

**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Council Chamber on
Monday 8th June 2026 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley, Cathaoirleach, presiding

PRESENT: Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, N. Brady,
P. Brady, S. Conaty, N. Connell, B. Fay, C. Kelly, S.P. O'Reilly,
T.P. O'Reilly, A. Rogers, Á. Smith, N. Smith, T. Smith,
V. Smith, P. Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE: E. Doyle, Chief Executive
P. Connaughton, Director of Services
L. McGavigan, Director of Services
M. McNally, Head of Finance
N. O'Kane, Senior Planner
D. Gilchrist, Meetings Administrator,
E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer.

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed all to the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes

- 1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th May 2026. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 11th Mí Bealtaine 2026 a dhearbhu.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11th May 2026 be hereby approved”

- 2. Disclosure 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 9th April 2026.**

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.(a) To note reply from Office of the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion regarding SNA provision.**

Noted.

- (b) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture regarding increasing payments under the Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme (TAMS3).**

Noted.

- (c) To note reply from Jarlath Burns, Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and Tailte Éireann regarding the application of commercial rates to county owned GAA grounds and facilities.**

Noted.

- (d) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration regarding the need to streamline the Garda Vetting process.**

Noted.

- (e) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Education and Youth regarding the medical need for students seeking an exemption from the study of Irish and the teaching, learning and assessment of Irish in schools.**

Noted.

- (f) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Transport regarding the request that blood bikes should be exempt from tolls.**

Noted. Councillor D. Brady proposed that a letter be sent to Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to exempting blood bikes from paying tolls. This proposal was seconded by Councillor S. Conaty.

- (g) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding income limits for social housing.**

Noted.

- (h) To note acknowledgements from Deputy Brendan Smith and Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding grant assistance for landowners for the removal of roadside trees affected by ash dieback.**

Noted.

- (i) To note reply from the Road Safety Authority regarding supports for elderly candidates undertaking the Driver Theory Test.**

Noted.

Councillor C. Kelly asked for a reminder letter to be sent to the Taoiseach and Tánaiste in relation to the shingles vaccine.

- 6. To approve attendance of members at AILG Planning training, which is being held in the Tower Hotel, Waterford on 18th June or the Hodson Bay Hotel, Westmeath on 20th June.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor T.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Kelly, P. Walsh, Á. Smith, N. Smith, J.P. Feeley, W. Bennett, C. Brady, N. Brady, V. Smith T.P. O'Reilly, S.P. O'Reilly, A. Rogers, B. Fay and S. Conaty at AILG Planning training which is being held in the Tower Hotel, Waterford on 18th June or the Hodson Bay Hotel, Westmeath on 20th June be hereby approved”.

To approve attendance of members at AILG “Summit of the Cities” which is being held in Belfast City Hall on Wednesday 24th June 2026.

It was

Proposed by Councillor T.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Kelly, P. Walsh, Á. Smith, N. Smith, J.P. Feeley, P. Brady, V. Smith T.P. O'Reilly, S.P. O'Reilly, A. Rogers, B. Fay, N. Connell and S. Conaty at AILG “Summit of the Cities” which is being held in Belfast City Hall on Wednesday 24th June be hereby approved”.

7. Member's Question – Councillor S. Conaty

Ag lorg líon reatha na ndaoine gan dídean i gContae an Chabháin, agus san áireamh, líon iomlán dóibh siúd a tugadh ar láimh na Comhairle le linn 2026 agus atá i mbun lóistíne éagandála faoi láthair, chun na figiúirí seo a bhriseadh síos ó thaobh clainne, leannáin, páistí agus daoine aonaracha, agus iad seo a chur i gcompráid leis na blianta 2023, 2024 agus 2025 / To ask for the most up to date homeless figures for County Cavan across 2026, including total presentations so far, and those currently in emergency accommodation, including a breakdown of the numbers in terms of families, couples, children and single individuals, and including how these figures compare to 2023, 2024 and 2025.

A reply issued to Councillor Conaty prior to the meeting.

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

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

Noted.

9. In accordance with Section 221, Local Government Act 2001 as amended, adoption of the 2025 Annual Report.

It was

Proposed by Councillor T.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And Resolved

“that the 2025 Annual Report be hereby approved”.

10. To note Climate Action Plan Annual Progress report for 2025.

Noted.

MEMBERS' ITEMS – MAY MEETING

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

Cllr C. Kelly asked the Executive if there were any meetings or site visits with Eirgrid since the last Council meeting.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive informed the members that there had been no formal communication with Eirgrid since the last Council meeting. Mr. Doyle stated that Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D. held a meeting with the three Chief Executive Officers and a high-level discussion was held on energy and the National Power Grid.

11.3 That Cavan County Council work with and keep pressure on the Minister for Justice for safe houses/accommodation for a Women's Refuge in Cavan.

Councillor C. Brady stated that despite national commitments to expand refuge capacity and strengthen support for those fleeing domestic violence, Cavan remains without a purpose-built refuge facility or indeed any space or safe accommodation for women fleeing from domestic violence. Councillor C. Brady noted that across the country significant progress in improving responses to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence had been made yet the absence of a dedicated refuge in Cavan stands in stark contrast to the local community's need. Councillor C. Brady stated that women in crisis should not have to travel long distances across county boundaries or face uncertainty at the very moment they are seeking safe shelter. Councillor C. Brady stated that for many women leaving the county to find accommodation means leaving behind their community and whatever support network they have. Councillor C. Brady stated that this adds pressure at a time when they already face enormous fear and uncertainty, and it also means children having to leave their school and friends which sometimes is their safe space during the day. Councillor C. Brady stated that local organisations are doing incredible work supporting families often in difficult circumstances, but they cannot continue to bear the full weight of this issue without the proper infrastructure in place. Councillor Brady stated that it is about

ensuring that Cavan is not left behind as national services expand. Councillor C. Brady stated that people in Cavan deserve the same access to protection as anyone else in the country and with the right focus and decisions, we can finally deliver the refuge the county has needed for far too long. Councillor C. Brady stated that while she welcomed the commitment that Minister Jim O'Callaghan has given to her colleague Senator Joe O'Reilly, she proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister O'Callaghan requesting specific information on what steps he is taking to provide the shelter and the state of progress to date. Councillor C. Brady also asked the Chief Executive if anything can be done by the Council to give assistance to the Department of Justice to expediate a Woman's Refuge and safe accommodation.

11.4 Ag iarraidh go dtabharfadh Comhairle Contae an Chabháin tacaíocht don phobal LADTA+ áitiúil agus iad ag eagrú “Paráid Bhród an Chabháin” an deireadh seachtaine seo / Asking that Cavan County Council support our local LGBTQ+ community in their efforts organising this weekend's inaugural Cavan Pride Parade.

Councillor S. Conaty congratulated the organisers of the Cavan's first Pride Parade and asked that Cavan County Council support our local LGBTQ+ community in their efforts organising this weekend's inaugural Cavan Pride Parade. Councillor S. Conaty stated that Pride is now more important than ever in the face of reactionary forces in Ireland and is a celebration of people coming together in love and friendship, to promote rights of the LGBTQ+ community. Councillor Conaty noted that the Country has gone backwards and discrimination and hatred for gay people is on the rise again. Councillor S. Conaty noted that online comments made following the announcement of Cavan Pride show that anti-gay sentiment has been normalised and described the level of vitriol in some circles surrounding the event as disgusting. Councillor S. Conaty stated that a simple gesture of support from Cavan County Council could go a long way in counteracting this. Councillor S. Conaty stated that as the march is set to start outside Cavan Courthouse it would be a simple but powerful gesture to fly the rainbow flag on the day. Councillor S. Conaty noted that Ireland has a long way to go to become properly safe and welcoming for LGBTQ+ people, and that Pride is not just a celebration, it's a protest for equality and inclusion that deserves the support of the local authority.

Councillors. T. Smith, S.P. O'Reilly, N. Brady and P. Walsh supported the motion.

Councillor Á. Smith stated that Cavan should be given credit for their efforts and noted that there had been flag raising events for a few years. Councillor Á. Smith stated that online commentary does not always reflect reality, usually the worst-case scenario and there are LGBTQ+ events taking place in schools.

11.5 That this Council requests the Minister for Social Protection to remove all income restrictions from Carer's Allowance.

Councillor N. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Social Protection asking that all income restrictions be removed from Carer's Allowance. Councillor N. Brady acknowledged the significant difference to the allowance which was announced as part of Budget 2026 and while it will ease the burden the Government must go further for carers by scrapping the means test. Councillor N. Brady stated that these people are often caring twenty-four hours per day saving the state millions of euros and allowing people live with dignity in their own homes. Councillor N. Brady praised former Minister Heather Humphreys who pushed the system towards greater fairness.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and requested that the tick box exercise, the need to provide twenty-four-hour care as part of the application for carer's allowance needs to be withdrawn.

Councillor N. Brady agreed to have the need to provide twenty-four-hour care removed from the application form.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and stated that people caring for loved ones should not be penalised based on their incomes.

The motion was unanimously supported.

11.6 To discuss ant-social behaviour on our lakes.

Withdrawn

11.7 To call on Cavan County Council to help support our towns and villages to become dementia friendly.

Councillor D. Brady stated that dementia is the name for a range of conditions that cause damage to the brain affecting memory, thinking, language and the ability to carry out everyday tasks. Councillor D. Brady noted that as dementia progresses, the changes become greater and the person needs more help. Councillor D. Brady stated that there are currently sixty-four thousand people in Ireland living with dementia and noted that Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia. Councillor D. Brady noted that each person's experience of dementia is unique and not everybody will experience all signs and symptoms of their form of dementia. Councillor D. Brady stated that there is currently no cure for dementia but there is medication that can help with the symptoms. Councillor D. Brady stated that the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland work across the country in the heart of local communities providing dementia specific support and services. He stated that they bring communities together and aim to reduce the stigma around dementia which in turn help tackle issues such as depression and loneliness through social and physical engagement. Councillor D. Brady noted that recently the Slieve Russell Hotel in

Ballyconnell became the first dementia friendly hotel in Ireland. Councillor D. Brady stated that a little change to us can mean a huge change to people suffering from dementia for example a different colour on the toilet door compared to the entrance/exit door or a pull-down blind on the mirror to stop confusion. Councillor D. Brady called on Cavan County Council to encourage our towns and villages to become dementia friendly by encouraging one fifth of businesses and one fifth of voluntary organisations to complete dementia awareness training. He stated that the Council could hold a sporting memory at one of the local GAA clubs or host a community information event maybe a tea/coffee morning or a memory walk. Councillor D. Brady stated that Cavan County Council should also consider dementia specific signage, orientation lighting and seating around our towns. Councillor D. Brady stated that these small changes could make a big difference to a person suffering from dementia.

11.2 To call on the Minister for Health to fund greater research, faster diagnosis and healthcare support for PMDD.

Councillor Á. Smith stated that Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD) is often misunderstood, dismissed or mistaken for ordinary premenstrual symptoms, yet for those living with PMDD it can be a debilitating condition that affects every aspect of life, from relationships and work to mental wellbeing and self-esteem. Councillor Á. Smith stated that for a significant part of each month, people with PMDD may experience intense emotional and physical symptoms. Councillor Á. Smith stated that these symptoms are not a matter of being overly emotional or unable to cope, they are the result of a serious hormonal sensitivity that can profoundly impact a person's quality of life. Councillor Smith stated that one of the greatest challenges of PMDD is its invisibility with many people suffering in silence. Councillor Á. Smith stated that the lack of understanding can leave people feeling isolated and unsupported. Councillor Á. Smith said that people who suffer from PMDD need employers who recognise that chronic health conditions can fluctuate and healthcare professionals who are informed about PMDD can provide appropriate treatment options. Councillor Á. Smith stated that while awareness of PMDD is growing internationally, there is still work to be done in Ireland. Councillor Á. Smith noted that information available through the HSE currently includes only a brief mention of PMDD within broader information about periods and PMS. Councillor Á. Smith stated that greater visibility of PMDD within healthcare information, professional training, and public health campaigns could help reduce delays in the diagnosis and ensure that people receive appropriate support sooner. Councillor Á. Smith noted that in recent years credit must be given to the progress made by former Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly and current Minister Jennifer Carroll MacNeill in putting emphasis on the importance of Women's Health. Councillor Á. Smith proposed

that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health and the HSE calling for an increase in research and supports for women suffering with PMDD.

Councillor P. Walsh seconded Councillor Á. Smith's proposal.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and noted that a lot of girls drop out of sport due to PMDD.

Councillors N. Brady and T. Smith supported the motion.

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was offered to the family of the late Dominic Cadden former owner of The Well Pub in Cavan Town.

Votes of Congratulations

Councillor T. Smith noted that this year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Jimmy Magee All-Stars held in Ballyjamesduff which raised money for good causes over the years.

The meeting concluded at 15.00p.m.