



Cumann Pheadair Naofa

St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint



Minutes of 2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday 27th October 2020

ATTENDANCE

Larry Byrne (Cathaoirleach), Anne McCormack, Feargal McCormack, Hugh Carr, Donal McCormack, Helen Carvill, Colette Lock, Shane Lavery, Aisling McGivern, Paul McKibben, Eoin Magennis, Gerry Gray, Kieran Grant, Shane Carr, Micheal Moore, Hubert Shannon, John Daly, Sorcha Carty, Katrina Kernan, Mike Barnett, Thomas Daly, Brigid Carr, James Heaney, Christy Carr, Sean O'Hare, Colm Rice, Noreen Kelly, Sean Doherty, Paul Carty, Steven Robertson, Stephen Robinson, Brendan Rice, Liam Howlett, Carmel McGrath, Gerry O'Neill, Sean Mallon, Kelly Mallon, Conor D'Arcy, Ronan Magee

County Seretary Sean Og McAteer, County Treasurer, Diarmuid Cahill were in attendance to observe proceedings of the virtual webinar as St. Peters GAA Club were the first Club to host the AGM via webinar. The webinar was hosted by Caroline Preston, PKF-FPM and at the outset, Chairman Larry Byrne expressed appreciation to PKFFPM for hosting the webinar.

APOLOGIES

None.

A minute's silence was observed for all Club members, relatives and friends who passed away since the last AGM. May they rest in peace.

The minutes of the AGM 2019 were proposed by Feargal McCormack and seconded by Shane Lavery. Standing orders were proposed for adoption by Donal McCormack and seconded by Gerry Gray. The Club Constitution 2B was adopted and proposed by Feargal McCormack and seconded by Aisling McGivern.

Before commencing the meeting, webinar host Caroline Preston (Business Development Manager, PKF-FPM Accountants) explained the process of the running of the AGM via the webinar. To encourage the Club members to enter into the spirit of the innovative virtual webinar AGM, two polls were sought to commence the meeting:

1. Who will win the Down Football Championship in 2021 with a choice of Cumann Pheadair Naofa, Ballyholland, Kilcoo and Burren. Warrenpoint received the most endorsements followed by Kilcoo, Burren and Ballyholland.
2. Will the Down 2020 Junior Championship be played this season and the response was 84% in agreement that it would be played.

TURASCÁIL AN RUNAÍ SECRETARY'S REPORT

Copies of the Secretary's Report along with the copies from the Sub Sections reports were posted on the Club website ten days in advance of the AGM. Webinar Co-Ordinator Caroline Preston shared the screen with attendees and shared the Secretary's Report on the screen for all attendees to view. Club Secretary, Anne McCormack outlined the key factors in this year's Secretary's Report and invited comments from those in attendance. At the outset, the Secretary highlighted the unprecedented year which we were all experiencing as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic and the significant impact the pandemic has had on our community and the GAA activities in the



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Club. It was noted that from the end of year reports prepared by each sub section that it was evident that the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of Club life from games to administration, to Club events, Social Club, Cultural activities and the Healthy Club Project. The Secretary commented how remarkable it was that each of the challenges we faced were overcome with diligence, hard work, meticulous planning and each challenge was managed with good humour, strong leadership across the Club and adherence to the Covid-19 guidelines issued by the Northern Ireland Executive and the GAA Covid-19 guidelines. Whilst this was a very short season for all of our members across all sections, the Secretary commented on the exceptional work and commitment by the Covid-19 Supervisors led by the Covid Co-Ordinator Paul McKibben to ensure that our Club was kept safe and welcoming for all of our Club members. These challenges were met with tremendous efficiency and thankfully our members enjoyed Gaelic Games safely, albeit for a very short season.

It was noted that this year we continue to have the highest membership ever recorded with 870 members of which 412 of these are youth members. Special thanks was expressed to Club Registrar Hugh Carr who steps down from this role after 18 years of dedicated service and also to his Assistant Registrar Colm Rice. He noted over the years since he had been Registrar that the role has changed significantly regarding more compliance and greater use of IT.

Special appreciation was extended to the Club Covid-19 Response Team comprising of Colette Lock, Aisling McGivern, Daniel Bird, Gerry O'Neill, Paul McKibben, Hugh Carr and Brendan Rice who co-ordinated a range of assistance from grocery collection to dog walking for members of our community who were vulnerable, self-isolating or who were elderly and were unable to attend the shops.

FOOTBALL

With regards to the football season, it was noted that the Club had plenty of drama in the Down Senior Football Championship 2020. A convincing win against our near neighbours Burren for the first time in the Down Senior Football Championship for 44 years was acknowledged by Gerry Gray, followed by a one point victory over Kilcoo and a dramatic game against Clonduff and both teams could only be separated by a kick of the ball in penalties. It was noted that this was the first time a Down Senior Football Championship game was decided by penalties. The reserve team were congratulated on winning the Felix Darby Premier Reserve League against Castlewellan. It was noted that this augers well for Senior Football in the coming years with a large number and cohort of footballers coming through.

The Football Committee were thanked for their commitment to continue to develop underage football.

HURLING

With regards to hurling, it was noted that it was very unfortunate that the Down Junior Championship did not take place. However, there is an expectation and a hope that this may be played in January 2021. It was noted that the hurling section had made significant progress in terms of coaching and games development with the launch of the Pathways to Success programme launched in November 2019. Similarly, the football section launched a very ambitious and detailed Skills Development Plan and both these initiatives were commended by those in attendance at the AGM. It was also noted that numbers at hurling level from U-17 up are healthy with the Club being in a position to field both a Senior team and a Reserve team for the first time in the Clubs history. Hurling Section Chairperson, Colette Lock acknowledged that hurling had grown significantly in the Club and noted that the Secretary encouraged the Club to continue to facilitate the dual players



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particularly through Club Co-ordinated training sessions and lobbying with the County Board where necessary to ensure that the dual player can have equal access to hurling and football.

LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Similarly, with Ladies Gaelic Football, we have seen an increase in numbers with 145 players registered. It was noted that numbers are particularly healthy at Underage level and this year the Senior Ladies were able to field with a significant number of new players this season. This augers well for the continuity of Ladies Gaelic Football within Cumann Pheadair Naofa with the commitment, enthusiasm and cohesion throughout the various age groups and look forward to having a Minor Team in the 2021 season.

CAMOGIE

With regard to camogie, Hugh Carr commented that it was great to see camogie running well in Warrenpoint and it is of particular note that there were 84 camogs registered in the 2020 season. It was also noted the camogie section had embraced Club governance and the development of camogie within Warrenpoint. Camogie Chairperson Helen Carvill expressed appreciation to the Hurling section for their assistance.

HANDBALL

Handball was greatly restricted within the Club this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that our young people could not use indoor facilities at St. Mark's.

The Secretary noted that the common theme running throughout all the sub section reports was the enthusiasm, commitment, co-operation and development of skills and despite the disruption caused by Covid-19 the reports suggested a resilience and good humour in the manner in which our games were delivered during a very challenging season.

Appreciation was expressed to our Club Referees and indeed Club Umpires who assist with games.

With regard to community activities, it was noted that Operation Transformation continued to be a hugely successful activity in the Club. Yet again, most Club activities fell victim of the Covid-19 pandemic. Tribute should be paid to the Scór Sinsear participants in winning three county titles notably in Ceili Dancing, Set Dancing and Instrumental Music. Similarly, Covid-19 had a severe impact on the Club band. With regards to schools, the Club Secretary acknowledged the importance of schools in the development of Gaelic Games in Warrenpoint. It was noted however the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic meant the coaching in St. Dallan's ceased in early March.

OUR VISION PROJECT

With regard to the Our Vision project, Feargal McCormack was congratulated on his leadership and his ongoing work with the Our Vision project, assisted by the Our Vision Project Planning Sub Group of Gerry Gray and Hugh Carr. Feargal noted that the Club submitted its full planning application to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Planning Department on 20th March 2020 for the proposed extension to its Club grounds located at Moygannon. The proposed development comprises of a new pitch, ball stops and dug outs, walking track, improvements to existing car park boundary fencing, two story pavilion incorporating changing rooms, toilets and meeting rooms, improvement to existing entrance and visibility splays from Rostrevor Road and alterations and refurbishment of existing changing rooms.



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Due to Covid-19 restrictions Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Planning Department did not validate the planning application until 22 April 2020. With the help of a professional advisory team on Friday 20th September 2020, the Club submitted a detailed response to queries raised by Planning Officers and also the various statutory consultees. Appreciation was expressed to Shane Carr for his assistance in this area. The Club is very hopeful that full planning permission for the proposed exciting Our Vision Project development will be secured before Christmas and building works to commence in 2021. Appreciation was expressed to the Our Vision Patrons for their continued strong financial support in very challenging economic times due to Covid-19.

Club Development Officer Feargal McCormack noted the Five-Year Development Plan commenced in 2017 and will be due for renewal next year. Club Development Officer, Feargal McCormack steps down after five years in the role as Development Officer and Feargal was thanked for his ongoing, visionary, strategic work on behalf of the Club.

Club Governance continues to function well within the Club. Good attendances were recorded at Club Officer training organised by Ulster GAA Council and Down GAA. In relation to safeguarding, there has been excellent attendance at the Child Protection courses with a total of 55 coaches and volunteers undertaking training throughout this year and in addition, 57 Access NI checks were approved this season which is a combination of new volunteers and renewals.

Appreciation was expressed to Club PRO Aisling McGivern and to the PRO's of the various sections for their excellent work in communicating the Club's message.

Also noteworthy is the increase in Club merchandise and Paul McKibben was congratulated on his work in ensuring that the Club merchandise system works efficiently and effectively.

In concluding the Secretary's Report, Club Secretary Anne McCormack expressed gratitude to the Senior Committee and Club Officers from across all sections for the support and guidance they had given to her over her five years as Club Secretary. Anne wished the incoming Secretary Daniel Bird every success for the coming year.

The Secretary's Report was proposed by Aisling McGivern and seconded by Daniel Bird. Sub sections reports were proposed by Feargal McCormack and seconded by Donal McCormack.

TUARASCAIL AN CHISTEOIRA (TREASURER'S REPORT)

Club Treasurer Donal McCormack presented the Cumann Pheadair Naofa financial statements for the period ending 30 September 2020. The financial statements and commentary on the Cumann Pheadair Naofa accounts were shared on the webinar screen.

In summary, the income and expenditure account noted that the total income for the year was £202,464 (inclusive of bar sales and rental income) and that excess income over expenditure was £12,519. With regard to the commentary, Donal noted that despite the activity being halted in March, we still had much to do financially this year and fortunately major income resources were not affected substantially apart from bar sales. It should also be acknowledged that our major sources of income being the Club Down Draw and membership were secured in advance of the pandemic. However, Donal cautioned that we are still in the midst of a crisis and we must be wary of how this could affect us financially and we must be prudent in our approach to expenditure in the coming months ahead. Having said that, the work that went on during the past six months has put the Club in a position to be able to deal with the struggles that inevitably lie ahead. It was noted that the major change this year can be seen in the accounts with a further addition at the Pony Field. The Club managed to procure part of the field that was privately owned by another



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individual and this will be most favourable for our plans going forward. The income from Our Vision can also be seen in the balance sheet. The Development Accounts at the end of the year had over £100k with deferred income at over £157k, the difference being the repayment of the loans. It was explained that the income is classified as deferred as it is technically repayable to the donor should anything not proceed with regards to the field. It will be released throughout the phase of the build as the expenditure occurs.

Debtors include some merchandise sales that were due in at the end of the year and have since been paid. The Club continued to pay the bus provider throughout the pandemic to clear the old balance, having achieved this, the Club continued to make further payments, and this has resulted in a pre-payment of just over £6k which will carry into the next year. It includes the lotto jackpot at the end of the year which stood at a record £14,700.

It was noted that membership continues to rise and again we record a high membership uptake which was secured pre the pandemic. Despite having the Our Vision commitments, the Down Draw continued to perform well. £28k was a significant amount of money to bring in from this resource and only for it, we would have struggled to pay some of our bills this year. Thanks, was expressed to James Heaney for his invaluable work in developing the Down Club Draw.

Lotto has been an outstanding performer this year. It should be noted that lotto sales have increased 422% over the last four years. This has been a massive effort and tribute must be paid to Steven Robertson who has put excellent systems in place to continue to secure good buy into the Club lotto through the installation of lotto boxes in Vivo Xtra and Fresh Food Centre and the increased use of Klubfunder. We express sincere appreciation to Steven and the Lotto team for their work and wish Brendan Rice every success as he takes over the role of Lotto Co-Ordinator.

Yet again, players injury is up, and this is an increasing concern for our Club despite our endeavours to encourage fundraising to cover injuries. Sections need to address the fact that a fundraiser is required to meet the excess of the £3,500 shortfall of the payment in relation to an injury. Going forward this will be very important to put in place for the new season.

Donal concluded that although it looks like a successful year financially with money in the bank and a profit for the second year running, however it must be stressed that only for grants received during the pandemic and the increase in lotto sales the situation could have been very different. It is hoped that the efforts put in this year will offset against the struggles which are expected in the future.

Donal steps down as Treasurer after a five-year term. Donal thanked the Club for having the honour to serve in all three positions in the Club notably Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and he thanked the membership for their confidence that they had placed in him. He played particular tribute to Shane Lavery, Assistant Treasurer for his preparation of half yearly and annual accounts and his wished him well throughout the term of office as Treasurer. The Treasurer's Report was proposed by Helen Carvill and seconded by Aisling McGivern.



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ORAIÐ AN CATHAOIRLEACH (CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS)

Club Chairman, Larry Byrne addressed the members outlining his pride in Cumann Pheadair Naofa in these unprecedented times. He noted the strangeness of hosting our AGM virtually and thanked Caroline Preston for her excellent work in acting as Club Webinar. The challenges of Covid-19 impacted at all levels in our Club and as a Club we have come out stronger and still continue to achieve on and off the pitch. He paid particular credit to the Covid-19 Return to Play team led by Paul McKibben for their ability to think outside the box in ensuring that our Club members, mentors, players and parents could enjoy our games safe in the knowledge that the Club had put all Covid-19 precautions in place. He expressed warmest thanks to Club Chaplain Canon Kearney who has stepped down as Administrator of the Parish of Clonallon after 22 years of dedicated service. He also expressed sympathy to Club members and friends who lost loved ones throughout the year. Larry noted that the Club is still on the upwards trend of success and he paid tribute to the Senior Football Team in exceptional circumstances and congratulated the Reserve Team on winning the League. He also praised the hurling section and in particular the Senior Hurlers for their excellent efforts over the past year.

He noted that the Club has always been a pillar of the Warrenpoint community and that the role of the Club was now more important than ever, and, in this context, he acknowledged the work of the Covid-19 Response team and was pleased that the work of the response team continues to take place.

Larry thanked the Senior Committee and all the sections for their support over this past year. He paid particular tribute to the following officers who were standing down, Hugh Carr as Club Registrar, Anne McCormack as Club Secretary, Donal McCormack as Club Treasurer, Feargal McCormack as Club Development Officer and Steven Robertson, Lotto Co-ordinator and Senior Committee Member. He thanked Donal for all his advice over the years and how much he has learned from Donal. He paid tribute to Anne for the planning and preparation for all of Senior Committee meetings and her work in the Club over five years as Secretary. He paid a special tribute to Hugh Carr after 18 years of service as Registrar. He also expressed appreciation to Steven Robertson for his outstanding work as Lotto Co-ordinator and wished Steven well as he returns to live in Liverpool. He expressed appreciation to outgoing Development Officer, Feargal McCormack for his strategic vision and leadership over the past four years.

Responding to the Chairman's speech, Feargal McCormack thanked Larry for his excellent leadership in this particularly difficult year. He stated that the Club was in a healthy position and that we should continue our endeavours to bring Cumann Pheadair Naofa forward in the years ahead.

TOGHAIÐH NA nOIFIGÁ (ELECTION OF OFFICERS)

The following were elected:

Cathaoirleach (Chairman)	Larry Byrne
Leas Cathaoirleach (Deputy Chairman)	Paul McKibben
Runaí (Secretary)	Daniel Bird
Leas Runaí (Assistant Secretary)	Vacant – Senior Committee to follow up
Cisteoir (Treasurer)	Shane Lavery
Leas Cisteoir (Assistant Treasurer)	Micheal Moore
Claraítheoir (Registrar)	Colm Rice
Leas Claraítheoir (Assistant Registrar)	Hugh Carr
Oifigeach Chaidreamh Poiblí (PRO)	Aisling McGivern



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Oifigeach Cultúrtha (Cultural Officer)
Oifigeach Forbartha (Development Officer)
Baill na n-Imreoirí (Players Representative)

Carmel McGrath
Anne McCormack
James Heaney

Baill Eile (Additional Members):

Christy Carr
John Daly
Conor D'Arcy
Gerry Gray
Colette Lock
Donal McCormack
Feargal McCormack
Meabh Mc Ardle
Gerry O' Neill
Brendan Rice
Hubert Shannon

It was noted that Helen Carvill was the Camogie section Representative and following agreement from the camogie section, Helen Carvill would be the Camogie Representative for the 2020/21 season. Also noted that Noreen Kelly had been proposed for Assistant Secretary and Noreen confirmed that she was not standing for office.

Trustee Eoin Magennis was thanked for conducting the Election of Officers.

Club Chairman Larry Byrne welcomed the Committee for 2020/2021 and wished every success and congratulations to newly elected Secretary Daniel Bird, Treasurer Shane Lavery and Registrar Colm Rice.

TAILLE BÁILL (MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2020)

Outgoing Registrar, Hugh Carr brought the proposal forward for the membership fee for 2021. At the outset, Hugh expressed appreciation to Club members for their confidence in Cumann Pheadair Naofa in continuing to pay their Club membership in a timely manner. Hugh noted that 93% of Club membership was secured before Covid-19. Given the year that we have experienced with the pandemic, there would be no increase in membership fees for the year 2021. It was proposed by Hugh Carr and seconded by Colm Rice. The proposed registration for fees for 2021 were as follows:

- Family Membership £140
- Adult Players £75
- Adult Non-Player £50
- Associated Adult £50
- Senior Citizens £30
- U-18 Players £60
- U-18 Non-Player £30

Families will be offered an opportunity take a family membership at £140 plus a Down Draw ticket at £120, a total cost of £260. This will be offered to families at a reduced rate of £250 including the family membership, the Down Draw ticket and one lotto commencing on 1 March 2021 and running until 28 February 2022. The onus would be placed on the member to email their lotto



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numbers to the Club lotto email. This lotto offer is only available until 31 January 2021 which is the last chance to secure a Down Clubs Draw ticket.

Family Membership constitutes parents and children under 18 years of age.

The proposal received 100% endorsement from all present at the AGM.

RUIN (MOTIONS FOR CONGRESS)

There were no motions tabled for the 2020 AGM.

BUANNA EILE (OTHER BUSINESS)

Caroline Preston, PKF-FPM was thanked for her excellent management and overseeing of the virtual AGM webinar which was deemed a tremendous success. Members were thanked for their participation in the first virtual Club AGM. There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Cathaoirleach

Runáí