

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Wednesday 5th September, 2018 – 9.30 a.m.
in the Council Chamber, Carricklawn, Wexford.**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. K. Doyle, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

P. Breen;	M. Byrne;	G. Carthy;	K. Codd-Nolan;
A. Connick;	T. Dempsey;	A. Donohoe;	M. Farrell;
W. Fitzharris;	J. Fleming;	J. Hegarty;	D. Hynes;
P. Kavanagh;	W. Kavanagh;	G. Lawlor;	L. McDonald;
J. Moore;	B.A. Murphy;	M. Murphy;	J. Mythen;
L. O'Brien;	J. O'Rourke;	M. Roche;	M. Sheehan;
J. Sullivan;	O. Walsh;	M. Whelan.	

Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive;
Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services;
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services;
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services;
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary;
Mr. D. Minogue, Communications Officer.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach welcomed Members to this special meeting to receive presentations from prospective candidates seeking the nomination of Wexford County Council in the forthcoming Presidential Election. The Cathaoirleach invited the County Secretary to advise Members of how the special meeting would be conducted and to agree a proposed procedure for voting on 10th September.

Members were advised that the agenda for the meeting on 10th September would be going out this afternoon and that any nominations would need to be submitted in writing by 2.30p.m. today. The County Secretary notified the meeting that Cllr. Ger Carthy had already proposed John Gallagher for the nomination. He also advised that Gavin Duffy would not be attending the today's meeting.

The County Secretary then explained the method by which the voting would take place on 10th September as was set out in the document circulated to the Members and invited questions from Members with regard to the procedure. It was agreed that the nomination of a person to be candidate at the Presidential Election would be on the agenda for Monday 10th September 2018 and on the proposal of Cllr. T. Dempsey seconded by Cllr. M. Byrne the procedure as circulated was agreed.

The Cathaoirleach then called on the first candidate Senator Joan Freeman to address the Council. Senator Freeman in her address to the Members outlined why she intended running for the Office of President, summarised her achievements and sought the support of the Local Authority in order to allow her to participate in the Presidential Election.

In particular, she highlighted her role in setting up Pieta House and highlighted the characteristics she would bring to the Presidency - leadership, resilience and ability to persuade and influence to highlight mental health and other issues.

Following a number of questions from the Members on the content of her address Senator Freeman then left the meeting having being thanked by the Cathaoirleach for attending.

The next candidate was Sean Gallagher and he then addressed the Council. To begin with he gave his condolences to the Cathaoirleach for his recent loss. He advised that he was seeking the nomination from Wexford County Council and if so honoured by the Council to be nominated as their candidate, he would ensure that he would focus on all of those on the margins of society.

He then set out his vision of the role of the President.

In particular, he mentioned the Disability Groups and visiting Ireland's peace keeping forces abroad. He also gave an explanation of his previous campaign for the presidency in 2011 and in particular the Frontline debate which took place on RTE at that time and his subsequent dealings with RTE over the years since that broadcast..

He outlined his activities in business, entrepreneurship, community, journalism and other areas since the last election. He also answered questions from Members on a wide range of topics.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Gallagher for attending and presenting to the meeting.

Sarah Louise Mulligan was then asked to address the Council. She focused on a number of issues, child abuse, elder abuse, suicide, her pro-life stance, entrepreneurship and her support for President Trump. She hoped to be a voice for the voiceless in Irish Society.

Following her presentation Sarah Louise Mulligan responded to a number of questions raised by the Members and then left the meeting having been thanked by the Cathaoirleach for attending.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

County Secretary

Daingithe ar an lá de Meán Fómhair, 2018.

Cathaoirleach