

**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday  
9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley, Cathaoirleach, presiding

**PRESENT:** Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, N. Brady,  
P. Brady, 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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An apology was received from Councillor S. Conaty.

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed all to the meeting.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

- 1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 12<sup>th</sup> Mí Eanair 2026 a dhearbhu.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor D. Brady

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 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 8<sup>th</sup> December 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 Michael Healy-Rae T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding tree planting along public roads.**  
Noted.
- (b) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill T.D. regarding medical card eligibility for children with additional needs.**  
Noted.
- (c) To note replies from MEPs regarding the Mercosur Trade deal.**  
Noted.
- (d) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection regarding Community Employment (CE) Scheme participants and possible consideration given to them assisting gritting footpaths during the winter period.**  
Noted.
- (e) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Health regarding smoking cessation services.**  
Noted.
- (f) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Disability regarding raising awareness of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome and the European Disability Card Scheme.**  
Noted.
- (g) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O’Callaghan regarding Garda allocations to Cavan.**  
Noted.
- 6.(a) To approve attendance of members at AILG training Seminar to be held in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk on 19<sup>th</sup> February or Hotel Kilkenny on 21<sup>st</sup> February.**  
It was  
Proposed by Councillor T.P. O’Reilly  
Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly  
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 and B. Fay at AILG training Seminar to be held in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk on 19<sup>th</sup> February or Hotel Kilkenny on 21<sup>st</sup> February be hereby approved”.
- (b) To approve attendance of members at Association of Irish Regions (AIR) Training Seminar to be held in Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Bunrana, Co. Donegal on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**  
It was

Proposed by Councillor T.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

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 and B. Fay at Association of Irish Regions (AIR) Training Seminar to be held in Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be hereby approved”.

**(c) To approve attendance of members at Celtic Conference held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

It was

Proposed by Councillor T. Smith

Seconded by Councillor P. Brady

And Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors N. Smith, V. Smith, T.P. O'Reilly, T. Smith, P. Brady, S.P. O'Reilly, A. Rogers at Celtic Conference held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> February be hereby approved”.

**7. Member's Question – Councillor Adrian Rogers**

To ask Cavan County Council the amount of funding received each year from 2020-2025 from TII and other agencies for Bus Shelters and to also state the number of Bus Shelters erected/completed in the County each year from 2020-2025.

A reply issued to Councillor Rogers prior to the meeting.

**8. Member's Question – Councillor Adrian Rogers**

To ask Cavan County Council the amount of ordinary Road Maintenance (national and regional) funding received from TII each year from 2020-2025.

A reply issued to Councillor Rogers prior to the meeting.

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

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

Noted.

Councillor C. Kelly asked Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services for clarification on development of Kingscourt town and rural generation project. Councillor C. Kelly stated that the matter was raised in the Dáil recently by Senator Robbie Gallagher and it had caused some confusion among the people in Kingscourt.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that planning was granted in 2023 for the project and it will be going to tender process shortly.

## 10. To approve arts awards recommendations.

It was

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor P. Walsh

And

Resolved;

“that payment of Arts Grants in accordance with following list, as circulated, be hereby approved”

### Cavan Arts Project Award 2026

| No. | Name of Group/Event  | Fund Amount Approved |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 1   | Alan D'Arcy Jazz Parasol Event   | €1400                |
| 2   | Amanda Jane Graham - Artist  | €3000                |
| 3   | Amy Corrigan, Aaron Monaghan & Tara Maria Lovett - Film                    | €3800                |
| 4   | Anastasia Zasimchuk - Artist   | €950                 |
| 5   | Anna Wiercioch - Artist  | €900                 |
| 6   | Annie Morton - Killeshandra Circus Skills                                  | €1000                |
| 7   | Arva Hens Shed (Arlene Cooney)   | €950                 |
| 8   | Bailieborough Creative Hub (Caroline Clarke) 2026 Programme of Arts Events | €2200                |
| 9   | Belturbet Comhaltas (Deirdre O'Gorman)                                     | €1900                |
| 10  | Belturbet Dramatic Society   | €1700                |
| 11  | Ballyjamesduff Creative Space Arts Events                                  | €1200                |
| 12  | Belturbet Heritage Railway   | €600                 |
| 13  | CAPS - Cavan Autism Parents Support (Trina Boylan)                         | €3500                |
| 14  | Carla Burns for (Active Virginians)  | €600                 |
| 15  | Carol Smyth (Shercock Festival of Firsts)                                  | €1375                |
| 16  | Catherine Clarke - West Knockbride Parent Association                      | €400                 |
| 17  | Cavan Arts Festival  | €4000                |
| 18  | Cavan Drama Festival (Carmel Gaffney)                                      | €1800                |
| 19  | Cavan IPSC (Máire Dolan)   | €900                 |
| 20  | Celine (Lily) Burke – Open Mic Nights Ballyjamesduff                       | €1200                |
| 21  | Claire Crehan - Composer   | €1100                |
| 22  | Cormac McCann  | €1500                |
| 23  | Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland   | €1600                |
| 24  | Daragh Slacke – Poetry of Noel Monaghan                                    | €3300                |
| 25  | Dirty Mac Theatre Company (Amy Corrigan and James O'Donnell) Theatre Show  | €3700                |
| 26  | Dmitrijs Germanovs - Jago Studios Artist Profiles                          | €1800                |

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 27 | Dowra Courthouse Community Group (Patricia O'Rourke)                             | €600               |
| 28 | EcoPeace Project / Drumadore - Fi Keogh  | €1200              |
| 29 | Edel Cox for Arva Craft Group  | €800               |
| 30 | Fidelma Sheridan (Cavan Camera Club)   | €600               |
| 31 | Gonzo Youth Theatre  | €4000              |
| 32 | Gowna Active Age (Patricia Hannick)  | €700               |
| 33 | Gowna Tidy Towns (Jessica Nolan)   | €700               |
| 34 | Gráinne Brady - Traditional Music  | €1200              |
| 35 | Gráinne Conaty - Ambient Music Showcase  | €2700              |
| 36 | Heather Brett - Arts & Health  | €3400              |
| 37 | Hoodwink Theatre Company (Elaine Birkett) Theatre Training                       | €1800              |
| 38 | INDIGOS EGO - Music  | €750               |
| 39 | Jess Kavanagh Artist   | €1100              |
| 40 | Josh McClorey Artist   | €2000              |
| 41 | Kevin Logue - Album  | €1500              |
| 42 | Killydoon Area Development Association (Brian Donohoe)                           | €700               |
| 43 | Kilnaleck Youth Drama Society (Alice Lynch) KYDS                                 | €1967              |
| 44 | Le Chéile Cootehill (Jean Kirwan)  | €2150              |
| 45 | Lorraine Teevan – 365 Photography Project  | €1500              |
| 46 | Louise Swords – Drumlin House Cootehill  | €1300              |
| 47 | Mammoth Street Band, Belturbet (Evelyn Gray)                                     | €900               |
| 48 | Marie Smith Artist   | €1900              |
| 49 | Mullahoran Community Centre (Tara Brady)   | €900               |
| 50 | Odhran O'Brien Music Pilot   | €1100              |
| 51 | Orla Galligan Artist   | €1800              |
| 52 | Our Creative Voice (Paula Smith)   | €2200              |
| 53 | Pod Youth Theatre (Trina McCann)   | €1600              |
| 54 | Pothole Production (Vanessa Galligan)  | €3500              |
| 55 | Rebecca O Connor - Artist  | €750               |
| 56 | Savage Minds Theatre Company (Formerly The Moogles Theatre Company)              | €1600              |
| 57 | Seán Connolly - Film   | €4000              |
| 58 | Serhii Khadzhava – Image Mapping   | €3200              |
| 59 | Sound in Motion Music School (Rachael McCabe)                                    | €1800              |
| 60 | Teach Solais Community Development CLG   | €1800              |
| 61 | Tony Newman – Music in Nursing Homes   | €2000              |
| 62 | Tullyvin Musical Society (TVMS) Contact Name Geraldine Shalvey                   | €2000              |
| 63 | Virginia Gospel Choir (Elaine McGinn)  | €1700              |
| 64 | Visceral Art Studio (Raquel Montero Calero) Live Theatre Production and training | €3600              |
| 65 | Aisteoir Ringle  | €500               |
| 66 | Collette Kearney Artist  | €1800              |
|    | <b>TOTAL AWARDED</b>   | <b>€115,692.00</b> |

**Cavan Arts Bursary Award 2026**

|    | <b>First Name</b>     | <b>Amount Awarded</b> |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1  | Anna Wiercoch         | €1,600.00             |
| 2  | Caomhan Maccana       | €600.00               |
| 3  | Charlie McGuinness    | €1,000.00             |
| 4  | Chloe Maguire         | €2,000.00             |
| 5  | Chris Schuette        | €500.00               |
| 6  | Clare Martyn          | €800.00               |
| 7  | Daithi O Connor       | €2,000.00             |
| 8  | Daragh Slacke         | €700.00               |
| 9  | Dirty Marmalade       | €700.00               |
| 10 | Eilish McCann         | €3,000.00             |
| 11 | Gerard Reilly         | €1,500.00             |
| 12 | Gillian Tuite         | €900.00               |
| 13 | Grainne Brady         | €1,000.00             |
| 14 | Helen McDermott       | €1,500.00             |
| 15 | Ian Wilson            | €2,000.00             |
| 16 | Jean Kirwin           | €400.00               |
| 17 | Jess Kavanagh         | €600.00               |
| 18 | Julia Boyko           | €2,200.00             |
| 19 | Julie Corcoran        | €1,000.00             |
| 20 | Kim Gaffney           | €600.00               |
| 21 | Laura Brady           | €500.00               |
| 22 | Laura O Connor        | €600.00               |
| 23 | Laura Smith           | €1,500.00             |
| 24 | Liwia Warszawska      | €500.00               |
| 25 | Liz Smeaton           | €2,000.00             |
| 26 | Lorraine Teevan       | €500.00               |
| 27 | Louise Swords         | €900.00               |
| 28 | Margaret McKenna      | €300.00               |
| 29 | Mary Farrelly         | €1,500.00             |
| 30 | Michelle Harton       | €2,000.00             |
| 31 | Misha Bachu           | €1,250.00             |
| 32 | Niwar I. Issa         | €2,000.00             |
| 33 | Orla Galligan         | €1,000.00             |
| 34 | Raquel Montero Calero | €1,800.00             |
| 35 | Rita Perry            | €1,300.00             |
| 36 | Roisin Harten         | €1,500.00             |
| 37 | SallyAnn Duffy        | €500.00               |
| 38 | Sarah McKenna Dunne   | €1,300.00             |
| 39 | Sharon Mundy          | €300.00               |
| 40 | Suella Wynne          | €800.00               |
| 41 | Tara Doonan           | €500.00               |
| 42 | Trina McCann          | €700.00               |
| 43 | Viktoriiia Yevsiukova | €500.00               |

|    |                      |                   |
|----|----------------------|-------------------|
| 44 | Zoran Donohoe        | €2,400.00         |
|    |                      |                   |
|    | <b>TOTAL AWARDED</b> | <b>€50,750.00</b> |

| <b>Arts Programming at Festivals Awards 2026</b> |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Bailieborough Creative Hub - Plein Air Festival  | €700.00           |
| Cavan Arts Festival                              | €4,500.00         |
| Cavan Town CCÉ Ed Reavy                          | €3,900.00         |
| Drumgoon One Act Drama                           | €700.00           |
| Healing Spirit Festival                          | €3,900.00         |
| PJ Flood Festival                                | €3,000.00         |
| Cottage Market                                   | €2,200.00         |
| Killeshandra Trad Fest                           | €2,000.00         |
|  |                   |
| <b>TOTAL AWARDED</b>                             | <b>€20,900.00</b> |

**11. To approve disposal of 0.405 hectares or 1.000 acres of land at Cootehill Enterprise Park, Errigal, Cootehill, Co. Cavan to EMCA, Rakane Road, Annalee, Kill, Cootehill, Co. Cavan for the sum of €30,000.00 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 0.405 hectares or 1.000 acres of land at Cootehill Enterprise Park, Errigal, Cootehill, Co. Cavan to EMCA, Rakane Road, Annalee, Kill, Cootehill, Co. Cavan for the sum of €30,000.00 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government be hereby approved”

**12. To note statutory requirement to complete Annual Declaration in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government Act 2001 – Part 15, Section 171 (Ethics Register).**

Noted.

**13. To approve a Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council to enable Cavan County Council to progress the Derver Park and Share project in line with safety recommendations, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 14 of the Roads Act 1993.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor T.P. O'Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that a Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council to enable Cavan County Council to progress the Derver Park and Share project in line with safety recommendations, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 14 of the Roads Act 1993 be hereby approved”.

### **Votes of Sympathy**

- Mr. John Donohoe, Cavan County Council on the death of his father-in-law Mr. Donal O'Connor, Co. Kerry.
- The Brady Family, Cootehill on the death of Mr. Jimmy Brady, well known businessman and hotelier from Cootehill. Mr. Brady was proprietor of the White Horse Hotel and Cootehill Livestock Mart.
- Ms. Orla Malone, Cavan County Council on the death of her father Mr. Eamonn Malone and father-in-law of Mr. Alan Lyons, Cavan County Council and brother of former Town Councillor Mr. Oliver Malone.
- Ms. Sinéad Tormey, Cavan County Council on the death of her mother-in-law Mrs. Mary Tormey, Bailieborough.

### **Votes of Congratulations:**

- Ms. Breege Reilly on her appointment as Principal of Breifne College, Cavan.
- Councillors J.P. Feeley and T.P. O'Reilly on their election as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of Cavan Local Safety Community Partnership.
- St. Mogue's College, Bawnboy on winning the u16 Danske Bank, Dr. James Mulholland Cup in Garvaghey, defeating Coláiste Ailigh, Letterkenny.
- Bailieborough Community School on winning the u16 Boys Ulster Final.
- Bailieborough Community School on winning Senior Ulster Final
- St. Pat's College, Cavan on winning the All-Ireland u16 basketball final, defeating Castleisland, Co. Kerry.

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

- 14.1 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 mbuailfí 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 Cavan via Ballyhaise and Redhills, and to ask that a delegation from the Council meet with the representatives of both communities to discuss the project.**

Deferred.

- 14.2 That this Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Taoiseach, and the Tánaiste to unequivocally oppose the EU-Mercosur trade agreement, on the grounds that it poses a serious threat to Irish and European farmers, food producers, rural communities, and the high standards of food safety, animal welfare, environmental protection and traceability that apply within the European Union.**

Councillor B. Fay noted that this matter was discussed at the January meeting in great detail and proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Taoiseach, and the Tánaiste to unequivocally oppose the EU-Mercosur trade agreement, on the grounds that it poses a serious threat to Irish and European farmers, food producers, rural communities, and the high standards of food safety, animal welfare, environmental protection and traceability that apply within the European Union. Councillor B. Fay stated that Irish farmers are already under significant pressure from rising input costs, environmental obligations and market volatility and noted that the proposed Mercosur agreement would allow increased imports of beef and other agricultural products produced to standards that do not meet EU requirements and this creates unfair competition for Irish and European farmers who must comply with EU regulations. Councillor B. Fay stated that deforestation in Brazil for beef ranching is a major environmental issue because it drives significant forest loss in the Amazon, it releases huge amounts of carbon, it threatens biodiversity and it affects global climate stability. Councillor Fay stated that the Mercosur agreement risks undermining farm incomes, particularly in family-run and small-scale farms that are central to rural Ireland. Councillor B. Fay asked that Cavan County Council urge the Irish Government to reject any trade deal that sacrifices Irish agriculture for geopolitical or trade concessions, calls on the government to defend the viability of Irish farming and rural communities at EU level.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

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

- 14.3 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 Eirgrid representatives and members of Cavan County Council executive are due to meet hopefully in the next month in relation to the North South Interconnector.

**14.4 That following on from the request from the members of the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District for a delegation seeking targeted and specific funding from the Department of Transport for the roads adjacent to the N3 that are being used as rat runs, that Cavan County Council request ministerial intervention in this issue to avoid fatalities.**

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that following on from a request from the members of the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District for a delegation seeking targeted and specific funding from the Department of Transport for the roads adjacent to the N3 that are being used as rat runs, that Cavan County Council request ministerial intervention in this issue to avoid fatalities. He stated traffic is leaving the N3 at Maghera to avoid the town of Virginia due to traffic congestion and coming through Knocktemple to reach their destination. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that these local roads are not fit for heavy volumes of traffic. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that a car was recorded doing 139 kilometres per hour passing Knocktemple National School which is deeply concerning. He stated that the official speed on this road is 60km per hour. Councillor O'Reilly complimented the area engineer and staff in the Ballyjamesduff area office and stated that the issue is not a lack of signage or awareness. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that people living on this road are prisoners in their own homes. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly called on the Chief Executive and Director of Services to meet with the Department and seek specific funding for roads adjacent to the N3.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that it was discussed at length at the most recent Ballyjamesduff MD meeting. He stated Virginia is currently a bottleneck and roads adjacent to N3 with bad road surface are being used to avoid the town of Virginia. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly asked the executive to demand that the bypass be done sooner rather than later as it will be of benefit to the whole County and not just the people of Virginia.

Councillors N. Connell, T. Smith, P. Brady, C. Brady and W. Bennett supported the motion.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated he had received confirmation that a speed van will be placed on the Knocktemple road.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service shared the frustration of the members and noted that the issue is twofold, volume of traffic and speed. Mr. Connaughton stated that the executive would take the Councillors concerns to the Department.

**14.5 That this Council adopts the strategy to develop a downloadable App for Cavan County Council for emergency, weather, disaster and resident communication (CCC999).**

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly thanked Ms. Margaret McNally, Head of Finance for the internal emergency system being run by Cavan County Council. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council adopts a strategy to develop a downloadable App for Cavan County Council for emergency, weather, disaster and resident communication. He stated that every resident could download the app on their phone and communication would get to all with advance weather warnings. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly asked that the Council bring utility companies on board and work together to put our citizens first.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and commended Cavan County Council for the great work they do when storms occur in the County.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion but noted that in a power outage there would be no access to the app.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and noted that the app is a fantastic idea and includes everyone.

Ms. Margaret McNally, Head of Finance stated that she would take the members points on board and investigate same.

**14.6 That Cavan County Council fully supports the government's pledge to ban scrambler bikes and regulation on e-scooters.**

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council fully supports the government's pledge to ban scrambler bikes and regulation on e-scooters. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly commended Minister Darragh O'Brien on his efforts over the last few weeks to regulate the use of e-scooters. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that e-scooters are a nightmare in towns and people use these with no helmets or hi-vis jackets. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly called on Cavan County Council to support Gardaí in taking e-scooters from owners if caught not complying with regulations.

**14.15 That this Council supports the Government's promise to regulate the use of e-scooters.**

Councillor N. Brady welcomed the Government's promise to regulate the use of e-scooters. Councillor N. Brady stated that e-scooters are now a reality in our towns, villages and communities. Councillor Brady stated that for many people, particularly young people and commuters, they offer a convenient and environmentally friendly way to travel short distances. Councillor Brady noted that alongside these benefits, we are all aware of the growing concerns around safety, enforcement and shared use of public

spaces. Councillor Brady stated that at the minute uncertainty and inconsistent behaviour create risks, not just for e-scooter users but for pedestrians, older people, children and other road users. Councillor Brady stated that clear national rules on age limits, speed restrictions, safety equipment and where e-scooters can be used need to be addressed. Councillor N. Brady stated that regulations are not about banning e-scooters or discouraging sustainable transport, it is about making their use safer, clearer and more responsible. Councillor N. Brady stated that supporting regulation also supports enforcement and Gardaí and local authorities can only act effectively when the rules are clear and applied nationally. Councillor N. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council supports the Government's promise to regulate the use of e-scooters. Councillors B. Fay, T.P. O'Reilly, D. Brady, P. Walsh, C. Kelly and J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that it was a timely motion and noted that micromobility needs to be used safely.

#### **14.7 To request an update on the progression of Virginia Bypass to planning stage proposed for early 2026.**

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly asked the executive for the latest update on the progression of the Virginia Bypass which was due to go to planning in early 2026. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that it is now Spring 2026 and he is looking for good news.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service informed the members that the project will now not go to planning until the last quarter of 2027 at the earliest with some of the reasons for delay being policy shifts, traffic schemes, public transport, active travel guidelines and new assessment layers. Mr. Connaughton stated that Covid 19 also had an impact on stakeholder engagement. Mr. Connaughton stated that the Council must follow the statutory and national requirements that apply to all major infrastructure projects.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly asked why a date was given at all and pointed out that consultants have already been paid big money to get the project to planning stage. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that this latest date is completely unacceptable and the project needs to be moved on urgently.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that he understood Mr. Connaughton was only the messenger and noted that he would not be surprised to hear that by 2029 the project still had not gone to planning stage. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that there would be a tragic accident due to speed on deteriorating back roads. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that there was far too much pandering with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly noted that the Active Travel budget was announced before Christmas, and we still do not know what the Roads budget will be. Councillor T.P.

O'Reilly called on the Department to suspend Active Travel going forward until the Country's roads are in proper order.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that it was hugely frustrating and criticised the amount of time the project is taking to progress. Councillor Feeley stated that Ministers are too willing to listen to officials and pressure groups and not willing to listen to their own colleagues.

Councillors W. Bennett, C. Kelly and T. Smith supported the motion,

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the concerns of the members and assured the members the total commitment of staff to advance the project as efficiently as possible.

Mr. P. Connaughton, Director of Service informed the members that Active Travel funding is separate and should not be considered as the cause of any shortfall in funding.

#### **14.8 To request an update from TII on the works proposed for junction at Bailieborough Road, Virginia.**

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the TII seeking an update on the proposed works for the junction at Bailieborough Road, Virginia.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that a box is needed at the junction, but the area office staff cannot do same without engagement from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Councillors S.P. O'Reilly and T. Smith supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that the road design office is re-assessing the road and they will get a consultant to look at traffic measures.

#### **14.9 To request Cavan County Council to address the need for a traffic calming policy coming into our towns and villages in the County.**

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly called on Cavan County Council to address the need for a set of guidelines that would be universal across the County. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that it would be good to have guidance on what can and cannot be done in relation to traffic calming measures.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion.

Councillor W. Bennett seconded Councillor T.P. O'Reilly's proposal and stated that every town should not have different rules.

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

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that the road design office is currently looking at a policy and it will be brought before the Strategic Policy Committee when drafted.

**14.10 To request that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing in relation to the proposed reform of the landlord/tenant regulations.**

Councillor C. Brady stated that tenants and landlords across our country are facing growing challenges, including a housing shortage, record rent costs and market complexity and uncertainty. Councillor C. Brady stated that the Residential Tenancies Bill 2026 aims to address these challenges but noted that the consequences the Bill will have, as published, are quite different and needs clarification in some areas. Councillor C. Brady stated that protecting tenants is vitally important and while the Bill aims to do so, it might in the long run do the opposite. Councillor C. Brady stated that the introduction of a minimum term of six years and the limitation on landlords' ability to reclaim their properties disincentivise new landlords from entering the market and drive current landlords out of the property market. Councillor C. Brady stated that if small landlords decide to leave the rental market and sell their properties, the supply of rental accommodation will further diminish, driving rent prices higher. Councillor C. Brady stated that a policy aimed at enhancing tenants' rights could lead to fewer accommodation choices and higher prices, possibly driving more people out of renting and back into a box room at home. Councillor C. Brady stated that while the Bill is presented as a measure to protect tenants from higher rental costs, it could lead to higher costs for already struggling tenants. She stated that there is a cap of 2% on rent increases for all exiting homes, however, the Bill also allows landlords to increase rent to market price when they have new tenants. She stated that the measure will lead to substantial rent increases for new tenants and could disproportionately affect young people who may be moving areas for work. Councillor Brady stated that the idea of the new policy is like introducing a new, slower speed limit, but raising it every time a new driver gets their license. Councillor C. Brady stated that another concern is that the 2% does not apply to new apartments. She stated that apartment rents will be linked to inflation, even if inflation is above 2%. Councillor C. Brady stated that introducing different regulations for the various types of landlords will lead to confusion for landlords and tenants alike, landlords not knowing which exact rules apply to them, and tenants unaware of which protections they are subject to. Councillor C. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing asking for clarification for both tenants and landlords in relation to the proposed reform of the landlord/tenant regulations.

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

**14.11 To write to the Minister for Health regarding the need to increase the rate of Home Support Grant of €13.88 per hour to reflect the current minimum wage rate.**

Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health asking that the rate of Home Support Grant of €13.88 per hour be increased to reflect the current minimum wage rate of €14.15 per hour. Councillor Á. Smith praised the huge contribution made by home support workers who provide essential care and support to enable older people and those with disabilities to live independently in their own homes. Councillor Á. Smith stated that it is becoming increasingly difficult to source and retain home carers and stating that raising the home support grant rate is a practical and sensible step to support workers, protect workers and ensure people can continue to live at home with the care they need. Councillor Á. Smith stated that without a rate that matches the minimum wage, recruitment and retention of skilled carers will continue to be a significant challenge impacting on service delivery.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and noted the home support services are saving the Government millions and carers need more than the minimum wage.

Councillor C. Kelly seconded Councillor Á. Smith's proposal.

Councillors D. Brady, N. Smith, B. Fay, N. Brady, C. Brady and J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

**14.12 To write to the TII regarding development of the National Road Network including the N3.**

Councillor Á. Smith noted the huge delays coming into Cavan and stated that investment is needed on the N3 and the main approach roads to Cavan Town. Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland asking them to invest in and improve the National Road Network. Councillor Smith outlined the poor condition of the approach road to the County town with worn surfaces, congestion and traffic delays. Councillor Smith stated that these issues are causing frustration for road users and raises safety concerns and daily problems for commuters. Councillor Smith stated that image is important and presently the approach road does not reflect the potential or ambition of the town. Councillor Smith stated that traffic problems on the N3 put extra pressure on the town centre and affect public transport and emergency services. Councillor Smith called on the TII to address the poor condition of the N3 on the approach to Cavan town, prioritising funding for short-term improvements and plan for longer-term upgrades that match the role of Cavan town as the county town and a growing regional centre.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and stated that there is a lot of pressure on the roundabout at the Hotel Kilmore during busy times.

Councillors N. Brady and B. Fay supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that the Council is finalising plans for the Kilmore road during 2026 and a long term traffic solution for the town is currently being looked at.

**14.13 To write to the Minister regarding the need for more investment in water and sewerage services in smaller towns and villages.**

Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the need for more investment in water and sewerage services in smaller towns and villages. Councillor Á. Smith stated that many smaller communities are experiencing ongoing problems with water capacity, wastewater treatment, and ageing infrastructure. Councillor Á. Smith stated that these issues are limiting housing development, holding back local businesses and preventing towns and villages from growing in a planned and sustainable way. Councillor Á. Smith stated that Milltown was a prime example where a lack of adequate water and sewerage services has stalled housing and business development. Councillor Á. Smith noted that a lack of proper water and sewerage infrastructure is one of the biggest barriers to new housing, enterprise and job creation in rural areas.

Councillor D. Brady supported the motion and noted that Uisce Éireann will take control of water and wastewater systems by the end of the year and hoped that this will lead to major investments.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and stated that a lot of smaller villages and towns are forgotten about.

Councillors J.P. Feeley, N. Brady, C. Kelly and T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

**14.14 To call on the Government to allow the passing of legislation to regulate the sale and supply of Nitrous Oxide.**

Councillor N. Connell proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Government to allow the passing of legislation to regulate the sale and supply of Nitrous Oxide which is commonly known as Laughing Gas. Councillor Connell stated that people are unaware of the serious effects of misusing the substance. Councillor Connell expressed his concern that young people can access the substance online and stated that research indicates a serious increase in cases linked to nitrous oxide use, including spinal cord injuries, nerve damage and paralysis. Councillor N. Connell stated that while the gas has uses, such as dentistry and childbirth, it can currently be purchased at the press of a button without restriction. Councillor N. Connell stated that the substance can cause lasting damage or even suffocation.

Councillor D. Brady seconded Councillor N. Connell's proposal.

#### **14.16 To discuss flooding in the County and to seek an update on Cavan County**

##### **Council's emergency plans to assist houses and businesses who are at risk of flooding.**

Councillor A. Rogers asked considering the recent rainfall, that an update be given on the Council's emergency plans to assist houses and businesses who are at risk of flooding. Councillor A. Rogers stated that he received phone calls from residents who were trapped in their own home on a local road and had to use a four-wheel drive tractor to travel to their hospital appointment. Councillor Rogers stated that a build up of silt in rivers is a reason for flooding and stated that the government are prioritising fish over families and our rivers need to be cleaned.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and noted that with all the flooding potholes cannot be seen on our roads and cars are being damaged.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and asked if the Office of Public Works is doing anything to alleviate drainage issues. Councillor Bennett stated that if rubbish was removed from our rivers, it would decrease flooding.

Councillors T.P. O'Reilly, V. Smith, D. Brady, B. Fay, Á. Smith and J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

Ms. Margaret McNally, Head of Finance and Emergency Services stated that Cavan County Council have a severe weather plan in place.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service praised the trojan work by Council staff, the fire service, civil defence and other emergency teams over the past weeks with all the flooding due to heavy rainfall. Mr. Connaughton stated that we should be under no illusion that the recent weather is an effect of climate change. Mr. Connaughton stated when drafting the roadworks maintenance programme the issue of flooding will be looked at.

##### **Control of Pets**

Councillor C. Brady asked that all pet owners keep control over their pets particularly at this time of year when it is lambing and calving season. Councillor C. Brady stated that she had received phone calls in relation to the issue, particularly with dogs chasing cattle. Councillor C. Brady stated that it is important that pet owners lock up their pets at night and not have them bother livestock. Councillor Brady stated that a bad situation is devastating for both farmers and pet owners.

The meeting concluded at 3.35p.m.