



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Minutes of Proceedings at Special Meeting of Cork County Council held in the CYMS Hall Newmarket, Cork and by Microsoft Teams on Friday 19th April 2024.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Proinsias Ó Flíonn, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Uí Chochláin, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú C, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Donnabháin, Ní Chróinín, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Uí Ní Charthaigh U, Bhuachalla, De Faoite, Daltún-Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conchubair Alan, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Flíonn, Dawson, Ó De Róiste, Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé Sean Pól, Críod, Uí Muineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padriagh, Ó Múrchú Gearóid, Ó Cionaithe, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé Tony, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó hÉalaithe, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní MacCarthaigh Susan, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile.

PRESENT

Councillor Frank O'Flynn, County Mayor, presided.

Councillor: Coughlan, Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan M, O'Donovan, Cronin, McGrath, D'Alton, McCarthy U, Buckley A, White, Dalton O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O'Connor A, McCarthy N, O'Flynn, Dawson, Roche, Moynihan B, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kenny, Madden, O'Shea Tony, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty M, McCarthy S, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley.

Chief Executive, A/Divisional Manager North Cork, A/Divisional Manager West Cork, A/Director of Services Corporate Services, A/County Engineer, Director of Services Roads & Transportation, Director of Services Planning & Development, Director of Services Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism, A/Head of Finance, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services.

The meeting was held to honour the memory of Cllr. Gerard Murphy whose death had occurred on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

Members noted that Cllr. Murphy was first elected to Council in 1992 serving as Cathaoirleach of Cork County Council from 1995 to 1996. Cllr. Murphy was elected to Dáil Eireann from 2002-2007, where he served as Vice-Chairman of the Justice and Equality Committee. Cllr Murphy returned to local politics representing Kanturk Mallow Municipal District and the Southern Regional Assembly.

Cllr. Murphy brought a wealth of experience, knowledge, particularly in the area of planning and development, and commitment to his role as a representative. Cllr Murphy was a founding member of the IRD Duhallow, supported the establishment of Cultúrlann Newmarket, transforming the former Church into a heritage and cultural centre, and was instrumental in the development, through the securing of grant funding, of the popular walking amenity Island Wood in Newmarket. Housing projects, had been a key focus for Cllr. Murphy, together with supporting various community and sporting groups in the Kanturk and Newmarket electoral areas such as the Newmarket community playground.

Cllr. Frank O'Flynn, Mayor of the County of Cork led the tributes. He said Cllr. Murphy was a colleague, a friend and a confidante. He said Cllr. Murphy was so proud of the community he served, saying he was kind, gentle and above all solid. In times of difficulty, Cllr. Murphy was always there to steer the boat right. Mayor O'Flynn proposed a vote of sympathy for Cllr. Murphy's wife Marian, children Donncha and Trish, and two grandchildren, Ethan and Mya.

Cllr. John Paul O' Shea, Fine Gael Party Leader said Cllr. Murphy was iconic in the Kanturk/ Mallow Municipal District. He said Gerard has always been a mentor and friend to him. Cllr. O' Shea said Gerard was always proud of the wider work that Cork County Council did and his involvement with the Executive was always exceptional. He said Cllr. Murphy was very proud to serve as Cathaoirleach and had excellent knowledge of Local Government. He said Cllr. Murphy really excelled when it came to county and area development plans, studying plans for the entire County before going into County Hall. He said he fought the case for Newmarket and North Cork, and was particularly proud of the Island Wood Trail. He said Cllr. Murphy had done so much for his community and never wanted gratitude, he just wanted the Council to progress. Cllr. O' Shea extended his sympathies to Cllr. Murphy's wife, children, grandchildren and the extended Murphy family.

Cllr. Seamus McGrath, Fianna Fáil Party Leader said Gerard Murphy was a gentleman. He said Cllr. Murphy was an unassuming public servant who had given huge service over the years. He said Cllr. Murphy had a great knack of intervening during Council meetings and steering the meeting in the right direction, particularly during Budget Meetings and County Development Plans. He said Cllr. Murphy's time in the Dáil gave more depth to his public service. He extended his sincere condolences to his wife and family on his passing.

Cllr. Declan Hurly, Independent Party Group Leader said Cork County Council was a richer Local Authority for having had Gerard as a Member. He said Cllr. Murphy's ability to keep meetings on track was exemplary. He said Cllr. Murphy always intervened at crucial times during Council Meetings to bring everything back on track. Cllr. Hurley offered his condolences to the Murphy family, Fine Gael party, and friends of Cllr. Murphy. He said it was a pleasure to know and work with him.

Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen, Labour Party Group Leader said today was a very sad day for the Elected Members of Cork County Council. He said when he first was elected to Council, Cllr. Gerard Murphy was always there to steer him in the right direction. Cllr. Rasmussen said Gerard Murphy was always there to push the Elected Members and remind them why they were there when meetings got tough. He said today's special meeting of Council was a testament to Gerard Murphy.

Cllr. Alan O'Connor, Green Party Group Leader said Cllr. Murphy has left a great legacy in his hometown. He said Cllr. Murphy was a senior statesman in the Chamber, and a very nice man outside the Chamber who was very easy to talk to. Cllr. O' Connor extended his sympathies to the family and friends of Cllr. Gerard Murphy.

Cllr. Michael Hegarty said Gerard Murphy was a very solid and safe pair of hands. He said Cllr. Murphy would analyse things to the hilt, and he would look at the bigger picture always. Cllr. Hegarty said Gerard Murphy was a great believer in his community and in Cork County Council. He said Cllr. Murphy was a great believer in LEADER funding and was so passionate about it. He said Cllr. Murphy was very solid in various Development plans, and would look at the bigger picture, including the wider Cork County. Cllr. Hegarty extended his sympathy to Cllr. Murphy's wife and family.

Cllr. Kevin Murphy said he has weathered the storms with Cllr. Gerard Murphy for 44 years. He said Cllr. Murphy was a true gentleman and a great advisor to him. He said Cllr. Murphy was a genius in

terms of Finance and County Development Plans. He said Cllr. Gerard Murphy is an unbelievable loss to Cork County Council, but especially to his wife and family.

Cllr. Alan Coleman said he was saddened to hear of the passing of Cllr. Gerard Murphy. He said they both had their first meetings of Cork County Council together. He said Cllr. Murphy was an excellent public representative both at Council and at Dáil level. He said Cllr. Murphy was of the community and believed in the community. Cllr. Coleman said Gerard Murphy was excellent at politics and was a consummate operator at Council.

Cllr. Ian Doyle said he knew Cllr. Gerard Murphy all his life and he saw the respect that Cllr. Murphy had for people. He said Cllr. Murphy recognised that we are all working together for the greater good and he could get things done. Cllr. Doyle extended his sympathies to Cllr. Murphy's family and Cork North West Fine Gael.

Cllr. Bernard Moynihan said Gerard Murphy was an excellent colleague and always gave great advice. He said Cllr. Murphy was a calming influence and a super operator. He said Cllr. Murphy was very ambitious for Newmarket and hugely influential in setting up the LCDC.

Cllr. Gearóid Murphy said Gerard Murphy was one of the most genuine people in politics. He said Cllr. Murphy always tried to do what was right for his area and his County. He said there was nobody better to talk politics with than Gerard. He said Cllr. Murphy had vast experience in all areas of the Council.

Cllr. Pat Hayes extended his condolences to the Murphy family. He said Cllr. Murphy was the first person to congratulate him when he was elected to Council. He said Cllr. Murphy was wise and sincere. Cllr. Hayes extended his sympathy to Gerard Murphy's wife, family and the Fine Gael party.

Cllr. Michael Looney said it is a sad day for Newmarket. He said Cllr. Gerard Murphy was a thorough gentleman. He said Cllr. Murphy was the first person he met at his first Council meeting. He said Cllr. Murphy told him to forget party politics and that Councillors are there to work for their community. Cllr. Looney extended his sympathy to Gerard Murphy's wife, family and the Fine Gael party.

Cllr. Michael Creed said he has known Gerard Murphy since the early 1980's. He said Gerard Murphy was one of the soundest men you could ever meet. Cllr. Creed said everyone took note when Gerard Murphy spoke in the Chamber and he spoke common sense. Cllr. Creed extended his deepest sympathy to Cllr. Murphy's wife and family.

Cllr. Eileen Lynch said Gerard Murphy was an outstanding politician. She said he was always very helpful to her and could always provide alternative options. Cllr. Lynch said Gerard Murphy had a certain way in the Chamber and could get things done without people realising it. She said he was a rogue, tremendous fun to be around and very witty.

The Chief Executive said it was a real privilege to be in Newmarket. Ms. O' Sullivan said every now and then you encounter a special Elected Member who understands what you are trying to do and when they speak, you listen. She said Cllr. Gerard Murphy was exactly that. She said if you got validation from Cllr. Murphy, you felt it. She said he was not afraid of applying common sense for the common good. Ms. O'Sullivan said his common sense approach, sage advice and wise interventions will be missed. She said Cllr. Murphy was intelligent, astute, pragmatic and above all a real gentleman. She said he is a real loss to Cork County Council. The Chief Executive extended her sympathies to Cllr. Murphy's family, the Mayor and the Elected Members.

Mayor Frank O' Flynn concluded the meeting by thanking staff and the Elected Members who attended to honour Cllr. Gerard Murphy.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~