director of Services; Ms. M O'Gorman, Meetings Administrator; Mr. D. Power A/District Engineer; Ms. H. Cahill, Staff Officer.

## ***1.0. Welcome and Introduction***

### **Item 1.1.**

**Summons and Prayer:** The summons was taken as read.

## ***2.0. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolution of the Council***

### **Item 2.1.**

#### **Election of Cathaoirleach:**

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. D. Dunne, commenced proceedings by welcoming the Chief Executive and all present to the meeting. He took the opportunity to thank the members and staff for their support throughout his tenure as Cathaoirleach. He recounted the highlights of his year - starting off on a high note with the Cathaoirleach's reception for the Marist High School Soccer Team and their entourage from Chicago, thanks in no small measure to Cllr. Bourke's efforts. He spoke of the many achievements throughout for the town and district, culminating in the very successful 'Cathaoirleach Awards' held at the prestigious Fethard Town Park on the previous week 13 June, an outstanding venue and facility officially opened by Minister Heather Humphreys on Sunday last, 18 June.

He applauded the wonderful developments in the pipeline for the Carrick on Suir Municipal District and stated that he was greatly honoured to hold the office of Cathaoirleach which was held in such high esteem and he greatly appreciated the privilege.

#### **Cllr. Dunne then sought a nomination for the office of Cathaoirleach of Carrick on Suir Municipal District for 2023-2024;**

Cllr. I. Goldsboro congratulated Cllr. Dunne on a wonderful year and stated that he was a fair, supportive and respectful chair, carrying out his duties in an exemplary manner and she wished him well for the future.

In proposing Cllr. K. Bourke for the role of Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Goldsboro described him as embedded in politics and

a strong voice for the Carrick on Suir community, a solid voice in housing and education, with a deep understanding of current issues and a robust voice for the district.

**Cllr. D. Dunne** formally seconded Cllr. K. Bourke for the position of Cathaoirleach, as a fellow Carrick on Suir man whom he greatly admired. He referred to Cllr. Bourke's profound grasp of politics and knowledgeable understanding of the 'rule book' and his dedication and commitment to Carrick on Suir. Cllr. Bourke's provision of a 'drop-in' clinic was a case in point and he stated that he would make a great chair, and was most deserving of the honour.

The Cathaoirleach called for further nominations.

With no further nominations put forward, **Cllr. D. Dunne duly deemed Cllr. Bourke elected as Cathaoirleach of Carrick on Suir Municipal District for 2023-2024.**

Cllr. K. O'Meara expressed his thanks to the outgoing Cathaoirleach for a successful year where party politics were left at the door, and with business conducted in a fair and impartial manner throughout. He extended congratulations to the Cathaoirleach-elect and assured him of 100% support for the year ahead.

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald wished to be associated with the tributes to the outgoing Cathaoirleach and congratulated him for his conduct of meetings in a fair and unbiased style throughout his tenure. He also took the opportunity to convey his best wishes to Cllr Bourke for the coming year as Cathaoirleach.

The Cathaoirleach-elect, Cllr. K. Bourke accepted the chain of office and took the Chair.

Addressing all present, he thanked his proposer and seconder and acknowledged the great contribution of the outgoing Cathaoirleach over the past twelve months. He stated that he was privileged to accept the office in what promised to be an exciting year and was looking forward to the delivery of many positive upcoming projects for the town and district. He referred to the €17.8million Regeneration Project for Carrick on Suir which would commence shortly, the provision of a Digital Hub at the Old Post Office, the circa €9million N24 pavement upgrade contract which was ongoing and the N76 pavement improvement at Grangemockler delivered at a cost of €1.1million. He spoke of the €7million project at Fethard Town Park, bringing a wonderful collaboration to fruition of the local authority, RRDF, Coolmore, Healthy Ireland, various community groups and the Cashel and

Emly Diocese with a state-of-the-art facility officially opened the previous Sunday.

The enhancement plans for Ballingarry, Killenaule and Mullinahone would provide the impetus to harvest finance from various funding streams such as Town & Village Renewal, Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructural Schemes [ORIS], LEADER, and others, in order to realise their communities' ambitions.

The proposed master plan for the Goldcrop Site would provide a catalyst for the transformation of a hugely important strategic development site for Carrick on Suir and the connection of the River Suir Blueway with the Waterford Greenway opened up enormous tourism potential for the district. Those were just a flavour of the exciting times ahead, added to which, the proposed new Gaelscoil would further enhance Carrick on Suir's educational offering, building on Comeragh College, the ETB's apprentice programme and the nearby South East Technological University at Waterford.

Notwithstanding all those positive developments, he stated that his immediate focus would be to highlight the deficiency of Garda cover in Carrick on Suir and district in an effort to achieve increased resources. Whereas there were 16 Gardaí stationed at Carrick on Suir in the past, there were currently 4 Gardaí and 2 Sergeants policing a town with a multi-national population in excess of 6,500. He deplored the under-funded, under-resourced policing service and committed to using every possible opportunity to voicing his concerns in that regard.

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director acknowledged on his own behalf and on behalf of his staff, the work of Cllr. D. Dunne in his role as Cathaoirleach, and his commitment to the entire district during the course of what was a most exciting 12 months and congratulated him on his efforts.

To Cllr. K. Bourke, he extended his congratulations on his election to the Chair, and looked forward to working with him throughout another promising year for the Carrick on Suir Municipal District.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive addressed Cllr. D. Dunne as a proud Carrick on Suir man and expressed his appreciation that he had enjoyed his tenure as Cathaoirleach and the opportunity presented to reflect the views of people who elected him.

To the incoming Cathaoirleach he acknowledged his huge experience and successful career in politics. He noted the 'eye-watering' amount of projects underway in the district and expressed his delight that Carrick on Suir in particular

was on the receiving end of such enormous investment, which the town wholly deserved; noting that the elected members and officials were collectively ambitious for the town and district he assured that every possible opportunity for investment would be explored. Those achievements would foster an enormous sense of pride in the part played by the Cathaoirleach and councillors in its transformation. Already the N24 works had 'lifted' the town. The like of Fethard Town Park was not replicated in any other town in the country, and he suggested that it was very important to focus on rural areas. He noted a strong impression of cohesion within the chamber and a shared vision in delivering for constituents within the municipal district, with district staff on hand committed to supporting those services and aspirations day in, day out.

Ms. Marie O'Gorman, Meetings Administrator, joined in thanking Cllr. D. Dunne for his courtesy and commitment during the course of his tenure over the past year. To Councillor Bourke, she conveyed her congratulations to the Cathaoirleach-elect assuring him of her continued support and that of her colleagues in the year to come.

**Item 2.2.  
Election of Leas-  
Chathaoirleach:**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. K. Bourke sought nominations from the floor for the position of Leas Chathaoirleach for 2023-2024.

Cllr. K. O'Meara proposed Cllr. D. Dunne for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach. This was seconded by Cllr. M. Fitzgerald.

The Cathaoirleach-elect called for further nominations.

With no further nominations put forward, **the Cathaoirleach deemed Cllr. D. Dunne elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of Carrick on Suir Municipal District for 2023-2024.**

**3.0. Corporate/Organisational Matters**

**Item 3.1.  
Schedule of Meetings  
2023-2024.**

A draft Schedule of Meetings for 2023-2024 was circulated for consideration and was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. I. Goldsboro, as seconded by Cllr. K. O'Meara.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

[12:42]



District Administrator



Cathaoirleach

27 July 2023