

**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 12.00 noon**

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.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

- 1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 9<sup>th</sup> Mí Feabhra 2026 a dhearbhú.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor P. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 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.

**Correspondence:**

- 5.(a) To note reply from IHA Manager Cavan Monaghan, HSE Dublin & North-East regarding increased funding and resources to create a plan to reduce waiting times and ensure every child with additional needs has access to the therapies they require.**

Noted.

- (b) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs & Migration in relation to transfers of residents from IPAS accommodation centres.**

Noted.

- (c) To note replies from Michael Healy-Rae T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to forestry in Ireland.**

Noted.

- (d) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Education & Youth regarding capitation funding for schools.**

Noted.

- (e) To note reply from Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment regarding biomethane and anaerobic digestion plants.**

Noted.

- (f) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Transport regarding a Bus Éireann service.**

Noted.

- (g) To note reply from the Office of the Minister of State for Sport and Postal Policy in connection with Eircode's being used for non-postal addresses to assist emergency services responding to incidents.**

Noted.

- (h) To note reply from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) regarding increases to toll charges.**

Noted.

- (i) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Agriculture regarding Bovine tuberculosis (bTB).**

Noted.

- (j) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Finance regarding the tracker mortgage issue.**

Noted.

**6. To approve attendance of members at Irish Planning Institute (IPI) Annual Planning Conference to be held in the Radisson Blu, Athlone on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

And Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Kelly, P. Walsh, Á. Smith, P. Brady, N. Smith, J.P. Feeley, C. Brady, N. Brady, T. Smith, V. Smith T.P. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly, A. Rogers and B. Fay at Irish Planning Institute (IPI) Annual Planning Conference to be held in the Radisson Blu, Athlone on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 be hereby approved”.

**Votes of Sympathy**

- Councillor A. Rogers on the death of his mother Mrs. Kitty Rogers, Knockbride
- Councillor Á. Smith on the death of her aunt and Deputy Brendan Smith on the death of his sister Mrs. Catherine Fitzgerald in England.
- The McEntee Family on the death of Mrs. Connie McEntee, former employee Cavan County Council.
- Ms. Michelle Lynch, Housing Construction on the death of her mother Mrs. Rosaleen Cronin, Kilnaleck.
- The Byers Family, Crosserlough on the death of Mr. Sean Byers.

A minute’s silence was held in memory of the deceased, and the meeting was adjourned for five minutes.

Councillor A. Rogers thanked the members for their kind words and support to the Rogers Family.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

- Mr. Conor Craven and the staff of Cavan Local Enterprise Office for a very successful Enterprise Week.
- Cootehill based 10Agri, an innovative agri-tech business founded by Sandra Thompson and Shane O’Reilly on winning this year’s innovation award at the Kingspan state of the art IKON Innovation Centre in Kingscourt.
- St. Mogue’s College, Bawnboy Girls U16’s on winning the Ulster Final defeating Blessed Trinity, Belfast.
- Mr. Adam Woods, Ballyconnell on being appointed editor of the Farmer’s Journal newspaper.
- Mrs. Bridie Murphy, Ballyconnell on receiving the Benemerenti medal from Pope Leo for her outstanding service to the Catholic Church.

- Ballyhaise Agriculture College's team on winning the overall title in the 2026 Ag Colleges Challenge Day.
- Mr. Pauric Mahon, Potahee on receiving the Benemerenti medal from Pope Leo for her outstanding service to the Catholic Church.
- Ms. Marie Baxter, Ballymachugh on receiving the LGFA Ulster Ladies Club Volunteer of the year.
- René Wohlfart on being re-elected as Lord Mayor of Kurnach.
- Ann Gerity Smith, Curator Cavan County Museum and staff on hosting a successful coffee morning to celebrate 30 years of Cavan County Museum.

#### **7. Member's Question – Councillor N. Connell**

To ask the Council how much revenue was collected in 2025 from Property Tax and how did Cavan County Council spend that funding.

A reply issued to Councillor Connell prior to the meeting.

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

#### **8. To note Chief Executive's monthly report (*Section 51 Local Government Reform Act 2014*)**

Noted.

#### **9. To approve disposal of 2.7680 hectares or 6.84 acres of land at Corranure and Lismagratty, Co. Cavan to Wilton Waste Recycling Limited, Kiffa, Crosserlough, Co. Cavan for the sum of €342,000 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

Seconded by Councillor S. P. O'Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that the disposal of 2.7680 hectares or 6.84 acres of land at Corranure and Lismagratty, Co. Cavan to Wilton Waste Recycling Limited, Kiffa, Crosserlough, Co. Cavan for the sum of €342,000 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, be hereby approved”.

**10. To approve disposal of 0.404 hectares or 0.999 acres of land at Cootehill**

**Enterprise Park, Errigal, Cootehill, Co. Cavan to Cootehill Precision Engineering Cootehill Business Park, Cavan Road, Cootehill, Co. Cavan for the sum of €30,000 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor N. Smith

And

Resolved;

“that the disposal of 0.404 hectares or 0.999 acres of land at Cootehill Enterprise Park, Errigal, Cootehill, Co. Cavan to Cootehill Precision Engineering Cootehill Business Park, Cavan Road, Cootehill, Co. Cavan for the sum of €30,000 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, be hereby approved”.

**11. To approve Cavan County Council’s Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase arrangements.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that Cavan County Council’s Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase arrangements be hereby approved”.

**12. Discussion with Oireachtas Members regarding Roads Allocation 2026 at 2pm**

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed Deputies C. Bennett, M. Carthy, D. Maxwell, B. Smith and Senators J. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly, P. Tully and D. Wilson to the meeting.

An apology was received from Senator R. Gallagher. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that all members of Cavan County Council were disappointed with the €19.1m allocation for local and regional roads.

Mr. P. Connaughton, Director of Services welcomed the Oireachtas members to the meeting and gave a detailed presentation to the members on Cavan Regional and Local Roads Network. Mr. Connaughton noted that Cavan manages 2,998km of public road, 96% are regional and local roads, a network equivalent of driving from Cavan to Naples. He stated that this scale makes Cavan highly dependable on the Department of Transport and the Council’s own resource funding for non-national roads. Mr.

Connaughton stated that while funding levels have only now returned to pre-economic crash levels of 2008, the county has accumulated a deficit of more than €200m in road investment in the years since and that is before inflation is considered. Mr.

Connaughton noted that construction costs had doubled between 2018 and 2024 and the condition of the road network is deteriorating. Mr. Connaughton stated that almost 1,400km of our roads are rated poor to fair under the current grading system. Mr.

Connaughton stated that even if funding remained at today's level, it would take twenty-one years just to restore those roads and that estimate does not account for further deterioration in the meantime. Mr. Connaughton stated that officials of Cavan County Council presented figures to the Minister last year setting out what they believe is the minimum required to tackle the growing backlog. Mr. Connaughton informed the members that the restoration improvement grant should rise by 50% from €10m to €15m while the discretionary grant for local and regional roads should increase from €2.4m to €3.6m in order to help address the cumulative deficit and maintain standards.

Mr. Connaughton stated that in addition, the Council is seeking a 50% boost to the Local Improvement Scheme from €500,000 to €1m in order to clear an eight-year backlog and meet the growing demand from rural communities. Mr. Connaughton thanked Minister Heather Humphreys and her Department for monies received for the LIS over the last number of years. Mr. Connaughton noted that Virginia by-pass is a priority. He stated that it is currently in Phase 3, design and environmental evaluation and it is hoped to go to planning stage by Q4 2027. Mr. Connaughton stated that funding from the Council's own resources had increased by 44% since 2024 with €3.416m allocated this year. Mr. Connaughton noted that €100,000 was provided by TII for the Cavan Northwest & SLNCR Greenways in 2026 where the aim of the project is to connect Cavan Town north to the Ulster Canal Greenway and west to the Cavan Leitrim Greenway. Mr. Connaughton noted that there is a need for stronger funding and stated that Cavan County Council will continue to work closely with the Department of Transport, TII and the Oireachtas Members and noted that there is a genuine shared commitment to work together for the betterment of the County.

Councillor J.P. Feeley thanked Mr. Connaughton for his presentation and again highlighted how people from Cavan have little option other than to travel the roads, and while issues around funding are shared elsewhere, he insisted that there is still a special case to be made for the County. Councillor Feeley stated that the Councillors had made this case before to Senior Cabinet Ministers, James Lawless and Jack Chambers as well as former Minister Shane Ross, but they seemed to be only photo opportunities. Councillor Feeley stated that all Cavan want is its fair share, but the problem is that the cake is too small.

The Oireachtas Members in turn addressed the elected members of Cavan County Council and the Executive all noting that it is clear additional funding is required for the maintenance of roads in County Cavan and promised to work together and advocate for more roads funding.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive welcomed the Oireachtas Members to the meeting and stated that the importance of our roads cannot be understated. Mr. Doyle noted that the Local Authority's own contribution to road repairs has increased by 44% which is the result of difficult decisions taken by the elected members who recognised the scale of the problem. Mr. Doyle thanked Mr. Connaughton, Director of Services and Mr. John McKiernan, Senior Engineer for preparing the presentation.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly thanked the Oireachtas members for their attendance and sought agreement on a series of statements from the members (i) to reaffirm full commitment to delivering the Virginia by-pass, (ii) to call for specific funding for the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District to repair backroads either side of the N3 damaged by traffic avoiding Virginia at peak times, (iii) demand a larger share of discretionary budgets for Councils and (iv) to urge a reduction in carbon tax and excise duty as diesel prices approach €2. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly also called for the development of a park and ride facility at Derver, Maghera.

Councillor C. Brady stated that the country's by-roads serve as a vital artery for industry but are in a terrible state of disrepair. Councillor Brady praised the work of now retired Minister Heather Humphreys and suggested that responsibility for funding for fixing roads should not fall solely on the Department of Transport.

The members in turn thanked the Oireachtas Members for attending the meeting.

#### **MEMBERS' ITEMS – DEFERRED FROM FEBRUARY MEETING**

- 13.1 Chun uasdátú a lorg faoi chun cinn an Shlí-Ghlas Iarthuaiscirt an Cabháin, ach go háirithe, i dtaobh an bhealaigh idir Bhaile an Chabháin agus an Chanáil Ulaidh tríd Bhéal Átha hÉis agus Cnoc Rua, agus ag iarraidh go mbaillfí toscaireacht ón Chomhairle le hionadaithe ón dhá phobal chun an tógra a phlé / To seek an update on the Cavan North-West Greenway, in particular in relation to the route connecting Cavan Town with the Ulster Canal via Ballyhaise and Redhills, and to ask that a delegation from the Council meet with the representatives of both communities to discuss the project.**

Councillor S. Conaty asked Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service for an update on the Cavan North-West Greenway, particularly in relation to the route connecting Cavan Town with the Ulster Canal via Ballyhaise and Redhills, and to ask that a delegation from the Council meet with representatives of both communities to discuss the project. Councillor Conaty stated that there is a lot of uncertainty among

landowners, and it would be appreciated if the Council could meet with the local development committee to give them an update on where the project is at.

Councillor C. Brady seconded Councillor S. Conaty's proposal.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that funding of €100,000 had been allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland but this is not enough to progress the project to the next stage. He stated that the project is at an early stage and no routes have been picked to date. Mr. Connaughton stated that the Council would be happy to meet with representatives from the community.

Councillor Conaty thanked Mr. Connaughton for his reply and stated that a meeting could be held in the future.

### **MEMBERS' ITEMS – MARCH MEETING**

#### **13.2 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 members that a meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February where Eirgrid set out their desire to deliver the project and the importance of the project. He stated that Eirgrid are to meet with each Local Authority in the region.

#### **13.5 To request a presentation to the Council on planning enforcement.**

Councillor Kelly stated that he attended a meeting in Kingscourt where residents were concerned about work being done on houses with no planning permission granted. He stated that this is very annoying for residents in the area and proposed that Cavan County Council's enforcement section deal with the matter.

Councillor N. Smith seconded the proposal by Councillor C. Kelly.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that there are cases like this across all towns and noted that Kingscourt is under review at the minute and is being dealt with.

#### **13.6 Calling on the Government to provide the shingles vaccine to persons over 50 years of age free of charge.**

Councillor C. Kelly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health, Ms. Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, T.D. asking that the shingles vaccine be provided free of charge to persons over 50 years of age in light of the current cost of €500 which places it beyond the reach of many older people. Councillor Kelly noted that in England the vaccine is provided free of charge and asked that the Government assess this model. Councillor Kelly stated that people can suffer with side effects for a long time after shingles.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor C. Kelly's proposal. Councillor Feeley stated that he brought the matter up at a Regional Health Forum meeting where he was told HIQA did an assessment in 2024 and it would cost €218m over five years which is not cost effective.

Councillor P. Walsh and T.P O'Reilly supported the motion.

**13.7 Ag moladh grúpaí pobail i gContae an Chabháin as ucht a gcuid iarrachtaí le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2026, ag gabháil buíochas le Comhairle Contae an Chabháin as an tacaíocht a thug siad do na grúpaí seo, agus ag iarraidh go méadófaí an tacaíocht seo sna blianta amach romhainn**

Councillor S. Conaty noted that the motion was a cross-party motion which demonstrates that Irish does not belong to one party or another, it belongs to all with a shared responsibility to protect, promote and revive it as a spoken language. Councillor Conaty commended the wide range of organisations that helped deliver this year's programme of events during Seachtain na Gaeilge. Councillor Conaty highlighted the good work being done by Gaelphobal an Chabháin, Gaeil Mhuinchille, local schools, book clubs, Cavan County Council library, Cavan Gaa and numerous community groups and businesses throughout the County. Councillor Conaty thanked Cavan County Council officials and public reps who attended the recent launch of Gaelphobal an Chabháin a group of which he and Councillor T. Smith are committee members and noted that the organisation has since been formally registered as a local branch of Conradh na Gaeilge. Councillor Conaty acknowledged the positive steps taken by Cavan County Council and welcomed the appointment of Irish Language Officer, Mr. Ciarán Mac Giolla Phádraig and called for the creation of an Irish Language Development Officer role and a dedicated Irish language section.

Councillor Á. Smith thanked Cavan County Council for their efforts in implementing and supporting the Irish Language. Councillor Á. Smith stated that the Irish Language should never become a political football and noted that incremental progress is being made. Councillor Á. Smith stated that the continued growth of the local Gaelscoil Bhreifne is one such example and also noted the development of an Irish speaking group in Templeport. Councillor Á. Smith stated that it is important to encourage everyone to engage but noted that not everyone is fluent in Irish and there is no point in trying to push it on people. Councillor Á. Smith stated that for the language to flourish it must be promoted as a living language. Councillor Á. Smith stated that she attended the 'Ciorcal Comhrá an Árais' reception with President Catherine Connolly which included performances of poetry, dance and singing.

Councillor T. Smith concurred with what Councillor Conaty and Councillor Smith had said and encouraged the local authority to increase funding to expand events in years to come.

Councillor T. Smith congratulated all groups that worked together to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Ms. Lynda McGavigan, Director of Service commended the community groups involved and noted that Cavan County Council had run a few events for Council staff to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. Ms. McGavigan stated that the Council runs events aimed at prompting more people to enjoy using Irish daily.

**13.3 Calling on Cavan County Council to amend the power boat Bye-laws of 2008 on health and safety and also environmental grounds.**

Councillor P. Brady stated that he was contacted by the Lough Sheelin Trout Protection Association who are concerned about the number of power boats and jet skis on Lough Sheelin. Councillor P. Brady stated that the speeds being reached pose a serious danger to those using the lake including swimmers, canoeists and anglers. Councillor Brady stated that at peak time the lake can hold up to one hundred anglers some who have travelled long distances as Lough Sheelin is renowned for its high-quality trout fishing, particularly brown trout. Councillor Brady stated that Cavan County Council introduced bye-laws in 2008 which prohibited jet skis for safety reasons on the lake. He stated that these boats are a threat to wildlife and birds on the lake. Councillor P. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council amend these bye-laws on health and safety and environmental grounds.

**13.8 That Cavan County Council amend Cavan County Council's Watercraft Bye-Laws 2008 on health and safety grounds.**

Councillor T. Smith stated that a lot of Councillors had been lobbied over the issue of speed by power boats on Lough Sheelin. Councillor Smith stated that the concern and dangers centre on the need for an amendment to the current bye-laws in place since 2008. Councillor Smith stated that changes are needed surrounding a cap on engine size using local lakes like Lough Sheelin and members of Inland Fisheries Ireland can then implement the bye-laws. Councillor Smith stated that changes are needed to prevent dangers to the people using the busy lake and to protect the habitat on the lake.

Councillor N. Connell supported the motion. Councillor N. Connell stated that these speed boats are too powerful for local lakes and they drive the fish away from where the fishermen are fishing. Councillor Connell stated that amending the bye-laws would probably involve Counties Cavan, Meath and Westmeath.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly seconded the proposals by Councillor P. Brady and Councillor T. Smith. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that these engines should be a maximum of 15 horsepower and Inland Fisheries should be policing same going forward.

Councillors W. Bennett, P. Walsh, N. Brady, C. Kelly, N. Smith and J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that there are a number of issues relating to the bye-laws as not all lakes involve County Cavan and the Council would have to engage with neighbouring counties, which share access to the lakes. Mr. Connaughton stated that by engaging with the other local authorities, a broad agreement could be reached with continuity applied throughout. Mr. Connaughton noted that Inland Fisheries Ireland can ask the Minister to intervene directly to provide officers with additional powers.

**13.4 To call on the NDLS to fast-track the exchange of driving licences for returning immigrants.**

Councillor P. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Transport and the National Driver Licence Service (NDLS) asking them to fast-track the exchange of driving licences for returning immigrants. Councillor P. Brady stated that it is currently taking six to eight months for those returning home from abroad to get their licence exchanged. He stated that those who have returned home may have employment secured but must wait months to get their licence exchanged.

Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor P. Brady's proposal. Councillor Conaty stated that waiting for months has a knock-on effect including hikes in insurance policies and missing out on employment opportunities.

Councillors B. Fay, T.P. O'Reilly and P. Walsh supported the motion.

**13.9 To discuss the changes involved on voter registration updates currently taking place.**

Councillor T. Smith noted that members of the public had received letters to update their details on the voting register and asked why this was happening now when people are on the register for years and have always been voting and getting polling cards.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and asked why only some were currently receiving the letter.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that once a person reaches eighteen, they should automatically be put on the register with their PPSN number.

Councillor P. Walsh stated that prior to the last election a lot of work was done on the register to alleviate duplications by sending in the data requested.

Councillors N. Smith and C. Brady supported the motion.

Ms. Lynda McGavigan, Director of Service stated that under the Electoral Reform Act 2022, Cavan County Council have the authorisation to request date of birth, PPSN and Eircode to determine the validity and accuracy of the electoral register. She stated that this is a national campaign and over time the register will be up to date.

**13.10 Ag glaigh ar an Aire agus Roinn Oideachais chun riachtanas a thabhairt isteach go múinfear do pháistí an foclaíocht, brí agus taibhiú cuí den amhrán náisiúnta, Amhrán na bhFiann, i ngach bunscoil agus iar-bhunscoil, mar chuid den curaclam scoile stáit / To call on the Minister and Department of Education to introduce a requirement that all primary and post-primary school pupils are taught the words, meaning, and appropriate performance of the national anthem, Amhrán na bhFiann, as part of the school curriculum.**

Councillor S. Conaty proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Education asking for the introduction of a requirement that all primary and post-primary pupils be taught the words, meaning and appropriate performance of the national anthem, Amhrán na bhFiann as part of the school curriculum. Councillor S. Conaty noted that he first learned the national anthem in primary school and he remains extremely thankful for the experience. Councillor Conaty stated that he is conscious that many pupils in other schools did not get the same experience. Councillor Conaty stated that learning the national anthem was pivotal in shaping his interest in Irish and politics and it gave him a respect and reverence for our national story. Councillor Conaty referred to a recent survey which suggested around 70% of people support teaching the national anthem as mandatory. Councillor Conaty suggested that local GAA clubs could also help promote learning of the national anthem and encourage proper respect when it is performed at sporting events.

Councillor P. Brady supported the motion and stated that it should be taught in primary school.

Councillors T. Smith, P. Walsh, S.P. O'Reilly, Á. Smith and J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

**13.11 That Cavan County Council support the call to remove Larry Murrin as Chairperson of Bord Bia.**

Councillor D. Brady on behalf of the Sinn Féin Group proposed that Cavan County Council support the call to remove Larry Murrin as Chairperson of Bord Bia. Councillor D. Brady stated that Mr. Murrin as Chairperson of Bord Bia is supposed to promote the quality food that Irish farmers produce to a very high standard and how well agriculture does in Ireland. He stated that Irish farmers export high quality beef to the EU. Councillor D. Brady stated that five members of the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) staged a sit in protest in the reception area of the Bord Bia building for four weeks and recently suspended the sit in when it was agreed that an expert led governance review would be held in relation to Bord Bia's operations. Councillor Brady stated that protests are being held throughout the Country with a lot of angry farmers turning out. Councillor D. Brady stated that the Minister for Agriculture is ignoring the concerns of farmers and allowing double standards to go

unchallenged to protect Larry Murrin. Councillor D. Brady stated that the protests arose because Larry Murrin's company imported large quantities of Brazilian beef into this country. Councillor D. Brady stated that Brazilian beef has high quality growth promoters in it that is banned in the EU. Councillor D. Brady stated that there is no control over what goes on with Brazilian beef as you can openly buy injectable antibiotics and growth promoters in Brazil. Councillor D. Brady stated that Irish farmers have to endure strict quality inspections by members of Bord Bia and noted that animal welfare and safety documentation is inspected for medication purchases and usage including withdrawal periods. Councillor D. Brady stated that all cattle must have tags and they must match with the herd register. Councillor D. Brady stated that the question remains as to why the Minister for Agriculture is standing by Larry Murrin when his actions after importing Brazilian beef to Ireland is putting Ireland's reputation as a food exporter with the highest standards at risk.

**13.16 To request Cavan County Council, in support of Cavan IFA, to table a motion of no confidence in Bord Bia Chairman, Larry Murrin.**

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council, in support of Cavan IFA, table a motion of no confidence in Bord Bia Chairman, Larry Murrin as a matter of urgency. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that the controversy had raised serious questions about the credibility and governance at Bord Bia and stated that the recent actions of Larry Murrin had undermined its reputation. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that farmers fear if Mr. Murrin is removed then he could be replaced by another Larry Murrin and noted that there needs to be major change within Bord Bia. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that the consumer needs to have confidence and stated that the consumer has confidence in the farmer and praised the actions of the IFA members who staged the protest.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and noted that all farmers in this country are working to strict restrictions. Councillor Á. Smith praised the role of newly appointed Farmers' Journal Editor, Mr. Adam Woods from Ballyconnell for highlighting food chain traceability concerns in Brazil.

Councillor S. Conaty supported the motion and stated that farmers are fighting this battle not just for themselves but for us as consumers.

Councillor N. Connell supported the motion and paid tribute to Mr. Richard Moeran from Mountnugent who was one of the five farmers who protested inside Bord Bia headquarters for four weeks.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and stated that Larry Murrin had lost the respect of farmers and he should step aside.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that the book stopped with the Minister for Agriculture, and he should be asked to remove Larry Murrin from his position at Bord Bia.

It was unanimously agreed to write to the Minister for Agriculture asking him to remove Larry Murrin from his position at Bord Bia.

**13.12 Call on Cavan County Council to write to the Minister for Agriculture to increase TAMS (Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme) payments to farmers to increase security around their farms.**

Councillor D. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, asking him to increase the Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme (TAMS) payments to farmers to increase security around their farms. Councillor D. Brady stated that thefts on farms have become a very worrying issue across the Country and farmers are very concerned as large pieces of machinery, vehicles such as quad bikes and trailers are stolen from farms under the cover of darkness. Councillor D. Brady stated that machinery is not the only item being targeted, cattle and sheep are also being removed from farms. Councillor D. Brady stated that over the last four years there was three hundred and twenty-four incidents of livestock theft reported. He noted that in 2024 alone there were seventy incidents and in 2025 ninety-one incidents. Councillor D. Brady stated that the theft of handheld tools on farms has increased and large volumes of diesel has been stolen. Councillor D. Brady stated that no matter how small the theft is, it needs to be reported. Councillor D. Brady stated that when thefts take place on farms the farmer is left devastated and needs to replace the stolen items which costs more money and it also leaves the farmer living in fear in his workplace. Councillor D. Brady stated that technology is one form of a barrier that can be put in place to stop thieves such as CCTV, drones to spot intruders on land during the day, marking systems for machinery, alarm devices on sheds and gates.

Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor D. Brady's proposal.

Councillors Á. Smith and P. Walsh supported the motion.

**13.13 Call on Cavan County Council to write to the Minister for Education to immediately scrap the cuts to SNA (Special Needs Assistants) in our schools.**

Councillor D. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Education to immediately scrap the cuts to Special Needs Assistants (SNA) in our schools. Councillor D. Brady stated that the recent review of SNAs in our schools had parents and SNAs very worried and sent shockwaves through the school community. Councillor D. Brady stated that the Government must cancel the cuts and recognise the excellent work SNAs do in our schools. Councillor D. Brady stated that pausing the cuts is not an answer parents, SNAs and our children want to hear as the threat of these cuts still hang over schools and the children who depend on this support. Councillor D. Brady noted that SNAs play a vital role in our education system and provide life-changing support to

students. Councillor D. Brady stated that every child has the right to education and noted if a child has additional needs and there is no SNA provided this may create barriers for the child attending school. Councillor Brady stated that it is vital that a child receives early intervention in their education as this gives the child confidence going forward. Councillor Brady stated that cutting SNA allocations or not fully implementing the allocation needed for these children fails to recognise the reality of what happens in the classroom every day. Councillor Brady stated that the Government must realise that at the centre of everyone of these decisions is a child.

Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor D. Brady's proposal. Councillor Conaty stated that the threat to cut SNAs from schools next year is causing major upset.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion stating that she knows first hand the great work being done in schools by SNAs and noted that there is a need for more SNAs at secondary level.

Councillors N. Connell, B. Fay, C. Kelly, P. Walsh, T. Smith and J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

**13.14 That Cavan County Council write to the Road Safety Authority outlining concerns about the delays and backlog in NCT centres.**

Councillor C. Brady noted that a car requires its first National Car Test (NCT) when it is four years old, based on its date of first registration and subsequently cars must be tested every two years until they are ten years old, after which they require an annual NCT test. Councillor C. Brady stated that driving without a valid NCT disc can result in fines and penalty points and can also affect your insurance. Councillor C. Brady stated that recently she received several phone calls from people who went online to book their NCT test and could only get a test date four to five months down the line when their NCT is running out in four to five weeks. Councillor C. Brady stated that most NCT centres are open seven days a week until 10pm so why is there such long waiting times. Councillor C. Brady stated that after speaking to a few people she discovered that failure rates are higher in Cavan than Monaghan or Kells and some stated that they had to put their car through the repair garage and then failed the test on items that were already repaired. Councillor C. Brady stated that this is causing frustration and annoyance to customers who are trying to follow the rules and regulations. Councillor C. Brady stated that some garage men are very irate due to cars failing for minor reasons such as tyre pressure monitoring system lights. Councillor C. Brady stated that some garage men believe it is a financial racket attached to the NCT centres on failure percentages and that they need to be monitored to a much stricter standard than they already are. Councillor C. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Department of Transport, RSA section, asking them to explain

the reasons for the delays and the vast failure rating percentage in different counties throughout Ireland.

Councillor W. Bennett seconded Councillor C. Brady's proposal.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion.

**13.15 To call on the Minister for Education to develop better teaching and learning methods of Irish in Primary Schools.**

Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Education to develop better teaching and learning methods of Irish in Primary Schools. Councillor Á. Smith stated that reform is needed to encourage greater everyday use of the language and revive it as a living language. Councillor Á. Smith stated that all students are required to study Irish unless they have an exemption and noted that the reason there is not more fluent Irish speakers is because of the way the language is taught. Councillor Á. Smith stated that the twenty-year strategy for the Irish language 2010-2030 aims to increase the use and knowledge of Irish as a community language, particularly in Gaeltacht areas and the key challenge is ensuring Irish is spoken and used naturally, rather than simply learned through routine learning. Councillor Á. Smith stated that children learn languages most effectively at a young age and it is therefore crucial to rethink how Irish is taught in primary schools. Councillor Á. Smith stated that she is not criticising teachers and noted that schools need stronger learning supports and a greater emphasis on the spoken language, including within examinations. Councillor Á. Smith stated that the problem is that there is no standardised format for how Irish is taught at national school level.

Councillor S. Conaty supported the motion and acknowledged that the teaching of Irish has improved significantly compared with previous generations. Councillor Conaty stated that the focus should move away from routine learning as students still struggle to speak the language fluently. Councillor Conaty suggestion was that at second level, elements such as poetry and prose could be separated from the core curriculum and offered to students who wish to study them, while maintaining a stronger focus on spoken language. Councillor N. Brady supported the motion and stated that she was encouraged to see her own children learning Irish by ear but agreed more creative approaches are needed.

Councillors B. Fay, T. Smith and P. Walsh supported the motion,

**13.20 That this Council calls on An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D. to use the forthcoming St. Patrick's Day engagements in the United States, including any meeting with the President of the United States, to formally raise the urgent issue of undocumented Irish citizens currently residing in America.**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to An Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., asking him to use the forthcoming St. Patrick's Day engagements in the United States, including any meeting with the President of the United States, to formally raise the urgent issue of undocumented Irish Citizens currently residing in America. Councillor B. Fay urged the Irish Government to advocate for the fair and humane treatment of undocumented Irish citizens living across the Atlantic and to push for comprehensive immigration reform, including a pathway to legal status for long-settled persons and families. Councillor Fay stated that the Irish Government should seek assurances that undocumented Irish people with deep community ties in the United States are treated with dignity and afforded due process. Councillor Fay stated that generations of Irish people had contributed enormously to American society, culture and economic life. Councillor Fay stated that increased immigration enforcement activity has created deep anxiety among Irish communities with fears that families could be targeted while attending St. Patrick's Day parades.

Councillor C. Kelly seconded Councillor B. Fay's motion.

Councillors N. Smith and P. Walsh supported the motion.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that technically undocumented Irish living in America are illegal immigrants and should not be treated different to other nationalities. Councillor Feeley noted that his family like many others at one stage had a loved one living in the US without regularised status and stated that people had failed to engage when opportunities for visas arose over the years. Councillor Feeley noted that many Irish in the US voted for the current President and questioned why people who might support deportations from Ireland still expected preferential treatment for Irish residing elsewhere.

**13.17 To ask Cavan County Council to consider providing a space in our towns for neurodiverse people, a space in town where persons with Autism, ADHD etc. might go to regulate themselves when overwhelmed, with consideration given to the Abbeylands.**

Councillor N. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council consider providing a space in our towns for neurodiverse people, a space in town where persons with Autism, ADHD etc, might go to regulate themselves when overwhelmed, with consideration given to the Abbeylands project. Councillor N. Brady stated that one in ten adults identify as neurodivergent, encompassing autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia and other neurological differences. Councillor N. Brady stated that autism prevalence among children has also increased significantly in recent years. Councillor N. Brady stated that many neurodivergent people can find busy public environments overwhelming due to noise, lighting and crowd levels. Councillor N. Brady stated that without access to a calm, low-stimulus environment, they may feel forced to leave shared spaces entirely, even when

they want to participate socially and engage with community life. Councillor N. Brady stated that while Cavan town offers many valuable social and community opportunities, the lack of a calm and sensory-considerate space can unintentionally limit participation for some members of our community. Councillor N. Brady stated that a small, low-stimulation space in the town would allow individuals to regulate themselves when feeling overwhelmed, reduce anxiety for parents knowing that support is available, encourage families to spend more time in town and promote inclusion, understanding and community cohesion. Councillor N. Brady stated that a such a space could be located within an existing public building and include soft, adjustable lighting, sound-dampening features, comfortable seating, clear signage and accessibility for all ages and abilities.

Councillor P. Walsh seconded Councillor N. Brady's proposal.

Councillor D. Brady supported the motion and referred to the great facilities in Breffni Park where parents can watch the match and their children are safe.

Councillors Á. Smith, W. Bennett, B. Fay, C. Kelly and C. Brady supported the motion.

Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that a Cathaoirleach's Reception was held for the Knockbride All-Ireland Ladies winning team after the February meeting and he thanked the staff of Cavan County Council for arranging and serving refreshments after.

Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that Cavan Courthouse is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and invited all members to celebrate the event on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in the Council Chamber.

It was proposed by Councillor N. Brady and seconded by Councillor C. Brady that the April meeting of Cavan County Council be held in Cavan County Museum, Ballyjamesduff.

It was proposed by Councillor C. Kelly and seconded by Councillor Á. Smith that the May meeting of Cavan County Council be held in the IKON Innovation Centre, Kingscourt.

Councillor C. Brady wished Cathaoirleach Councillor J.P. Feeley and the delegation from Cavan County Council well on representing Cavan in New York for St. Patrick's Day.

**Item Nos 13.18, 13.19, 13.21 and 13.22 were deferred.**

**The meeting concluded at 5.30p.m.**