

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF  
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD BURGESS GAA CLUB AT  
11.00 A.M. on TUESDAY JUNE 30TH, 2026.**

**Present**

Cllr. John Carroll, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Acheson, T; Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bonfield, F; Bourke, K; Brennan, Ml; Bugler, P; Cahill-Skehan, K; Crosse, J; Dennehy, N; English P; FitzGerald, J; Fitzgerald, M; Goldsboro, A; Kennedy, R; Kennedy, Wm; Lowry, M; McGrath, M; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morgan Walsh, L; Murphy, M; O'Heney, J, O'Meara, J.P.; Quirke O'Meara, P; Ryan, A.M.; Ryan. P; Ryan, S; Smith, Ml.

**Also Present**

Mr. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, Mr. Liam Brett, Mr. Brian Beck, Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Mr. Mark Connolly, Mr. Damien Ginty Directors of Services.

Mr. Denis Holland S.E., Ms. Anne Marie Devaney Senior Planner

Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

**Item No. 1.1**  
**Welcome**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Carroll welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of Tipperary County Council and to Burgess GAA Club and thanked the Committee sincerely for allowing the facility to be used for the meeting and for the warm welcome extended.

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

The Cathaoirleach noted the retirements of Ms. Evelyn Harty Corporate Services, Nenagh and Mr. John Walsh, Caretaker Clonmel Civic Offices and a small presentation was made to them in recognition of their service.

Cllr. John Carroll, in his final address as Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, expressed his sincere gratitude to Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald, the elected members, Chief Executive, Council Management and staff for their support and cooperation throughout his term. He reflected on the honour of serving as First Citizen of Tipperary and highlighted the importance of fairness, respect and strong local democracy. He also acknowledged the outstanding contribution made by communities, volunteers, sporting organisations and local groups across the county. The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to Tipperary's Senior and under 20 hurling champions noting the pride and unity these achievements brought to the county. He acknowledged the dedication of clubs, schools, coaches, families and volunteers whose commitment continues to sustain Gaelic Games throughout Tipperary.

Cllr. Carroll outlined the successful Council delegation visit to Maryland, which strengthened links established through the Tipperary-Maryland Friendship Agreement. The visit included engagements with political, business, educational and agricultural representatives and explored opportunities in trade, research, education and the equine sector. He noted that the visit had already resulted in valuable business and educational connections and had the potential to deliver long-term benefits for the county.

The Cathaoirleach also highlighted several key challenges facing Tipperary, including the continued underfunding of regional and local roads, the need for housing and wastewater infrastructure in smaller settlements, declining water quality, and ongoing pressures on the agricultural sector. He emphasised the importance of supporting rural communities, protecting natural resources and ensuring the long-term sustainability of farming in the county.

In relation to climate action and renewable energy, he welcomed progress made in the county but stressed the need for balanced development, adequate infrastructure and meaningful community engagement. He also expressed concern regarding proposals for water abstraction from the River Shannon and called for the protection of this important environmental, economic and tourism resource. Furthermore, he advocated for stronger local government powers and resources to enable councils to effectively meet the needs of their communities.

Concluding his address, Cllr. Carroll expressed confidence in Tipperary's future, citing the county's resilience, strong community spirit and dedicated public representatives and staff. He thanked members for the honour of serving as Cathaoirleach, wished his successor every success in the role and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the work of Tipperary County Council in the future.

The Party Whips present at the meeting and Cllr. Michael Lowry on behalf of the Independent Group and members paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach on his successful term of office.

Members expressed their appreciation to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Carroll, for his dedicated service during the past year. They commended him for the manner in which he carried out his duties, noting his fairness, professionalism and commitment to representing the county. Members also highlighted his approachable nature and his ability to engage positively with councillors, staff and communities across Tipperary, wishing him every success in the future.

Ms Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, acknowledged the honour and privilege of serving as First Citizen of the County and recognised the significant commitment and hard work required of the role. She paid tribute to Cllr. John Carroll the way he carried out his duties as Cathaoirleach, noting that he had undertaken the role with professionalism, dedication and great pride. Ms Carr thanked him for his service to the Council and the people of Tipperary throughout the year and stated that he should be very proud of all that he had achieved during his term of office.

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

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

It was proposed by **Cllr. Louise Morgan Walsh**, seconded by **Cllr. Michael Brennan**, and agreed,

***"That Cllr. Fiona Bonfield be elected Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council for the year 2026-2027".***

In proposing her Labour Party colleague, Cllr. Morgan Walsh stated that it was a proud day for the Labour Party and a significant occasion for Tipperary County Council. She paid tribute to Cllr. Fiona Bonfield's late father, acknowledging the role he had played in supporting and encouraging her

throughout her political career. Cllr. Walsh noted that Alan Kelly TD was unable to attend the meeting but would very much have liked to have been present for the occasion. She congratulated Cllr. Bonfield on her election as Cathaoirleach and said she looked forward to working closely with her during the year ahead.

As there were no further nominations Cllr. Bonfield was deemed elected.

### **Address of Incoming Cathaoirleach**

In her inaugural address following her election as Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, Cllr. Fiona Bonfield expressed her gratitude to her fellow councillors for the trust and confidence they had placed in her. She described her appointment as a great honour and a historic milestone, noting that she was proud to serve as a Labour Party Cathaoirleach and to represent all communities across the county. She emphasised her commitment to inclusivity, equality and community engagement, acknowledging the importance of ensuring that local government reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of the people it serves. She also paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Carroll, thanking him for his dedication and service throughout his term of office.

Cllr. Bonfield outlined her vision and priorities for the year ahead, identifying affordable housing, tackling vacancy and dereliction, and fostering more connected and thriving communities as the key areas she wished to champion during her term. She highlighted the ongoing housing challenges facing families and individuals across the county and stressed the importance of increasing the supply of affordable homes, maximising available funding opportunities and strengthening collaboration between local authorities, housing bodies and community organisations. She stated that young people and families should have the opportunity to live and prosper in their own communities and committed to advocating for practical housing solutions throughout the county.

The Cathaoirleach also emphasised the need to address vacancy and dereliction in towns and villages across Tipperary. She noted that many properties remain vacant while housing demand continues to increase and businesses seek opportunities to grow. She called for continued support for initiatives that bring vacant and derelict buildings back into productive use, revitalise town centres, preserve local heritage and encourage investment and economic activity. She described the regeneration of such properties as an important means of strengthening communities and restoring confidence in local areas.

Addressing community development, Cllr. Bonfield said that strong and resilient communities are built through investment, partnership and participation. She highlighted the importance of supporting community groups, improving infrastructure, investing in recreational and cultural amenities and ensuring that both rural and urban communities have opportunities to grow and prosper. She stated that connectivity extends beyond physical infrastructure and includes ensuring that older people are supported, young people are provided with opportunities to succeed and that all citizens feel valued, included and connected within their communities.

Cllr. Bonfield also outlined her commitment to sustainable development and balanced economic growth. She spoke positively about Tipperary's many strengths, including its strong agricultural sector, thriving business community, rich heritage, cultural assets and outstanding natural environment. She highlighted the county's tourism potential, referencing landmarks such as the

Rock of Cashel, Cahir Castle and Holycross Abbey, together with the natural beauty of the Galtee Mountains, Glen of Aherlow, Lough Derg and the River Suir. She stressed the importance of protecting these assets while encouraging innovation, enterprise, investment and employment opportunities for future generations.

Throughout her address, the Cathaoirleach emphasised the importance of collaboration and partnership between elected members, Council staff, community organisations, businesses and the public. She acknowledged the professionalism and commitment of Council staff in delivering services across the county and expressed her desire to work constructively with all members of the Council to achieve shared goals. She called on elected representatives to work together, irrespective of political affiliation, in the interests of the people of Tipperary and expressed confidence that, through cooperation and shared ambition, the county could continue to develop and prosper.

In concluding her address, Cllr. Bonfield thanked her family, friends, supporters and colleagues for their encouragement throughout her political career and paid a heartfelt tribute to her late father and family members who had supported her journey in public life. She expressed pride in representing the Newport area and reaffirmed her optimism for the future of Tipperary. She concluded by calling on all members to be ambitious for the county, to focus on delivering tangible results for communities and to work together to deliver affordable housing, regenerate towns and villages and build stronger, more connected communities for all.

The Party Whips present, Independent Representative Cllr. Michael Lowry, and members of the Council congratulated Cllr. Fiona Bonfield on her election as Cathaoirleach. In their contributions, members acknowledged her extensive experience in local government, her dedication to public service, and her reputation for honesty, integrity and hard work. They expressed confidence in her ability to lead the Council during the coming year and assured her of their full support and cooperation in carrying out the duties of Cathaoirleach. Members wished her every success in the role and looked forward to working with her in advancing the interests of the county and its communities.

Ms Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, also extended her congratulations to Cllr. Bonfield, describing the occasion as a proud day for her family, her parish and the wider county. She acknowledged Cllr. Bonfield's longstanding commitment to public service and commended her honesty, integrity and leadership qualities. The Chief Executive noted that the priorities outlined by the incoming Cathaoirleach closely reflected the strategic objectives and priorities of the Council and expressed her commitment to working closely with her over the coming year. She wished Cllr. Bonfield well in her term of office and looked forward to a productive partnership in delivering positive outcomes for the people of Tipperary.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fiona Bonfield sought nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach.

### **Election of Leas Chathaoirleach**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Kieran Bourke** and seconded by **Cllr. Séan Ryan** and agreed,

***"That Cllr. Michéal Anglim be elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council for the term 2026/2027."***

As there were no further nominations Cllr. Anglim was deemed elected.

Cllr. Anglim, on his election as Leas-Chathaoirleach, thanked his proposer and seconder for nominating him and expressed his appreciation to the members of the Council for placing their trust and confidence in him. He stated that it was a great honour and privilege to be elected by his fellow councillors and to serve in the role of Leas-Chathaoirleach. Cllr. Anglim also congratulated Cllr. Fiona Bonfield on her election as Cathaoirleach and pledged his full support and cooperation to her during the coming term, expressing his commitment to working constructively with all members in the interests of the county.

The Party Whips present, Independent Representative Cllr. Michael Lowry, and members of the Council joined in congratulating Cllr. Anglim on his election. They acknowledged his considerable experience as an elected representative and commended his dedication to public service.

Members also paid tribute to his integrity, professionalism and fair and balanced approach in carrying out his duties as a councillor. They expressed confidence in his ability to fulfil the role of Leas-Chathaoirleach and wished him every success during the year ahead.

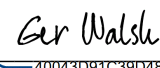
Ms Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, also congratulated Cllr. Anglim on his election as Leas-Chathaoirleach. She wished him well in his new role and expressed her commitment to working with him and the Cathaoirleach over the coming year in supporting the work of the Council and delivering for the people and communities of Tipperary.

## **Conclusion**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed/ Signed by:  
  
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 Cathaoirleach.

Date 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Signed/ DocuSigned by:  
  
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 Meetings Administrator

Date 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026