



Finte na hÉireann – Clans of Ireland

11 July 2020

Annual General Meeting Held online on Zoom

Cathaoirleach: Nora Keohane Hickey

Runaí na Cuideachta: Cathaoir Ó Tighearnaigh

Rúnaí na Miontuairiscí: Cathaoir Ó Tighearnaigh

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 2.00 p. m. Irish time and was called to order by An Cathaoirleach, Nora Keohane Hickey, who welcomed all to our first online meeting.

Present: Rúnaí na Cuideachta confirmed that a quorum was present to enable the AGM to proceed. Those who were present at the Meeting are noted in the attached list. [**Appendix 1**]

Apologies: - Apologies were received from our Patron President Michael D. Higgins by email who regretted that he could not attend due to prior commitments but sent his good wishes. His letter was read out by An Rúnaí. The following also; Brendan Lynch; Clann McKenna; Sorcha Ní Dhomhnaill and The O'Donnell Clan; Michael Egan; Sir Conor O'Brien.

1 The Minutes of the 2019 AGM:

The Minutes had been circulated prior to the AGM and at the request of the Rúnaí it was agreed to accept them as read. They were proposed by Paul Brosnan and seconded by Anthony McShane.

2 Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

3 Cathaoirleachs' Reports: This year there were two Cathaoirleachs' Reports, one from Dr Joe Mannion who retired as Cathaoirleach in January 2020 and the second from Nora Keohane Hickey who took over from January. Both Cathaoirleachs' reports in full are attached in full [**see Appendix 2**].

NKH mentioned that An Rúnaí had in his possession the ceremonial sword and the Clans of Ireland Pop-ups and these were available to Clans holding Gatherings in Ireland. She also congratulated the 2019 and 2020 winners of the Clans and Chiefs Essay Prize and gave a brief outline of the competition for members who may not be aware of the competition. NKH thanked Dr Katharine Simms for her tremendous input into the competition.

4 Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Auditors: Copies of the financial report were distributed by the Treasurer, Orlaith Tierney, to all prior to the meeting. In presenting the financial report she gave a detailed breakdown of main details of the income and expenditure. She in particular mentioned the fact that by shopping around we were able to obtain a big reduction on our insurance costs.

Orlaith proposed acceptance of the financial statements and the retaining of Lynch Fitzgerald as our Accountants for next year. This was seconded by Seán McGrath.

Cathaoirleach mentioned that Clans may experience some difficulties with insurance in the coming year[s]

and that in case of difficulties they should make contact with COI to see if we can offer any assistance.

5 Company Secretary’s Report:

Cathaoir Ó Tighearnaigh had circulated his report in advance of the meeting and so it was taken as read. (See **Appendix 3** for full report.)

Cathaoir advised that the Company had fulfilled all its legal obligations during the past year. These included the filing of annual reports to the Companies Registration Office and reporting to The Charities Regulator. During the year revisions were made to our Governance documents and these are under constant scrutiny by the Rúnaí. Copies of relevant documents are posted on our website under the Governance tag.

There were no matters arising from the report which was proposed by Paul Brosnan and seconded by Michael Dixon.

6 Election of Board Members:

Prior to the election the Cathaoirleach asked the Rúnaí to call out the names of all the Clans present. This list is at Appendix 1 at the end of the Minutes.

Rúnaí then advised that in accordance with the provisions of our Constitution four members of the Board had to resign. These were Paul Brosnan, Sorcha Ní Dhomhnaill, Nora Keohane Hickey and Dr. Michael Egan. Seán McGrath, who was co-opted on to the Board during 2020 and accordingly was required to go forward for election. Paul and Sorcha were unable to go forward for re-election due to work and family commitments. The three remaining directors offered themselves for re-election and also Daniel Carmody. As there were no further candidates and as the number was not in excess of that allowed by the Constitution they were deemed elected. The New Board was approved by Bill Keohane and seconded by Patrick Curtin.

7 AOB:

Vincent Carroll was invited to speak on the project Friends and Benefactors of Clans of Ireland. He outlined briefly the project stating that he already had one Benefactor and a second person contemplating. The cost of a Benefactor is €500 and for this the person gets a Certificate, a hand written scroll, and the person will be enrolled on the COI Honour list on our website for a period of 10 years.

The Cathaoirleach expressed regret that we could not have the pleasure of Don Hugo, The O’Neill, Prince of Clanaboy with us this year. The prince had kindly agreed to attend and give a talk. It is hoped that he will be able to attend in person at our actual meeting when circumstances gain allow this.

Garry O’Sullivan stated that if Zoom were available for Board meetings we might have more nominations for Board membership, especially amongst members who would be unable to travel.

Cearóid Ó Ceallaigh mentioned that this had been experimented with in the past but was not very successful as Christchurch, where we hold our meetings, did not have very good WIFI reception. One Board member from Canada tried it unsuccessfully for a period.

Paul Brosnan stated that we may have a webcast of our AGM for future Meetings and this will open up our AGM to a much wider audience, especially to those who would wish to partake but who might not be able to travel.

The Rúnaí stated that we should endeavour to have both physical and virtual attendance.

As there was no further business the Cathaoirleach closed the meeting.

Minutes were proposed by	Seconded by
Minutes signed by	Dated

Appendix 2

CATHAOIRLEACH'S REPORTS to AGM, 11 July 2020

Report of Cathaoirleach Nora Keohane Hickey January 2020 to July 2020

This is the year of the two Chairs. As Vice-Chair, I took over in February 2020. Clans of Ireland owes much to Dr. Joe Mannion for his very valuable contribution during his years as Board Member and Cathaoirleach.

Governance:

You will appreciate from the Company Report of our Company Secretary, Cathaoir Ó Tighearnaigh that Clans of Ireland are in compliance with all matters of governance, according to the rules of the Company Act. I am sure that Cathaoir will be happy to address any queries during the meeting.

2020 Cultural Summit, AGM & Gala Dinner:

Particularly due to the hard work and dedication of Board Member Sorcha Ní Dhomhnaill all arrangements were in place early in March. For a period we were hopeful that this event should take place, but alas, it had to be cancelled. Our thanks are also due to Gearoid O Ceallaigh for hosting this annual event at the Stephen's Green & Hibernian Club. Holding an agm is a legal requirement, and therefore this virtual agm has been arranged for 11th July 2020.

Irish Chiefs' & Clans Prize for History:

2019: The planned presentation in April 2020 being cancelled, the Prize Cheque was posted to the 2019 winner, Daniel Curley. This essay, *Uilliam Buide Ua Cellaig and the late medieval renaissance of the Uí Maine lordship* was published in History Ireland, and will be included in the next issue of the best essays volume. Hopefully we will have the pleasure in meeting Daniel then at the launch.

2020: In this unusual year, the 2020 winner is already known. Four entries were received electronically by Dr. Katharine Simms. As mail received at the History Department of Trinity College is not yet available there may be further entries there. However, it was decided by the Board that those would be included in the 2021 entries.

The 2020 winner is Matthew McGinty, a final year PhD student, NUI Galway. His study was on *The Tánaiste and the Crown Prince Problem*. Hopefully we shall meet Mathew during 2021 on the presentation of his cheque. The winning essay has been sent to *History Ireland* by Dr. K. Simms for publication.

Clans of Ireland is very thankful to Dr. Katharine Simms for her learned participation during the past years in both the judging and the publications that resulted from their competition.

Co-option to the Board of Clans of Ireland:

Seán A. McGrath, Ceann Fine [Chieftain] of the Clan McGrath Society of Ulster, was co-opted to the Board of Clans of Ireland earlier this year. Seán will be standing for formal election to the Board at this agm.

Historical Site Project:

Due to the sudden and tragic death of Dan McGrath, there is nothing to report on this project. However, this will be developed by the members of the 2020-2021 Board of Clans of Ireland.

Board Member from the Council of Irish Chieftains:

For some years past one seat on the Board of Clans of Ireland is reserved for a nomination from the Standing Council of Irish Chiefs. It was initially held by The McGillicuddy of The Reeks. Since then Conor, The O'Brien, has served as a Board member. The O'Brien has always taken a great interest in Clans of Ireland and attended many of our agms. However, he is very seriously ill in hospital and we convey our good wishes to Conor and his family.

Facebook:

Gearoid Ó Ceallaigh and Seán A. McGrath are the administrators of the Clans of Ireland Facebook Page. There are many "hits" to this, and hopefully it will promote the Clans among a wider group.

Other News:

Our 2011 recipient of the Clans of Ireland Order of Merit, Riobárd O'Dwyer, died earlier this year on 22nd January. He was pre-deceased by Joan, his wife of many years, Joan. He was mourned by their four sons, their families and his many friends. Riobárd was the Beara, Co. Cork genealogist. He had privately published his findings, based both on parish registers and many chats with the residents of the area. Our Clan member, Gary Sullivan, later organised the online publication of the three volumes, the *Annals of Beara*. Riobárd was also a seven times All Ireland triple jump champion and Munster Senior Accordion Champion.

To Riobárd's family, and also those families of clan members bereaved in the past year, our sincere condolences. Joe's report has already mentioned the great loss of Board Member, Dan McGrath.

Resignation of Sorcha Ní Dhomhnaill and Paul Brosnan:

Regretfully, two Directors of Clans of Ireland are retiring this year. Sorcha Ní Dhomhnaill and Paul Brosnan are

leaving due to other commitments. We are sad to lose them and their very valuable contribution to the development of Clans of Ireland in the past years. Both will be greatly missed.

Finally:

Very Many Thanks to Board Member, Michael O’Crowley, for arranging this agm on Zoom, and also for hosting it. Clans of Ireland are very grateful, as without this facility it could not fulfill the legal obligations.

And, particularly, thanks to our Clan Members who support the work in every possible way.

Nora Keohane Hickey,

Cathaoirleach, Clans of Ireland

Report of retired Cathaoirleach Dr Joe Mannion

April 2019 to January 2020.

1. AGM, Cultural Summit & Gala Dinner 2019:

Last year’s Clans of Ireland AGM, Cultural Summit and Gala Dinner were hosted by the Board of Directors in The Stephen’s Green Hibernian Club, Dublin on Saturday 13 April 2019. While the planning and delivery of the various events was very much a team effort, I would like to pay special tribute to Director Sorcha Ní Dhomhnaill, who spared neither time nor effort to ensure that this coming together of Irish Clans and Historical Families was the complete and outright success that it turned out to be. Indeed, it is but fitting to report that the subsequent feedback was extremely positive, with the occasion being categorically described by one long-standing Clan leader as “The best organised and most enjoyable AGM, Conference and Dinner to date!”

2. The Irish Chiefs’ and Clans’ Prize for History 2019:

The Irish Chiefs’ and Clans Prize for History is a project that has grown significantly in prestige and popularity in recent years, as a result of a strategic campaign of publicity and promotion by Clans of Ireland. The number of entries to the competition has increased exponentially over the past four years, and it is envisaged that a third anthology of essays on Gaelic Ireland will be published next year. The winner of the 2019 leg of the competition was Daniel Curley, a postgraduate student at NUI Galway, who submitted an essay entitled, Uilliam Buide Ua Cellaig and the late medieval renaissance of the Uí Maine lordship.

3. McGrath of Thomond Clan Gathering 2019:

At the invitation of the late Dan McGrath, then fellow Director of Clans of Ireland and Chairman of the McGrath of Thomond Clan Association, I attended the highly successful International McGrath Clan Gathering in Dungarvan on Sunday 30 June 2019. After the Gala Dinner, I was invited to address the global gathering of guests in my capacity as Chairman of Clans of Ireland, and with fellow Board member Conor, The O’Brien, I participated in the presentation of the Medal of Echthighern awards to members of the McGrath Clan, who had distinguished themselves and brought honour to their Clan during the course of their lives.

4. Letter to the Board of Christ Church Cathedral:

At the beginning of July 2019, a letter outlining the significance of Christ Church Cathedral to our Clans of Ireland organisation was drafted and forwarded to Dean Dermot Dunne, with a view to having it presented to the Cathedral Board for the purpose of sanctioning the continued use of the Chapter Room for our periodic Board meetings. I’m delighted to report that the Cathedral Board looked favourably on our request, and passed a resolution granting permission to Clans of Ireland to use the facilities of the cathedral for the purposes of its Board meetings until further notice.

5. Passing of Director Dan McGrath:

As all of you already know, just a few days before Christmas 2019, our friend and colleague on the Board of Directors of Clans of Ireland, Dan McGrath, Ceann Fine of the McGrath Clan of Thomond, sadly passed away. Dan had a tremendous interest in Irish history, heritage and culture, and his enthusiasm for his beloved McGrath Clan and the work of Clans of Ireland had no equal. In my capacity as Chairman of Clans of Ireland, I was among the Board members who attended Requiem Mass for Dan in Dungarvan on St Stephen’s Day, when we conveyed our heart-felt condolences to his partner Lijana, his daughter Olivia, and his extended family. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal! May our dear departed friend Dan rest in eternal peace!

6. Resignation from the Board of Directors:

On Wednesday 22 January 2020, I conveyed in writing to the Company Secretary my decision to resign from the Board of Directors of Clans of Ireland for personal reasons. It was indeed a pleasure to have been a member of the Board since 2016, and to have served as its Chairperson from 2018 to 2020. I look back with satisfaction on the five-fold increase in the number of entries for the Chiefs' and Clans' essay competition during my four-year tenure as promoter of the project, and to the successful publication of the second volume in the Gaelic Ireland anthology series, under the joint editorship of Dr Katharine Simms and myself.

I wish Clans of Ireland continued success in the future, and anticipate that advances of the magnitude that I have witnessed and contributed to during my term as Company Director will be repeated on many occasions in the years ahead.

Mise le meas,

Dr Joe Mannion

Chairman and Historian

The Mannion Clan Association Retired Chairman of Clans of Ireland

Appendix 3

Report of Company Secretary to the Annual General Meeting of Clans of Ireland Limited 11th July 2020

A Thaoisí, áionna honóracha, muintir na finte, a Cháirde 'sé mo thasc arís an bliain seo léirú libh chonas a d'éirig leis an chomhlacht it rith an bliain atá caithe maidir leis na rialacha dlíthe an Oifig un Chlárú Cuideachtaí.

Chiefs, Chieftains, Delegates, honoured guests and fellow Clans' members; it is my duty to appraise you on the compliance of the Company over the past year with its legal obligations as laid down by The Companies Office and as specified in its own regulations.

The 2018 accounts of the Company were fully audited and were certified, signed and, along with all the required documentation, lodged with The Companies Office in proper time. The accounts for the year ending December 2019 are likewise completed and require to be approved by you and so are now ready for lodging before our due lodging date the 30th October of each year.

The Company Registrar maintains the Register of Members and this is complete and up to date as required. A full list of all paid-up members also appears on our web site. The Register of Directors is also maintained and updated with the Companies Office as required.

All correspondence is properly dealt with by our Correspondence Committee and copies of all communications are held in file by them.

The meetings of the Company are recorded as required and the minutes and agendas of all meetings are maintained with copies being held by myself, as Company Secretary.

So, as far as I am aware the Company is fully compliant with all the requirements of the Companies Act and the regulations as laid down by the Companies Office and the Charities Regulatory Authority, The Revenue Commissioners and The Governance Code Working Group.

Sin a mhéad atá agam ach mar bfuil ceist ag éinne bheidh áthas orm é a fhreagairt.

Cathaoir Ó Tighearnaigh, CIOM.,

Rúnaí na Cuideachta

Appendix 1

Delegates to the 2020 Clans of Ireland AGM

Name of Clan	Delegate
Boylan	Steven V Boylan
Boylan	Peter Boylan
Brosnan	Paul Brosnan
Curtin	Patrick Curtin
Dixon	Michael Dixon
Fitzpatrick of Ulster	Dr Mike Fitzpatrick
Farrell of Annaly	John Farrell
Hackett of Leinster	Liam Hackett
Joyce	Laurie Joyce
Joyce	Kurt Alexander
Keohane of West Cork	William E Keohane
Keohane of West Cork	Joe McDermott
Board Cathaoirleach	Nora Keohane Hickey
Lawlor	Pat Lalor
Lawlor	Mary Carmody
Lynch	Brendan Lynch
Mannion	Dr Joe Mannion
McGrath of Ulster	Seán A McGrath
Clan McShane	Jameson Johnson
Nolan	Christopher Nolan
Nolan	Madeline Nolan Slater
O'Carroll of Oriel	Dr Vincent O'Carroll
O'Carroll of Oriel	Alexandra Carroll
Ó Colmáin	Eoin Baiste Ó Colmáin
O'Crowley	Michael O'Crowley
O'Donovan	Sherry Donovan
O'Donovan	Peter Spencer
O'Dowd	Colum O'Dowd
O'Dowd	Kieran O'Dowd
O'Flanagan	Granuaile O'Flanagan
O'Flanagan	Charles Flanagan
O'Flannagain Uachtar Tíre	Antaine O'Flannagain
O'Flannagain Uachtar Tíre	Joy Flanagan
O'Gara	Maura O'Gara-O'Riordan
O'Kelly	Gearoid O Ceallaigh
O'Lafferty of Tyrone	Jamie Lafferty Richey
O'Mahony Society	Linda McConnell Baker
O'Mahony Society	Jean McConnell Dinwiddie
O'Mulpatrick of Breifne	Matthew Fitzpatrick
O'Neill Assoc	Sean O'Neill
O'Sullivan of Munster	Gary O'Sullivan
O'Sullivan of Munster	Julie O'Sullivan
O'Tierney Clans Assoc	Cathaoir Ó Tighearnaigh
O'Tierney Clans Assoc	Orlaith Tierney
Poole Family	Darren Poole
Katharine Simms	Katharine Simms
Diarmuid Ó Mathuna	Diarmuid Ó Mathuna