

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN HALLA NA FEILE, CASHEL AT
11.00 A.M. on Friday 27th June, 2025.**

Present

Cllr D. Burgess, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bonfield, F; Bourke, K; Brennan, Ml; Browne, L; Bugler, P; Cahill-Skehan, K; Carroll, J; Crosse, J; Dennehy, N; Dunne, D; FitzGerald, J; Fitzgerald, M; Goldsboro, A; Hourigan, Mary Hanna; Kennedy, R; Kennedy, Wm; Lee, S; Lowry, M; McGrath, M; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morgan Walsh, Murphy, M; L; O'Heney, J, O'Meara, J.P.; Ryan, A.M.; Ryan. P; Ryan, S; Smith, Ml.

Apologies

Cllrs: Acheson, T; English, P; Quirke O'Meara, P.

Also Present

Mr. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, Mr. Liam Brett, Mr. Brian Beck, Mr. Dave Carroll, Mr. Anthony Coleman, Directors of Services. MS. Sarah O'Callaghan, Financial Accountant, Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Declan Burgess welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of Tipperary County Council and to Halla na Feile, Cashel and thanked the Committee for allowing the facility to be used for the meeting.

The Meetings Administrator took a roll call and commenced the meeting with the opening prayer.

Cllr. Declan Burgess reflecting on his year in office expressed deep honour in serving as Cathaoirleach, emphasising his commitment to positively impacting the community. He outlined that during his term the following projects had been advanced. He referred to the numerous events/launches he attended as First Citizen, highlighting a few that stood out.

- The launch of the Tipperary Gift Card in partnership with Tipperary Chamber to support local businesses and encourage local spending.
- The official opening of Templemore Library & Enterprise Centre serving as a cultural and economic hub for the county.
- The signing of the Mayors for Peace Agreement at Leinster House, advocating for a world free from nuclear weapons.
- The conferral of a Civic Reception at Brú Ború, Cashel for the Tipperary Minor Hurling Team and Minor & Junior Camogie Teams honouring their All-Ireland victories.
- The signing of Community Facilities numerous new community projects that enhance wellbeing and community spirit.

Item 1.1 **Welcome**

- He Praised the efforts of Tidy Towns groups and local volunteers for their contributions to the community.
- The Cathaoirleach spoke at the Annual Youth Conference of Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg, highlighting the importance of youth participation.
- The opening of the Littleton Labyrinth Walkway, a 7.2km trail through Bord na Móna peatlands.
- The opening of the Shannon Crossing – Brian Boru Bridge, a major infrastructure project connecting Ballina and Killaloe.
- The conferral of a Civic Reception to Olympian Daire Lynch to honour his achievements at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- The sod-turning at Cashel Town Park, a transformative development for the citizens of Cashel.

Cllr. Burgess outlined that need for a call to action on the current challenges being faced. He called on the Government to sustainably fund local authorities to meet rising costs and service demand and emphasised the need for better maintenance of roads, footpaths, public lighting, and outdoor amenities. He highlighted the need for affordable housing schemes in all main towns of Tipperary to support young people and working families.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach thanked fellow councillors, the Chief Executive, council staff, and the people of Tipperary for their support. He expressed gratitude to family, friends, and Fine Gael colleagues for their encouragement. He acknowledged the support of Leas-Cathaoirleach's Senator Imelda Goldsboro and Micheál Anglim, and the corporate services staff. Cllr. Burgess said he was passing on the chain of office with confidence in the future of Tipperary and he expressed pride in serving as Cathaoirleach and his optimism for the county's continued strength and unity.

The Party Whips present at the meeting and Cllr Michael Lowry on behalf of the Independent Group paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach on his successful term of office. Reference was made to the fact he was the youngest Cathaoirleach elected. The constructive and impartial manner in which the outgoing Cathaoirleach carried out his duties was acknowledged, noting his knowledge base across all areas. His open policy with all councillors was commended and his provision of a strong leadership.

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive said that the outgoing Cathaoirleach and herself had started on a journey together following the local election in June. She acknowledged his hard work ethic while noting he did it with a sense of humour. He covered the whole county as first citizen. Ms. Carr thanked Cllr. Burgess for his cooperation and his collaboration and she wished him well for his future role in politics.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach then sought nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

It was proposed by **Cllr Michael Smith**, seconded by **Cllr. Séan Ryan**, and agreed,

Item 2.1 **Election of** **Cathaoirleach**

"That Cllr John Carroll be elected Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council for the year 2025-2026".

Cllr. Smith referred to the qualities of Cllr. Carroll who he said was from a rich political pedigree. He had first been elected to North Tipperary County Council in 1999. He said that Cllr. Carroll was a champion of rural development.

Cllr. Séan Ryan joined in the tributes to Cllr. Carroll, noting his investment in his community and his accessibility to his electorate and fellow councillors. and he noted that he was the longest serving councillor in the chamber.

As there were no further nominations Cllr John Carroll was deemed elected Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council for the term 2025/2026.

The Party Whips present at the meeting and Cllr Michael Lowry on behalf of the Independent Group congratulated Cllr. Carroll on his unanimous election. His wealth of experience was acknowledged and the members offered him their support in the role.

In congratulating Cllr. Carroll, Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive said Cllr. Carroll was a proud Burgess and proud Tipperary man.

Address of Incoming Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Carroll addressed the meeting noting that it was a great honour for him, his family and the parish of Burgess to be elected. He thanked his proposer and seconder, his Fine Fáil colleagues for the nomination and the members for their support. He looked forward to working with the members, the Chief Executive, staff and press over the next 12 months. He complimented outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Burgess for his professionalism and courtesy in his term of office and thanked Senator Imelda Goldsboro and Cllr. Michaél Anglim for their work as leas Cathaoirligh. He congratulated the five district chairs on their appointment and welcomed the members of the Oireachtas to the annual meeting.

He referred to certain policy areas that required readdressing and indicated that he would use his office as Cathaoirleach to lobby the relevant Government Departments and Ministers.

He outlined some of the key challenges and priorities for his term ahead as follows: -

Infrastructure and Funding:

Roads

He referred to the significant challenges in maintaining the extensive road network due to static funding and a 30% increase in construction inflation and the need for additional funding from central government and local resources is essential. A coordinated effort with Oireachtas members and the Minister for Transport would be necessary.

Housing and Planning:

Housing Provision

Owing to the critical need for urban and rural housing the need to review residential zoning to attract building contractors and the provision of wastewater treatment plants by Uisce Éireann is crucial. Innovative solutions like timber, steel, and demountable structures should be considered.

Environmental Concerns:

Water Quality

Seeking increased government funding for environmental improvements

on farms in addition to citizens and businesses protecting water courses owing to the decline in water quality from 62% to 31% (EPA Report) is needed.

Agriculture and Rural Development:

Agri-Food Sector

Vital sector employing significant numbers and contributing to food exports. Key issues include maintaining the derogation at 220kgN/HA and improving planning systems.

Environmental Schemes

Adoption of schemes to improve water quality and biodiversity. Government collaboration with farming groups is needed and Cllr. Carroll hopes to invite farming organisations to address the council in the year ahead.

Renewable Energy:

Wind and Solar Energy

Significant strides with 422 MW of installed wind energy and 578 MW of consented solar farms. These projects provide economic benefits and a stable energy supply to Tipperary County Council. Wind farms have generated substantial community benefits and commercial rates income, reducing reliance on oil imports.

Rural Development and Social Inclusion:

SICAP Programme

Such programmes address isolation and disadvantage in rural and urban areas. Projects include community walkways, outdoor gyms, biodiversity parks, and solar initiatives. He outlined key themes such as economic development, rural infrastructure, and sustainable rural environment development.

In summary, Cllr. Carroll outlined his key priorities and challenges for the year ahead: -

- Uisce Eireann & Government providing waste water treatment plants in villages/towns.
- Review of Residential Zoning as Part of the County Development Plan & Local Area Plans,
- To Provide Land Parcels at suitable Locations to attract building contractors.
- Government to immediately address roads funding decline over the past decade
- Taking account of ever-increasing costs and construction inflation at 30%.
- Working with Farming Groups & the Agri Food Sector to address the

challenges within the farming sector to meet the economic challenges ahead.

- A stronger rural & farming sector seeds to more sustainable towns & villages.

Cllr. Carroll emphasized the importance of addressing these challenges through collaboration with government bodies, local communities, and various sectors. The goal is to ensure sustainable development, improve living conditions, and support the economic viability of Tipperary. He said that he looked forward to working with the council, committing to an agenda focus and outside of that where appropriate.

The Party Whips present, Independent Representative Cllr M. Lowry and members congratulated Cllr. Carroll on his election as Cathaoirleach. They said he would be an experienced and dedicated chairperson and his guidance would be invaluable.

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, congratulated Cllr. Carroll on what was a proud day for his family, his parish and the county. She noted his experience on the LCDC and said she looked forward to working with him.

Election of Leas Chathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Carroll sought nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and seconded by **Cllr. Declan Burgess** and agreed,

"That Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald be elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council for the term 2025/2026."

As there were no further nominations Cllr. M. Fitzgerald was deemed elected.

Cllr Fitzgerald thanked his proposer and seconder. It was an an honour to be elected by the members. He congratulated Cllr. Carroll on his election as Cathaoirleach and pledged his support over the coming term.

The Party Whips present and Independent Representative Cllr M. Lowry congratulated Cllr. Fitzgerald on his election as Leas Cathaoirleach. They acknowledged his experience and commended him for his fair and balanced approach to his role as an elected member.

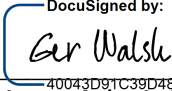
Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive joined in congratulating Cllr. Fitzgerald on his election, noting his work in the Carrick on Suir District and said she looked forward to working with him.

Conclusion

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed/ 
 Cathaoirleach.
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Date 14th July, 2025

Signed/ 
 Meetings Administrator
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Date 14th July, 2025

