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

**Monday 13th September 2021 at 3.00p.m.**

Councillor C. Kelly, Cathaoirleach presiding

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

A. Fitzpatrick, J.P. Feeley, 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

 M. McNally, A/Head of Finance

 L. McGavigan, Senior Administrative Officer

 E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

Councillor C. Kelly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th July 2021.**

**Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 14 Meitheamh a dhearbhu.**

 It was

 Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

 Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 12 July 2021 be hereby approved”

 **To hear preparations on Cavan Day 2021 – Ms. Emma Clancy, County Librarian.**

Ms. Emma Clancy, County Librarian thanked the members for affording her the opportunity

 to speak on Cavan Day 2021 which will take place on the 25th September. She stated that

 there is an extensive programme planned for this year which includes a variety show that

 will be broadcast live on Cavan TV at 8pm and will be online through social media. She

 stated that the show will take the form of “Sunday night at the Gaiety”. She stated that

 the show will involve cross cultural performances. She stated that the show will finish with

 a candlelight ceremony to remember all those affected by Covid 19. Ms. Clancy stated

 that she would appreciate the support of the members and asked that they share it on

 social media and spread the word.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly thanked Ms. Clancy and everyone involved in organising the event.

Councillor J.P. Feeley thanked Ms. Clancy stating that Cavan Day is a tremendous opportunity for Cavan to show its artistic talent to the world and he hoped next year’s Cavan Day would be in person as well as virtual.

Councillor C. Clifford stated that it gives him great pleasure to highlight Cavan Day 2021 which is a great opportunity to celebrate our County and people at home and abroad.

Councillor C. Kelly informed the members that Culture Night will be held on Friday 17th September and reminded all members to participate and support Culture Night.

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 10 June 2021.**

Noted.

**4. Note Members’ Reports from Conferences/Training events**

 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.

**5. Correspondence**

1. **To note reply from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding EU Regulation 2019/6 on Veterinary Medicinal Products.**

Noted.

1. **To note reply from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**

**regarding the publication of the review of the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016.**

Noted.

1. **To note reply from Office of the Minister for Health regarding visiting restrictions for long-term patients in hospital.**

Noted.

1. **To note reply from Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding funding for roads projects in County Cavan.**

Noted.

1. **To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection regarding supports for hackney and taxi licence holders during Covid-19.**

Noted.

1. **To note reply from Minister for Transport regarding the Local Improvement Scheme.**

Noted. Councillor P. McVitty thanked Minister Heather Humphreys for the additional funding allocated to County Cavan for local improvement schemes.

1. **To note reply from the Office of the Minister of State for Transport regarding Driver Test and Theory Test services.**

Noted. Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that the reply sets out what is happening but does not address how it will deal with the backlog. He proposed that the Councillor write to the Minister of State for Transport calling for an amnesty on the theory test to clear the backlog of drivers waiting to sit their practical driving test. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor Feeley’s proposal.

1. **To note reply from Department of Transport regarding HGV driver shortages.**

Noted. Councillor P. McVitty noted that the average age of HGV drivers at the minute in Ireland is 55 years and we need to encourage more young people to drive lorries. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported Councillor McVitty and noted that HGV shortages could cause customer supply issues over Christmas. He stated that we are at crisis point and it will not get any better without intervention.

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

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

Noted.

**7. Approval of nominee to Cavan Local Community and Development Committee under Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014; Ms. Marisa Goldstone, Older People’s Interests, replacing Mr. Seamus McGrath, Disability Interests Network.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

and

Resolved

“that Ms. Marisa Goldstone, Older People’s Interests replace Mr. Seamus McGrath, Disability Interests Network on Cavan Local Community and Development Committee”.

**8. To approve draft Training and Development Programme for Councillors 2021-2022**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J. P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

and

Resolved

“that the draft Training and Development Programme for Councillors 2021-2022 be hereby approved”.

**9. To approve the number of Local Authority Reps on the Community Liaison Group**

 **SLNCR Greenway.**

Deferred. Further information required.

**10. To hear presentation from Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Services on “Housing for**

 **All”.**

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Services gave a detailed presentation to the members on “Housing for All” which was launched by Mr. Darragh O’Brien, T.D. Minister for Housing and Local Government and Heritage on Thursday 2nd September 2021. He stated that the aim of “Housing for All” is to increase the supply for social, affordable, private rental and private owned housed. He noted that there are four pillars within the plan, namely, (i) supporting home ownership and increasing affordability, it is a plan for the squeezed middle to give them the opportunity to buy a home, (ii) eradicating homelessness, (iii) increase housing supply and (iv) addressing vacancy and effective use of existing stock. He stated that the aim of the plan is to build 310,000 new homes across the Country and end homelessness by 2030. Mr. Doyle stated that Cavan County Council plan to provide 490 new houses over the next five years under the “Housing for All” plan. Mr. Doyle spoke of the Ballinagh housing scheme which has seen the removal of three derelict houses and made way for the construction of 15 new houses. He stated that this is the type of housing we need more of throughout the County and it is the type of housing that the “Housing for all” plan supports. He stated that the Government’s overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes. He stated that among the objectives are the ability of people to purchase or rent at an affordable price and to build to a high standard and in the right place. He stated that the 300,000 homes envisaged in the plan make it the largest State-led building programme in Irish history, backed by the biggest State funding ever and is one of the biggest State interventions in housing in OCED countries. He stated that the national target of 33,000 new houses each year represents an annual spend of €4 billion. He stated that “Land Value Sharing” will see the State benefit from the increase in land price as a result of rezoning. He stated that the Council were approved to buy 10 houses this year, two years ago they were approved for 45 houses and this reduction is going to continue. He stated the emphasis will be on direct build through a combination of infill type developments and some of the Council’s own larger schemes. Mr. Doyle stated that the Local Authority is looking to purchase land to facilitate its building targets. Mr. Doyle informed the members that the “buy out clause” allowing developers to pay a sum instead of providing the 10% social and affordable houses will no longer be available under changes to Part V in private developments. Mr. Doyle stated that in 2020 Cavan County Council supported 280 families with accommodation. The members in turn thanked Mr. Doyle for his presentation.

**11. To fix the date and time of the Budget 2022 Meeting (Section 103, Local**

 **Government Act 2001).**

It was

 Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

 Seconded by Councillor T.P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that the Budget 2022 Meeting be held on Friday 26th November at 10.30 a.m”

 **Bank closures in County Cavan.**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that Kingscourt is one of three towns in County Cavan that will see Bank of Ireland close its doors at the start of October. He stated that these towns will suffer greatly as a result of the closures. He stated that Kingscourt is a town with so much industry and yet there will be no bank or ATM in the town. Councillor Kelly proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Pascal Donohoe and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath asking them not to leave the towns in County Cavan without banking services. He stated that people in Kingscourt will now have to drive to Bailieborough or Carrickmacross to do their banking which will result in a loss of business to the town. He stated that residents in Kingscourt have set up an online petition to retain ATM services in the town once the Bank of Ireland branch closes next month. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick supported Councillor Kelly.

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

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

Councillor C. Kelly asked the Director of Service, Mr. Brendan Jennings if there had been any communication or discussions between Cavan County Council and Eirgrid or ESB in relation to the North South Interconnector.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that since the last Council meeting Eirgrid made a submission to the Planning Department which is ongoing at the minute. He stated that this submission was also made to the Planning Departments in Monaghan and Meath County Councils.

**8. To ask Cavan County Council to discuss the roll out of the Green Kilometre Scheme throughout all of Cavan as clean up time approaches once again.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that last year the Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal District adopted a scheme to roll out the green kilometre throughout the district which would involve people controlling one kilometre of roadside and keeping it clean. He stated that there was a painting competition run in the National Schools to promote the scheme and educate the children in the area. He stated that Cavan County Council supplied the bags and litter grabbers. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick called for the scheme to be rolled out countywide and asked that the members support the scheme.

 Mr. Colm O’Callaghan, A/Senior Engineer, Environment Section made a presentation to the members on the Green Kilometre Scheme. Mr. O’Callaghan noted that Covid 19 brought about a change in culture as more people were out walking and were becoming more aware of illegal dumping and diversity of wildlife. He stated as a response to this the Council have created the Green Kilometre Scheme which will form part of the Council’s Litter Education and Awareness Programme. He stated that the scheme invites individuals/groups to choose a kilometre or longer stretch of rural/loop in their area. He stated that the work will involve removal of roadside litter, planting appropriate native trees, restoring heritage features such as old farm gates or walls, report illegal dumping to the local authority, improve hedges and clean and maintain road signs. He stated that application forms will be available to download from the Council’s website or can be requested from the Waste Management Section. He noted that applications can be submitted at any time of the year. He stated that the scheme caters for the removal of litter/waste collected by community clean ups. He stated that green waste will not be taken, it must be bagged and segregated. Recyclable materials must be bagged and labelled recycled. He stated that a secure location is required to temporarily store the litter/waste to prevent illegal dumping where litter/waste is left for collection. He stated that groups are entitled to two pick-ups a year. Mr. O’Callaghan stated that if a litter pick/clean up takes place on private land the group will need to make private arrangements for the disposal of the waste that is collected. He stated that when picking litter in a public place, groups are advised to ensure that they have considered any safety issues and take the necessary precautions to prevent them by completing a risk assessment. He stated that prior to undertaking an event, groups can request a visit or a virtual presentation for the local RSA Road Safety Promotions Officer and these programmes are provided free of charge. He stated that so far this year the Council had spent €123,000 on tackling illegal dumping and litter. The members in turn thanked Mr. O’Callaghan for his presentation.

1. **Considering the population projects in the Draft County Development Plan and in view of the increasing role of Cavan/Monaghan ETB in supporting primary schools and working in cooperation with secondary schools managed under other patronage models, that Cavan County Council ask the ETB to complete a study on the projects needs for additional places in all existing primary and secondary schools in the County.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked that item be removed from agenda.

1. **To call on the Minister for Transport to immediately rescind and postpone the implementation of new criteria for NCT.**

Councillor S. P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan asking that his Department immediately rescind and postpone the implementation of new criteria for NCT until the country is back up on its feet again after the covid pandemic. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that several changes to the NCT came into effect on June 21st and these changes saw Ireland commence the use of On-Board Diagnostics testing under EU Roadworthiness Directive. He stated that while he is an advocate for road safety, he feels that these new changes are just putting extra expense on vehicle owners.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor S.P. O’Reilly’s proposal.

1. **That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing to immediately put in place a Grant Aid Scheme to bring vacant dwellings into use.**

Councillor T. Smith noted that there are quite a number of private rental houses lying idle in urban and rural areas throughout the County which need to be brought back into use the help with the housing crisis in our County. Councillor T. Smith proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Housing to immediately put in place a grant aid scheme to bring vacant dwellings into use.

Councillor S. Smith seconded Councillor T. Smith’s proposal.

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

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service informed the members that the “Housing for all” Plan does not detail grant schemes. He stated that this type of incentive would assist and has its merits to bring vacant houses back into use.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – SEPTEMBER MEETING**

1. **To call on the Minister for Health and associated departments to immediately remove current rules denying patients the right to have their respective partners or family member present at birth or appointments.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health and associated departments to immediately remove current rules denying patients the right to have their respective partners or family present at birth or appointments. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that the Minister for Health must ensure that all remaining restrictions on maternity units are lifted. He stated that it was ridiculous to think that RTE could go in and film in the Rotunda Hospital and yet a partner is not allowed be present at the birth. He stated that he has been contacted by numerous people whose partners were not granted access during birth and appointments. He stated that this has cause a lot of upset, especially where the outcome may not be a happy one. He stated that if several hundred people can be in supermarkets, then one person should be admitted entry to maternity units.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported motion and noted that management in certain sections of our hospitals have lost empathy with the people of our country.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and stated that there are wider issues across the board in our hospitals. He stated that Covid brought many challenges, but it is also being used as an excuse in some cases. He stated that we are no longer in the emergency stages of Covid, and hospitals need to work around this.

Councillors T.P. O’Reilly, A. Fitzpatrick, B. Fay and T. Smith supported the motion.

1. **Progress report on additional Digital Hub facilities in County Cavan**

Deferred

1. **To request a report on additional library facilities in the County.**

Deferred

1. **To ask Cavan County Council, in conjunction with the public, to actively seek out swimming areas and identify blue flag areas within the County which could be monitored by lifeguards during swimming season.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that he had this motion on the agenda in May 2020 and was asked recently by a qualified lifeguard if anything had been done in relation to same. He stated that unfortunately during the recent spell of hot weather there were several tragic drownings in our County. He stated that with 365 lakes in County Cavan it would be impossible to police them all but suggested that maybe each Municipal District should have one qualified lifeguard during spells of hot weather. He stated that bathing areas would have to be identified in each municipal district and if there were more than 50 people gathering in that area during hot spells then a lifeguard should be placed onsite. He stated that in the interest of water safety, the local authority should place lifebuoys along lakes and rivers in the County. He stated that the Council should also promote the wearing of inflatable swimming belts while people are in the water.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion.

Councillor C. Kelly stated that Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services would reply to the motion at the next meeting.

 **10. 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.

 **11. That Cavan County Council ask the Minister for Education to review the School Transport Scheme to ensure that the maximum number of children are brought to their local school on public transport.**

Deferred.

 **12. That Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to immediately re-commence the Foreign Births Registration Service and address the ongoing delays in the system.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to immediately re-commence the Foreign Births Registration Service and address the ongoing delays in the system. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that due to Covid 19 applications made to the Foreign Birth Registration team have been securely held and will be processed in date order. He stated that it is currently taking between 12 and 18 months to process a completed foreign birth registration application. He stated that it is not a very sincere service and we cannot be relying on Irish grandparents to rectify the situation.

 **13. That the delay in the issue of passports be immediately addressed**

Councillor J.P Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Simon Coveney to put in place the supports needed to address the demand for passports. He stated that the Government need to address the issue to deal with both the backlog accrued over Covid and the deluge of applications coming forward due to people going on holidays.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley’s proposal.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion.

 **14. To ask the Minister for Justice what is being done to combat the amount of scam and hoax telephone calls.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Communications demanding that action be taken on the deluge of scam and hoax telephone calls being received by members of the public. He stated that the problem has become very prevalent in recent times with scammers cloning Irish phone numbers in a bid to make the calls seem more trustworthy.

 Councillor S. Smith supported the motion and noted that some people were getting calls and text messages up to seven and eight times a day.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion and proposed that the Council also write to the Communications Regulator as they had a role to play in addressing the issue.

 **Votes of Congratulations:**

* Leona Maguire member of Europe’s team on winning the Solheim Cup in golf. It was agreed unanimously that a Civic Reception be given to Leona.
* The Cavan u-14 girls on winning the Ulster Final
* The Cavan Minor C camogie team on winning the All-Ireland final
* Templeport Junior Football team on winning the 2020 County Final.

It was agreed unanimously that a Cathaoirleach’s reception be given to the Cavan u14 girls, the Camogie Minor Team, Cavan Senior Football team and Mickey Graham for their win in Ulster last year and also Raymond Galligan, Thomas Galligan and Pauric Faulkner on receiving All-Stars for Cavan.

* Brittney Arendse for her success in the Paralympics in Tokyo in the para powerlifting competition.
* Philip Doherty, Director of Redemption of a Rogue which can now be seen in the Odeon Cinema, Cavan.

 **Votes of Sympathy:**

* Ms. Frances Brady, member of staff Ramor Theatre on the death of her father Mr. Hugh Coyle, Coragh, Ballyjamesduff.
* The Flanagan Family, Kilmore, Ballyjamesduff on the death of Mary Flanagan former librarian, Ballyjamesduff Library.
* Ms. Majella Tierney, Cavan County Council on the death of her father Mr. Terry Cusack, Cavan.
* Ms. Kim Doherty, Mountnugent on the death of her father Mr. Sean Doherty.
* Mr. John McDonald, former Belturbet Town Councillor on the death of his wife Ms. Karen McDonald.

A minutes silence was held in memory of the deceased.

Signed: Certfiied Correct: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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