**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 11th November, 2019 in Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly, Cathaoirleach presiding

Present; Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, P. Brady, B. Fay,

A. Fitzpatrick, J. P. Feeley, C. Kelly, C. Lovett, P. McDonald, P. McVitty,

S. O’Reilly, T.P. O’Reilly, S Smith, T. Smith, V. Smith, P. Walsh.

In Attendance; T. Ryan, Chief Executive

 E. Doyle, Director of Service

 P. Connaughton, Director of Service

 B. Jennings, Director of Service

 M. McNally, A/Head of Finance

 L. McGavigan, Senior Administrative Officer

 E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held on 14th October 2019. Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 14th Deireadh Fómhair 2019 a dhearbhu.**

It was;

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 14 October 2019 be hereby approved”

1. **Disclosures 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 4 September 2019.**

 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 Department of Health regarding the suspended motorized transport grant.**

Noted.

**6. To approve attendance of members at the following:-**

 **Training:**

* AILG Training Seminar “Climate Change and the Regional Climate Change Offices” to be held in Athlone on 21rd November 2019 and Cork on 23rd November.

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

And

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors J.P. Feeley, C. Lovett, A. Fitzpatrick, C. Kelly, S.P. O’Reilly, P. Brady, C. Brady, W. Bennett, V. Smith, T.P. O’Reilly, T. Smith, P. McVitty, M. Argue, S. O’Reilly and B. Fay at AILG Training Seminar “Climate Change and the Regional Climate Change Offices” to be held in Athlone on 21st November 2019 and Cork on 23rd November be hereby approved”.

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

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

Noted.

Councillor P. Walsh noted that there is a serious issue with housing within the county. She stated that in accordance with the NOAC Report the re-letting time in Cavan averages at more that 71 weeks whereas in neighbouring counties the waiting time is just over 8 weeks. She stated that it is terrible to see so many people sleeping on streets when there are houses boarded up for lengthy periods of time.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported Councillor Walsh and queried how much money was secured by the Council over the last 5 years for void dwellings.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion stating that the NOAC report does not look good for County Cavan.

Councillor M. Argue supported the motion and noted that if Cavan County Council agreed to increase the LPT to 15% we would not be in the predicament we are currently facing.

Councillors P. McVitty, C Kelly, W. Bennett, B. Fay and P. McDonald supported the motion.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service outlined to the members the repercussions of their decision not to increase the LPT and noted that the works being carried out on Council houses to bring them back into use is the bare minimum. He stated that the challenge currently faced by the Local Authority is from years of under-investment in some cases where properties are now 20 or 30 years old. He stated that the Council have endeavored to bring as many voids back into use in recent years as funding allowed. He stated that 55 houses were returned to circulation in 2016 at a cost of €212,000, 41 in 2017 costing €233,000 and 55 in 2018 costing €233,728. Mr. Doyle stated that currently there are 76 vacant dwellings on the Council’s books, 9 which will be reading for re-letting immediately. Mr. Doyle suggested that an avenue that could be explored in the upcoming budget discussions would be to ringfence rental income for housing upkeep.

Councillor J.P. Feeley queried a statement made by Minister Michael Ring T.D. stating that Cavan had not drawn down all its money in relation to Local Improvement Scheme which gave the impression that the money was not spent and asked for clarification on same.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service informed the members that the money had been drawn down and the full allocation of €259,000 had been used.

**8. To approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €9,000,000 for year ending 31st**

 **December 2020.**

It was proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

and

Resolved

“that overdraft accommodation in the sum of €9,000,000 for year ending 31st December 2020 be hereby approved”.

**9(a). To** **approve disposal of 0.0157 hectares or 0.0388 acres of land at Doon,**

 **Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan to Ms. Anita Bonello and Mr. Thomas Doyle, 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 P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

and

Resolved

“that the disposal of 0.0157 hectares or 0.0388 acres of land at Doon, Ballyconnell, Co.

Cavan to Ms. Anita Bonello and Mr. Thomas Doyle, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, be hereby approved”.

**9(b). To approve disposal of .086 hectares or .213 acres of land including house at**

 **Corduff. Ballinagh, Co. Cavan to Christopher and Amanda Brady, 44 John Paul**

 **Avenue, Cavan for the sum of €48,000 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. Walsh

and

Resolved

 “that the disposal of .086 hectares or .213 acres of land including house at

 Corduff. Ballinagh, Co. Cavan to Christopher and Amanda Brady, 44 John Paul

 Avenue, Cavan for the sum of €48,000 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local

 Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning &

Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

**10. To seek nomination of two elected members to the HSE Cavan/Monaghan Suicide**

 **Prevention Steering Group and Community Implementation Group.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

Seconded by Councillor A. Fitzpatrick

And

Resolved

“that Councillors Sarah O’Reilly and T.P. O’Reilly be appointed to the HSE Cavan/Monaghan Suicide Prevention Steering Group and Community Implementation Group.

**Business and reports submitted by the Chief Executive.**

**11. To approve County of Cavan (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household**

 **and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2019.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved

“that the County of Cavan (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2019 be hereby approved”.

Mr. Colm O’Callaghan, A/Senior Engineer made a presentation to the members informing that the new waste bye-laws will run a tighter rule over the thousand of homeowners in the county not signed up to a registered waste collection. He stated that the aim is to encourage people to dispose of waste correctly making it harder for people collecting waste illegally to operate. Mr. O’Callaghan stated that people will have to separate their waste correctly into bins provided. Mr. O’Callaghan recommended the bye-laws for approval.

**Date and Time of December Meeting.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved

“that Monday 9th December 2019 in St. Kilian’s Heritage Centre for December meeting be hereby approved”.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Mervyn & Pauline Clarke owners of Cavan Equestrian Centre on celebrating 25 years of sales.
* Virginia Development Association and executive and staff of Cavan County Council on securing €4 million in funding for Virginia Library and Civic Centre.
* Cavan County Council executive for bringing the fire station in Ballyjamesduff to tender stage and defending the downsizing of same.
* Mr. Noel O’Reilly, Chief Fire Officer and Civil Defence on the receipt of two new fire engines for the county.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Cavan Association in London. He stated that it means so much to the organisation that representatives from County Cavan visit them and noted that there will be a large contingent from London attending Cavan’s Calling 2020. This proposal was seconded by Councillor M. Argue.

 **Votes of Sympathy**

* The family of the late Tom McIntyre, Bailieborough (former playwriter and poet).
* The family of the late Kay Farrelly, Virginia.

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

1. **North South Interconnector.**

Councillor C. Kelly raised the issue of the North South Interconnector stating that farmers will not allow Eirgrid or the ESB on to their lands. Councillor Kelly asked that Cavan County Council adopt as an automatic Agenda item at every monthly meeting of Cavan County Council that correspondence and meetings between EIrgrid/ESB and Cavan County Council Planning Department be documented so that all Councillors can be informed of the latest information related to the North South Interconnector. He asked that it be accepted and agreed by Cavan County Council Planning Department that no discussion or agreements on landowner route access arrangements are made without the express knowledge and consent of the affected landowners. Councillor Kelly asked that Cavan County Council Planning Department agree to carry out a review and produce a report within the next six months detailing and highlighting how Eirgrid’s plans to erect pylons in County Cavan conflicts with the current County Development Plan.

**4. To discuss North South Interconnector.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly seconded Councillor Kelly’s proposal. She stated that the Minister and Eirgrid must recognise the fact that local residents and farmers have lost complete confidence in the credibility of the Department of Communications on the North South Interconnector issue. Councillor O’Reilly stated that there is a total lack of transparency and consultation within the local community. Councillor O’Reilly noted that Eirgrid have recently said that it does not need planning permission to access land to build the contentious project and asked if this could be done through the ESB. Councillor O’Reilly noted that Eirgrid also stated that access permission is included within the planning permission already granted and asked Cavan County Council to clarify same. Councillor O’Reilly also asked if Eirgrid can use the ESB to go on to landowners’ properties on their behalf and asked that members be informed of any correspondence from Eirgrid or ESB to Cavan County Council. Councillor O’Reilly also noted that Eirgrid had received €530m in funding for the Celtic Interconnector from Brittany in France to East Cork, these lines will be underground and asked that the people of Cavan, Monaghan and Meath be treated equally and afforded the same advantage to have the North South Interconnector placed underground.

 Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Services stated that he could not answer the specific questions presented to him at the meeting but he would communicate with his fellow workers in the adjoining local authorities and work in tandem with them and revert back to the members as soon as possible.

1. **Estate Enhancement Grant Scheme.**

Councillor C. Kelly noted that he had already discussed the Estate Enhancement Grant Scheme at a Municipal District meeting. Councillor Kelly noted that these grants make a huge difference to housing estates and they use the money very well. Councillor Kelly stated that in future years the Council should try and increase the funding available for these grants. Councillor C. Kelly thanked Mr. Marty Lynch, Housing Liaison Officer and housing staff for all the work they do in helping communities to enhance their estates.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion noting that people in communities work together to enhance their areas.

Councillors W. Bennett, B. Fay, P. McVitty, C. Brady, S. Smith and M. Argue supported the motion.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service agreed with all the remarks made by the members and noted that the estate enhancement scheme commenced in 2005. He stated that last year 88 estates entered the competition and stated that there may be opportunities to increase the funding through the Municipal District funding.

1. **To discuss mental health services in Cavan.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that one in four people in Ireland every year develop a mental health difficulty and stated that there is a mental health emergency in County Cavan. Councillor O’Reilly noted that the recent national office for suicide prevention report shows the national suicide rate average at 8.2 with both Cavan and Monaghan exceeding the national average by double. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that from speaking to many mental health service providers and people who need assistance it is clear that there are gaps in the service. She stated that in Cavan alone there is a waiting period of nine months between seeing a doctor or GP and seeing a psychologist. Councillor O’Reilly stated that there is an increase in drug related mental health issues and psychosis and families are struggling to get help. Councillor O’Reilly stated that even Gardai are not trained in dealing with people who are distressed or who have mental health issues. Councillor O’Reilly stated that SOSAD based in Cavan have urged people to take responsibility for their mental health and reach out and ask for help. She stated that we need to localise our efforts when tackling mental health issues in the region and we need joined up communication with all groups providing these services. She stated that there are many other groups such as Pieta House, Teach Oscail, JLO and Shine doing this work too. Councillor O’Reilly asked if Cavan County Council could initiate the setting up of a mental health forum for all stakeholders similar to the JPC. Councillor O’Reilly asked that the Council write to the HSE stating that Cavan County Council support the PSI’s (psychological society of Ireland) demand to expand the number of funded placed in Doctorates in Clinical, Counselling and Educational Psychology training programmes.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion noting that we all know somebody who is suffering with mental health issues.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that an event was recently held in the Show Centre Virginia with members from SOSAD, Shine and Pieta House in attendance.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion noting that all the money made from Darkness into Light is sent to Dublin and none of this is kept locally to support services here.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and congratulated Bailieborough Mental Health Association for the work they are doing. He stated that Cavan County Council tried previously to start a forum but this was rejected by the HSE.

The motion was unanimously supported and it was agreed to organise a meeting with Ms. Emer Mulligan, HSE, Cavan County Council and members from SOSAD, Shine, Teach Oscail, Pieta House and JLO.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that the Cavan Monaghan Action Prevention Group is a steering group which has members from the different groups within the County attend its meetings. He stated that maybe the group can be expanded to include other groups such as Pieta House and SOSAD. He stated that there are two elected members from Cavan County Council sitting on this steering group and maybe they could relay the information discussed to this group.

1. **Proposed closure of St. Mogue’s College, Bawnboy and St. Bricin’s College, Belturbet.**

Withdrawn.

Councillor S. Smith stated that a special meeting with the ETB took place and the proposed closure of the two schools and building of a new one is currently on hold until an independent body carries out a review on the works to date. It was agreed that the motions in relation to the schools be withdrawn and placed on the agenda at a later date.

1. **The proposed closure of St. Bricin’s and St. Mogue’s Schools.**

Withdrawn.

**12. That Cavan County Council call on Cavan Monaghan ETB to rescind the proposal to close St. Bricin’s College, Belturbet and St. Mogue’s College, Bawboy.**

Withdrawn.

**7. Calling on Cavan County Council to engage with Local Link to provide new routes.**

Councillor C. Lovett called on Cavan County Council to engage with Local Link to provide new routes within the County. He stated that it is important that we link rural areas to rural towns and not bring all the custom to one big town.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that she had previously made contact with National Transport Ireland regarding same and they informed her that there are new routes under consideration and it is hoped that they will be in operation by 2020.

 Councillor B. Fay noted that there is no fixed stop in Cavan town for local link and asked if this could be arranged.

 Councillor T. Smith supported the motion highlighting the importance of bringing rural residents to their local towns.

 Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and suggested that the Council invite the Manager of Local Link, Mr. Padraig Smith to a meeting of Cavan County Council.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that the Council would ask Mr. Padraig Smith to a Roads SPC meeting to identify gaps in the County.

**8. To ask Cavan County Council, in light of the recent flash flooding, what support is available to homes and businesses who have had properties destroyed and suffered a loss of earnings and what measures are the Council putting in place to address problem areas.**

Councillor C. Lovett called on Cavan County Council to make greater support available to homeowners and businesses whose properties were destroyed by flooding. Councillor Lovett noted that people are suffering due to recent floodings and asked if all high-risk properties in the County had been identified.

**11. Funding for drainage.**

Councillor P. McVitty noted that in the past when the Old Ballinamore Ballyconnell drainage board was in existence, funding was given to Cavan County Council and Leitrim County Council to maintain same but this has now been abolished. Councillor McVitty asked if it is possible for the two local authorities to come together again and look for extra funding to clean drains throughout the Counties. Councillor McVitty noted that currently lanes are being flooded with the heavy rainfall and we need to open drains into the lakes.

 Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and proposed that the Council write to Minister Moran asking that additional funding be made available for drainage.

 Councillors S. Smith, P. Walsh, J.P. Feeley, M. Argue and T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that in the overall context there will be an increase in flooding within the county. He stated that the Office of Public Works are the lead agency in relation to flood risk management. He stated that Cavan County Council are the lead agency in relation to local flooding. He stated that the Council are currently monitoring and reviewing the recent flood events and have made an application to the Department for extra funding. Mr. Connaughton informed the members that they can look on the OPW’s website *flooding.ie* to see if properties are listed and if not, they can get them listed. Mr. Connaughton stated that €634,000 in funding was received from the Department last year which was more than double the amount received in 2018. He stated that landowners are responsible for keeping drains on their lands clean.

**9. Call on Cavan County Council to outline the measures the Council are taking to address derelict buildings.**

Councillor C. Lovett asked if the Council had a list of derelict buildings and when it was last updated. Councillor Lovett asked if all current owners of derelict buildings were noted and contact made with them.

 Councillors W. Bennett, T. Smith, C. Brady, S.P, O’Reilly and T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

 Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that the Planning Department had received extra resources to address the issue of derelict sites and Ms. Paula Comiskey is the designated person dealing with these sites. Mr. Jennings informed the members that the Council had issued 50 Section 8(2) notices to property owners putting them on notice that they may be placed on the derelict sites register if they do not carry out works to their property. Mr. Jennings stated that the Council have the power to put those who did not respond to the letter on to the derelict sites register and put a levy of 7% on the property or CPO the property by issuing them with a Section 8(7) notice. Mr. Jennings stated that to date 17 Section 8(7) notices were issued so far. Mr. Jennings stated that in relation to vacant dwellings, it can take a while to track down owners and in some cases the houses are owned by the banks.

**10. To ask Cavan County Council to investigate collaboration with Super Valu stores around the County of Cavan to implement reverse vending machines.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick called on Cavan County Council to investigate collaboration with Supervalu stores around the County of Cavan to implement reverse vending machines. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that Carrickmacross was the first town in Ireland to install a reverse vending machine and this installation allows users to insert used plastic bottles into the machine and redeem a 10 cent voucher per bottle. Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that the reverse vending machine in Carrickmacross recycled 20,000 plastic bottles within its first 30 days. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that the scheme in Carrickmacross is sponsored by local businesses, Shabra plastics and Quinn Packaging. He stated that Shabra uses the plastic collected to create a plastic bullet which is then shipped, while Quinn packaging in Ballyconnell use the materials to manufacture food trays. Councillor Fitzpatrick proposed that the Council write to Mr. Richard Bruton, T.D., Minister for Climate Action asking that plastic bottles be included in his plans to raise the existing plastic bag levy to 25 cent and also to tax all single-use cups. Councillor Fitzpatrick suggested that the Council meet with Carrickmacross Tidy Towns, Mr. Thomas McCaffrey, Quinn Packaging and Rita Sha from Shabra Plastics in relation to carrying out a similar project in County Cavan.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor Fitzpatrick’s proposal.

 Councillor C. Brady noted that in Cootehill eight local businesses have signed up to a free water refill service in the town.

 Councillors S. O’Reilly, S.P O’Reilly and C. Lovett supported the motion.

 Mr. P. Connaughton, Director of Service stated that the Council will liaise with its colleagues in Monaghan County Council and examine a scheme for County Cavan.

**13. To ask Cavan County Council to support calls for the retention of funding to CDA (Cavan Drug Awareness) Trust Clg. as it provides an essential service to East Cavan.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that Cavan Drug Awareness provides an essential service to East Cavan and the viability of the service it provides is uncertain due to the lack of adequate funding. He stated that the organisation may have to wind down its services and possibly close at the end of 2020. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the Minister of State, Catherine Byrne asking that extra funding be made available to Cavan Drug Awareness.

 Councillor M. Argue seconded the proposal.

 Councillors S. O’Reilly and P. Walsh supported the motion.

 **Protocol Committee**

Councillors S.P. O’Reilly, W. Bennett, J.P. Feeley, S. O’Reilly, B. Fay, P. McDonald, C. Kelly, C. Brady, P. Walsh and M. Argue were elected to the Protocol Committee.

 **SPC’s**

The Chairpersons and members of the following Strategic Policy Committees were agreed.

 **Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC**

Chairperson Councillor J.P. Feeley, Councillors P. McVitty, S. O’Reilly, W. Bennett, A. Fitzpatrick and C. Brady.

 **Climate & Biodiversity Action & Environment SPC**

Chairperson Councillor P. Brady, Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, T.P. O’Reilly, C. Lovett and S.P. O’Reilly.

 **Transportation, Infrastructure & Emergency Services SPC**

Chairperson Councillor S. Smith, Councillors P. McVitty, S. O’Reilly, T.P. O’Reilly, B. Fay and T. Smith.

 **Housing, Social Inclusion & Corporate Services SPC**

Chairperson Councillor V. Smith, Councillors P. Walsh, M. Argue, C. Kelly, P. McDonald and T. Smith.

 **Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport SPC**

Chairperson Councillor C. Kelly, Councillors P. Brady, P. McDonald, C. Lovett, V. Smith and S.P. O’Reilly.

 **Civic Reception**

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly informed the members that a Civic Reception for Bishop Michael Router, Bishop Francis Duffy and Bishop Emeritus Leo O’Reilly will be held in the Council Chamber at 5.30p.m and asked all Councillors to attend.

 The meeting concluded at 4.45p.m.

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

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