**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in The Council Chamber, Courthouse, Cavan on Monday 10th July 2023 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor P. Brady, Cathaoirleach, presiding

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

A. Fitzpatrick, C. Kelly, C. Lovett, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, S. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly, T.P. O’Reilly, Á. Smith, V. Smith, P. Walsh

In Attendance; T. Ryan, Chief Executive

B. Jennings, Director of Service

P. Connaughton, Director of Service

E. Doyle, Director of Service

M. McNally, A/Head of Finance

L. McGavigan, Senior Administrative Officer

E. McGinn, Senior Staff Office

An apology was received from Councillor T. Smith

Councillor P. Brady welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th June 2023.**

**Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 12 Meitheamh 2023 a dhearbhú.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Lovett

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 12th June 2023 be hereby approved”

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

Noted**.**

1. **To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8th May 2023**

Noted.

1. **To note minutes of Meeting of Climate, Biodiversity Action and Environment Strategic Policy Committee held on 9th December 2023.**

Noted.

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 the Office of Minister Anne Rabbitte, T.D., regarding the**

**difficulty in obtaining therapy services in County Cavan following assessment**

**of needs.**

Noted.

**(b) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture regarding the**

**Labelling of fresh fruit and vegetables.**

Noted.

**(c) To note reply from the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning**

**regarding extensions to planning permissions.**

Noted.

**(d) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Education regarding the**

**inclusion of a section on Endometriosis in the Social, Personal and Health**

**Education (SPHE) Curriculum.**

Noted. Councillor Á Smith expressed her disappointment with the reply and asked

for a letter to be sent to the Minister for Education proposing that they look at the

Meath Stand Alone Programme.

**(e) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Health regarding the request**

**that the provision of long COVID clinics be retained and expanded and a clinic**

**be established at Cavan General Hospital.**

Noted.

**(f) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Justice regarding the**

**international protection system and applications.**

Noted.

**(g) To note correspondence from Aoife Cullen, Campaigns Administrator, Pieta**

**House.**

Noted.

**(h) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government**

**and Heritage regarding the implementation of the recommendations in the**

**review of the Retained Fire Service.**

Noted.

**(i) To note reply from the Officer of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the**

**Marine regarding the management of the national deer population.**

Noted.

**Former White Horse Hotel, Cootehill**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick proposed that Cavan County Council write again to Minister

Roderic O’Gorman asking what plans are going to be put in place to help Cootehill

get the necessary services and resources to help communities accommodate.

incoming refugees. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that the former White Horse Hotel in

Cootehill is currently being renovated and it is rumoured that refugees are

moving into it. Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that Cootehill had already welcomed

refugees and local schools are bursting at the seams. He stated that the concerned

community of Cootehill Committee had sent him a letter in relation to the matter and

asked that this letter be also forwarded to Minister O’Gorman.

**Holy Family School**

Councillor P. McVitty proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Anne

Rabbitte T.D. once again asking that she meet with members of the Parents

Association.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

**7. To approve attendance of members at AILG training to be held in the Sligo Park Hotel on 22nd July 2023.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Kelly, A. Fitzpatrick, J.P. Feeley, V. Smith, P. McVitty, W. Bennett, T. Smith, T.P. O’Reilly, M. Argue, S. O’Reilly and S.P. O’Reilly at the AILG training to be held in the Sligo Park Hotel on 22nd July 2023 be hereby approved”.

**8. Member’s Question – Councillor John Paul Feeley**

**To ask the Director of Service to set out the amount of funding allocated by the Council in each of the past five years, from our own resources to the maintenance and repair of public roads and the proportion of such allocation as a percentage of the overall budget of the Council.**

A reply was issued to Councillor J.P. Feeley 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.

**10. To approve nominee to Cavan Local Community and Development Committee under Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, Mr. Barry Kavanagh, Environmental Issues replacing Mr. Tirloch O’Brien, Environmental Issues.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor P. McDonald

And

Resolved;

“that the replacement of Tirloch O’Brien, Environmental Issues by Mr, Barry Kavanagh, Environmental Issues on the Cavan Local Community and Development Committee under Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 be hereby approved”.

**Votes of Sympathy:**

* The Brady Family, Kilnaleck on the death of Mr. Peter Brady

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Eoghan Comerford, Ballinagh member of Breffni Blues Special Olympics Club on winning a silver medal at the Special Olympics in Berlin in kayaking.
* Angela Cleary, Killeshandra member of Breffni Blues Special Olympics Club on winning a bronze medal in the Special Olympics in Berlin in bowling.
* Mr. Seamus Enright, Anglo Celt for his article telling the details of the Belturbet bombing by the survivors half a century on, on winning a top award at the Prestigious Justice Media Awards 2023.
* Sinead Farrelly on qualifying for the Irish Ladies Soccer team playing in the World Cup in Australia. Sinead’s father Sean comes from Lurganure in Cavan.
* Councillor J.P. Feeley and his wife Niamh on the birth of their baby boy Éamon.
* Cathaoirleach Philip Brady on doing Cavan proud during his trip to Wurzburg in Germany.
* Kingspan Breffni Park and Cavan County Board on a special unique occasion of opening a new Sensory Room in Kingspan Breffni Park. This is the first facility of its kind to be opened by the GAA and will promote inclusiveness and access to the sport for everyone.
* Cavan u16 girls football team on reaching the All-Ireland Final against Cork on Sunday 16th July.
* Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive and members of the Executive team for their support to the people of Mullagh in relation to bringing the relics of St. Kilian home.
* Killeshandra Camino Committee on organising a very successful walk.
* Gerry Sheridan, Killeshandra owner of Ice Cream Treats on winning four prestigious awards at the British Frozen Food Federations 2023 Gala Dinner Dance and Awards in London.
* Leona Maguire, Ballyconnell on winning the Meijer LPGA Classic in Michigan.

**Cavan Calling 2023**

Ms. Emma Clancy, County Librarian thanked the member and executive for allowing her the opportunity to update the members on forthcoming events at Cavan Calling which is being held from Wednesday 26rh July to Sunday 30th July with some events running until September. She informed the members that she had left brochures in the Council Chamber for them. She thanked them for their support and urged them all to promote the festival through their social media. She stated that Cavan Day takes place on Saturday 29th July and Cavan town is the place to be with activities ongoing throughout the day.

**Missing person Ms. Jean Tighe, Munterconnaught.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that he had contact from the Tighe Family to update him on the disappearance of their daughter and sister Jean in Portugal three years ago. He stated that the Tighe Family thanked the members of Cavan County Council for their ongoing support and informed them that to date Jean has not officially been registered as a missing person in Portugal. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that her family have been met with a stone wall with nowhere to go to get answers surrounding Jean’s disappearance. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Portuguese Ambassador and Garda Commissioner Mr. Drew Harris asking them to expedite immediately all things in the way of placing Ms. Jean Tighe on the missing persons register.

Councillors T.P. O’Reilly and P. Brady showed their support for the Tighe Family.

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

**11.1 That Cavan County Council forward a letter to the Minister for Education requesting that a Liaison Office be put in place to engage with schools and to put in place a programme on the use of renewable energy.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Education requesting that a Liaison Office be put in place to engage with schools and a programme for students on the use of renewable energy. He stated that schools should look to purchase solar panels through the remedial fund scheme. Councillor T.P. O’Reilly noted the environmental benefits of such an initiative, and it would also educate the youth of today. Councillor O’Reilly stated that other buildings occupied by the educational board should channel renewable sources.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and noted that the children could then bring their knowledge on renewable energy sources home to their parents.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and stated that the ETB is currently in the process of offering renewable energy sources to schools.

The motion was supported unanimously.

**11.2 To ask the Minister for Education when the DEIS status for schools is being reviewed and what criteria is being used to determine eligibility for a school to be included.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Education asking when the DEIS status for schools is being reviewed and what criteria is being used to determine eligibility for a school to be included. Councillor O’Reilly stated that the number of refugees entering the County has put pressure on school places.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and noted that the census of population which was completed last year shows a lot of abnormalities. Councillor Smith stated that free hot meals to children in schools is invaluable and the criteria needs to be looked at.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and stated that he has been advocating for St. Bricin’s School in Belturbet to receive DEIS status for months. He stated that he knew of a situation where a sister received hot meals and a brother did not and noted that three out of four schools in Belturbet had received DEIS status. Councillor Fay noted that St. Bricin’s has already been refused DEIS status, appealed the decision and it was refused too.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the refusal for St. Bricin’s school to receive DEIS status was a mystery and stated that he could not understand the difference in schools feeding the same families.

Councillors C. Brady and P. Brady supported the motion,

**11.3 Cavan County Council call on Imelda Hurley, Chief Executive Officer of Coillte to meet with Councillors to discuss the management, monitoring and risks within Coillte Forests in County Cavan.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to Ms. Imelda Hurley Chief Executive Officer of Coillte asking her to meet with Councillors to discuss the management, monitoring and risks within Coillte Forests in County Cavan and asked them to advise if they have personnel such as wardens or enforcement officers employed to ensure Coillte bye-laws are being adhered to. Councillor S. O’Reilly asked if the bye-laws enacted in 2015 are being enforced in relation to anti-social behaviour in public places. She stated that the bye-laws make provision for the imposition of a fixed payment of €50 to persons contravening the bye-law as an alternative to prosecution. Councillor O’Reilly stated that since the bye-laws were introduced the problem of anti-social behaviour still continues noting that illegal camps are being set up creating dumping, drinking and fire hazards. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that Cavan County Council should employ a community warden and the warden should be given the powers to enforce the existing bye-laws like the powers of the National Parks and Wildlife. She stated that a serious fire at Castle Lake could see three housing estates destroyed. She stated that the Castle Lake Committee have been dealing with continuous dumping and littering and flaunting of the forest bye-laws. She noted that the Committee put up no camping and no littering signs and Coillte proceeded to take down the signs because their logo was not on the signs. Councillor O’Reilly stated that she received correspondence from Coillte on numerous occasions over the years and the signage promised never materialised.

Councillor C. Kelly noted that Cavan County Council have a good relationship with Coillte over the years and they have put a lot of investment into our Forest Parks. Councillor Kelly proposed that the Council meet with Coillte first in relation to the matter.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that more engagement is needed with Coillte.

Councillors B. Fay, P. McDonald and P. McVitty supported the motion.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that the Council would welcome a meeting with Coillte.

**11.4 That this Council requests the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris T.D., to monitor the rate of youth emigration and in particular determine what graduate cohorts are leaving in the greatest numbers.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris, T.D., to monitor the rate of youth emigration and determine what graduate cohorts are leaving in the greatest numbers. Councillor O’Reilly stated that measures need to be put in place to stop the forced emigration of our young people from Ireland. Councillor O’Reilly stated that according to the late Population and Migration Estimates from the Central Statistics Office, a total of 59,600 persons departed the State in 2022 compared to 54,000 in 2021. Councillor O’Reilly stated that several factors are feeding into this including a lack of opportunities in Ireland, high costs, inflation, and the housing crisis. Councillor O’Reilly stated that Ireland is one of the most expensive countries in Europe and noted that the issue of emigration is having a knock-on effect on many different businesses. Councillor O’Reilly stated that a higher salary should be offered to graduates to encourage them to find work in Ireland.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion noting that there has always been emigration but stated that forced emigration is currently occurring where young people feel they have no other choice. Councillor Smith stated that wages for young people should be increased.

Councillors C. Kelly and P. Walsh supported the motion.

**11.6 To request an update on progress on the greenway from Belturbet to Leitrim Village.**

Councillor B. Fay requested an update from Cavan County Council on the progress being made on the Cavan Leitrim Greenway. Councillor Fay outlined progress to date and potential options available in County Leitrim.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that in relation to the Cavan Leitrim Greenway it will primarily run from Cavan town to Belturbet on to Ballyconnell, Ballinamore and onwards to Drumad. He stated that Cavan County Council had received funding to explore options at the Cavan town end of the greenway with linkage to the Ulster Canal via Butlersbridge and Redhills and ongoing connections via Castlesaunderson, Belturbet and on to Ballyconnell. Mr. Connaughton stated that TII had recently agreed to funding a full-time engineer to progress the project.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS JULY MEETING**

**11.7 That Cavan County Council provide an update on the North South Interconnector.**

Councillor C. Kelly asked the executive of Cavan County Council if there had been any

recent updates on the North South Interconnector.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that there had been no

meetings with Eirgrid or ESB Networks since the last Council Meeting.

**11.8 To ask Cavan County Council to actively seek out designated areas for Campervans to park in local towns throughout Cavan so as to increase tourism in our County.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick asked Cavan County Council to actively seek out designated areas for campervans to park in local towns throughout Cavan so as to increase tourism in County Cavan. Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that while campers do park in the County, there are not enough designated bays for them to refill their water supply and extract any used water. Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that he was disappointed to see in a small town in County Cavan a sign saying no overnight parking. He stated that we should be attracting tourists to the County. He stated that the use of campervans is a growing trend and seems to be catching on throughout the Country.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that with the current cost of hotels in our country, campervans will become more popular.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and noted that there were local groups and firms touring around Northern Ireland and not being able to bring people back to Cavan is a wasted opportunity.

Councillors W. Bennett, B. Fay, S. O’Reilly and P. Walsh supported the motion.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Services stated that while there are a lot of areas available to accommodate campervans in Belturbet, there are not a lot of privately owned options available throughout the rest of the County. He stated that it is something that the Council can look into going forward. He stated that allocating more resources is not straightforward and once completed will not radically change tourism to the County.

**11.9 To ask Cavan County Council to write to Applus and to the Minister for Transport to explain the delay in providing Cootehill with an NCT Centre.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick proposed that Cavan County Council write to Applus and to the Minister for Transport to explain the delay in providing Cootehill with an NCT Centre. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that parent company Apple Plus sought to put an NCT centre into the town. He stated that Mr. Smith came to him looking for a site and he explained to him that the Spanish Company Apple Plus rent out buildings and put NCT test centres into them and that Cootehill was assessed as an option and the company were happy to proceed. He stated that service first advertised for a property in the Cootehill area in March 2021 and readvertised in June 2022. Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that Mr. Smith received six prices from different companies to build the premises with the best option working out at €2.1m and the Spanish Company believe it can be done cheaper. He stated that Mr. Smith has put a lot of money and time into this project.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and agreed that an additional test centre in the county is badly needed. He stated if cars do not have valid NCTs they are not insured if an accident happens.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion noting that there is a serious backlog with NCT testing.

**11.10 To ask Cavan County Council to write to the Minister for Sport, the Camogie Association and the LGFA and ask them to support their County Teams and provide the minimum basic standards of care and welfare for female players in 2024 and beyond.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Sport, the Camogie Association and the LGFA and ask them to support their County Teams and provide the minimum basic standards of care and welfare for female players in 2024 and beyond. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that the time has come for everyone in society to make a stand against the disparity being shown by the GAA to its female football and camogie players. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that the Camogie Board is doing the best it can with the resources it has and stated that ladies playing sport do not have a level playing field with their male counterparts. Councillors Fitzpatrick stated that the LGFA and Camogie players need the same minimum standards that men have when it comes to physio, medical professionals, nutrition, gym use and travel expenses. He stated that very often girls cannot get a home pitch to play on.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and stated that girls are giving up their evenings the same as men and therefore should be entitled to the same treatment.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and stated that it was very unfair to the ladies as they put in the same commitment as men and noted that it was a disgrace that coaches should have to pay for players to come to training.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and stated that it would be made easier for women to stay in sport if they received expenses.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that the problem had been created by the national organisation and until such time as it decides to move with the times nothing will change for female players in the County. Councillor O’Reilly stated that vested interests at national level have left county committees struggling to do the best they can with the limited resources they have been provided with.

Councillors M. Argue, P. McDonald, C. Kelly and P. Brady supported the motion.

**11.11 That Cavan County Council call for additional supports for Foster Families**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Government to provide additional supports for Foster Families. Councillor Feeley noted the difficult work foster families do on a short-term and long-term basis with little support from the Government. Councillor Feeley stated that children in need of foster care often have issues and foster parents are taking this on and offering an exceptional service. He stated that foster families have not received an increase in several years and don’t receive any allowance for travelling to appointments with the children. Councillor Feeley proposed that the Council invite members of the Irish Foster Care Association to attend a future meeting of Cavan County Council so members can hear directly from them.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and noted that in some cases where it is hard to get foster families, some children end up in residential care.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and noted that they have a foster member on their town team who could get a call asking to take two children or a young baby at short notice.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and stated that foster families are so compassionate and selfless to take in children at a time of need. She stated that foster families need to get the help and support they deserve.

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

**11.12 That Cavan County Council, working with other appropriate agencies, put in place an information campaign on the dangers of certain breeds of dogs and the obligation of owners to ensure that their animals are not a threat to others and that the Council create a register of such breeds.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked that Cavan County Council, working with other appropriate agencies, put in place an information campaign on the dangers of certain breeds of dogs and the obligation of owners to ensure that their animals are not a threat to others and that the Council create a register of such breeds. Councillor Feeley stated that the current law requires the person in charge of a dog in a public place to ensure the animal is not a threat to anyone and Councillor Feeley stated that it is not enough as there have been many instances where dogs come off their owner’s private property on to a public road to attack people walking alone or with their own dogs. Councillor Feeley asked if it was possible to notify the dog warden of all dangerous breeds in the county so they could visit the properties regularly to ensure they are secure.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that dangerous dogs may not be just certain breeds.

Councillor S. P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that the duty is with the dog owner to look after his or her dog. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that if you do not treat a dog properly, he or she will be vicious.

Councillors P. McVitty, T.P. O’Reilly, M. Argue and P. Walsh supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services informed the members that a working group has been set up with members of the Department of Agriculture, CCMA and other groups to deal with the matter.

**11.13 That Cavan County Council put in place a programme of works to maintain the common areas in local authority estates.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked that Cavan County Council put in place a programme of works to maintain the common areas in local authority estates. Councillor Feeley accepted that there are huge demands on the housing budget but felt that small estates occupied by the elderly should have their common areas maintained as most elderly people are not fit to carry out the works. He stated that the Council should look at the estates on a case-by-case basis.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that additional funding would have to be sought to carry out these works. Councillor Reilly noted that when Cavan County Council take over an estate it only includes water, sewerage and lighting not green areas.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and complimented the Tidy Towns and Resident Groups in the County that are active and do great work and make a huge difference.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that Community Groups need more help from the Council at certain times of the year.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and noted that estates have problems when it comes to dumping grass from green areas.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that to help with biodiversity the middle part of green areas should be left to go wild and only trim around the edge.

Councillor C. Brady stated that residents need to have some responsibility for their areas. Councillor Brady stated that the Awards evening run by the Council is great for residents in estates to take pride in where they live.

Councillor M. Argue asked if the Estate Enhancement Awards run by the Council prior to Covid could be reintroduced.

Councillor P. Brady supported the motion and noted that the Estate Awards would be discussed in September.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that there are approximately ninety Council estates in the County with half of them having estate management schemes. He states that this scheme works well and is grant aided. Mr. Doyle stated that the Council could take a municipal district and look at how to expand the estate management scheme going forward but it will be a financial cost to the Council.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that it was unlikely residents’ groups could be formed in the estates he was talking about due to the age of the residents.

**Any other business**

Councillor P. Brady informed the members that it was agreed at the CPG meeting that a Cathaoirleach’s Reception be given to Mrs. Bridget Tierney, Loughduff, Mullahoran who turned 108 during the week. It was agreed that Councillor Brady would call to Mrs. Tierney in her home.

It was agreed at the CPG meeting that a Cathaoirleach’s Reception be given to Lacken Camogie on Friday 21st July 2023 at 4.30p.m. in the Council Chamber.

It was agreed at the CPG that a Civic Reception be held for all the people coming home for Cavan Calling in the Council Chamber followed by lunch in the Kilmore Hotel.

Councillor P. McVitty wished Ms. Eimear Conaty, Corporate Services the best of luck as she travels to Australia.

**Item 11.5 was deferred.**

**The meeting concluded at 5.10p.m.**