**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 14th May 2018 in the Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor P. McDonald, Cathaoirleach Presiding

Present: Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, P. Brady,

N. Connell, F. Curtin, D. Downey, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, 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

J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service

M. McNally, Financial Management Accountant

E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

**1. To confirm Minutes of Meetings held on 9 April, 2018. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 9 Aibreain 2018 a dhearbhu.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

Seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved:

“that minutes of meetings of Cavan County Council held on 9 April, 2018 be hereby approved”.

**2. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8 March 2018.**

Noted.

Number 3 omitted on Agenda.

**4.** **To note Chief Executive’s Orders.**

Noted.

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

Noted.

**6. To hear presentation from Denis Kelly & David Minton, Northern & Western Regional Assembly regarding “Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy”.**

Councillor P. McDonald welcomed Mr. David Minton, Director and Mr. Denis Kelly, Senior Planner from the Northern and Western Regional Assembly to the meeting. Mr. David Minton thanked Cavan County Council for the invitation to address the members and outlined the work of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly of whom Councillors P. Smith and S. Smith are members and ambassadors for the Cavan Region. Mr. Minton stated that the NWRA create better places by ensuring the region adopts effective planning and economic development policies centred on sustainable and resilient growth. Mr. Minton stated that the NWRA enhances its competitiveness by optimising all Exchequer and EU funding with local and regional partners to ensure appropriate levels of investment and infrastructure are secured for the region and it acts as a platform for collaboration, knowledge transfer and ultimately regional economic development. Mr. Minton informed the members that the National Planning Framework is currently being developed to succeed the National Spatial Strategy which will provide a framework for national planning for the next twenty years, pulling together Government policies and investment on national and regional development. Mr. Minton stated that a draft regional strategy is expected to be finalised in the next six months. Mr. Minton stated that a business as usual plan cannot be adopted as transformation is needed.

The following issues were raised by the members:-

* Concern over population numbers increasing rapidly over the past 15 years and yet County Cavan has not been considered more prominently in the context of the proposed Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
* While welcoming the commitment to prioritise the Virginia by-pass some members felt the road from Whitegate to Cavan should be upgraded to a motorway. The members were disappointed with the omission of the East-West route, linking Dundalk and Sligo via the towns of Cootehill and Shercock.
* Delays in the roll out of the national broadband plan has resulted in many small businesses in Cavan closing. The members noted that proper broadband is needed to enhance businesses and also education needs.
* The members were disappointed that the Plan is concentrating on large towns by bringing people into the towns and villages and leaving rural Ireland to die. The members also noted the issue with septic tank and treatment systems in West Cavan.
* No mention in the plan in relation to Brexit.
* Development lands at Virginia – what can be done to bring business to the site?

In reply, Mr. Minton accepted the challenges that Brexit poses to the Border region stating that we need to see where the jobs of the future are going to be. Mr. Minton stated that delays on the roll out of the national broadband plan were not good enough and the NWRA were aggressively pursuing the matter with the Government. Mr. Denis Kelly, Senior Planner stated that he had been in consultation with Council officials and planners in relation to the site in Virginia and stated that if anything could be done in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy it would. Mr. Minton stated that with regards to the site in Virginia the plan could be reassessed every five years.

Councillor P. McDonald thanked Mr. Minton and Mr. Kelly for their presentation and hoped they would take the views of the members on board.

**7. Consideration of Annual Financial Statement 2017 under Section 108 of Local Government Act 2001.**

Ms. Margaret McNally, Financial Management Accountant outlined in detail the 2017 Annual Financial Statement. Ms. Mohan stated that the surplus figure for 2017 is €3,281,564 and with the Council’s approval €3,771,708.59 be transferred to Capital 2017.

Councillor J.P. Feeley thanked Ms. McNally for her report. Councillor Feeley noted that when the budget was being adopted there was no mention of a surplus and where did this now come from.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that each year a budget is presented with what the executive think might happen for the year. He stated that the surplus arises when the AFS is prepared. Mr. Ryan informed the members that the list containing the transfers at the end of the year was given to each member e.g. rental accommodation, essential repairs grants and disabled persons grants to name but a few. Mr Ryan also noted that every year there is a transfer to machinery. Mr. Ryan also stated that each year the Council must produce a balanced budget.

**8. Approval to Additional Revenue Expenditure 2017.**

**9. Approval Transfers to Capital 2017.**

**10. Statement of Rate Collection 2017.**

It was agreed to leave items 8, 9 and 10 until Councillor Paddy O’Reilly’s motion (No. 10) on the agenda was dealt with first.

**11(a) To approve a 10 year lease of .061ha or 0.151 acres of land at Market House, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan to Ballyconnell & District Development Association for a nominal rent of €100.00 per annum, 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 D. Brady

And

Resolved:

“that a 10 year lease of .061ha or 0.151 acres of land at Market House, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan to Ballyconnell & District Development Association for a nominal rent of €100.00 per annum, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

**11(b) To approve the disposal of plot of land containing .086ha or .213 acres including house at Corduff, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan to John and Carmel Duffy, Melwood, Drumloman, Kilnaleck, Co. Cavan for the sum of €40,000, 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 plot of land containing .086ha or .213 acres including house at Corduff, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan to John and Carmel Duffy, Melwood, Drumloman, Kilnaleck, Co. Cavan for the sum of €40,000, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

**12. To adopt Standing Orders under Schedule 10 (16) of the Local Government Act 2001.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor D. Downey

And

Resolved:

“that the Standing Orders under Schedule 10 (16) of the Local Government Act 2001 be hereby adopted”.

**13. To note Cavan Joint Policing Committee’s Annual Report 2017.**

Noted.

**14. To approve Cavan Local Authority Audit Committee Charter and Audit Committee Annual Report 2017 under Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved:

“that theCavan Local Authority Audit Committee Charter and Audit Committee Annual Report 2017 under Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 be hereby approved.”

**15. To adopt the 2018 Annual Service Delivery Plan in accordance with 134(A) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as inserted by Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014).**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

And

Resolved:

“that the 2018 Annual Service Delivery Plan in accordance with 134(A) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as inserted by Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014) be hereby adopted” .

**16. To approve attendance of members at AILG “In Service” Training day to be held in Castle Court Hotel, Westport on 19 May.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Kelly, S.P. O’Reilly, J.P. Feeley, S. O’Reilly, F. Curtin, P. Brady, W. Bennett, P. Smith, V. Smith, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly and M. Argue at AILG “In Service” Training day to be held in Castle Court Hotel, Westport on 19 May be hereby adopted” .

**17.(a) To note replies from Minister Simon Harris T.D., in relation to the Long Term Illness Scheme.**

Noted. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly thanked the members for deferring the items to the May meeting in his absence from April Meeting. Councillor O’Reilly expressed his disappointment with the reply and stated that the Long Term Illness Scheme is in need of being upgraded.

**(b) To note reply from Department of Health regarding Versatis Patches**

Noted. Councillor O’Reilly expressed his disappointment with the reply stating that it is a national disgrace that versatis patches are not being funded by the HSE.

**(c) To note thank you message from Senator George Mitchell following his recent visit.**

Noted.

**(d) To note letter of thanks from Ciaran O’Reilly, Irish Repertory Theatre.**

Noted.

**(e) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding CCTV systems.**

Noted. Councillor S. P. O’Reilly expressed his disappointment with the reply. Councillor O’Reilly stated that the scheme must be changed to make it more accessible. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly suggested that where money is not spent on CCTV it should be ring fenced to provide more gardai or CCTV for rural businesses. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly praised communities and committees who had already accessed CCTV funding.

Councillor P. Smith supported Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stating that the hoops Gardai have to go through with the form are unreal.

**(f) To note reply from Disability Services CHO1, Health Service Executive regarding the development and operation of the Down Syndrome Centre North East**

Noted. Councillor S. O’Reilly expressed her disappointment with the reply.

**(g) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) Scheme**

Noted. Councillor P. Smith noted the reply but stated that it did not touch on what his issue was.

**(h) To note replies from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Eamonn Scanlon T.D., and Brendan Smith T.D., regarding the fodder crisis.**

Noted.

**(i) To note reply from Minister Shane Ross T.D. in relation to funding for roads in the Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal District.**

Noted. Councillor C. Kelly asked that the Council once again write to Minister Shane Ross asking that he meeting with a deputation from Cavan County Council.

**(j) To note reply from Department of Finance regarding the sale of loans.**

Noted.

**18. Launch of Cavan County Council’s branding (5pm).**

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**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – DEFERRED APRIL MEETING**

**10. That the Chief Executive appoint a person with responsibility for the planning and development of Cavan County Council lands at Virginia and the Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Board be invited to attend.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that this was the third time he has had this issue on the agenda and people in the area of Virginia are getting very frustrated as to why this site of 81 acres is not being developed. Councillor O’Reilly stated that Virginia is now going to lose out to Kells for a major warehouse expansion project with the potential to create 140 jobs. Councillor P. O’Reilly asked the executive to inform him of what developments were made on the site in the last four years and also that the Chief Executive appoint a person with responsibility for the planning and development of these lands at Virginia. Councillor O’Reilly stated that Cavan County Council are acting as a agent for Meath County Council and the Kells Business Park. Councillor O’Reilly proposed that €100,000 from the Council’s reserves be redirected towards opening up the Virginia Greenfield site.

Councillor P. Smith supported the motion and stated that there had been nothing done with this site in twenty years. Councillor P. Smith also noted that the zoning in the development plan needs changing before the site can be developed.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that access must be got to the site in order to bring people in and show it to them. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that it was time that Cavan County Council, TII, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA meet to sort this problem out.

Councillor F. Curtin supported the motion noting that TII are more than willing to talk to the Council on the matter.

Councillors W. Bennett and V. Smith supported the motion.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service outlined in detail the history of the site. Mr. Doyle stated that the development lands in the ownership of Cavan County Council at Burrencarragh, Dublin Road, Virginia for enterprise purpose is an important significant strategic priority of the Council. Mr. Doyle in his report to the members set out the context of the lands, detailed the actions undertaken since the last meeting, outlined the Council’s planned actions going forward and advised of the ongoing efforts of the Council’s Enterprise Office to market and promote the site for further development. Mr. Doyle as assisted by Ms. Marcella Rudden, Head of Enterprise. Mr. Doyle stated that the development of the Virginia lands, purchased in two separate lots in the early 2000’s had been impeded by a number of factors over the years Mr. Doyle indicated that the improving economic climate has spawned growing interest in such sites. He stated that the Council is marketing the location for foreign direct investment through the IDA and Enterprise Ireland. Mr. Doyle informed the members that in order for a variation of the County Development Plan to be sanctioned national planning guidelines must be adhered to. He stated that the Council has committed to carrying out a number of actions including a full constraints study of the site’s characteristics and an appropriate assessment including a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Mr. Doyle stated that any proposal must be supported by TII and included in the Northern and Western Regional Assembly’s Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. He stated that in recent weeks a number of meetings had taken place with the Department of Housing and Local Government , TII and the NWRA.

Ms. Marcella Rudden, Head of Enterprise informed the members that this is an important strategic site especially with its proximity to Dublin.

Councillor P. O’Reilly expressed his disappointment with Mr, Doyle’s response and asked the Chief Executive to appoint somebody to the site who would give a quarterly report to the members.

Mr, Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive informed the members that Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Economic Development is the responsible person for the site. Mr. Ryan stated that with the agencies, TII and the NWRA on board, now is the opportune time to develop the lands with interest emerging. Mr. Ryan stated that the Council intend to start the variation process to the development plan and have it advertised in the paper by the end of the Summer and have the process through by the end of the year. Mr. Ryan noted that part of the land may form part of Virginia by-pass and therefore that part of the site could not be developed.

Councillor P.O’Reilly requested that €100,000 be redirected from reserves to open up the site.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that the site cannot be opened until the variation to the plan in complete.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Players and mentors of the various Loreto College football teams.
* Ms. Jessica Kavanagh winner of the Best Start-Up Business in the North Eastern Regional Final for her business, Olann hand-dyed yarn.
* Brían F. O’Beirne on winning best supporting actor for “Little Boy Blue” at the BAFTA Awards 2018. Brían is the only Cavan man ever to receive this award. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that a Civic Reception be held for Brían who now resides in Sligo. This was seconded by Councillor P. O’Reilly.
* Royal School Cavan on winning young entrepreneurs awards and on their joint production of the musical “Footloose” with Loreto College.
* The Armstrong Family, Farnham View B & B who will host Daniel & Majella O’Donnell on their B&B Road Trip Programme.
* Colaiste Dun an Ri on the official opening of their new school and their achievements in the BT Young Scientist Competitions over the last two years.
* Fiona Corby and the Cavan Darkness Into Light team for the successful 5km walk in aid of Pieta House, the organization for the prevention of self harm or suicide.

**Vote of Sympathy:**

* Brian Allen and Family Swellan, Cavan on the death of his brother Patrick Allen.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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