**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in The Hotel Kilmore on**

**Monday 8th November 2021 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor C. Kelly, Cathaoirleach presiding

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

 A. Fitzpatrick, J.P. Feeley, C. Lovett, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, S. O’Reilly, S.P. 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

 L. McGavigan, Meetings Administrator

 E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

Councillor C. Kelly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th October 2021.**

**Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 11 Deireadh Fomhar a dhearbhu.**

 It was

 Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

 Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11 October 2021 be hereby approved”

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

Noted.

 **13. To approve Cavan County Council’s Litter Management Plan 2021-2024.**

It was

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

And

Resolved;

“that Cavan County Council’s Litter Management Plan 2021-2024 be hereby approved”

Mr. Colm O’Callaghan, A/Senior Engineer, Environment stated that The Litter Pollution Act 1997 provides the statutory framework for local authorities to prevent and control the litter problem in their functional area. He stated that Section 10 of the Act as amended requires local authorities to make and implement a Litter Management Plan and this shall be reviewed at least once in each three years after the plan is first implemented. He stated that the litter management plan evaluates the litter prevention and control measures taken by the Council and other agencies during the period 2016-2019 and outlines objectives for the period 2021-2024 and includes information on:

* Educational and operational strategies to raise public awareness of the litter problem
* Enforcement and prevention measures undertaken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended
* Litter prevention and control activities undertaken by the Council and other agencies
* Recycling and recovery facilities provided for public use
* Information on the Council’s Waste Prevention Bye-Laws.

Mr. O’Callaghan stated that the Council’s goal is to protect and enhance Cavan’s natural beauty through education, awareness and preventative initiatives, enforced measures and continuing to work in partnership with the Tidy Town Network, Green Schools Programme, Community & Voluntary Groups, Businesses and Citizens. Mr. O’Callaghan noted the challenges facing the planning and implementation of Cavan County Council’s Litter Management Plan 2021-2024. Covid 19 has had a severe impact on development and implementation of the plan. He noted that permanent CCTV is to be erected at recycling centres across the County in a bid to cut down on dumping at the sites, particularly at busy times when bins may fill quickly. He stated that it is hoped to increase the number of dog fouling bins and the provision of free poop scoop bags across the County particularly at popular amenity areas and walking sites. He stated that it is hoped to increase the number of water refilling stations in schools across Cavan as well as provide more reusable bottles to students.

 The members in turn thanked Mr. O’Callaghan for his presentation and praised the work

 both the Council and the voluntary groups, such as Tidy Towns are doing across the

 County to tackle waste and dumping. The members were of the opinion until legislation is

 changed where people can be named and shamed, it will be difficult to stop illegal dumping

 and the spreading of litter throughout our County.

**Note Minutes of Committee Meetings**

**3. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9 September 2021.**

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(i)To note reply from Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence**

 **regarding the Foreign Births Registration (FBR) process.**

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

**(ii) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for State Hildegarde Naughton T.D.,**

 **regarding a driver theory test amnesty.**

Noted

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

 **AILG Training (retrospective approval)**

To approve the attendance of Councillors M. Argue, C. Brady, W. Bennett, T.P. O’Reilly,

V. Smith, P. McVitty and T. Smith at training held in Clayton Hotel, Galway on 6th

November, 2021.

It was

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors M. Argue, C. Brady, W. Bennett, T.P. O’Reilly,

V. Smith, P. McVitty and T. Smith at training held in Clayton Hotel, Galway on 6th

November, 2021 be hereby approved”.

 **LAMA Training (retrospective approval)**

To approve the attendance of Councillors M. Argue, C. Brady, W. Bennett, T.P. O’Reilly,

V. Smith, P. McVitty and T. Smith at training held in Sligo Park Hotel from 3rd to 5th

November 2021.

It was

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors M. Argue, C. Brady, W. Bennett, T.P. O’Reilly,

V. Smith, P. McVitty and T. Smith at training held in Sligo Park Hotel from 3rd to 5th

November 2021 be hereby approved”.

**Celtic Conferences**

Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth from 3rd to 5th December 2021.

It was

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors P. Brady, P. Walsh, C. Lovett, A. Fitzpatrick, J.P. Feeley

Sarah O’Reilly and B. Fay at the Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference to be held in

Carlingford, Co. Louth from 3rd to 5th December be hereby approved”.

**MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS**

**7****. Councillor J.P. Feeley.**

 **To ask the Director of Service to outline the procedures for co-operation between the Fire Service in Cavan County Council and the Fire Service in County Fermanagh.**

 An answer to the question posed by Councillor J.P. Feeley was circulated to him prior to the meeting. Councillor J.P. Feeley thanked the executive for the reply but asked why

Dowra Fire Service did not attend the recent fire that killed about 16,000 chickens on a farm near Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh. He stated that members from the fire service in Beleek, Enniskillen and Inrvinstown attended the fire and noted that Dowra would have been nearer.

Ms. Margaret Mohan, A/Director of Finance agreed to reply directly to Councillor J.P. Feeley.

**8. Councillor J.P. Feeley**

 **To ask the Director of Service to present the Irish Language Scheme for Cavan County Council.**

 An answer to the question posed by Councillor J.P. Feeley was circulated to him prior to the meeting.

**9. Councillor S. O’Reilly**

 **To ask how many Transportation Strategic Policy Committee meetings have taken place since May 2019.**

 An answer to the question posed by Councillor S. O’Reilly was circulated to her prior to the meeting.

**10. Councillor S. O’Reilly**

 **To ask if Cavan County Council fed into the new NTA national plan.**

 An answer to the question posed by Councillor S. O’Reilly was circulated to her prior to the meeting.

**11. Councillor S. O’Reilly**

 **To ask what communication has taken place between Cavan County Council and the NTA and Local Link in the last three years.**

 An answer to the question posed by Councillor S. O’Reilly was circulated to her prior to the meeting.

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

**12. To note Chief Executive’s monthly report *(Section 51 Local Government Reform***

 ***Act 2014)*.**

Noted.

**14. To approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €9,000,000 for year ending 31 December 2022.**

It was

 Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

 Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that overdraft accommodation in the sum of €9,000,000 for year ending 31 December 2022 be hereby approved”.

**Votes of Sympathy**

* Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service on the death of his mother-in-law Mrs. Mary Plunkett, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim
* The Brady Family, Pollintemple, Virginia on the death of Mr. Jim Brady, proprietor of Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia
* The Glackin Family, Virginia on the death of Mr. Paul Glackin.
* Ms. Valerie Cullen, Housing Section, Cavan County Council on the death of her mother Mrs. Betty Graham.
* The Cowan Family, Ballinagh on the death of Mr. Edwin Cowan.
* The O’Reilly Family, Cavan and Headford, Co. Galway on the death of Mr. Brian O’Reilly. Mr. O’Reilly played on the 1952 All-Ireland winning Cavan Football team.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly thanked the members for their kind words and vote of sympathy on the death of his uncle last month.

A minutes silence was held in memory of the deceased.

**Votes of Congratulations**

* Ms. Grainne O’Connor and staff on the recent Geopark Revaluation Inspection.
* Mr. Adrian Flannelly, Chairman and CEO of Irish Radio Network USA and Mayo native on being a recipient of this year’s Irish Presidential Distinguished Service Awards. Councillor M. Argue proposed that the executive of Cavan County Council nominate members of Cavan Diaspora for the award in future years. This was seconded by Councillor W. Bennett.
* Butlersbridge Intermediate Football Team on winning the County Final
* Bailieborough Ladies Intermediate Team on winning the County Final.
* Crosserlough Ladies Senior Team on winning the County Final
* Denn Junior Football Team on winning the County Final
* Killygarry Minor Football Team on winning the County Final
* Cavan Masters on winning the Shield Final
* Cootehill Hurlers on winning the County Senior Hurling Final
* Cavan County Board on being the first County ever to appoint a lady, Ms. Margaret Farrelly to referee the Men’s Senior County Final.
* Michael and Kevin Callery on the birth of their grandson and son Charlie Callery.

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

**1. 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 communication with Eirgrid or ESB Networks since the last Council Meeting in October.

 Councillor C. Kelly stated that there has been a move in Monaghan by Eirgrid to enter onto farmers’ lands. Councillor Kelly stated that he is notifying all landowners in County Cavan to take action to prevent access on to their lands.

**2. To request the Government to carry out an urgent review on payments made to those on CE, TUS and RSS schemes etc, and the need for better incentives.**

Deferred to December meeting.

**6. To request the relevant Ministers and Departments to engage with mental health and survivor organisations to introduce legislation regarding bullying in schools, homes and workplaces as an urgency.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly called on the relevant Ministers and Departments to engage with mental health and survivor organisations to introduce legislation regarding bullying in schools, homes and workplaces as an urgency. He stated that this is an issue that resonates with every single parent and it would break your heart to listen to the family of the late Eden Heaslip tell their story. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly congratulated Minister Heather Humphreys the then Minister for Justice for meeting with the Heaslip Family along with Department officials.

**10. To ask for a review of the legislation on the impact of bullying and to request that a letter be forwarded to Minister Norma Foley, T.D., Minister for Education and Skills requesting the introduction of legislation in respect of bullying in our schools.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly asked for a review of the legislation on the impact of bullying and requested that a letter be forwarded to Minister Norma Foley, T.D., Minister for Education and Skills requesting the introduction of legislation in respect of bullying in our schools. Councillor O’Reilly stated that it was up to all public representatives to carry out action on the issue and force legislation through.

 Councillor P. Walsh seconded the motions proposed and stated that children need to realise that there is a fine line between banter with friends and bullying.

 Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and stated that social media and smartphones have a lot to answer for when it comes to bullying.

 Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and welcomed developments that the HSE is commissioning study into the high rates of suicide in Cavan and Monaghan.

 Councillors A. Fitzpatrick and C. Kelly supported the motion.

 Following discussions, the proposers agreed to combine motions and write to Minister for Education & Skills, Ms Norma Foley, T.D, Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee, T.D, and Minister for Trade & Employment, Mr. Leo Varadkar T.D.

**3. To ask Minister O’Gorman, T.D., and Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. for urgent support and intervention in the Early Years sector in order to address the shortages that are now at crisis levels.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Roderic O’Gorman, T.D. and Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D. asking for urgent support and intervention in the Early Years sector to address the shortages that are now at crisis level. Councillor O’Reilly stated that the Government urgently needs to step in, and increase supports available to the Early Years Sector. Councillor O’Reilly stated that with inadequate Government supports, providers do not want to be charging parents additional fees to make up for shortfalls, yet they have no other option to sustain the sector. She stated that there is a huge turnover of staff in the sector and childcare workers simply cannot survive on the low wages in the sector. She stated that unfortunately the wage subsidy during Covid-19 was the most stability childcare workers have had in years. She stated that in the first year of the pandemic, 193 childcare providers were forced to shut their doors. Councillor O’Reilly stated that an increase in funding needs to be given to providers and social welfare support should be made available for childcare workers receiving less than 24 hours pay per week in the sector.

 Councillor P. Walsh seconded Councillor S. O’Reilly’s proposal. She stated that childcare facilities in our country are not appreciated by our Government. She stated that rates should be abolished for childcare facilities as schools are exempt from paying rates.

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

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – NOVEMBER MEETING**

 **4. That the implementation measures to flow from the Carbon Budget reflect the needs of and are realistic for Rural Ireland.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that people in rural Ireland are willing to make realistic changes to tackle climate change, but they need to be brought along rather than forced as part of the plan. Councillor Feeley noted that Ireland faces massive challenges in tackling climate change, but it also provides great possibilities for rural Ireland. Councillor Feeley was not happy with the measures planned for the agricultural section, stating that the sector is being taken as a soft target despite being among the most sustainable in the world. Councillor Feeley criticised the push for people to move to electric cars stating that it is not an option for many as the technology is not at a sufficient level to make them conductive in rural areas.

 Councillor T.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley’s proposal and noted that the country is facing into climate change, and we need to play our part. Councillor T.P. O’Reilly called for measures to support the construction of anaerobic digesters across the country. He stated that these units break down organic matter, through which biogas is generated and this in turn can generate electricity or heat. He stated that better grants are needed before these measures would be realistic.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that unfortunately Ireland once again must be first in the class to implement European regulations. He noted that we are only a dot on the edge of Europe and we need to start implementing and doing things that are workable for us.

**5. That Cavan County Council ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry and Coillte to designate key forest in County Cavan such as Cavan Burren Park, Killykeen, Dún a Rí as non-commercial recreation forest such as has been done in the greater Dublin area.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that last year Coillte designated eight sites across Dublin and Wicklow as recreational parks, meaning trees will no longer be cut down to be sold on. He stated that they will solely be operated as recreational or biodiversity areas. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that local areas such as the Cavan Burren Park, Killykeen and Dún a Rí should also receive the same designation. He noted that historical and naturally beautiful areas in West Cavan like the Burren Park have been effectively destroyed by commercial forestry plantations. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry and Coillte to designate key forest in County Cavan such as Cavan Burren Park, Killykeen, Dun a Ri as non-commercial recreation forest such as has been done in the greater Dublin area.

 Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and noted that Cavan County Council are currently preparing a ten-year plan for Dún a Rí, Forest Park in Kingscourt.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that historical features had been damaged or destroyed at Castle Lake in Bailieborough. She stated that Coillte is only a money-making organisation, and its aim is to make profit.

 Councillor A. Fitzpatrick supported the motion noting that he would not like to see anything done to Erica’s Forest Park in Cootehill.

 Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion and asked what role Cavan County Council has in approving or refusing permission for forest plantations.

 Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that it depends on the scale of the development for planning permission, but most applications go straight to the Department for approval. He stated that the local authority has a very good relationship with Coillte but noted that Coillte as an organisation has many sub sections.

**7. That Cavan County Council call on the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport to require the mandatory wearing of hi-vis clothing by pedestrians on roads and laneways.**

Councillor C. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport asking for the mandatory wearing of hi-vis clothing by pedestrians on roads and laneways. Councillor Brady stated that there has been 15 pedestrian fatalities on our roads so far this year and stated that if there was legislation regarding the use of hi-vis clothing on roads then maybe these would not have happened. Councillor C. Brady noted that a person wearing a hi-vis can be seen from a distance of 500 metres, but this reduces to 50 metres when someone is not wearing this clothing.

Councillor P. McVitty seconded Councillor C. Brady’s proposal.

The motion was unanimously supported.

**8. That Cavan County Council call on all relevant agencies to provide a refuge for the victims of domestic violence in County Cavan.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Children and Family Affairs and Tusla to provide a refuge for the victims of domestic violence in County Cavan. He stated that this has been discussed at Joint Policing Committee meetings in the past and Deputy Brendan Smith recently raised the issue in the Dáil. He stated that domestic violence is a serious issue in many people’s lives, and we have seen a huge increase in numbers and the need for this service during Covid 19. He stated that you must travel to Meath or Louth for services as there is no refuge in either Cavan or Monaghan. Councillor J.P. Feeley acknowledged the work being done by Tearmann Domestic Violence Service in both Cavan and Monaghan. He stated that the issue of emergency accommodation needs to be addressed urgently.

 Councillor P. Walsh seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley’s proposal. She stated that there should be a facility available to the people of Cavan and Monaghan who suffer from domestic violence.

 Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion noting that it is vital to have a service available to these victims in Cavan.

 Councillors B. Fay and C. Kelly supported the motion.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that there is clearly a need for a refuge facility in County Cavan. He stated that the County would benefit if the service is provided and managed professionally.

**9. To discuss public transport in Cavan.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that Bailieborough is the second largest urban centre in Cavan and are also one of three areas in the County that has a high rate of deprivation, so not everyone can afford cars. She noted that there is also a high percentage of Dublin people living and commuting from Bailieborough to Dublin daily. She stated that Bailieborough has two bus routes serving the people of the town, the 108 which has three daily returns to Dublin and the 166 to Cavan from Dundalk twice a week. She stated that the 108 departs Bailieborough at 9.15am which is deemed to be the early bus and it is a link bus to Kells and Mullagh. She noted that Shercock, Cootehill and Kingscourt have four direct buses between 5.30am and 6.30am to Dublin. She stated that she logged into the NTA website and noted that there are no additional bus routes proposed for Bailieborough. She stated that the good news is that the 108 is extended to Cootehill which will give a service to people in the wider Bailieborough area. Councillor S. O’Reilly called on Cavan County Council to present these proposals to the public for consultation and encourage all local representatives to take a careful look to what is proposed for their areas.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly concurred with all Councillor S. O’Reilly had said and seconded her proposal. He stated that the extension of the 108 bus to Cootehill will unfortunately mean bad news for Mullagh. He stated that the elderly in Mullagh have no access to transport to get to a doctor as Mullagh currently have no doctor in residence.

 Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion. Councillor McDonald noted that the bus service to Cavan from Bailieboro is so short, people do not even have time to go to hospital appointments as the bus times only allow them one hour in the town.

 Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and stated that Ballyjamesduff is in the same situation as Bailieborough.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and proposed that the Council invite the National Transport Authority to come to a meeting and brief the members. This proposal was seconded by Councillor P. McDonald.

 Mr. P. Connaughton, Director of Service stated that the Council had made contact with the NTA and they were sending down brochures for distribution throughout the County. He stated that the NTA are currently carrying out a survey on their website. He stated that he would be more than happy to arrange a meeting with the NTA and a group of Councillors before the 10th December as this is the closing date for the survey.

Item no 2 was deferred.

The meeting concluded at 4pm.

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

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