

# Southern Regional Assembly

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Presiding:** Cllr. Jason Murphy, Cathaoirleach.

**Present:** Cllr. R. Beasley, Cllr. Joe Bourke, Cllr. P. Breen, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. J. Carroll, Cllr. Henry Cremin, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Damien Geoghegan, Cllr. N. Gleeson, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. T. McEllistrim, Cllr. P. McMahon, Cllr. Pat Millea, Cllr. Gearóid Murphy, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. J. Murphy, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. D. O'Brien, Cllr. Larry O'Brien, Cllr. M. Ryan, Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. M. Shields, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. O. Walsh.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Kevin Conway, Cllr. Denis Foley.

**Officials Present:** Mr. David Kelly, A/Director; Mr. Kevin Lynch, Senior Planner & Assistant Director; Mr. Dominic Walsh, RPO; Ms. Siobhán Rudden, A/Programme Executive; Ms. Sharon Murray, Programme Executive; Ms. Róisín Kiely, A.S.O.; Ms. Marie Harnett, Senior FLC; Ms. Samantha Richardson, Development Officer.

### 1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Cllr. Mattie Ryan** and seconded by **Cllr. Pip Breen**.

### Election of New Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Jason Murphy was elected Cathaoirleach for the remaining term to July 2019, on the nomination of Cllr. Pat Millea and seconded by Cllr. Damien Geoghegan.

### Election of New Leas Cathaoirleach:

Cllr. Oliver Walsh was proposed by Cllr. Damien Geoghegan and seconded by Cllr. John Sheahan and duly elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach for the remaining term to July 2019.

### 2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Jason Murphy, presiding, recorded his congratulations to Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald for a successful term as Cathaoirleach, this was echoed by Cllr. Henry Cremin. Cllr. Michael Murphy queried whether the Meeting Minutes could be updated on the SRA website to which Ms. Sharon Murray, Programme Executive agreed.

The members of the Assembly observed a one minute silence as a mark of respect in memory of previous Assembly Member Cllr. Jack Walsh, WCCC, and Cllr. Gearóid Murphy's father, both of whom recently passed away.

### 3. Presentation on "IFA Climate Mitigation Measures"

**Mr. Thomas Ryan of The IFA Environment Committee;** gave a detailed presentation of the key aspects of IFA Mitigation Measures, copies of the presentation were circulated to all attendees.

**Cllr. Pip Breen** expressed his thanks to Mr. Ryan for his detailed presentation and commented that Ireland had the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest carbon emissions for beef and agriculture. He stated that he felt large factory units were in fact responsible for most emissions and not farmers and he felt there should be more incentives for solar energy on farms, for use in transportation i.e. farm vehicles and machinery.

[Faint, illegible text covering the majority of the page]



**Cllr. Michael Murphy** noted that digital technologies are far underutilised in farming, particularly in precision farming e.g. real time monitoring of livestock movement.

Mr. Ryan replied that Tipperary Energy Agency along with Tipperary Co. Council had lodged an application under the Climate Action Fund but were disappointed not to be successful. He commented that the two biggest barriers to the application were the issues of farm data ownership and cost.

**Cllr. Kieran McCarthy** welcomed the presentation stating that that The European Committee of Regions are very interested in this area. He also noted CAP reform beyond 2020 contained a proposed cut of 28% in the Common Agricultural Policy and he felt it would be beneficial for Mr. Ryan or an IFA colleague to go to the Irish regions office in Brussels to give a similar presentation.

**Mr. Ryan** stated that he would welcome any such meeting with CoR in Brussels. He noted that even a 5% cut is the equivalent of taking €100 million out of the rural economy. He expressed the view that when farmers have money it's usually invested back into the rural economy which is a low-income sector. 80% of the measures in the Rural Development Programme are climate focused which demonstrates Ireland showing real leadership here.

**Cllr. John Sheahan** commented that there was a lot of misinformation in the public domain at the moment and that he was concerned about the current continuing trend in Pillar 1 & 2 of CAP.

**Mr. Kevin Kiersey, Waterford IFA Representative** stated that we are all in this together, all sections of the community need to work together on climate change. He remarked that a bad outcome in CAP is bad for everyone, not just farmers. He explained that farmers are in fact very interested in renewables and would welcome the opportunity to produce electricity which could then be sold back to the grid.

#### 4. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Southern Regional Assembly was agreed to be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2019.

#### 5. Any other business

**Mr. Kevin Lynch**, Senior Planner; gave an update on the RSES process, confirming that the RSES Public Consultation Process was running until the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2019. He also noted that a number of public information events were scheduled over the next few weeks, as follow;

Three Public Information Sessions scheduled in Cork, Limerick and Waterford, during the week beginning February 11<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the PPN Network will be invited, along with councillors and other stakeholders. He also confirmed that a briefing was organised with AILG and to the IPI.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cllr. Jason Murphy**  
**Cathaoirleach**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/2/2019

