

**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the County Museum,  
Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley, Cathaoirleach, presiding

**PRESENT:** Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, N. Brady, P. Brady, S. Conaty, N. Connell, B. Fay, C. Kelly, S.P. O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly, A. Rogers, Á. Smith, N. Smith, T. Smith, V. Smith, P. Walsh

**IN ATTENDANCE:** E. Doyle, Chief Executive  
P. Connaughton, Director of Services  
B. Jennings, Director of Services  
L. McGavigan, Director of Services  
M. McNally, Head of Finance  
D. Gilchrist, Meetings Administrator,  
E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer.

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Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed all to the meeting. Councillor J.P. Feeley thanked the staff for giving the members the opportunity to host their monthly meeting in the County Museum and noted they have a programme of events lined up to mark its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Councillor Feeley complimented staff past and present for their great work in preserving and interpreting the history of the museum. Councillor Feeley noted that as part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the Virginia Brooch will return on loan to the County Museum. Councillor Feeley noted that this is a wonderful opportunity for local people and visitors to see an important piece of history.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 13<sup>th</sup> Mí Aibreán 2026 a dhearbhú.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 be hereby approved”

**2. Disclosure of Interests (Section 177 Local Government Act 2001).**

Noted.

### **Note Minutes of Committee Meetings**

**3. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

Noted.

## **Note Members' Reports from Conferences/Training events**

- 4. To note members' reports from conferences and training events (*Section 142 and Section 143 of the Local Government Act 2001; Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2014 Part V Section 5 (1)*).**

Noted.

- 5. To hear presentation from North-East Sepsis Awareness Group.**

Ms. Cathriona Flanagan and Ms. Hannah Tormey from North-East Sepsis Awareness Group (NESA) gave a detailed presentation to the elected members and asked for their support in seeking a national public awareness campaign on sepsis. The members of the Sepsis Awareness Group stressed the importance of recognising symptoms of sepsis which include slurred speech, new confusion, drowsiness, extreme shivering, muscle aches, fever, having not passed urine in twelve hours, shortness of breath, blue lips, heart racing, dizziness, feeling like you are going to die and skin mottled/discoLOURED. Both Cathriona and Hannah shared their personal stories on how sepsis affected their families and emphasised that sepsis does not discriminate and can affect anyone of any age. NESA also outlined that support is desperately needed in terms of post sepsis syndrome which affects 50% of sepsis survivors. NESA stated that sepsis can cause rapid tissue damage and early action is critical. The representatives stated that over the past three months NESA required around €6,480 to run their awareness campaign, which included the distribution of 10,000 compostable coffee cups, 10,000 flyers and 10,000 wallet cards and this figure would amount to roughly €25,000 per year. NESA noted that Cavan County Board and Kingspan Breffni have come on board to highlight the importance of sepsis awareness and have posted a video on social media. NESA informed the members that they are meeting with the Minister for Health next week in an effort to get a much-needed public health campaign on sepsis and asked the members for their support.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health backing NESA's call for a public health campaign and that funding be provided to further the awareness and education on sepsis. This proposal was seconded by Councillor T.P. O'Reilly.

Councillor P. Brady proposed that the letter be circulated to all local authorities urging them to do the same.

The members in turn thanked Ms. Cathriona Flanagan and Ms. Hannah Tormey from NESA for their detailed presentation and wished them well in their meeting with the Minister for Health.

**6. In accordance with 134(A) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as inserted by Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014), adoption of the 2026 Annual Service Delivery Plan.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that in accordance with 134(A) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as inserted by Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014), the 2026 Annual Service Delivery Plan be hereby approved”

**Correspondence:**

**7.(a) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Health regarding shingles vaccine.**

Noted. Councillor C. Kelly expressed his disappointment with the reply and proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste emphasising the huge number of people suffering from shingles and there should not be a price put on the suffering and pain of people. Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal.

**(b) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to Bord Bia.**

Noted.

**(c) To note reply from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport regarding the maintenance of rural overhead networks by Eir.**

Noted. Councillor S. Conaty expressed his disappointment that it took five months for the Department to reply and then state that it is an issue for Comreg. Councillor Conaty proposed that a letter be sent to Comreg in relation to the matter.

**(d) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality regarding governance failings in Tusla.**

Noted.

**(e) To note reply from Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance regarding the introduction of a cost-of-living package.**

Noted. Councillor N. Connell expressed his disappointment with the reply which stated that the contents would be considered in the context of the forthcoming budget next October.

**(f) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Education and Youth regarding Irish in Primary Schools.**

Noted.

8. **To approve attendance of members at AILG training module to be held in the Kilmore Hotel on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 or Whites of Wexford on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Kelly, P. Walsh, Á. Smith, P. Brady, N. Smith, J.P. Feeley, W. Bennett, C. Brady, N. Brady, T. Smith, V. Smith T.P. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly, A. Rogers, B. Fay, D. Brady, N. Connell and S. Conaty at AILG training module to be held in the Kilmore Hotel on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 or Whites of Wexford on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 be hereby approved”.

**9. Member’s Question – Councillor N. Smith**

To ask Cavan County Council for an update on the “bus stop programme” being worked on with the NTA for County Cavan since May 2024, with particular emphasis on Bailieborough, Killinkere and Shercock and to ask if planning has been approved.

A reply issued to Councillor Smith prior to the meeting.

**10. Member’s Question – Councillor N. Smith**

To ask Cavan County Council if the “\*ZEVl Pilot Infrastructure Projects Survey” relating to meeting of multiple EV charger requirements in County Cavan has commenced, and what is the expected completion timeline of this Survey. (\*Department of Transport April 2026).

A reply issued to Councillor Smith prior to the meeting.

**Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council**

**11. To note Chief Executive’s monthly report (*Section 51 Local Government Reform Act 2014*)**

Noted.

**Staff Retirements:**

Cathaoirleach Councillor J.P. Feeley wished the following staff who retired recently from Cavan County Council a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Josephine Donohoe, Motor Taxation

Evan Scanlon, Water Services Technical

Seamus McLoughlin, Housing Construction

Breda Kelly Boylan, Agresso

Kathleen Reilly, Corporate.

Margaret Hill, Housing

### **Votes of Congratulations:**

- Mr. Joe McManus, Drumlane on winning the All-Ireland Senior Scór Final in the Recitation Competition.
- Councillor Philip Brady, Manager Cavan Senior Camogie team on winning the Ulster Final.
- The U-16 County Camogie team on reaching the Ulster and All-Ireland Finals recently.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive wished the recently retired staff all the best in their retirement and noted that they all played their part in making Cavan County Council what it is today.

### **MEMBERS' ITEMS – MAY MEETING**

#### **12.1 That Cavan County Council provide an update on the North South Interconnector.**

Cllr Kelly asked the Executive if there were any meetings or site visits with Eirgrid since the last Council meeting.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the meeting that there had been no meetings or onsite visits with Eirgrid since the last Council Meeting in April.

#### **12.9 To discuss the need for greater clarity for farmers regarding the new TB Regulations.**

Councillor Á. Smith stated that the implementation of the new Bovine TB Action Plan has become a major source of concern for farmers, livestock marts and farming organisations. Councillor Á. Smith stated that while there is widespread support for the goal of reducing and ultimately eradicating bovine TB, there is growing frustration at the way in which some of the new measures are being introduced by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Councillor Á. Smith stated that strong criticisms have been made about the Department's proposal to retrospectively restrict the sale of cows from herds that were locked up before the official launch of the action plan. Councillor Á. Smith noted that the issue of retrospective application goes to the heart of the wider concern among farmers and the lack of clarity surrounding the new regulations.

Councillor Smith noted that many farmers still do not fully understand what their current TB status is or what the status means in practical terms. Councillor Smith stated that terms such as restricted, inconclusive, suspended and clear can be difficult to interpret, especially when farmers are trying to determine whether they can sell cattle, what animals require pre-testing and who they are allowed to sell to. Councillor Smith noted that the cost of pre-testing is another major concern as under the new rules certain categories of cattle must be tested within thirty days prior to movement. Councillor Smith stated that in many cases the financial burden of testing may outweigh the value of the trade itself. Councillor Smith noted that livestock marts are central to the cattle

trade and depend on certainty regarding the eligibility of animals for sale. Councillor Smith stated that farmers were led to believe that the animal identification and movement system would automatically block non-compliant movements, with marts policing the system in the interim, however, it has emerged that this safeguard will not be in place, and responsibility for compliance will rest with individual farmers. Councillor Smith stated that there is a strong case for pausing elements of the TB action plan that rely on systems not yet capable of enforcing the rules. Councillor Smith stated that before any measures are implemented, the Department should ensure that the animal identification and movement system is fully operational, that livestock marts are properly briefed and that farmers receive clear, straightforward guidance tailored to their individual herd status and circumstances. Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture seeking greater clarity for farmers regarding the new TB regulations.

Councillor W. Bennett concurred with Councillor Á. Smith and seconded her proposal. Councillor Bennett noted that quite a few farmers do not understand the new rules and greater clarification is needed.

Councillors D. Brady and P. Walsh supported the motion.

**12.2 To ask the General Manager and Clinical Lead Manager of the Cavan/Monaghan Hospital Group to attend a meeting of Cavan County Council to discuss public issues of Care and Operational Procedures at Cavan General Hospital.**

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council request a meeting either publicly or in-committee with the General Manager and Clinical Lead Manager of the Cavan/Monaghan Hospital Group to discuss public issues of care and operational procedures at Cavan General Hospital. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that he is very proud of the hospital and acknowledged the great work the staff in the hospital do. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that in the last while there have been troubling reports concerning operational procedures and the pressure is being faced by both staff and patients. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly questioned how the emergency department in Cavan could be expected to adequately serve a catchment area spanning four counties. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that the hospital in Navan and Monaghan could provide greater support. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly also highlighted the effect of the recruitment embargo on unfilled positions within the health service. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that he wants to have an open and constructive discussion around the challenges facing frontline services with the hospital manager. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that Dublin North-East HSE Health Forum in his opinion is ineffective and holds meetings ad hoc despite having elected members attached to it.

Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor S.P. O'Reilly's proposal and stressed that staff working within the hospital are not to blame for the ongoing difficulties. Councillor Conaty noted that overcrowding is a major issue and maintaining public trust in the hospital is essential.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and noted that there was only so much the staff could do under current conditions.

**12.3 To request a full update and a presentation from Children's Health Ireland (CHI) to be delivered at Cavan County Council regarding the timelines and progress on the National Children's Hospital.**

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council invite the team from Children's Health Ireland to give a full update and presentation to the members of Cavan County Council regarding the timelines and progress on the National Children's Hospital. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly noted that a presentation was made to the members many years ago and they were told at that time that reports would be given to the Council on a quarterly basis which did not happen. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly noted that it is the parents of children who need it most that are suffering.

Councillor D. Brady seconded Councillor S.P. O'Reilly's proposal and noted that the public deserve answers.

**12.4 That Cavan County Council calls on the Minister for Finance (the Tánaiste) and the Taoiseach to abolish the Universal Social Charge (USC). This Council notes that the USC was brought in at a time of financial crisis and believes it is now time to put money back into the pockets of workers.**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council calls on the Minister for Finance (the Tánaiste) and the Taoiseach to abolish the Universal Social Charge (USC). Councillor Fay noted that the USC was brought in at a time of financial crisis and believes that it is now time to put money back into the pockets of workers. Councillor Fay stated that abolishing the USC would deliver an immediate financial boost to ordinary workers already struggling with soaring living costs. Councillor Fay stated that for frontline workers, abolishing the USC is not just about tax reform, it is a significant, well-deserved pay rise. Councillor Fay noted that some employees lose more than half of additional earnings once income tax, PRSI and USC are combined. Councillor Fay stated that with housing, childcare, insurance and energy costs soaring, workers need relief now, not promises.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted virtually every major political party had promised USC reform during election campaigns. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly questioned why the supposed temporary measure is still in place more than a decade later.

Councillor S. Conaty supported the motion but noted that the State could absorb the loss of USC revenue if scrapped outright and suggested a fairer approach would be to focus on ending the charge for average wage earners rather than millionaires.

Councillors A. Rogers and T. Smith supported the motion.

Councillor B. Fay thanked the members for their support and stated that he wanted USC removed for everybody.

**12.5 That this Council calls on the Government to allocate €4 billion to fund a national scheme providing direct financial support to households for the installation of solar panels and home wind turbines enabling widespread microgeneration, reducing household carbon footprints, lowering energy costs for homeowners, and allowing surplus renewable energy to be exported back to the national grid.**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment asking that his Department allocate €4 billion to fund a national scheme providing direct financial support to households for the installation of solar panels and home wind turbines enabling widespread microgeneration, reducing household carbon footprints, lowering energy costs for homeowners, and allowing surplus renewable energy to be exported back to the national grid. Councillor B. Fay stated that he feared that under new regulations, Ireland will be fined come 2030 if we are not meeting our carbon footprint target. Councillor B. Fay stated that it is important to keep the money in Ireland for the people rather than wasting it by paying fines to other countries. Councillor Fay stated that Ireland is left behind when it comes to reaching emission targets and highlighted the importance of doing something now rather than leaving it until the last minute in 2030.

Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor B. Fay's proposal and stated that energy credits are fine for emergency measures but not long term.

**12.6 To discuss the need for a recruitment drive in our schools to encourage the filling of posts within the HSE.**

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the HSE calling for a recruitment drive to encourage school students to explore careers within the HSE. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly expressed his concern over the shortage in healthcare professionals such as nursing and occupational therapy. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly praised the HSE for providing meaningful and rewarding work but said more needs to be done to give young people early exposure to these roles. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that opportunities are needed for students to experience primary care settings, helping them decide if healthcare careers are the right fit before entering college.

Councillor W. Bennett seconded Councillor T.P. O'Reilly's proposal.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and commended Cavan County Council for taking on summer students and felt the HSE should do the same.

Councillor N. Brady supported the motion.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and stated that there is frontline recruitment ongoing within the HSE, but the interview process is too slow.

**12.7 To discuss the need for extra assistance to vulnerable individuals completing theory examinations on the NDLS.**

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the National Driver Licence Service calling for greater support for elderly drivers struggling with the theory test system. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that many older people are finding themselves unable to get insured because they no longer have a valid licence.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that insurance companies are now looking for driver licence numbers, leaving some elderly drivers caught out despite driving safely for years.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that many older people know the rules of the road but struggle with the computer-based theory test process. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated

that many older people fear losing their independence and simply want to continue making local journeys to shops, church and other essential services. Councillor T.P.

O'Reilly suggested that extra assistance be made available to the elderly similar to candidates with dyslexia when completing their theory test examination.

Councillor P. Walsh seconded Councillor T.P. O'Reilly's proposal and noted that most elderly people have a mental block when it comes to sitting in front of a computer screen.

Councillor J.P. Feeley suggested that maybe those who are nervous could get a few familiarisation sessions with the instructor.

Councillors C. Kelly and D. Brady supported the motion.

**12.8 That Cavan County Council call for grant assistance to landowners for the removal of roadside trees affected by ash dieback.**

Councillor T. Smith stated that ash dieback has been rampant over the last number of years and farmers are very concerned with the growing number of diseased ash trees along public roads. Councillor T. Smith stated that landowners should not be left with the financial cost of removing these dangerous trees along public roads. Councillor T. Smith

proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Cavan Monaghan Oireachtas Members urging the Government to provide grant assistance to landowners for the removal of roadside trees affected by ash dieback.

Councillor C. Kelly seconded Councillor T. Smith's proposal and urged the Government to recognise the scale of the problem nationally noting the growing difficulties faced by HGV drivers navigating rural roads lined with overhanging branches.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and acknowledged the work done by farmers over the last number of years in removing trees along public roads and noted the enormous burden removal costs are having on landowners.

Councillors B. Fay, W. Bennett and P. Walsh supported the motion.

**The meeting concluded at 15.50p.m.**