

1. Call to Order (Welcome, Invocation, District Mission, Apologies, Moment of Reflection)

SAA was Tom Melly, Limerick Toastmasters.

Kevin Lee, District Director welcomed everyone and announced housekeeping – fire alarms, mobile phones. He then called the meeting to order.

He invited Constance Turner, Division G Director to deliver an invocation.

Following the invocation, Kevin recognised distinguished guests:

Immediate Past International President – Mohammed Murad

Past District Governors present: Cecil Kirk, Mary Murtagh, David Thomson, Joe Gibb, Jim Hegarty, Luanne Kent.

Kevin reminded us of the District Mission – We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence - and the core values of Toastmasters – Integrity, Excellence, Service and Respect.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of the agenda was

Proposed by: Max Ridder-Patrick Area 30

Seconded by: Caroline O'Connor, Midleton TM Club

No objections were lodged and the agenda was adopted by the unanimous consent of the District Council.

Kevin then invited the District Administration Manager, Moira Beaton, to announce apologies from Council members not present at the meeting.

No written apologies had been received.

3. Credentials Committee Report and Appointment of Tellers

Cecil Kirk, District Parliamentarian, delivered the report of the Credentials committee:

Appointment of Tellers as follows: Elizabeth Jordan, Bea Metzler, John Hennessey, Clive Willets

Number of Clubs Eligible: 186

Quorum (1/3) = 62

District Executive Committee members: 56

Votes Available:

Clubs Accredited: 79 x 2 votes per club = 158 club votes available

District Executive Committee (DEC) Members= 33

Total Votes Available =191

Simple Majority = 96

Quorum was met.

Approval of the Credentials Committee report & appointment of Tellers was requested of the Council and with no objections being lodged, approval was given by unanimous consent.

Phil Heath pointed out that Moments of Reflection for members who have passed away was not on the agenda.

Kevin explained that the Invocation also included the Moment of Reflection to remember members who have left us since the last District Council meeting. He apologised and thanked Phil for pointing it out.

Kevin then invited members from the floor to give names of members who have passed away. They were: Kathleen Murphy, Jerry Mulcahy, Michael Rooney, Joe Bradley, David Lee, Michael Booth, Jean Cunningham. Kevin asked for a moment's silence to remember them.

4. Acceptance of Minutes of Council Meeting 14th November 2015

Moira Beaton, District AM, asked for a proposer for the acceptance of the minutes of the Council Meeting 14th November 2015, as distributed:

Proposed by: Peter Kieran, Viking Voices

Seconded by: Constance Turner, Div G Director, Brentwood and South Essex Speakers

No objections were lodged and the minutes were accepted, by unanimous consent, as a true reflection of the meeting.

5. Confirmation of Appointments

Changes to the Council since the last Council meeting: there were no appointments to announce

6. 2015 - 2016 Mid-Year Audit and Finance Manager’s Report (Slide ?)

John Cox, District Finance Manager presented the 2015/16 Mid-year Audit and Finance Manager’s Report. The half-yearly accounts have been audited and presented to Toastmasters World Headquarters (WHQ); the slide on view represented the third quarter of the accounts up to 31st March 2016. John talked the members through the accounts as represented on the slide and reminded everyone that the last day for claims to be sent to him was 30th June 2016.

Kevin invited questions on the report. As there were no questions, he asked for a proposer for the acceptance of the report.

Proposed by: Steve Wellman, Area 41 Director

Seconded by: Phil Heath, Strictly Speaking Harrogate

Approval of the 2015-2016 Mid-Year Audit and Finance Manager’s Report was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.

7. Continued and New Business (Reports and Motions)

7b. Alignment Committee Report

The Alignment Committee consisted of the following members:-

Div	Name
A	
B	Michael Ryan
C	Angela Turtoczki
D	Patricia Loughnane
E	Ken Siviter
F	Maurice Galvin
G	John Kendall
M	Karen O'Donnell
S	Gerry Dunn

Kevin introduced Ken Siviter, Chair of the Alignment Committee to give the following report:

- Out of Division G, Division H to be created using 3 Areas from Division E – Areas 14,20 and 44
- Division E to be slightly re-aligned with a new Area 51
- Division S to have a new Area 33 created out of Area 30
- Ireland – Ken said the committee took a long, hard look at Ireland. They had been asked to look

at creating a new Division in Dublin. He said that it would have created a 'little bit of flux' and in end, they have left it alone to settle and develop next year.

Kevin explained that each proposal has to be put forward as a Motion (already approved by the DEC). He also explained that he had asked clubs and areas about the numbers allocated to them – there were no objections to the numbers allocated. He then asked for questions for Ken as the Motions come up.

Eric Fitzpatrick, East Coast Club: he suggested having a microphone for questions. Kevin replied that we have 2 roving microphones and if anyone has a question, to raise their hand, be acknowledged and the roving microphone will be brought to them.

Phil Heath, Strictly Speaking, Harrogate : As a representative from Harrogate, Area 15 and Area 51, he said that they are not happy with that proposal as it does not sit well with the geography of the Area or the clubs. He asked for a postponement to the next conference till they have proper discussion. Kevin said that, having presented this at the Division E Council, he was very surprised.

Ken Siviter: It was in geographical interests to bring Harrogate and York further south.

Phil Heath- Hull, Doncaster and Sheffield would be far easier to be managed as one Area; and Leeds with Harrogate and Yorkshire into one Area.

Helen Tait, York Eborators: agreed with Phil. She said that if you live and go to a club in either Harrogate or York, to get down to Doncaster is very hard, whereas the 2 Leeds clubs are very easy to get to. So it's well to have these 4 clubs together.

Kevin asked for further comments or move to a proposal for amendment to the Motion

Phil Heath: proposed amendment – Harrogate, York, Leeds City and White Rose to form Area 15

Kevin: Amend Motion to Hull, Doncaster, Sheffield to form Area 21.

Seconded by: Helen Tait, York Eborators.

Kevin asked for any objections to the amended Area 21 Motion.

Andrew Millar, Northampton Speakers: had no objection but knows others who do have an opinion and he wants make sure that the full views are put forward.

Kevin explained that the opportunity to make final amendments to the Motion is now as we will be voting.

Amendment to Motion 1:

Part one: Creation of a new Area made up of clubs in Hull, Doncaster and Sheffield

Carried by the majority of members present (2 objections)

Part 2: Area to be named Area 21

Carried by unanimous vote

Kevin welcomed the new Area 21 to District 71.

Motion 2: Creation of a new Division out of existing Division G consisting of Areas 44, 20 and 14. (Slides). Proposed new Division and new Division to be called Division H.

Kevin invited comments from the floor.

Chris Cox, Cambridge Speakers: asked for Division G re-alignment to be deferred to the November District Council meeting, and asked for 2 minutes to explain the reason, in further detail, which was granted by Kevin. Chris Cox first gave huge thanks and appreciation to the people who have served on the re-alignment committee. He said that the procedures seemed to have broken down, the communication with the clubs had been inadequate and there was no consensus with Division G regarding the proposals,. They were given the 2 options only a few weeks ago and required rapid feedback. He said he only heard the final proposal, in a conversation, approximately 2 hours before the

meeting.

Kevin asked for comment from the Chair of the Alignment Committee.

Ken Siviter: thanked Chris Cox for his comments. He asked if he thought the new Division was practical as long as there was more consultation.

Chris Cox: New Division has to be created soon and it may be that the committee's proposals are 'fantastic' but the Division needs more time to be consulted.

Kevin asked Ken to outline the work done to give a flavor of how the committee reached its decision.

Ken Siviter: he explained they used the map (on the slide) as the starting point. He also spoke to someone in Division G who appeared to have a lot of knowledge and experience regarding the area. The committee then came up with 4 options. They took the 4th option which they considered the best. He said that probably the link between himself and the clubs had not been 'secure enough'. He asked Kevin if the proposal could be delayed until November.

Kevin: explained that, according to Policy and Protocol, they are allowed to hold re-alignment once and therefore the proposal can only be delayed until next May and the re-alignment will only take effect from 1st July 2017. The Division now has 29 clubs and 4 pre-charter clubs that are meeting, and a 5th club starting, over 7 Areas. He asked if that was reasonable for a Division Director to manage. Or should the Council consider that the Areas in their allocations, be granted a second Division Director.

Phil Heath, Strictly Speaking Harrogate: compared to the 'old' Division E, 'that's a piece of cake, really' and would be manageable for another year.

Kevin then asked for a vote to defer the re-alignment of Division G.

Carried by the majority of members present (1 objection)

The alignment of Division G deferred to the Council meeting in May 2017

Motion 3:

Part 1: creation of a new Area in Division S and the new Area to consist of: Waverley Communicators, State Street Edinburgh, Linlithgow Speaker, New club based in Musselburgh, New Edinburgh City centre community club

Part 2: name the Area as Area 33

Kevin asked for questions and comments

Eoin McDunphy, Capital Communicators, Division S Director: welcome the re-alignment and thanked the re-alignment committee, in particular the Division S representative

Kevin asked for objections to part 1 of the Motion - the creation of a new Area in Division S.

No objections

A new Area to be created in Division S.

Kevin asked for objections to part 2 of the Motion – to name the Area as Area 33

No objections

The new Area to be known as Area 33.

Kevin then welcomed Area 33 to District 71

7c. Nominations Committee Report & Elections

The Nominations Committee consisted of the following members:-

Div	Name
A	David Cowhig
B	Michael Ryan
C	John Burns
D	Patricia Loughnane
E	Phil Heath
F	Jude Portbury
G	Gary Sander
M	Bea Metzler
S	Sheila Fraser

As Gary Sander, Chair of the District Leadership Committee (formerly known as Nominations Committee) was not at the meeting, he submitted a written report. Kevin Lee explained that the candidates would be announced in seniority of the role; he will invite candidates from the floor who can speak for 2 minutes from the floor; each candidate (per role) will be invited to speak in alphabetical order of their surname. Kevin then announced the nominated candidates as follows:

District Leadership Team	
Role	Candidate
District Director	Michael Collins
Program Quality Director	Robert (Red) Skelton
Club Growth Director	Patricia O'Reilly
Public Relations Manager	Moira Beaton
Public Relations Manager	Karen O'Donnell

District Director Candidates (formerly District Governor)			
Division	Candidate	Division	Candidate
A	David Cowhig	F	Ann Ruane
B	Patricia O'Connell	G	Steve Wellman
C	Peter Kieran	M	Peter Redmond
D	Billy Daly	S	Max Ridder-Patrick
E	Ken Siviter		

Kevin explained the election was by secret ballot. He also announced he had a request for the timing lights to be shown at intervals. Therefore, the lights were to be shown at one minute – green; one and a half minutes – amber; two minutes – red. The lights were positioned at the back of the hall and at the red light any member of the audience may start applauding.

He then announced each position and asked for nominations from the floor.

District Director – Michael Collins

There were no nominations from the floor, nominations for District Director were closed and Michael Collins was elected as District Director.

Programme Quality Director (PQD)– Red Skelton

There were no nominations from the floor, nominations for PQD were closed and Red Skelton was elected as PQD.

Club Growth Director (CGD)– Patricia O’Reilly

There were no nominations from the floor, nominations for CGD were closed and Patricia O’Reilly was elected as CGD.

Public Relations Manager (PRM) – Moira Beaton and Karen O’Donnell

There were no nominations from the floor, nominations for PRM were closed.
Each candidate spoke for 2 minutes.

Votes were cast and Kevin moved that, to save time, the District Leadership Team (DLT) should present their reports whilst the votes for PRM were counted.

Proposed by: Jim Hegarty, Killaloe/Ballina Toastmasters Club

Seconded by: ??

No objections

8. District Recognition Program and Reports

The Division Director Reports were shared during the recent DEC meeting and were also posted on the District website www.d71toastmasters.org and EasySpeak website www.toastmasterclub.org

DLT Reports

Patricia O’Reilly, PRM

Red Skelton, CGD (slide)

Michael Collins, PQD

Kevin Lee, DD

Kevin then thanked all of the members of the Council for giving him a year filled with ‘smiles, joy and disruption that will always have special place in my heart.’

Kevin announced the results of the election for PRM as follows:

Moira Beaton: 82

Karen O’Donnell: 94

Kevin welcomed Karen O’Donnell as the incoming District 71 PRM

Election of Division Directors

There were no nominations from the floor for any position, nominations were closed after each announcement. The nominated candidates were elected as follows:

Division	Candidate	Division	Candidate
A	David Cowhig	F	Ann Ruane
B	Patricia O’Connell	G	Steve Wellman
C	Peter Kieran	M	Peter Redmond
D	Billy Daly	S	Max Ridder-Patrick
E	Ken Siviter		

Kevin welcome them as the incoming Division Directors.

9. Toastmasters International Update

Kevin provided Toastmaster International updates:

1.The REP is coming and the initial pilots where you may be asked to have projects in clubs will go live in the autumn. The Ambassadors and Learning Masters will be granted access to try out in a live club environment. The program will go live in December, and not, as previously announced, in September. The reason for this is that December is a quiet time for Toastmasters – there are 3 Regions that do not celebrate Christmas. The launch will be by Region (our Region [11] is Europe, Middle East and Africa) -

there are 14 Regions in the world – and not as previously announced by 10 random Districts at a time.

2. Second update is for incoming club officers: Kevin explained that vote for International officers is held by the Club President and Secretary. The incoming District Director will ask for their votes for the International Convention as there are 2 very important proposals this year:

Proposal A – Legal and physical location for Toastmasters International (members have already been informed in an email sent to them by TI)

Part 1: TI remains legally domiciled in California

Part 2: To remove the requirement for WHQ to be located in California. Kevin said that this is a significant step towards internationalization and he invited the Council to provide all or as many as possible club votes to the incoming District Director to be able to speak on our behalf in Washington DC.

Proposal B – To make the Audit Committee (at the moment formed every year) a standing committee.

Details are available at www.toastmasters.org. He asked that clubs give instruction to the District Director to vote either for or against the Motion. He also said that the Board has asked that the Motions be supported and he said there are very good reasons to do that.

Kevin invited comments – no comments.

10. Future Conferences

November 2016

Peter Kieran: seeking full approval for the Dublin Autumn Conference to be held on 11-13 November 2016 in the Regency Hotel, Dublin. Peter said that he and co-organiser Eric Fitzpatrick gave the budget to the DLT the day before and were now seeking full approval from the District Council.

No objections were raised and full approval for the conference to proceed was given by the District Council. The website will go live on 15 May 2016.

May 2017

Ken Siviter and Kevin Harrington, Warrington Toastmasters : submitted a proposal to hold the Spring Conference in Manchester from 12-14 May 2017 at the Worsley Park Hotel.

They asked the District Council for full approval. There were no objections and full approval was given by the District Council.

November 2017

Phil Heath, Strictly Speaking Harrogate: seeking the approval of the District Council to continue investigation of hotels in Leeds, York, and Sheffield (favourite is Sheffield, 2017 City of Culture) as venues for the Autumn Conference in November 2017.

There were no objections and District Council approval, to continue investigations, was given.

May 2018

Sharon O'Neil, Blarney Club: said she and her team had already made a presentation to the DLT who gave their permission to seek full approval to hold the Spring Conference on 16-18 May 2018 in Cork.

Kevin said this was an unusual step to ask for full approval. There were no objections and the District Council gave full approval.

11. Any other Business

Phil Heath, Strictly Speaking Harrogate: said he was concerned that when you get to the District Council meetings, members have not already read the Minutes or proposals and asks that at future conferences, copies to be sent out at the weekend for those not on the District council but carrying proxy votes.

Kevin – said that would be up to the proxy holder and as a District they have done away with the immense

amount of printing and its associated costs. He has no objection to having the Minutes and proposals available for those who ask for them or having IT facilities available at the conference for same. He said he will revert to the DLT for consideration.

Luanne Kent – said that if the President has given the proxy, the President should already have reviewed it and given instructions, to the proxy holder, on how to vote.

Brendan Haughton – asked that the Minutes of meetings be made available as soon as possible after the meetings. Kevin said that they adhere to TI procedure but passed the issue on to the incoming District Director for consideration.

Sue Eastman, Area 25 Director – offered a vote of thanks to the DLT who, she said, ‘have been a massive support in my year as Area Director. She also thanked Immediate Past Area Director Peter Lawton and Division G Director Constance Turner for their support.

Kevin thanked Sue for her very special acknowledgement.

Peter Kieran proposed a vote of thanks to IPDG Luanne Kent and wished her a safe journey back to America.

12. Announcements and Adjournment

Kevin thanked everyone in attendance for their time, attention and support and closed the meeting.

Slides: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/mvlo0t32qircelz/Council%20Meeting%20May2016%20slides.pptx?dl=0>

DLT Reports: <http://d71toastmasters.org/councilcommittee>