**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 13th January, 2020 in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Cavan at 3.00p.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, 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

An apology was received from Councillor S. Smith.

Cathaoirleach S.P. O’Reilly welcomed all to the first meeting of 2020 and wished all a Happy New Year.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held on 9th December 2019.**

**Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 9 Mi na Nollag 2019 a dhearbhu.**

It was;

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor S. O’Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 9 December 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 7 November 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. To note reply from Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection**

**regarding the conditions of the Disability Allowance and the Blind Person and other**

**payments in terms of their impact on persons with visual impairment.**

Noted. Councillor J.P. Feeley expressed his disappointment with the reply.

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

**Conferences:**

**Celtic Conferences “Tackling Carbon Emissions & Fuel Poverty” to be held in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty from 24-26 January 2020.**

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

and

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors P. Brady, A. Fitzpatrick, C. Lovett, S.P. O’Reilly and B.

Fay at Celtic Conferences “Tackling Carbon Emissions & Fuel Poverty” to be held in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty from 24-26 January 2020 be hereby approved”.

**Celtic Conferences “Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020” to be held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford from 7-9 February 2020.**

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

and

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillor A. Fitzpatrick at Celtic Conferences “Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020” to be held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford from 7-9 February 2020 be hereby approved”.

**Training:**

**AILG Training to be held in the Mullingar Park Hotel on 25thJanuary – Module 1 GDPR**

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

and

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors T. Smith, V. Smith, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, P. Walsh, S.P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly and B. Fay at the AILG Training to be held in the Mullingar Park Hotel on 25th January 2020 – Module 1 GDPR be hereby approved”.

**AILG Training to be held in Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on Thursday 13th February – Module 2 “The Development Plan making process”**

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

and

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors T. Smith, M. Argue, C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. McVitty and P, Brady at the AILG Training to be held in the Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on Thursday 13th February 2020 – Module 2 GDPR be hereby approved”.

**AILG Training to be held in Dooley’s Hotel, Waterford on Saturday 15th February – Module 2 “The Development Plan making process”**

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

and

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors S. O’Reilly, B. Fay, J,P. Feeley, C. Kelly, P. Walsh, A. Fitzpatrick and S.P. O’Reilly at the AILG Training to be held in Dooley’s Hotel, Waterford on Saturday 15th February 2020 – Module 2 “The Development Plan making process be hereby approved”.

**MEMBER’S QUESTIONS**

**7. Councillor John Paul Feeley**

**To ask the Director of Service to set out the following:-**

**i The total allocations made under the Local Improvement Scheme to County Cavan for the years 2009 to date**

**ii The number of applications completed in each of those years**

**iii The number of applications currently listed at this time**

**iv The number of those applications assessed and the total estimated cost of completion of same**

**v The number of applications received and unassessed and when it is intended that these be assessed.**

**Reply**

1. The total allocations made under the Local Improvement Scheme to County

Cavan for the years 2009 to date, **€2,736,802**

1. The number of applications completed in each of those years, **See table A below**
2. The number of applications currently listed at this time, **See table B below**
3. The number of those applications assessed and the total estimated cost of completion of same, **See table B below**
4. The number of applications received and unassessed and when it is intended that these be assessed. **See table B below**

**Table A**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **LIS Allocation** | **New Schemes Completed** |
| 2009 | €909,000 | 49 |
| 2010 | €303,000 | 6 |
| 2011 | €303,000 | 14 |
| 2012 | €0 | 0 |
| 2013 | €0 | 0 |
| 2014 | €0 | 0 |
| 2015 | €0 | 0 |
| 2016 | €0 | 0 |
| 2017 | €295,000 | 10 |
| 2018 | €631,567 | 12 |
| 2019 | €295,235 | 4 |

Notes:

From 2013-2016 DTTaS allowed local authorities to use a maximum of 15% (only 7% allowed in 2013) of Discretionary Road Grant for Local Improvement Schemes. 4 schemes at a cost of €229,060 were completed in 2014 with funding taken from the Discretionary Road Grant.

From 2017-2019 funding provided by Department of Rural and Community Development

90 letters have been issued in relation to queries till the end of 2013 as part of the desktop exercise.

**Table B**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **No.** | **Estimated Cost** |
| Fully Assessed | 31 | €2,263,580 |
| Partially Assessed | 127 | €9,750,000 |
| Unassessed | 71 |  |
| Total | 229 | €12,013,580 |

Notes:

It will take approximately 4-6 months to carry out the partial assessment (desktop exercise) on the 71 unassessed.

It will take a least 12 months to carry out a full assessment (site visit and measuring) of the full 198.

**8. Councillor John Paul Feeley**

**To ask the Director of Service to set out the following:**

**i The interaction, if any, between officials of Cavan County Council and officials of or agents acting on behalf of Cavan/Monaghan Education & Training Board relating to proposals to extend or renovate existing or provide new schools in County Cavan to cater for projected secondary education needs based on census figures and related date.**

**ii Such interaction, if any, between officials of Cavan County Council and officials of or agents acting on behalf of Cavan/Monaghan Education & Training Board relating to the existing structures and future needs of St. Bricin’s College, Belturbet & St. Mogue’s College, Bawnboy.**

**iii Such interactions, if any, as between officials of Cavan County Council and officials of or agents acting on behalf of Cavan/Monaghan Education & Training Board relating to the possible development of a new school in or about Ballyconnell.**

**To include the number, nature and persons involved in such engagements and the outcome thereof.**

**Reply**

No meetings have taken place between officials of Cavan County Council and officials of or agents acting on behalf of Cavan/Monaghan Education & Training Board relating to proposals to extend or renovate existing or provide new secondary schools in County Cavan.

A discussion did take place between officials from Cavan County Council’s Planning Department and CMETB on the need to consult regarding the upcoming County Development Plan process with emphasis on population trends and future needs for national and secondary schools across the county. This was a high-level discussion with more details to be assessed at a later date during the County Development Plan process.

**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.

Councillor P. McVitty asked for an update on the Palais, Belturbet.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service informed Councillor McVitty that the Local Authority is still in negotiations with the landowners and if an agreement can be reached it will proceed to presenting design and costings to the Department.

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked for an update on the proposed Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway greenway development. Councillor Feeley stated that with the uncertainty of Brexit, it is important that the region feels the benefit of such proposed development as soon as possible.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that the Council would look to follow up on progress with their Leitrim counterparts.

Members expressed their disappointment and annoyance at the resettlement of refugees in County Cavan without prior consultation with nearby residents or the Councillors themselves.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service informed the members that Cavan County Council is working as part of a national plan to relocate refugees. He stated that to date 13 families have been successfully relocated with a further 7 to come. He stated that a Local Development Group has been engaged to assist in the operation consisting of 8 different agencies on the Committee.

**10(a). To** **approve** **disposal of derelict demountable at Dunancory, Virginia, Co. Cavan to**

**Mr. Joe Henry, Dunancory, Virginia, Co. Cavan for the sum of €900.00, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1966 Section 26 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, and**

**notices circulated.**

It was proposed by Councillor T.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor T. Smith

and

Resolved

“that the disposal of derelict demountable at Dunancory, Virginia, Co. Cavan to Mr. Joe Henry, Dunancory, Virginia, Co. Cavan for the sum of €900.00, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1966 Section 26 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, be hereby approved”.

**(b).** **To approve the grant of a Right of Way to Mr. David Heaslip, at Toneymore, Cavan,**

**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. McVitty

and

Resolved

“that the grant of a Right of Way to Mr. David Heaslip, at Toneymore, Cavan,

pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, be hereby approved”.

**(c). To approve a 99 year lease of 0.0488 acres of land at Corporation Lands, Belturbet,**

**Co. Cavan to Project Belturbet Combined Planning and Support Company Limited by Guarantee for a rent at a nominal fee of €100 per annum payable to Cavan County Council, 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 B. Fay

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

and

Resolved

“that a 99 year lease of 0.0488 acres of land at Corporation Lands, Belturbet,

Co. Cavan to Project Belturbet Combined Planning and Support Company Limited by Guarantee for a rent at a nominal fee of €100 per annum payable to Cavan County Council, 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. Cavan Calling 2020: Municipal District Discretionary Scheme 2020**

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that Cavan Calling 2020 takes place from 20-23 August and is an opportunity for Cavan people, those with ancestors from Cavan, or those with an affinity for Cavan to come home for a weekend celebration of Cavan, its people, its Diaspora, culture, heritage, music and landscape.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that funding will be available for local communities to organize events in their local areas to coincide with the Cavan Calling homecoming celebration. He stated that events can be organized around food, sport, the environment or health and culture. He stated that application forms for funding will be made available in the coming days and the closing date for same will be Friday 28th February 2020.

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

**12. Consideration of the 3 year Capital Programme 2020-2022 in accordance with**

**Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 (to be circulated).**

The 3 year Capital Programme 2020-2022 in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 was considered by the members.

**13. To note Audit Committee Report pursuant to Section 121 of the Local Government**

**Act, as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014.**

Noted.

**5. Irish Water**

Councillor S. O’Reilly called for an independent investigation to be carried out into the cause of the mass water outage in the Bailieborough area in the lead up to Christmas and Irish Water’s response to the issue. She stated that serious questions have to be asked as to how manganese managed to reach unsafe levels in the supply. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that locals were complaining for several months about the colour of the water and following consultation with the HSE those served by the Bailieborough Public Water Supply were put under a do not consume ban which also impacted on areas including Killinkere, Virginia, Crossbane and Mullagh. She stated that the ban remained in place until two days before Christmas. Councillor O’Reilly asked if there was a system failure or was it a monitoring issue and who was responsible for making sure that all was as it should be? Councillor O’Reilly stated that the lack of communication between Irish Water and the Community was deplorable. Councillor O’Reilly complimented Cavan County Council and Lakeland Dairies for their help on the matter.

Councillor V. Smith supported the motion and asked that the Council invite an official from Irish Water to a Cavan County Council meeting.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and noted that in Kingscourt where only in recent years a €3m modern water treatment plant was built there are problems with lime in the water which is having a detrimental effect on household appliances.

Councillors P. McDonald, B. Fay, T.P. O’Reilly and C. Brady supported the motion.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that problems like these did not occur when Cavan County Council was in charge of water in the County.

Mr. P. Connaughton, Director of Service informed the members that Irish Water is investigating the matter and the Council would seek an update on the matter. Mr. Connaughton stated that the Council will extend an invitation to Irish Water asking that an official attend a future meeting of Cavan County Council.

**School Secretaries**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that school secretaries are not paid for sick leave, they do not

have any pension and they do not get paid for Christmas, Easter or summer holidays and

have no entitlements. He stated that school secretaries are being treated poorly and

proposed that Cavan County Council send a motion to Minister Joe McHugh T.D. calling on

him to see to it that school secretaries are properly treated. Councillor Kelly noted that

every parent will agree that the School Secretary is the heart beat of primary schools.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that two people doing the same job

might be paid differently. He stated that some school secretaries are employed directly by

the Department of Education and Skills, while the majority of secretaries are employed

by each school’s Board of Management through an ancillary grant which is issued to each

board annually by the Department to help run the school.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and seconded Councillor C. Kelly’s proposal.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – DEFERRED FROM DECEMBER 2019 MEETING.**

**1. Housing**

Councillor C. Kelly noted that there are just three new houses planned for Kingscourt town which he stated was crazy given the demand for houses in such an industrialised town. Councillor Kelly noted that Cavan had received €62.7m from the Department for the delivery of various housing programmes since 2011 and asked how much of this was given to the Voluntary Housing Sector. Councillor Kelly stated that the Local Authority should be playing a bigger role in the development of housing. Councillor Kelly stated that the Tenant Purchase Scheme had strict eligibility criteria thus excluding some people from purchasing their home outright from the Local Authority. Councillor Kelly also asked how many people had benefited from the mortgage to rent scheme. Councillor Kelly stated that four years ago Minister English informed the members that income limits would be reviewed in relation to loans but to date this has not happened.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that the current system was making rich people out of landlords. Councillor S. O’Reilly asked that the Council return to building large-scale housing developments.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and noted that young people are struggling to get on the property ladder. Councillor Walsh suggested that when keys of a dwelling are handed back to the Council, that the Council carry out the spot checks in order to speed up the process to re-let these dwellings. Councillor Walsh noted that houses are boarded up for far too long in Cavan.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion stating that in some counties there is a willingness at Council level to move away from social housing provision as it is not glamorous. He stated that housing provision is a function of the local authority and praised the local council staff for their efforts. He noted that half of the houses constructed in the County are done so by approved housing bodies which is a change from previous years.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service acknowledged that there is a need for more housing in Kingscourt and noted that the Council are looking for more land in Kingscourt. Mr. Doyle stated that approved housing bodies with their significant budgets continue to be an important part of housing provision in the County. He stated that the Council are working on providing houses into 2020 which included schemes in Ballinagh, Ballyjamesduff, Belturbet to mention but a few. Mr. Doyle stated that the local authority received money to bring 31 voids back into use but there are 80 more vacant houses across the county owned by the Council and waiting to be fixed for re-letting. Mr. Doyle stated that at least €1m would be needed to carry out works on these 80 dwellings.

Councillor Kelly thanked Eoin for his reply.

**2. Carparking**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that local businesses in Kingscourt are up in arms over the lack of customer parking in the town. He stated that despite a two hour parking limit in operation, the issue is made worse by the number of people parking their vehicles in the town while commuting to Dublin for work. Councillor Kelly stated that the matter came to a head before Christmas due to the huge volumes of traffic coming into the town. He stated that something needs to be done sooner rather than later. He stated that he would happy to see cars put in a car park but unfortunately there is nowhere available to make a car park.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service acknowledged the frustration of local traders in Kingscourt. He stated that the process undertaken by the Council in respect of adding off-street parking was not just to fulfil the current need but into the future. He stated that the aim as to position the parking facility as close as possible to the commercial core of the town. He stated that rural development funding may be made available for the project.

It was proposed by Councillor P. McVitty and seconded by Councillor P. Walsh to extend the meeting time to 5.45p.m.

**3. The provision of a network of fast charging points for electric vehicles**

Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that it is proposed to ban the sale of cars other than electric cars by 2030 which in his opinion is an unrealistic target. Councillor Feeley noted that the Country does not have a charging network available to accommodate this. He stated that County Cavan is completely out of line in terms of what we are doing. Councillor Feeley stated as a Council we need to be proactive regarding this and make provision for a network of fast charging points for electric vehicles available to the public. Councillor Feeley noted that the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment announced funding last August that will help local authorities provide a widespread rollout of electric cars. Councillor Feeley stated that each local authority was to receive €5,000 to develop 200 charge points every year until 2025 and asked what Cavan County Council’s plans were with this funding.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion noting that in the town of Belturbet there are only two charging points available to charge electric cars.

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

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that it is the Sustainability Energy Authority of Ireland that manage the scheme in relation to funding and the terms and conditions are currently being finalised. He stated that by 2025 it is expected that there will be 2,000 charging points nationwide for charging electric cars. He stated that Cavan County Council will identify locations within the County and make them known to the SEAI.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – JANUARY MEETING.**

**4. That Cavan County Council supports the right to Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals**

Councillor C. Lovett called on Cavan County Council to support the right to Personal Assistance Service for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals. Councillor Lovett stated that Personal Assistance Service allows the person to live independently and enables them to do all the tasks they otherwise cannot do for themselves. Councillor Lovett stated that PAS should not be confused with having a carer or home help.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion stating that PAS allows the individual to live with freedom and control to have the same choices in life that everyone else has in terms of housing, education and employment.

The motion was unanimously supported by the members.

**6. That Cavan County Council propose that those who work over the Christmas period of Christmas Day and St. Stephen’s Day in our emergency, state and private services, should not have their earnings for these dates subject to tax, USC or PRSI deductions**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Finance proposing that those who work over the Christmas period of Christmas Day and St. Stephen’s Day in our emergency, state and private services should not have their earnings for these dates subject to tax, USC or PRSE deductions. He noted that many people working in hospitals, nursing homes, as carers in communities, defence forces, fire service, gardai etc. work these days and are away from their families. He stated that they might get double pay but are losing half of it on tax. He stated that these are wonderful people giving their commitment to the State over and above their families.

Councillors B. Fay and P. Walsh supported the motion.

**7. The need for Bus Eireann and TII representatives to urgently act regarding facilities on the N3.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that there is a need for additional parking on the N3 at Whitegate. He stated that the overspill from the commuter carpark already there is causing a problem for locals including school children who take to the bus to school in Kells. He stated that current carpark has a capacity for about 20 vehicles but there is often up to 50 vehicles looking to park in it. He stated that there is room to expand the carpark at Whitegate and this should be done as a temporary solution. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly called on Bus Eireann and TII to urgently act regarding facilities on the N3. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that he hoped the old plan for a dedicated bus drop-off depot at Derver could be resurrected.

Councillors T.P. O’Reilly and S. O’Reilly supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that the Council is hoping to appoint consultants in the next few weeks to look at bus stops on the N3 and he would also raise the issue of signage with TII. He stated that the Council will look at expanding the carpark facility at Whitegate.

**8. That Cavan County Council request that those involved in illegal dumping and fly tipping offences have penalty points added to their drivers licence when convicted through licence plate recognition**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that there is a serious situation in County Cavan with illegal dumping and fly tipping. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that motorists caught throwing litter from their cars or dumping rubbish illegally should be given penalty points. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that the sanctions would apply to any vehicle owner caught on CCTV or otherwise either fly tipping or dumping litter by the roadside. He stated that the registration number would be taken and if convicted penalty points would be applied.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion noting that the idea of licence plate recognition would be a good way of catching those involved and pinning the incident on them quickly. He also suggested that publishing the details of the dumpers would have a desired effect in deterring people from the illegal activity.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion noting that the issue needs to be addressed as it is bad for the tourism industry in our County.

Councillor M. Argue supported the motion noting that the IBAL litter league results for Cavan this year were disappointing.

Councillors C. Kelly, P. Walsh, B. Fay, S. O’Reilly, A. Fitzpatrick and T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that in order to fulfil Councillor S.P. O’Reilly’s motion it would require legislative change at national level, across a suite of departments. He stated that the matter could be brought to the attention of the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Authority concerning waste issues.

**9. That Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment not to proceed with the granting of a Prospecting Licence to Great Glen Resources Ltd (Ref 333/6 PL Area 1142)**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that he attended the public meeting held in Killoughter Community Centre earlier this month where locals are looking to block a private exploration company from attaining a mineral prospecting licence for the Redhills area and lands south-east of Belturbet. Councillor C. Kelly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment calling on the Government not to proceed with the granting of a Prospecting Licence to Great Glen Resources Ltd (Ref 333/6 PL Area 1142).

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick supported the motion. Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that locals were not impressed that an application for planning permission was made over the Christmas period which had a small advert in the Anglo Celt. He stated that the licensing process proceeded despite a claim that stipulations such as providing mapping not being adequately fulfilled. He stated that members of the community asked to have the deadline for objections extended and this was disregarded.

Councillors B. Fay, V. Smith, S O’Reilly, C. Brady and P. McDonald supported the motion.

Councillor W. Bennett stated that the licence was simply for prospecting and gave an example of Tara Mines in Navan which has created over 600 high paid jobs in the community and provided several million worth of development levies to Meath County Council.

**11. North South Interconnector**

Councillor C. Kelly requested that each month the Director of Service give a report on any meetings held in relation to the North South Interconnector. He asked that it be placed monthly on the Council Agenda.

Councillor S. O’Reilly seconded Councillor Kelly’s proposal.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that no meetings had taken place in relation to the project. He stated that if the Council Executive have information it will be shared with the members if appropriate.

**12. That Cavan County Council will not participate or have representation at the events to commemorate the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Dublin Metropolitan Police at a ceremony in Dublin Castle on the 17th January.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that as Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council he had received an invitation to attend an event in Dublin Castle on the 17th January to commemorate the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Dublin Metropolitan Police. He stated that he made a personal decision that he would not attend the event as is protocol of his Council. He stated that a further letter was received by him from the Minister of Justice’s liaison officer stating that the event has been postponed.

**General Election**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that it is looking like there will be a General Election on either 7th or 14th February and wished Councillors S. O’Reilly and T.P. O’Reilly the best of luck in their election campaign. He wished former members Deputy Niamh Smyth and Pauline Tully the best of luck along with Deputy Brendan Smith. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly also recognised the contribution given by Deputy Caoimhghín O’Caoláin to politics down through the years and wished him well in his retirement. He asked that a sympathy letter be sent to Deputy O’Caoláin on the recent death of his brother Dermot.

Item No. 10 was deferred.

The meeting concluded at 5.50p.m.

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

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