**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 13 May, 2019 in the Council Chamber at 2 p.m.**

Councillor M. Argue, Cathaoirleach presiding

Present; Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, P. Brady, N. Connell,

F. Curtin, D. Downey, J. P. Feeley, 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

E. Doyle, Director of Service

P. Connaughton, Director of Service

B. Jennings, Director of Service

M. Mohan McNally, Financial Accountant

L. McGavigan, Senior Executive Officer

E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held on 8 April 2019. Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 8 Aibreain a dhearbhu.**

It was;

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady,

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 8 April 2019 be hereby approved”

1. **Disclosures of Interests (Section 177 Local Government Act, 2001)**

Noted.

**Note Minutes of Committee Meetings**

1. **To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8 March 2019.**

Noted

1. **To note Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee meetings for Housing, Community, Social & Cultural Development held on 9 November 2018 & 18 January 2019.**

Noted.

**Note Members’ Reports from Conferences / Training events**

1. **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**

**6(a) To note reply from Minister for Health regarding the construction of the new children’s hospital and associated costs.**

Noted.

**(b) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform regarding food supplements.**

Noted.

**(c) To note reply from Office of the Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the Forestry Sector.**

Noted.

**(d) To note reply from the National Transport Authority regarding public transport services in Bailieborough and Ballyjamesduff.**

Noted. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that she is delighted with the progress being made.

**(e) To note reply from the CEO of the Irish Men’s Sheds Association regarding insurance costs of Men’s Sheds.**

Noted.

**(f) To note reply from Commission for Communications Regulation regarding mobile coverage in County Cavan.**

Noted.

Councillor S. Smith asked that a further letter be sent to An Post in relation to TV licenses for holiday homes and Councillor P. McVitty asked that a further letter be sent to the ESB in relation to fallen power lines.

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

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

Noted.

1. **To approve** **the disposal of land (Railway Building at Kevitt Lower, Crossdoney, Co. Cavan) containing 0.8658 acres or .3504 hectares to Mr. David Bates, The Station House, Crenard, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan for the sum of €20,000, 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 P. Smith

And

Resolved

“that the disposal of land (Railway Building at Kevitt Lower, Crossdoney, Co. Cavan) containing 0.8658 acres or .3504 hectares to Mr. David Bates, The Station House, Crenard, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan for the sum of €20,000, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

1. **Consideration of Annual Financial Statement 2018 under Section 108 of Local Government Act 2001 (to be circulated).**

The Annual Financial Statement 2018 under Section 108 of Local Government Act 2001, as circulated, was considered by the members. Ms. Margaret Mohan McNally, Acting Head of Finance outlined in detail the annual financial statement of financial year ended 31st December 2018. Ms. Mohan McNally noted that this is the second most important document after the budget. Ms. Mohan McNally informed the members that the Annual Financial Statement will be audited by the Local Government Auditor and the report will be presented to the members at a later stage.

1. **Approval to Additional Revenue Expenditure 2018.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved

“that the additional revenue expenditure 2018 be hereby approved”.

1. **Approval of Transfers to Capital 2018**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved

“that Transfers to Capital 2018 be hereby approved”.

1. **Statement of Rate Collection 2018**

The statement of Rate Collection 2019 was considered by the members and noted.

1. **To adopt Annual Report 2018 (Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended).**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved

“that Annual Report 2018 (Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended) be hereby adopted”.

1. **To approve Cavan Local Authority Audit Committee Annual Report** **2018 (Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014.)**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S. P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved

“that Cavan Local Authority Audit Committee Annual Report 2018 (Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014) be hereby adopted”.

1. **To note date and time of Annual General Meeting of the Council – 7June 2019 at 2pm.**

Noted.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Fr. Michael Router, P.P. Bailieborough on his appointment as Auxillary Bishop of Armagh.
* Mr. Patrick Gaynor, Mullaghland on his appointment as President of the Irish Holstein Friesian Association.
* Mr. Thomas Duffy, Virginia on his appointment as President of Macra na Feirme
* Ms. Britney Arendse on winning a Gold Medal in the world para powerlifting championship in Dubai.
* Mr. James Boyle, Kilnaleck on his appointment as Regional Business Development Manager for the North East Region with IDA.
* Fiona Corby and all organisers of Darkness into Light.
* Ruby O’Kelly, Ballyjamesduff on winning the overall Cathaoirleach’s Award.
* The organising committee of the Cathaoirleach’s Awards.

**Votes of Sympathy:**

* The Parishioners of Castlerahan and the Kelly Family on the death of Fr. Felim Kelly.
* Mr. Benny Sexton, Cavan County Council employee and the Sexton family on the death of Rose Sexton.

A minute’s silence was held in memory of the deceased.

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

**2. Driving Tests and waiting times for learner drivers**

Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that there are a range of issues facing young drivers from delays in getting driving tests to laws restricting how and when they can drive. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that currently there are close on 750 people on the driving test waiting list in Co. Cavan, 455 in Co. Monaghan with an average delay of 16 weeks from time of application. Councillor P. O’Reilly welcomed the appointment of 52 new testers nationwide in recent weeks and 15 more in the pipeline. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that the cost of 12 driving lessons prior to the test is very expensive for young people. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that the law dictating that learner drivers need to have a fully licenced person accompanying them is placing a burden on families and young people particularly where employment is involved. Councillor P. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport asking that legislation be amended in relation to driving laws for young persons and that the waiting times for driving tests be reduced substantially.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion stating that the present rules are impossible for young drivers to adhere to.

Councillor D. Downey stated that while this suited cities and major urban centres it only hampered aspirational drivers in rural areas.

Councillors P. Brady, S. Smith, S.P. O’Reilly, J.P. Feeley, N. Connell, P. McVitty, F. Curtin, S. O’Reilly and C. Kelly supported the motion.

**1. That this Council request the Department of Health/HSE to provide additional health services for Virginia Primary Care Health Centre for East Cavan.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Department of Health and the HSE asking that they provide additional health services for Virginia Primary Care Health Centre for East Cavan. Councillor O’Reilly stated that the move would mirror what was rolled out in Mayo following demand for existing general radiography services for GP referred patients to Mayo University Hospital. He stated that Virginia Health Centre should be considered as a location due to its geographical proximity and ease of access also to surrounding areas.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that on a recent visit to A & E at Cavan General Hospital, he witnessed a sign that said the service had accumulated 212 cancelled appointments which is not good enough.

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

**3. Social Housing, Affordable Housing and Local Authority Loans for Housing.**

Councillor C. Kelly asked the Council for an update on the current situation in relation to housing loans. Councillor C. Kelly stated that the current restrictions on housing loans for households are unacceptable. He stated that currently householders are over the income limit to access social housing properties but are earning too little to get a mortgage from a bank. Councillor Kelly stated that the Council need to be building their own houses and the Minister in charge needs to cut the red tape and let local authorities build houses. He stated that a new tenant purchase scheme also needs to be launched. He stated that we need to strengthen the right for people to live in rural Ireland. He stated that there should be an incentive for people who wish to downsize by choice. Councillor Kelly proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government with regard to housing crisis and asked that the Minister put a scheme in place that would take a person who has 2 to 3 years of paying rent consistently into consideration as they are not in a position to save a deposit of 10% and rear a family. Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion and seconded Councillor Kelly’s proposal.

Councillor P. McVitty questioned what is being done with vacant Council owned houses throughout the County presently.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion stating that the Department of Housing & Local Government micro-manages every stage of the process and such level of overbearing intervention only serves to delay the process.

Councillor P. McDonald proposed that the Council write to the Department asking that the joint income of €27,000 for a loan be increased to €30,000. This was seconded by Councillor P. McVitty.

Councillors D. Downey, S. Smith and P. Smith supported the motion.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service welcomed the discussion by the members. Mr. Doyle informed the members that a vacant homes officer has been appointed by Cavan County Council to examine and compile a list of empty residential properties and their ownership in the County. Mr. Doyle stated that to date the Council had received 39 applications for local authority housing loans, 9 of which have been approved, 5 are at an advanced stage and 9 more are incomplete.

1. **Discussion with Mr. Michael Hanley, Chief Executive Officer, Lakeland Dairies.**

Councillor W. Bennett welcomed Mr. Michael Hanley, Chief Executive Officer, Lakeland Dairies and Mr. Patrick Donohoe, Head of Corporate Affairs, Lakeland Dairies to the meeting and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedule to address the members of Cavan County Council.

Mr. Michael Hanley, Chief Executive Officer, Lakeland Dairies informed the meeting that it was a great honour for him to make a presentation to the elected members and executive of Cavan County Council. Mr. Hanley gave a brief overview of the company noting that it has now merged with LacPatrick Dairies. He stated that given the current trajectory, the Lakeland business hopes to top turnover of €1 billion in the next two years which currently employs 1,150 people. Mr. Hanley informed the meeting that Lakeland’s rate for milk supplies is to reward the suppliers as best they can. He stated that Lakeland continues to attract new stakeholders with 56 farmers coming on board between 2018 and 2019. Mr. Hanley stated that if Brexit proceeds, the company would be best served by Ms. May’s proposed deal, which to date has been repeatedly rejected by the Houses of Parliament. He stated that in a Brexit scenario there is a need for the establishment of a special EU fund that would assist exporting businesses to access new markets away from a reliance on the UK. He stated that whatever the outcome of Brexit negotiations, Lakeland businesses with 240 products manufactured across eight separate sites both North and South of the border were well positioned.

The members in turn thanked Mr. Hanley for his presentation and wished him well in the future.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that the Council were delighted to have Mr. Hanley attend their monthly meeting. Mr. Ryan complimented Mr. Hanley on Lakelands magnificent showcase for the County and Ireland and wished them all the best for the future.

**4. That Cavan County Council commend the students of Transition Year 2018/2019 in Breifne College, Cavan who through the Young Social Innovators’ Programme, set up ForAosta to foster engagement between students and older people and call on Cavan/Monaghan ETB to expand the project to other schools in the region and on Minister of State for Older People, Jim Daly T.D. to consider the project nationally as part of a project to tackle isolation amongst older people.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley called on Cavan County Council to commend the students of Transition Year 2018/2019 in Breifni College, Cavan who through the Young Innovators’ Programme set up ForAosta to foster engagement between students and older people and called on Cavan/Monaghan ETB to expand the project to other schools in the region. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to Minister of State for Older People, Jim Daly, T.D. to consider the project nationally as part of a project to tackle isolation amongst older people. Councillor Feeley stated that interaction with other people is the key to keeping older people healthy mentally and physically. Councillor Feeley complimented the students’ teacher Ms. Grainne Brady on leading the project.

Councillor P. Brady seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley’s motion.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – MAY MEETING**

**13. Calling on Cavan County Council to write to the HSE to clarify which GMS lists in Cavan are currently being looked after by a doctor in a locum capacity and which lists are currently frozen.**

Councillor P. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the HSE asking them to clarify which GMS lists in Cavan are currently being looked after by a doctor in a locum capacity and which lists are currently frozen. Councillor P. Brady stated that presently where vacancies in GP services are anticipated and designated to be filled, the medical card panel of the outgoing doctor is frozen for a period after the post is eventually filled. He stated there is a case locally where, despite proposed partnerships being formed over a period of six years, a medial card list has still not been transferred over to the new GP.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion stating that he cannot understand how it is possible to freeze a patient’s position and records on a medical card for more than half a decade.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor P. Brady’s motion. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that opportunities are so limited for young doctors in Ireland and with more GP retirements on the horizon, more needs to be done to make a career as a locum in rural areas more attractive to graduates.

**7. To clarify Cavan County Council’s Communication Strategy with Public Representatives in regard to constituency issues.**

Councillor D. Downey stated that since putting the motion on the agenda he had discussed the matter with a member of the executive and noted that no representations will be left unanswered.

Councillor P. McDonald noted that years ago when a house was being allocated the elected member got a letter stating same but now the public seem to know before the elected member. He stated a system needs to be put in place to let the elected member know.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that it is not the intention of the Housing Section not to reply to representations made by elected members. Mr. Doyle noted that there had been staff changes within the Housing Section and stated that general data protection regulations (GDPR) has curtailed the extent to which information on applicants can be sent to members.

**8. That Cavan County Council request the County Registrar to consider the use of community facilities as polling stations as an alternative to requesting local schools to close for the day of the poll.**

Councillor W. Bennett proposed that Cavan County Council write to the County Registrar asking that he consider the use of community facilities as polling stations as an alternative to requesting local schools to close for the day of the poll. He stated that in some areas already community centres are used and therefore do not infringe on the school calendar year.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that when the election is over the Council would engage in discussion with the County Registrar on the matter.

**9. That Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Education and Skills to increase the Capitation Grant paid to primary schools.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minster for Education and Skills asking him to increase the Capitation Grant paid to primary schools. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that funding for primary schools had decreased greatly over the years with some schools finding it hard to meet their basic needs. He stated that some schools do not have money available to them to carry out day to day repairs.

Councillor P. Brady seconded Councillor Feeley’s proposal.

**10. Respite Care and supports for people with disabilities and their families.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the whole area of disability is being brought more and more to the fore. He stated people are told they are entitled to home help and then told there is a huge waiting list. Councillor Feeley stated that there is a massive lack of support for them in their homes, in the community and in respite provision. He stated that threats to existing services must be taken off the table urgently and he proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Health asking that the Government reassure all involved that the service will be available and improved on in the long term. He stated that the issue needs intervention at the highest level.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion and seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley’s proposal. Councillor McVitty noted that it is extremely difficult for families to get respite care in West Cavan.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion.

**11. That the Minister for Agriculture open GLAS to farmers whose AEOS contracts have expired.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture and Food asking him to open the GLAS programme for farmers as they leave the AEOS. Councillor Feeley stated that 74 farmers in Co. Cavan are affected by the Government’s refusal to allow farmers move from one scheme to the other rather than suffer the financial loss of not being in either scheme for a period. Councillor Feeley stated that there has been a significant underspend under GLAS to date and if it was reopened to those farmers whose contracts under the AEOS closed in 2018 it would help get the rural economy moving.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion and seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley’s proposal.

**Items 5,6 and 12 were deferred.**

Councillor M. Argue stated that this was her last meeting as Cathaoirleach and thanked all her fellow members for their help and assistance throughout the year. Councillor M. Argue thanked Mr. Tommy Ryan, the Senior Management Team and all staff of Cavan County Council for their assistance and willingness to help over the year. Councillor M. Argue wished Councillors P. O’Reilly, P. Smith and F. Curtin well in their retirement.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive thanked Councillor Argue for representing Cavan County Council well during her year as Cathaoirleach. Mr. Ryan acknowledged the work of all members of Cavan County Council over the last five years and wished them well in seeking re-election. Mr. Ryan wished Councillors P. O’Reilly, P. Smith and F. Curtin well in their retirement.

Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that his retirement marks the end of the line in an unbroken working relationship between the council and the O’Reilly family since the foundation of the State. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that since his election to the Council in 1985 he had served under five different County Managers. Councillor P. O’Reilly thanked his fellow members and staff of Cavan County Council for working with him over the last 34 years.

Councillor P. Smith stated that he was stepping down after 15 years on Cavan County Council. Councillor P. Smith stated that he enjoyed those 15 years and thanked his fellow councilors for the working relationship they had shared and he wished Councillors P. O’Reilly and F. Curtin well in their retirement. Councillor P. Smith thanked the staff of Cavan County Council for the help shown to him during his time on Cavan County Council.

Councillor F. Curtin stated that he had spent 10 years as a member of Cavan County Council and acknowledged that it is hard to balance a career and work in politics. Councillor F. Curtin thanked his fellow councilors for their help over the years and thanked the staff of Cavan County Council.

The Councillors in turn paid tribute to the retiring members.

Outgoing Cathaoirleach M. Argue thanked her fellow elected members for their co-operation over the last year and also over the entire five year term of the Council.

**The meeting concluded at 5.30pm**

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

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