

Plenary Meeting – Draft Minutes

Venue	The Plaza Hotel – Tallaght
Date of Meeting	7.30pm, 25 November 2024
Attendees	72 PPN members signed in.

1. Open, Agenda and Minutes

Jamie Moore opened the meeting by providing apologies for Lesley Barrett who was due to facilitate this evening's plenary. Jamie provided an overview of the agenda and welcomed members. The minutes were proposed by Lesley O'Reilly and seconded by Jacqueline Sheehy.

2. Update on PPN Hosting Arrangement

Declan provided an update on the PPN Hosting Arrangement process. The evaluation committee (Justin Byrne, Declan Doyle, Maria Nugent and Jamie Moore) drafted an evaluation report which was considered by the Secretariat who approved it – it was noted the successful applicant received a score of 84.5% which is considered a very high standard. ACE was the successful applicant. Lisa Rowntree, CEO of ACE, was present and shared her reflections on being the successful applicant. The process is now moving to Service Level Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding stage.

A member queried about the number of applications received and it was confirmed that just one application was received, however, this resulted in a more rigorous 'test' being applied to the applicant in order to satisfy the Secretariat of any potential risk of a default award. The evaluation committee and the Secretariat were both satisfied that a suitable host had been identified.

The decision was put forward for ratification, proposed by Noreen Byrne and seconded by Tricia Nolan.

3. Ratification of Temporary PPN Representative Appointments

Jamie provided a detailed overview of the process undertaken to temporarily appoint PPN Representatives. A note was also circulated in advance of the meeting. The Plenary was satisfied with the process. The nominees were ratified unanimously, proposed by Rasheed Ismail and seconded by Barbara O'Malley.

4. Election and Ratification of PPN Secretariat Seats

Elections were held for 3 area seats on the Secretariat, this included:

- Rathfarnham, Templeogue, Firhouse and Bohernabreena
 - Michael Noonan was elected.
- Lucan, Palmerstown and North Clondalkin
 - Following a voting dead-lock, Krishna Sambaturu withdrew his candidacy and Rita Harte was deemed elected.
- Tallaght
 - Kieran McDonagh was deemed elected.

Rasheed Ismail, Justin Byrne and Noreen Byrne oversaw the counting of votes in the respective elections.

All unsuccessful candidates were proposed for inclusion on a panel for future appointments which was unanimously supported by the Plenary.

5. PPN Budget and Interim Workplan for 2025

Jamie provided a detailed overview of the PPN's funding mechanism, a proposed indicative budget for 2025 accompanied with an interim workplan for 2025. Jamie noted the PPN was awaiting a determination from the Department of Rural and Community Development on the carryover of previously unspent funds from previous funding years. PPN expenditure for 2025 will be in the region of €145,500 – which includes the recruitment of two full time staff and the implementation of a programme of work for the PPN. The interim work plan will guide the work of the PPN until staff are recruited and a more detailed work plan can be presented to the Plenary in mid-2025.

The budget and workplan were proposed by Noreen Byrne and seconded by Michael Noonan.

6. Plenary session, AOB and Close

The Plenary session involved general discussion and awareness raising of the work of various members. Jamie specifically highlighted the PPN Membership Re-registration process which is currently underway. It is a requirement that PPN membership is refreshed every 2 years.

An in-depth conversation commenced on grant funding and the various challenges associated with attaining funding. Jamie proposed this conversation continued in a smaller group following the closing of the plenary due to the meeting running over time.

This was wrapped up and the meeting was brought to a close. The next Plenary meeting is due to take place in May or June 2025.