



District Council

10 May 2025 at 10:00 Ireland/UK

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the District 71 District Council meeting held on 10 May 2025 at 10am Ireland/UK in online/hybrid format. The presiding officer was Danny Banks, District Director. The secretary was Paige Skelton, Administration Manager.

1. The meeting was called to order
2. District Director Danny Banks provided a welcome and opening address
3. District Director Danny Banks read the District Mission and Core Values
4. Dignitaries present at the meeting were recognised
5. A moment of reflection was held for those Toastmasters members who have passed away since the meeting of the District Council of May 2024
 - a. Murt O Suilleabhain
 - b. Maire Grange
 - c. Thomas Russell
 - d. Norman Sanders
 - e. Irene Tunney
 - f. Henry King
 - g. Jackie Harney
 - h. Ian Winton
 - i. Sam Ashby
 - j. Henry King
 - k. Ronie Kinane
 - l. Mary Murtagh
 - m. Christopher Bluff
 - n. Noel O' Beara
6. District Director Danny Banks introduced the officials for the meeting; Parliamentarian Larry Lyons, Credentials Committee Chair Pauline McCabe, Election Manager Nick Collins, the two timers: Peter McAuley and Matty Behan, and the DLT.
7. Parliamentarian Larry Lyons described the parliamentary procedure and standing orders for the meeting
8. District Credentials Manager Pauline McCabe reported that there are 185 clubs in good standing in the District. Each club in good standing is allocated two votes and a quorum for the meeting is one-third of member clubs in good standing (votes). 185 clubs in good standing. 162 votes have been registered by member club Presidents and Vice-Presidents Education. There are 52 active members of the District Executive Committee (DEC) and 35 votes have been registered by DEC members. The total number of votes that have been registered is 198. The quorum requirement for the meeting was met.
9. Election Manager Nick Collins described the process for voting, and Election Manager Nick Collins hosted a test vote, to ensure everyone was familiar with the process
10. The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent
11. The minutes of the meeting of the District Council of 9th September 2024, as previously circulated, were approved by unanimous consent

12. Alignment Committee Chair Larry Power was unable to be present at the council meeting, but immediate past Alignment co-chair Tim Leech introduced the Alignment topic, and presented the report of the Alignment Committee. Tim Leech mentioned that this alignment report was approved by DEC on 6th May 2025.

- Question from the floor - Northampton Speakers to move to area 44, and 3 clubs will be going to E
- Mannock Toastmasters will be moving from E to F
- Point of Order - to add all Divisions into the slides before them going to Toastmasters International
- An online club (Unmute Yourself) has been moved into Area 60 due to there only being 3 active clubs in this area.
- Lincolnshire Speakers to move to Area 14.

13. District Director Danny Banks moved the adoption of the Alignment Committee's report, as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

14. DTM John Kelly, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the Audit of the 2023-24 report.

15. District Director Danny Banks called for questions for Program Quality Director Mairead Dillon. 3 minutes were given for questions. No questions were asked.

16. District Director Danny Banks called for questions for Club Growth Director Steve Campion. 3 minutes were given for questions.

How many clubs have we lost this year?

3 clubs have decided they no longer want to continue, and 2 clubs that have decided not to pay their club dues. 14 clubs that are not in good standing. We are on track to chartering a few more clubs. It's been roughly half and half corporate and community clubs.

Have we had a net growth in membership?

We track membership payments, we currently have more membership payments than we did last year.

60% of clubs that are entitled to have a club coach, do not have one. What are your thoughts going forward, about whether it is worthwhile appointing club coaches for clubs that need them, and what do you consider an improvement?

Absolutely worthwhile to have a club coach. Important consideration - the individual clubs need to decide this for themselves. They then need to be matched to someone who will work well with that club. There's been 10 new club coach appointments.

17. District Director Danny Banks called for questions for Finance Manager Will Kearney. 3 minutes were given for questions.

Budget vs Spend

91,000 overall expenditure, whereas the budget is what we are more likely to spend. Things like the conference, district officers (and this budget is very often not spent). Projected spending of officers and district officers.

Why can we budget 50% more than the expenditure?

Running at a surplus. Any money that is not spent will be sent back to World Headquarters. Forecast is imperfectly matched based on what has been going on. The report published is up to February of this year.

Club Growth has a variance of 13,500. Actual expenditure 2,000. It's important to use this budget to help with club growth. This is a priority for the District.

Club Growth Director Steve Campion spoke. This was the latest figures we could get from Toastmasters International. There are incentives, expenditures that are happening that have not yet hit the budgets. Steve encouraged clubs to get their incentives they have received, and encouraged all to use their budgets.

When will the budget update be provided?

Reconcile every month or two. By the end of the Toastmasters year, this will be available.

Could left over budget be used for struggling clubs?

Finance Manager Will Kearney encouraged struggling clubs to reach out to the DLT.

18. District Director Danny Banks called for questions for Public Relations Manager Angela Afieghe.
A working group set up to ensure we are no longer a 'Well kept secret'
D91 investment was a great initiative. We will look at putting in place a working group.
Area Director Nuala o'Connor mentioned that it is extremely difficult to track how successful PR is as feedback isn't often provided. A suggestion could be a yearly theme (my why, 100 years) with videos and pictures.
19. District Director Danny Banks called for questions for Administration Manager Paige Skelton.
Could Division Directors/Area Directors be given access to Constant Contact?
We will look into this
Past District Director Brenda Lannon commended the DLT
Was Ronie Kinane mentioned at the beginning?
DLT confirmed she was.
20. A 10-minute break from 11:37 to 11:47
21. District Leadership Committee chair Elizabeth Jordan introduced and presented the report of the District Leadership Committee.
22. District Leader Elections were held:
- District Director: There being only one candidate and no objections, the secretary cast a single vote on behalf of the District Council. Mairéad Dillon was duly elected as District Director
 - Program Quality Director: There being only one candidate and no objections, the secretary cast a single vote on behalf of the District Council. Steve Campion was duly elected as Program Quality Director
 - Club Growth Director: Kevin O'Reilly was a floor candidate, and was nominated by Area Director Rob Partridge. An election was held. 45 (31%) votes for Angela Afieghe, 17 (12%) votes for John Allsup, and 85 (58%) votes for Kevin O'Reilly. Kevin O'Reilly was duly elected as Club Growth Director
 - Division F Director: There were 2 candidates; Tom Flynn and Derek Walsh - a vote was held. Tom Flynn received 20 votes (22%), and Derek Wash received 70 votes (78%). Derek Walsh was duly elected as Division F Director
23. Paul O'Mahony proposed extending the time of the meeting until 12:55pm. This was approved without objection.
24. Elections continued
- Division N Director: There were 2 candidates; Dominic Bascombe and Daniel Deighton - an election was held. Dominic Bascombe received 34 votes (27%), and Daniel Deighton received 94 votes (73%). Daniel Deighton was duly elected as Division N Director
 - District Director Danny Banks, with no objection from the floor or online, declared the following as the incoming Division Directors:
 - Division A Director: There being only one candidate and no objections, the secretary cast a single vote on behalf of the District Council. Patricia Radley was duly elected as Division A Director
 - Division C Director: There being only one candidate and no objections, the secretary cast a single vote on behalf of the District Council. Brian Greene was duly elected as Division C Director
 - Division D Director: There being only one candidate and no objections, the secretary cast a single vote on behalf of the District Council. Mark Bastow was duly elected as Division D Director
 - Division E Director: There being only one candidate and no objections, the secretary cast a single vote on behalf of the District Council. Dave McIntyre was duly elected as Division E Director

- g. Division H Director: There being only one candidate and no objections, the secretary cast a single vote on behalf of the District Council. George Moroiu was duly elected as Division H Director
 - h. Division M Director: Liam Madden was a floor candidate for Division M Director. Division M Director Tim Leech nominated Liam.
 - i. Division S Director: There being only one candidate and no objections, the secretary cast a single vote on behalf of the District Council. Ronnie Smith was duly elected as Division S Director
25. Rob Partridge provided information on 2026 conference, with an invitation to the conference that will be held in Galway. The dates of the conference will be 7-10 May 2026.
26. District Director Danny Banks thanked the members of the District Council online and in person for their contributions and to all of the District teams that supported the meeting
27. The meeting was adjourned at 12:57pm