

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF
NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ST.
PATRICK'S COLLEGE, THURLES AT 2 P.M. ON MONDAY,
27TH JUNE 2011**

Present: Cllrs Dr. Phyll Bugler; Jim Casey; John Carroll; Billy Clancy; Pauline Coonan; Ger Darcy; Seamus Hanafin; John Hogan; John Kennedy; Micheál Lowry; John 'Rocky' McGrath; Jonathan Meaney; Eddie Moran; Virginia O'Dowd; Michael O'Meara; Denis Ryan; Jim Ryan; Mattie Ryan; Michael Smith.

Apologies: Cllrs. Hughie McGrath and Séamus Morris.

Also Present Joe MacGrath, County Manager; Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance & Corporate Services; Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services; Matt Shortt, Director of Services; Karl Cashen, Director of Services; Brian Beck, Senior Planner; Rosemary Joyce, Meetings Administrator/Senior Executive Officer; and Dan Downey, Staff Officer.

**Outgoing
Mayors
Address:** Cllr. J. Kennedy welcomed everyone to Thurles for the Annual Meeting. He said that being Mayor of North Tipperary was a great honour for him and his family. He thanked his fellow Members for their co-operation and respect during the year. He thanked Cllr. J. 'Rocky' McGrath for his assistance in the role of Deputy Mayor. He also thanked the Manager, Management Team and all the staff of North Tipperary County Council for their courtesy.

Cllr. Kennedy stated that it was a wonderful year with many highlights. He attended the launch of many festivals to do with culture, drama, literature and the arts. He met with many wonderful committees promoting North Tipperary. He stated that it was a great honour to be in Croke Park when the Tipperary Senior Hurling Team won the All Ireland Hurling Final in September 2010. He noted that Tipperary was the only county outside of Dublin to host Queen Elizabeth II and President Barack Obama in May 2011 and the great honour he had in having a pint in Moneygall with the President and First Lady, Michelle Obama. He welcomed the approval of planning permission for the Tipperary Venue, the biggest planning application ever undertaken in North Tipperary.

Cllr. J. Kennedy stated that it was a busy year. He urged that in these recessionary times all agencies must pull together in order to sustain employment.

Finally, Cllr. Kennedy again thanked the Members and the staff of the County Council led by the County Manager, Joe MacGrath. He also thanked the Meetings Administrator, Ms. R. Joyce for her support and advice during the year.

Members paid tribute to Cllr. Kennedy on an excellent year and stated that he had represented North Tipperary excellently during the year. They thanked him for his help and support and the way he carried out his office in a courteous and efficient manner and congratulated him on the leadership shown as first citizen in North Tipperary.

Cllr. J. 'Rocky' McGrath as outgoing Deputy Mayor thanked Cllr. Kennedy for his support and also thanked the County Manager and staff of North Tipperary County Council for their courtesy during the year.

Mr. J. MacGrath congratulated Cllr. J. Kennedy on an outstanding year for North Tipperary. As stated previously there were a number of big events but he also noted that the Mayor was

also available to attend all the smaller events throughout North Tipperary. He also thanked Cllr. Kennedy for being available for staff events and functions. He exercised his office with great dignity and pride. He wished him well as the newly elected Mayor of Thurles. He thanked the Mayor and the Members for their assistance in his first year as County Manager. He also wished to thank outgoing Deputy Mayor, Cllr. J. 'Rocky' McGrath for his work during the year.

Item 1
Election of
Mayor

It was proposed by Cllr. M. O'Meara and seconded by Cllr. J. Meaney that Cllr. M. Lowry be elected as Mayor for North Tipperary County Council.

As there were no other proposals Cllr. J. Kennedy declared Cllr. M. Lowry elected as Mayor for 2011/2012.

Cllr. M. Lowry addressed the Meeting as Mayor. He thanked the outgoing Mayor and his fellow Councillors, particularly his proposer and seconder and stated that he was very honoured to be Mayor for the coming year. He thanked Fr. Tom Fogarty for the use of the premises at St. Patrick's College for the Annual Meeting.

Cllr. Lowry thanked all those that had helped him over his seven years on the County Council. He thanked his partner Martina, father Michael, mother Catherine, brother Jonathan, sister Lorraine and grandparents John and Noreen, who were in attendance, for their support. He thanked his fellow party members, Cllrs M. O'Meara, E. Moran and J. 'Rocky' McGrath for their friendship and co-operation. He thanked the County Manager and staff of North Tipperary County Council for their assistance. He wished to give special mention to former Cllr. W. Kennedy who served North Tipperary County Council with distinction for many years.

Cllr. Lowry acknowledged the effect of the economic difficulties on the people of North Tipperary. He stated that we must be realistic in what we can achieve with restricted resources. It was his belief that a strong economy must have local roots and maximise local resources.

He outlined his priorities for North Tipperary the coming year. These included:

- The immediate expediting of Departmental funds to allow the Council carry out all outstanding necessary improvements and repairs to its housing stock ensuring that all Council owned properties are fit for purpose and habitable at all times.
- To ensure that our road network is maintained and improved to allow both motorists and pedestrians to travel safely with particular emphasis on the need for investment in minor county roads.
- To press for delivery of critical infrastructure such as the Thurles Bypass and Link Road and the Ballina/Killaloe Bridge.
- To engage with all interested parties to promote every aspect of Tourism within the county and the development of a clear Tourism Strategy between North and South Tipperary and Offaly County Councils to maximise the tourism opportunities of the natural and historic tourist attractions.
- To protect the agriculture sector and promote the Tipperary farmers and food producers who provide exceptional produce for national and international consumption while creating opportunities for much needed employment.
- To continue to support business in North Tipperary and to promote responsible local ownership of business by people who have a stake in the health of their local

community and local economy. He welcomed the establishment of the Enterprise Support Unit, the new enterprise centre at Tipperary Institute and the imminent launch of the Tipperary.com website.

All members present congratulated Cllr. M. Lowry on his election as Mayor. Mr. J. MacGrath joined in the congratulations to Cllr. Lowry and looked forward to working with him over the coming year.

Item 2
Election of
Deputy
Mayor

It was proposed by Cllr. V. O'Dowd and seconded by Cllr. J. 'Rocky' McGrath that Cllr. J. Meaney be elected as Deputy Mayor for North Tipperary County Council.

As there were no other proposals Cllr. M. Lowry declared Cllr. J. Meaney elected as Deputy Mayor for 2011/2012.

Cllr. J. Meaney stated it was an honour to be elected as Deputy Mayor and thanked his proposer and seconder.

Mr. J. MacGrath, congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and assured the Members of the support of the Management Team and all staff and looked forward to working together.

Item 3
Any Other
Business

Cllr. B. Clancy raised an issue relating to a tendering process which was on-going for the development of an all-weather sports pitch at the Tipperary Institute. He emphasised the need to ensure that local firms would have the opportunity to tender for such jobs. He requested that contact be made with those involved with this specific tendering process to ensure that any pre-qualification assessment did not result in local firms being excluded from the opportunity to tender.

Members discussed the tendering process and the requirements of the e-Tender process which they considered were onerous for smaller businesses. Following discussion members requested that a letter issue to the Department of Finance in relation to procurement requirements for tendering and to those involved with the specific tendering process referred to.

Mr. J. MacGrath advised members that the specific tender referred to was not within the remit of the Council. He advised members that an information paper was being prepared by the Procurement Officer and this would be circulated to them.

Cllr. J. Hogan expressed concern at the increase in theft of scrap metal in the County and asked that the process of licensing waste collectors in the County should require collectors to establish where the metal came from. Mr. M. Shortt stated that this was an issue at national level. The matter was being examined.

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Michéal Lowry
Mayor

Date: _____

Signed : _____
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
Meetings Administrator/ Senior Executive Officer

Date: _____