**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 12th June, 2017 in the Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor F. Curtin, Cathaoirleach Presiding

Present: Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, P. Brady, N. Connell, J.P. Feeley, E. Greenan, C. Kelly, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly, S. P. O’Reilly, P. Smith, S. Smith, V. Smith.

In Attendance: T. Ryan, Chief Executive

 D. Maguire, Head of Finance

 E. Doyle, Director of Service

 J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

 P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service

 E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 9 May 2017. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 9 Bealtaine 2017 a dhearbhu.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

 Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

 And

 Resolved:

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 9 May 2017 be hereby approved”.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed a vote of thanks and congratulated all those involved in organising the Council meeting in Leinster House which was a very historic day for Cavan County Council. He expressed his disappointment that this good news story did not make the front page of our local media. This proposal was seconded by Councillor W. Bennett.

**2. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 4 May 2017.**

 Noted.

1. **To note Chief Executive’s Order.**

Noted.

Councillor E. Greenan asked if a breakdown of the figures in relation to fire payments by the HSE could be provided to the elected members at the next Council meeting and also details of the HSE’s position on the matter.

 **4. To note Chief Executive’s monthly report.**

Noted.

 **5. To hear presentation from Paul Greaney regarding the forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China.**

Mr. Paul Greaney gave a detailed presentation on forced organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience in China for profit. He noted that “prisoners of conscience” refers to individuals who have not committed any crime, but are imprisoned because the state in which they reside does not tolerate their political or religious views. He primarily referred to Falun Gong practitioners, and also to House Christians, Tibetan Buddhists and Uighur Muslims. He stated that in China these individuals are harvested on demand to compensate for the absence of any legitimate national organ source. He stated that the bodies of the victims are then cremated. Mr. Greaney asked for the support of Cavan County Council for the following:-

1. To call on the Irish Government to ratify, as soon as possible, The Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs which was adopted by the Council of Europe on 9 July 2014 in order to criminalise illegal organ transplantations. The Government has already signed this convention but is yet to ratify it.
2. To call on the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee to follow through on the pledge made by the Oireachtas sub-committee on Human Rights to “investigate to the maximum extent possible”, persistent, credible reports of forced organ harvesting and other severe human abuses imposed on Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience in China.
3. To call on the Chinese Government to end its practice of forced live organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience and release all illegally detailed Falun Gong practitioners in China.

It was proposed by Councillor C. Kelly and seconded by Councillor P. O’Reilly that Cavan County Council support the items put forward by Mr. Greaney and refer same to the Chinese Embassy.

 Mr. Greaney thanked the members for their support.

 Councillor F. Curtin thanked Mr. Greaney for attending the meeting.

**6. To note Draft River Basin Management Plan.**

Noted.

**7. To note Financial Report for quarter ending 31 March 2017.**

Noted.

**8(a) To approve the disposal of Hose and Ladder Unit at Lisdrumskeagh, Shercock, Co. Cavan to Mr. Patrick Hand, Bailieborough Road, Shercock, Co. Cavan for the sum of €2,000, 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 S. O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

 And

 Resolved:

 “thatthe disposal of Hose and Ladder Unit at Lisdrumskeagh, Shercock, Co. Cavan to Mr. Patrick Hand, Bailieborough Road, Shercock, Co. Cavan for the sum of €2,000, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 and notices circulated be hereby approved”.

**(b) To approve the disposal of dwelling at 4 St. Martin’s Row, Belturbet, Co. Cavan for the sum of €30,000, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 90 of the Housing Act 1966 and Section 26 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992, and notices circulated.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

 And

 Resolved:

 “thatthe disposal of dwelling at 4 St. Martin’s Row, Belturbet, Co. Cavan for the sum of €30,000, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 90 of the Housing Act 1966 and Section 26 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992, and notices circulated be hereby approved”.

**(c) To approve the disposal of plot of land containing 0.128 ha. or .316 acres of land including Tirlahode Old National School, Tirlahode, Stradone, Co. Cavan to Siobhan and Fergal Corrigan, 16 Rosslea Road, Clones, Co. Monaghan for the sum of €35,500 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 V. Smith

 Seconded by Councillor S. O’Reilly

 And

 Resolved:

 “thatthe disposal of plot of land containing 0.128 ha. or .316 acres of land including Tirlahode Old National School, Tirlahode, Stradone, Co. Cavan to Siobhan and Fergal Corrigan, 16 Rosslea Road, Clones, Co. Monaghan for the sum of €35,500 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated be hereby approved”.

**9. Nomination of 3 no elected members to attend consultative forum regarding cross boundary issues. Meeting to be held on Wednesday 28th June 2017 at 2pm in Town Hall, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh (correspondence received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council dated 26th May, 2017 attached refers).**

It was:

 Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

 Seconded by Councillor V. Smith

 And

 Resolved:

“that Councillor W. Bennett be nominated to attend the consultative forum regarding cross boundary issues”.

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor E. Greenan

 Seconded by Councillor N. Connell

 And

 Resolved:

 “that Councillor D. Brady be nominated to attend the consultative forum regarding cross boundary issues”.

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S. P. O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

 And

 Resolved:

“that Councillor J.P. Feeley be nominated to attend the consultative forum regarding cross boundary issues”.

**10. To approve Cavan Local Authority Audit Committee Charter.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S.P .O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

 And

 Resolved:

 “that Cavan Local Authority Audit Committee Charter be hereby approved”.

**11. To approve attendance of members at the Association of Irish Local Government “Rating Powers Reform and Revaluations to be held in Bundoran on 15 June.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

 And

 Resolved:

 “that the attendance of Councillors J.P. Feeley, S. Smith, S. O’Reilly, C. Kelly, S.P.

O’Reilly, P. Brady, F. Curtin, P. McVitty, W. Bennett, P. Smith, P. O’Reilly, V. Smith and M. Argue at the Association of Irish Local Government “Rating Powers Reform and Revaluations to be held in Bundoran on 15 June be hereby approved”.

**12(a) To note reply from MidLink in relation to the payment of toll operation.**

Noted. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly thanked Midlink for their response. He thanked the members of Cavan Civil Defence for their help and support during the search for members of Rescue 116.

 **(b) To note reply from Department of Social Protection regarding the Gateway Scheme.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that she is still not happy with the reply received. She stated that if the scheme is working well with the County Council why take it away and replace it with no other scheme. She asked that the Council write again to the Department of Social Protection asking them when they intend to consult with the Council regarding same.

 **(c) To note reply from Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment regarding the future of the Post Office Network.**

Noted. Councillor J.P. Feeley expressed his disappointment with the reply stating that the post office network is falling between two stools as no Department will make a decision. He stated that An Post made a major mistake by increasing the price of the postage stamp as now everybody is using email.

 **(d) To note reply from Department of Finance regarding the Help to Buy incentive.**

Noted.

**Strategic Policy Committees**

It was

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

 Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

 And

 Resolved

“that the replacement of Councillor M. Argue by Councillor V. Smith as Chairperson of the

Housing, Social and Cultural SPC be hereby approved”.

It was

Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

 Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

 And

 Resolved

“that the replacement of Councillor C. Kelly by Councillor P. O’Reilly as Chairperson of the

 Transportation and Infrastructure SPC be hereby approved”.

**Votes of Sympathy:**

* Ms. Ann Marie Ward, Heritage Officer, Cavan County Council on the death of her father Mr. John Curley.
* Councillor Paddy Smith on the death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Nancy McLoughlin.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Mr. Gerry Sheridan and Ice Cream Treats on winning top prize in the World Dairy Awards scheme for their new produce Yomega3.
* Colm O’Callaghan and Elaine McGinn on completing the Moylagh JFK 50mile challenge in aid of Cancer.
* Ms. Leona Maguire, Ballyconnell named National Player of the Year by the Women’s Golf Coaches Association for the second time in three seasons.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – DEFERRED FROM MAY MEETING**

1. **The development of the former Sligo/Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway as a Greenway.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that Leitrim County Council is the lead partner in relation to applying for funding for the development of the former Sligo/Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway as a Greenway. He stated that this is an excellent cross border project and acknowledged the tourism award received at the Northern Ireland tourism awards. He stated that Leitrim County Council made applications under the National Cycle Network and INTERREG funding and both were unsuccessful. Councillor J.P. Feeley asked that Cavan County Council get a report as to why the last funding application was unsuccessful. Councillor J.P. Feeley asked that Cavan County Council seek funding for part of the railway from Blacklion to Glenfarne. He complimented Road Design on the work done to date.

Councillor S. Smith stated that as a representative on the Western and Northern Regional Assembly he queried why the application was unsuccessful and was informed that the application was not up to the standard required.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that greenways are a major promotion of tourism over the years. He stated that as far as he is aware land ownership had been an issue when Leitrim County Council made the last application for funding. He stated that security of tenure in respect of lands had been looked for. He stated that outdoor recreational funding is currently being considered by the Council.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that the figures in the second application under the Smarter Travel banner did not match against other applications under the same initiative. He stated that with regard to Brexit and with funding promised there could be ample opportunity to revive the application in the future.

1. **The need to develop outdoor sporting facilities in Cavan town to facilitate Clubs from all over County Cavan.**

Councillor P. Brady called on Cavan County Council to help develop outdoor sporting facilities in Cavan town to facilitate Clubs from all over County Cavan. He stated that top athletes cannot be trained in County Cavan as there are no facilities or coaches in the County. He stated that young athletes from County Cavan need “top-class facilities” to reach the highest level of their respective sports. He stated that it is difficult for parents having to travel distances to help these aspiring young people. He asked that Cavan County Council look at facilities such as St. Patrick’s College and Breffni College to see if there is a site available to put a 400m running track with proper facilities.

Councillor E. Greenan supported the motion. He stated that families and young people have been in touch with him in relation to sporting facilities. He stated that the last upgrading of a pitch in Cavan town was the football pitch at Killymooney. He noted that over the past nine months official members of sporting clubs had applied for sports capital grants but were unsuccessful. He noted that John Donohoe, Senior Executive Officer, Community & Enterprise is working with the ETB and Cavan County Council in relation to Breffni College sporting ground.

Councillor V. Smith supported the motion noting that it is not all about winning but taking part in the sport. He stated that we are second class citizens in Cavan compared to other counties. He stated that Clones have a 14 acre sports centre and is designed to host major sporting competitions and Cavan should have the same.

Councillor P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that the site should be placed in the centre of the County and that it should be kept independent and not attached to any school. He asked that the members be given quarterly updates on progress being made.

Councillor P. McVitty suggested making contact with the CEO of the ETB to see if the old army barracks would be available to accommodate same.

Councillors C. Kelly, J.P. Feeley, F. Curtin and M. Argue supported the motion.

Mr. E. Doyle, Director of Service informed the members that these facilities do not come cheap. He stated that along with funding a suitably central location is vital, while any decisions must be done in the spirit of cooperative interest with local stakeholders including sporting clubs. He stated that as a key part of the Local, Economic and Community Plan, earlier this year the Council worked with the CMETB to submit an application for Sports Capital Funding for Phase 1 of a multi-sports facility and if successful the facility would be available to sports clubs and the wider community.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – JUNE MEETING**

1. **That Cavan County Council call upon the new owners of Killykeen Forest Park chalet complex to meet with the Council and present their investment plans for this key strategic asset in our Region.**

Councillor W. Bennett congratulated CABU on investing money into Killykeen Forest Park. He stated that Killykeen Forest Park is the jewel in the crown for Cavan Tourism. Councillor W. Bennett proposed that Cavan County Council invite CABU and Coillte to a meeting of Cavan County Council to present their investment plans for this key strategic asset in our Region.

Councillor S. Smith seconded the proposal. He welcomed the good news stating that it will be of wonderful benefit to the County. He stated that the extension of the navigation from Belturbet to Killykeen to Killeshandra should also be considered.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that Coillte have worked closely with the Council to bring development and progress to County Cavan. He stated that part of the waterway between Killykeen and Killeshandra is still not accessible and this would be welcomed.

Councillors E. Greenan and P. McDonald supported the motion.

Mr. E. Doyle, Director of Service informed the members that the Council will invite Coillte and CABU to a Council meeting. He stated that in the past Cavan County Council did a lot of work to ensure Killykeen remains a priority in the County.

1. **That Cavan County Council supports the Northern & Western Regional Assembly, the Western Development Commission and the Insight Centre for Data Analytics in establishing a Smart Region approach to encourage new industries, sectors and opportunities.**

Councillor S. Smith stated that as a representative on the Northern and Western Regional Assembly all local authorities are asked to support the Northern and Western Regional Assembly, the Western Development Commission and the Insight Centre for Data Analytics in established a Smart Region approach to encourage new industries, sectors and opportunities.

Councillor P. Smith seconded the proposal. Councillor Smith stated that the approach is aimed at making the region competitive in regards to Smart technology and solutions and more attractive to new business.

Mr. E. Doyle, Director of Service stated that a letter of support will issue from Cavan County Council.

1. **Bawnboy Water Supply.**

Councillor S. Smith stated that the Bawnboy water supply has deteriorated rapidly in the last while. He noted that Irish Water took out existing meters and replaced them with new ones when this money would have gone a long way in upgrading the water supply. He stated that people in Bawnboy are very angry paying for money of poor quality. He stated that he tried to make contact with Irish Water but no response was received. He asked that Cavan County Council give some guidance as to what the people of Bawnboy can do to have their water supply brought up to standard.

Councillor D. Brady supported the motion. He stated that as caretaker of Bawnboy scheme there is a problem with hardness in the water. He stated that a water softener needs to be installed in the plant.

Councillors P. McVitty, W. Bennett and J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

Mr. P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service stated that he had great sympathy with residents affected. He informed the members that this is an Irish Water policy issue. He stated that the Council will write to Irish Water asking them to attend a meeting with the local Councillors.

1. **That the Minister for Finance bring forward appropriate legislation and/or regulation to force insurance companies to remove barriers to those taking motor insurance policies after a period living outside the jurisdiction.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that huge efforts are being made to bring our nurses back to Ireland to work and yet once they return they have difficulty in getting car insurance. He stated that the majority of insurance firms in Ireland now will not recognize a driver’s record if they have not been insured on a car in the country with the last two years. Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the fact that Minister Eoghan Murphy is currently engaging with Insurance Companies. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Finance asking that he bring forward appropriate legislation and/or regulation to force insurance companies to remove barriers to those taking motor insurance policies after a period living outside the jurisdiction.

1. **That this Council expresses concern at the cost implications, especially for commercial vehicles, if plans to introduce fuel equalization are implemented.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that any increase in the price of diesel to bring it in line with the price of petrol must be resisted. He stated that if the price of diesel is increased it will have a huge impact on the economy and trade internationally. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport expressing Cavan County Council’s concern at the cost implications, especially for commercial vehicles, if plans to introduce fuel equalization are implemented.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded the proposal. Councillor O’Reilly stated that this move to equalize fuel prices will have a catastrophic impact on local authority budgets in future.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion. Councillor McVitty stated that while he accepted some elements of the proposed Departmental change, he noted that it would be very difficult to stay in business if it proceeded.

Councillor P. Smith supported the motion.

1. **That Cavan County Council support the campaign of the Wives and Partners of the Defence Forces (WPDF) to have terms and conditions of serving members of the defence forces addressed as a matter of urgency.**
2. **That the Minister for Defence order the withdrawal of the anti-malaria drug “Lariam” from use by the Defence Forces and that those adversely affected be recompensed as a matter of urgency.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley on behalf of the Fianna Fáil Group stated that new entrants to the defence forces are on very low rates of pay and asked the members to support the campaign to have terms and conditions of serving members addressed. With regards the prescription of Larium to soldiers, Councillor Feeley queried why those of higher rank could choose what drug they wanted to use, stating that it was treating those in lower ranks as second class citizens. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council support the campaign of the Wives and Partners of the Defence Forces (WPDF) to have terms and conditions of serving members of the defence forces addressed as a matter of urgency. Councillor Feeley also proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Defence ordering the withdrawal of the anti-malaria drug “Lariam” from use by the Defence Forces and that those adversely affected be recompensed as a matter of urgency.

Councillor P. McDonald seconded the proposal.

Councillor P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

Cathaoirleach:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Certified Correct: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_