

**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley, Cathaoirleach, presiding

**PRESENT:** Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, N. Brady(online), 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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 8<sup>th</sup> Mí Mheán Fómhair 2025 a dhearbhu.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor N. Smith

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be hereby approved”

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

Noted.

**14. To fix the date and time of the Budget 2026 Meeting (Section 103 Local Government Act 2001).**

Ms. Margaret McNally, Head of Finance informed the members that the budget meeting will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 10.30am in the Council Chamber. She stated that an In-Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 9.30am at a venue to be decided.

It was

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor P. Walsh

And

Resolved;

“that the Budget 2026 Meeting be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 10.30am in the Council Chamber.

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

#### **3. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025.**

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 the Office of the Minister for State for Special Education and Inclusion in relation to the allocation of Special Needs Assistant posts (SNAs) to schools.**

Noted.

#### **(b) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding the situation in Gaza.**

Noted.

#### **(c) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Minister of State for Older People and Housing regarding Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People Scheme.**

Noted.

#### **(d) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to student accommodation.**

Noted.

#### **6. Member's Question / Ceist – Councillor Adrian Rogers**

To ask Cavan County Council for a copy of the Minutes, attendees and all matters discussed in relation to the North South Interconnector at a meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

A reply issued to Councillor A. Rogers prior to the meeting.

#### **7. Member's Question / Ceist – Councillor Adrian Rogers**

To ask what legal advice was sought and obtained by the CEO, Planning Authority with regard to the status of Eirgrid-ESB in relation to the proposed North South Interconnector project.

A reply issued to Councillor A. Rogers prior to the meeting.

**8. Member's Question / Ceist – Councillor Stiofán Conaty**

An bhfuil uasdátú ar ranganna Gaeilge saor in aisce do fhoireann agus baill tofa Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin, mar a bhí glactha mar rún I mí Mheán Fómhair 2024 / Asking for an update on free Irish language classes for staff and elected members of Cavan County Council, as agreed to in a motion in September 2024.

A reply issued to Councillor S. Conaty prior to the meeting.

**9. Member's Question / Ceist – Councillor Noel Connell**

To ask what work has been carried out on the booklet "Personal & Community Resilience".

A reply issued to Councillor N. Connell prior to the meeting.

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

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

Noted.

**11. To seek the nomination of an elected member of Cavan County Council to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) in accordance with Sections 21 and 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Á. Smith

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

"that the nomination of Councillor P. Walsh to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) in accordance with Sections 21 and 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 be hereby approved".

**12. To approve the disposal of 0.39 hectares of land containing house at Lisney, Loughduff in the townland of Drumersnaw, Gowna, Co. Cavan, Eircode H12XW92 for the sum of €107,000 to Mr. John Brady, 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 S.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

"that the disposal of 0.39 hectares of land containing house at Lisney, Loughduff in the townland of Drumersnaw, Gowna, Co. Cavan, Eircode H12XW92 for the sum of €107,000

to Mr. John Brady, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, be hereby approved”.

- 13. To approve the lease (for a period of 40 years) of lands containing 3.0238 hectares or 7.4720 acres in the townland of Kilmore, in the Barony of Castlerahan, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan to Ballyjamesduff Community Council Company Limited by Guarantee for the nominal fee of €10 per annum, 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 T. Smith

Seconded by Councillor N. Connell

And

Resolved;

“that the lease (for a period of 40 years) of lands containing 3.0238 hectares or 7.4720 acres in the townland of Kilmore, in the Barony of Castlerahan, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan to Ballyjamesduff Community Council Company Limited by Guarantee for the nominal fee of €10 per annum, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, be hereby approved”.

- 15. To approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €9,000,000 for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the overdraft accommodation in the sum of €9,000,000 for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026 be hereby approved”.

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed staff members of Cavan County Council to the meeting.

**Vote of Sympathy:**

- The Mansergh Family, Tipperary on the death of Dr. Martin Mansergh who served as a member of the Seanad and Dáil Éireann. Dr. Mansergh was very much involved in talks that led to the Northern Ireland peace process.
- The McGinley Family, Belturbet on the death of Ms. Lily McGinley, former town councillor.

- The Carolan Family, Mullagh on the death of Mr. Patrick Carolan who was the last surviving member of the 1952 All-Ireland winning Cavan team

### **Votes of Congratulations**

- Munterconnaught Football team on winning the County Junior Championship.
- Cuchulainns Football team on winning the County Intermediate Championship.
- Kingscourt Football team on winning the County Senior Championship.
- Lurgan Ladies on winning the Senior County Championship and the first round of the Ulster Championship.
- Knockbride Ladies on winning the Intermediate Championship.
- St. Finbarr's Ladies on winning the Division 2 league final
- Mr. Declan McCabe and the McCabe Group, Ballyjamesduff on winning Contractor Industrial Project of the Year at the Irish Construction Awards.
- Cavan Arts Section under the leadership of Arts Officer, Ms. Karina Charles on organising a very successful Culture Night throughout the County.
- The Anglo Celt on the recently held Tourism and Business Awards of which Cavan County Council is an important partner.

### **MEMBERS' ITEMS – OCTOBER MEETING**

#### **16.1 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 Jennings stated that there had been no meetings or site visits since the September Council meeting and there has been no notification of when the next meeting will be held.

#### **16.2 Ag iarraidh go dtabharfaidh Comhairle Contae an Chabháin tacaíocht do mhiantaí na bhfeachtais Gaeilge “Cearta agus Bánú”, go mbeidh cothram na féinne dár dteanga náisiúnta agus dár nGaeltachtaí I dcaitheachas an stáit / Asking that Cavan County Council support the demands of Irish language campaigns “Cearta” and “Bánú” for fair and proper investment in our national language and Gaeltacht regions.**

Councillor S. Conaty stated that last month he and 25,000 other Irish Speakers marched in Dublin City to demand fair and proper investment in our national language and Gaeltacht regions. Councillor Conaty welcomed the slight increase in funding for the Irish language in Budget 2026 and noted that this came about after years of lobbying by Conradh na Gaeilge and the Irish language community, and although it is a welcome increase it is not enough. Councillor Conaty stated that it is nowhere near what is needed and as a community, Irish speakers are always left behind and are constantly forced out onto the streets to beg for money. Councillor Conaty noted that the Minister

for An Ghaeltacht, Dara Calleary is a fluent Irish speaker and therefore a senior minister for the Gaeltacht is always needed at the cabinet table. Councillor Conaty stated that it is encouraging to see the Irish language is thriving, thanks to the work and commitment of community groups and volunteers. Councillor Conaty proposed that a letter be sent to the Department asking for extra funding.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and noted that it was fantastic to have a Senior Minister for An Ghaeltacht with a grá for An Gaeilge. Councillor Smith welcomed the increase in funding in budget 2026 stating that while more is needed this represented a positive starting point from which to build.

Councillors J.P. Feeley, P. Brady and T. Smith supported the motion. It was agreed that the Council would write to Minister Dara Calleary seeking further investment in our national language and Gaeltacht regions.

**16.3 That the NCSE review and change the new guidelines for SNAs set out for 2025/2026 year.**

Deferred to November Meeting.

**16.4 Calling on the Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien to call on Ryanair to reverse its decision to go paperless boarding passes from 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

Councillor P. Brady stated that from the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Ryanair has decided that it will accept digital boarding passes only at its gates and paper boarding passes will no longer be an option at boarding gates. Councillor Brady stated that Ryanair Chief Executive, Mr. Michael O'Leary has stated that 80% of its passengers already use digital boarding passes. Councillor Brady accepted that while 80% of passengers now use digital passes many of the remaining 20% are older passengers who still prefer paper boarding passes or people with no smart phone. Councillor Brady stated that the country is rapidly moving towards a cashless society and stated that while digital solutions are a wonderful development, common sense must also be applied. Councillor P. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien asking that he call on Ryanair to reverse its decision to go paperless and allow paper boarding passes if the case arises.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and noted that it is extremely stressful for the older generation who may not have smart phones to be expected to have digital boarding passes.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and noted that airline apps have some way to go before they could be fully trusted.

Councillor S. Conaty supported the motion and noted that both Ryanair and Aer Lingus need to improve their inputting systems as they do not accept an Irish fada.

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

**16.5 Ag glaigh arís ar Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin chun slí maoinithe ar leith a chur ar fail, no a lorg ó fhoinsí eile, ar mhaithe le grúpaí deonacha agus molanna pobail áitiúla a ullmhú i gcoinne eachtraí aimsire tromchúiseacha / To renew calls for Cavan County Council to provide, or seek from elsewhere, a specific stream of funding for local voluntary groups to allow them to kit out community hubs and prepare for extreme weather events.**

Councillor S. Conaty stated that in the aftermath of Storm Éowyn last year he asked if Cavan County Council could allocate a specific stream of funding to community groups, and if not, if they could seek funding from elsewhere, for the purpose of allowing GAA Clubs, Tidy Towns, Development Associations and other such groups to have the resources to hand in case of future severe weather events. Councillor Conaty asked if any work has been done to get this stream of funding going, to assist these groups in preparing for when the need arises. Councillor Conaty stated that these weather events will keep happening in the form of worsening storms, increased flooding as well as more intense wildfires and the loss of biodiversity. He stated that it is the ordinary people in the natural world which pays the price for a shortsighted economic model that prioritises growth at all costs, to the detriment of the environment. Councillor Conaty thanked the Council's emergency team for their quick response and communication during the recent Storm Amy.

**16.7 Response and lessons learned at national and local level from Storm Darragh and Storm Éowyn.**

Councillor Á. Smith thanked the staff of Cavan County Council, particularly the outdoor and frontline teams for their hard work and dedication during Storm Éowyn and more recently Storm Amy. Councillor Smith stated that severe storms cause significant disruption and damage to residents, infrastructure and essential services. Councillor Smith stated that in light of Storm Amy and the ongoing risk of severe weather events, it is now important to understand what has been done so far regarding the review proposed after Storm Éowyn. Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council request an update from the Chief Executive on the actions taken in response to Storm Éowyn review proposal including, (i) whether a working group/Meitheal has been convened, (ii) what stakeholder engagement has taken place, (iii) whether data and response plans have been reviewed, (iv) any preliminary findings or recommendations produced and (v) what steps have been taken to feed lessons into the national review process. Councillor Á. Smith requested that the update also include any actions taken to prepare for or respond to Storm Amy, including lessons learned and areas where improvements are needed. Councillor Smith stated that the Council needs to hear from National Government as to what the national review proposes and if additional funding

will be provided to local statutory agencies to deal with the problems that arise from these storm events.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that powerlines adjacent to forestry have still not been addressed.

Councillor D. Brady complimented the outdoor staff and fire service for the great work done during the recent storms. Councillor Brady stated that he had spoken with Uisce Éireann regarding the installation of generators in all major water treatment plants and expressed his disappointment to hear this project is now only going to tender.

Councillors T. Smith and B. Fay supported the motion.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service praised the work done by all voluntary groups. Mr. Jennings stated that there was currently no need to change the Council's approach to supporting community response, as various existing schemes are in place.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that alongside contributing to the national review on Storm Éowyn, Cavan County Council is also conducting an internal review aimed at improving local preparedness and identifying necessary backup systems in the future.

**16.6 To ask Cavan County Council to write to the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, T.D., to enquire why a post for a qualified Counsellor with Cavan/Monaghan Youth Substance Support Service remains vacant since 2024 and if she will outline what efforts are being made to fill this post and if a timeline for recruitment of this much needed Counsellor within this Service can be provided.**

Councillor N. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, T.D., asking why a post for a qualified Counsellor with Cavan/Monaghan Youth Substance Support Service has been left vacant since 2024 and asked that she outline what efforts are being made to fill this post and if a timeline for recruitment of this much needed Counsellor within this Service can be provided.

Councillor Smith stated that he has concerns and wants answers over the issue.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and noted that this is a very important service and should not be left vacant.

Councillors T.P. O'Reilly, N. Connell, B. Fay and T. Smith supported the motion.

**16.8 To ask the Minister for Housing to increase the income limits for social housing eligibility.**

Councillor Á. Smith stated that she has received numerous representations from people who are working hard, on low incomes, paying high rents and are absolutely frustrated and angry that they are denied the opportunity of getting a local authority house.

Councillor Smith noted that in January 2023, the Government increased the income limits for social housing by €5,000, this was the first increase since 2011, and it helped more people qualify. Councillor Smith noted that a major issue is that the working family payment is counted as income for social housing. Councillor Smith stated that working family payment is a state support designed to help low-income families, but because it is included as income it pushes people over the housing income limits. Councillor Smith stated that this is unfair and goes against the purpose of supporting people who work. Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage asking that the social housing income limits be increased in 2025 especially for Band 3 areas like County Cavan. Councillor Smith asked for a speed up on the national review of the income limit system, ensure working family payments and similar supports are treated fairly, so that families are not punished for receiving low-income supports and that the new limits reflect the real cost of living and housing today. Councillor Smith stated that this change would help many hardworking individuals and families who are only just above the current limits but still cannot access secure housing.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and stated that couples with small children are struggling to pay high rents and yet save for a deposit on a house.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and stated that anyone with a good record of paying rent over a six- or seven-year period should be given this benefit when applying for a mortgage.

Councillor S. Conaty supported the motion and noted that the threshold must be risen as currently people feel they would be better off not working as they would qualify for more benefits.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly endorsed all that was said and acknowledged the stream of houses Cavan County Council produced over the last number of years with more affordable houses coming on stream in the future.

Councillors T. Smith and B. Fay supported the motion.

#### **16.9 To seek an answer from the HSE as to why so many dentists have stopped doing PRSI treatment.**

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health, Ms. Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, and the HSE asking why so many dentists have stopped PRSI treatment. Councillor O'Reilly stated that clarity is needed on the issue, which is impacting access to essential dental care for PRSI qualified patients. Councillor O'Reilly noted that in recent years many dentists have withdrawn from the scheme which has raised worries among patients.

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

**16.10 To ask the Minister for Housing to seek support in the upcoming budget for people returning home from abroad to be able to avail of First Time Buyers Grant.**

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage asking that support be given to people returning home from abroad to be able to avail of the First Time Buyers Grant.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that currently you must be working two years in the Country to avail of the first-time buyers grant.

Councillors T. Smith, W. Bennett, S. Conaty and P. Walsh supported the motion.

**16.11 Following the revelation that the State made overpayments totalling millions of euros to providers of international protection accommodation, to ask Cavan County Council to write to Minister Jim O'Callaghan, T.D., enquiring what portion of this overpayment can be attributed to County Cavan.**

Councillor N. Connell proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Jim O'Callaghan, Minister for Justice enquiring what portion of overpayments totalling millions of euros to providers of international protection accommodation can be attributed to County Cavan. Councillor Connell stated that the annual report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of the Management of International Protection Accommodation is a damning indictment of government's failures to address profiteering and cost overruns. He stated that companies were charging for beds that were not provided, and one operator overcharged the state by €7.4m for VAT, when the accommodation is VAT exempt, and they still have a government contract. He stated that the Government has allowed a small number of operators to become multi-millionaires overnight at the expense of the taxpayer. Councillor Connell stated that there must be a full review to deliver accountability and transparency in terms of how public money has been spent and wasted on IPAS accommodation.

Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor N. Connell's proposal. He stated that it is a very important issue and affects all nationally.

**16.12 That this Council calls on the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Social Protection to extend and enhance existing community support schemes, including the Community Employment Scheme, the Rural Social Scheme and Tús in order to provide long-term stability for voluntary and community groups, especially tidy towns.**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Dara Calleary, T.D. asking that his department extend and enhance existing community schemes, including the Community Employment Scheme, the Rural Social Scheme and Tús in order to

provide long-term stability for voluntary and community groups, especially Tidy Town groups. Councillor Fay noted that these schemes are very important to communities as they foster community pride and keep rural Ireland alive. Councillor Fay stated that the scheme needs to be extended to the age of sixty-five/seventy. He stated that currently participants are forced to leave at the age of fifty-five/sixty, and it is a struggle to find employment at this stage in life. Councillor Fay stated that the value of the work locally exceeds the cost of the scheme. Councillor Fay stated that many schemes overlap, and they should all be merged to reduce paperwork.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor B. Fay's proposal. Councillor Feeley noted that part of the problem is most people are now in full time employment and there are no eligible people to pick up the work.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion, noting that two workers finished on the scheme in Cootehill and to date have not been replaced which is turn is putting more pressure on the Tidy Towns Committee.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and noted that these volunteers are very important to communities.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion.

**16.13 That this Council calls on the Government to initiate reform of the Presidential nominating process, with a view to ensuring that access to candidacy is fair, democratic and inclusive.**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage asking him to initiate reform of the Presidential nominating process, with a view to amending legislation to ensure that access to candidacy is fair, democratic and inclusive. Councillor Fay noted that currently for hopeful candidates to get their name on the ballot paper they must be nominated by at least twenty Oireachtas Members or at least four local authorities. Councillor Fay stated that this system can be restrictive and prevent candidates from entering the race.

Councillor Fay suggested that local authorities be allowed join nationally to nominate a candidate and get a collective nomination from forty to fifty Councillors. He stated that this would give Councillors a fairer voice in the process.

Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor B. Fay's proposal.

Councillor Á. Smith noted that all political parties including Independents can nominate a candidate to run for President of Ireland.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the Office of President was established by the Constitution, and we need a nomination process to control who runs for President.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the Constitution gives Councillors the privilege to

nominate a candidate. Councillor Feeley stated that there is merit in having a strong filter system.

Councillor Fay agreed with Councillor Feeley and stated that he would not like to see the flood gates open.

Councillor Feeley informed the members that the November Meeting will start at 12 noon.

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm