**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 12 September 2016 in the Council Chamber**

Councillor F. Curtin, Cathaoirleach Presiding

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

J.P. Feeley, E. Greenan, C. Kelly, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly,

S. O’Reilly, S.P.O’Reilly, S. Smith, V. Smith.

In Attendance: T. Ryan, Chief Executive

D. Maguire, Head of Finance

E. Doyle, Director of Service

P. Coleman, Acting Director of Service

E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

Apologies were received from Councillors P. Smith and P. Brady.

**1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11 & 27 June 2016. Miontuairisci cruinnithe 11 & 27 Iuil 2016 a dhearbhu.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S. P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved:

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11 & 27 July 2016 be hereby approved”.

**2. To confirm minutes of Housing, Community, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 19 April 2016.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor D. Brady

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved:

“that minutes of Housing, Community, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 19 April 2016 be hereby approved”.

**3. To note minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 7 July 2016.**

Noted.

**4. To hear presentation from OPW on Draft Flood Risk Management Plans.**

Mr. Aidan Harney, Office of Public Works made a presentation to the members on the draft flood risk management plans. He stated that the plan puts the OPW in a new position of having a road map of what needs to be done to manage flood risk in Ireland. He noted that the plan is still in draft format and he urged all local authorities and members of the public to make submissions in order to have an input into the success of the plan. Mr. Harney stated that it is proposed to hold a public consultation day in the Hotel Kilmore on 27th September 2016. He stated that the plan will focus on how heavy water displacement affects rural areas. He noted that parts of County Cavan are considered in up to four CFRAM plans but spoke specifically on that which details flood risk in the Cavan Urban and Ballyconnell areas. He stated that the number one consideration in the plan was risk to life followed by loss of property and therefore projects in Cavan were not among the three hundred priority cases. He stated that €430million will be provided by the State between 2016 and 2021 for capital investment in flood relief schemes. He stated that while it sounds like a lot of money it may not even fund all of the three hundred priority projects identified by the study in higher risk areas.

**5. To hear presentation from ESB on seasonal flooding in the region.**

Mr. Harry Doherty, Civil Engineer with the ESB made a presentation to the members on seasonal flooding in the region. Mr. Doherty’s presentation detailed the level of flooding last year, the rise in flood waters through Cathleen’s Falls jumped from 67m3/sec to 267.04m3/sec in the ten days between November 10-20 describing 2009 and 2015/16 flood events as two of the biggest on record. Mr Doherty dismissed the alleged thinking that the hydroelectric station at Ballyshannon had any impact on flooding further down the Erne waterway and stated that the ESB do not store water for generation. Mr. Doherty stated that due to narrow channels and a low decline in gradient on the course, Cathleen’s Falls’ generators can pass around 200m3/sec and the spillway gates pass the remainder. He stated that the spillway gates are designed for a one in 10,000 year flood event, of the order of 530m3/sec. He noted that in November 2009 the peak discharge was recorded as 385m3/sec and even if the generators were to stop functioning, there is still adequate capacity to pass a large flood solely through the spillway gates.. He stated that each year the ESB lowers the levels of the loughs by agreement in October in expectation of winter flooding and noted that the last time the rivers were dredged was in the 1900s at major expense and a gain of just six inches in the flow of the river.

Councillor W. Bennett stated that he was disappointed with the progress being made by the Flood Risk Management Programme. He stated that there are people living on private roads who cannot get in or out of their homes due to flooding and yet CFRAM will not assist them.

Councillor S. Smith stated that the OPW and ESB must work together to confront the problem of flooding as rainfall has increased greatly in the last number of years. Councillor S. Smith stated that there should be a separate budget given to local authorities in order to maintain streams and rivers.

Councillor S.P. O’ Reilly expressed his disappointment at the fact that nobody from the OPW was willing to meet with a delegation from the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District. He asked the OPW to look at a maintenance programme for County Cavan and come back to members with it at a later stage.

Mr. Harney agreed that the OPW would meet with a deputation from Cavan County Council at their offices in Trim at a date to be arranged.

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

Noted.

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

Noted.

**8 Town & Village Renewal Scheme.**

The meeting was adjourned for half an hour in order to let the Fianna Fail Group speak with the Chief Executive on the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

And

Resolved:

“that the Town & Village Renewal Scheme be hereby approved as presented”.

**9. Development Contribution Scheme**

Ms. Marice Galligan Graham, Senior Executive Planner informed the meeting that the current development contribution scheme will expire in December 2016. She noted that a new draft development contribution scheme has been compiled for the period 2017/2020 and this draft will go on public display from 15th September 2016 to 27th October 2016. She noted that the plan will be brought before the November meeting with the submissions received.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

And

Resolved:

“that the public consultation period for the Development Contribution Scheme be hereby approved”.

**10. To note Financial Report for the quarter ending 30 June 2016.**

Noted.

**11. To seek nomination of two elected members to the Ulster Canal Advisory Forum.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S. Smith

Seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved:

“that the nomination of Councillor C. Kelly to the Ulster Cavan Advisory Forum be hereby approved”.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved:

“that the nomination of Councillor P. McVitty to the Ulster Cavan Advisory Forum be hereby approved”.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor E. Greenan

Seconded by Councillor N. Connell

And

Resolved:

“that the nomination of Councillor D. Brady to the Ulster Cavan Advisory Forum be hereby approved”.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive informed the meeting that two members only could sit on the Ulster Cavan Advisory Forum. It was proposed by Councillor S. Smith and seconded by Councillor D. Brady that the three members elected rotate the position throughout the year.

**12. To note agreement of the HSE to having two elected members nominated to HSE Suicide Prevention Group for Cavan/Monaghan namely Councillor C. Brady and Councillor S.P. O’Reilly.**

Noted.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly informed the meeting that a Suicide awareness campaign will be launched within the next two weeks with seven information evenings being held throughout the County. He asked the members to ensure all local community groups are notified of the information sessions. He also asked the executive of the Council to make people aware of these sessions through their Council page in the Anglo Celt.

**13. To approve increases to maximum limit for grants under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved:

“that increases to maximum limit for grants under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability.be hereby approved”.

Councillor P. O’Reilly asked the executive if there was any way the Council could look for money back where the homes were no longer being used by the persons to whom the grants were attributed.

Mr. Philip Coleman informed the members that there had been increased resources assigned to the scheme in the past year under the Rebuilding Ireland initiative and he would check with the Department in relation to getting money back where the house is no longer in use.

**14. To approve the disposal of lands at Kilnaglare Upper, Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan containing 0.185 ha. (0.457 acres) to the Trustees of Butlersbridge G.A.A., Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan, namely Paul Henry, Jim McCorry, Phil Smith, Trevor Shannon and Danny Murphy for the sum of €6,500, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor E. Greenan

And

Resolved:

“thatthe disposal of lands at Kilnaglare Upper, Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan containing 0.185 ha. (0.457 acres) to the Trustees of Butlersbridge G.A.A., Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan, namely Paul Henry, Jim McCorry, Phil Smith, Trevor Shannon and Danny Murphy for the sum of €6,500, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

**15(a). To approve attendance of members at the LAMA 2016 Autumn Seminar to be held in the Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork on 30th September and 1st October**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

And

Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors P. O’Reilly, V. Smith, M. Argue, W. Bennett, P. Smith, J.P. Feeley, P. Brady, S.P. O’Reilly, S. Smith, C. Kelly, F. Curtin and S. O’Reilly at the LAMA 2016 Autumn Seminar to be held in the Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork on 30th September and 1st October be hereby approved”.

**15(b) To approve attendance of members at AILG Conference in Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford from 13th to 14th October, 2016.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors J.P. Feeley, P. Brady, S.P. O’Reilly, S. Smith, C. Kelly, F. Curtin, S. O’Reilly, P. O’Reilly, P. McVitty, V. Smith, C. Brady, W. Bennett and P. Smith at the AILG Conference in Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford from 13th to 14th October 2016 be hereby approved”.

**16(a). To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Finance regarding a moratorium on home repossessions.**

Noted.

**(b) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Finance regarding motor insurance.**

Deferred to October meeting.

**(c) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding the review of the Free Legal Aid System.**

Noted.

**(d) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Education and Skills regarding the school capitation grant.**

Deferred to October meeting.

**(e) To note reply from Department of Health regarding the ambulance service**

Noted.

**(f) To note reply from Department of Health regarding the number of children on waiting lists for therapy services in Co. Cavan.**

Councillor N. Connell expressed his disappointment with the reply. Councillor Connell proposed that the Council write again to the Minister for Health and the HSE seeking urgent up to date information on how they intend to deal with the long waiting lists in the Region.

**(g) To note reply from Road Safety Authority regarding drivers holding multiple Learner Permits.**

Noted.

**(h) To note reply from Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government regarding the funding of local authorities from Local Property Tax.**

Noted.

**(i) To note reply from Department of Health regarding the proposal to remove trauma care services from nine hospitals including Cavan General Hospital.**

Noted.

**(j) Meeting with Department of Transport in relation to school transport.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley informed the meeting that Councillors M. Argue and P. McDonald along with himself and Mr. Kevin Reilly, Senior Executive Officer attended a meeting with representatives of the Department of Transport that failed to resolve the ongoing controversy of the nearest school rule in relation to school transport. Councillor Feeley stated that the officials from the Department seemed disinterested in what the elected members had to say and had a narrow administrative point of view to the whole thing. Councillor Feeley proposed that the Council write again asking for a meeting with the Mr. Richard Bruton, Minister for Education and Skills.

Councillor S. Smith proposed that a letter be sent to the Minister for Agriculture asking him to consider implementing a plan for spreading slurry other than the calendar dates that presently exist. This was seconded by Councillor J. P. Feeley.

**Votes of Sympathy:**

* Kathleen and Kevin Reilly, Cavan County Council on the death of Kathleen’s father, Mr. Tom Devine, Killeshandra.
* The McCabe Family, Ballyhaise on the death of Mr. Felix McCabe former principal of Ballyhaise Agricultural College.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Leona Maguire, Ballyconnell on her success in Golf at the Olympics Games held in Rio. It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for twins Leona and Lisa Maguire at a later date.
* Alan O’Mara, Cavan footballer on the launch of his new book “The best is yet to come”.
* Virginia Show Committee on hosting a very successful 75th Annual Show.
* The Committee, Volunteers, Sponsors, Exhibitors, Clarke Family and anyone else associated with the success of the Taste of Cavan.

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley and seconded by Councillor W. Bennett that the meeting be extended to 5.30p.m.

**Members’ Items – September Meeting**

**8. That Cavan County Council call on Bord Failte to review their decision to market this region as part of “Ireland’s Ancient East”.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that marketing Cavan as part of Ireland’s Ancient East is ridiculous. He noted that Ireland’s Ancient East was launched as a plan for attracting tourism to the east and south of the country with similar scale and ambition as the Wild Atlantic Way. Councillor Feeley stated that the inclusion of Cavan and others in the follow up plan lacked imagination. Councillor Feeley queried the connection between Blacklion in West Cavan and Waterford stating that it seemed Failte Ireland just threw whatever was left and not included in the Wild Atlantic Way into Ireland’s Ancient East. Councillor Feeley stated that Bord Failte should look at bringing together locations that have a link.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Services stated that Ireland’s Ancient East was a major national initiative to counterbalance the Wild Atlantic Way. Mr. Doyle stated that there had already been some positive outcomes of Cavan’s involvement in the Ancient East marketing plan. Mr. Doyle stated that it was in Cavan’s interest to be involved, noting the significant funding available to promote the initiative. He stated that to date the County had received €65,000 towards funding a walking trail at Castlesaunderson and stated that the promotional plan looks at the rich heritage of the region to which Cavan can clearly contribute. Mr. Doyle noted that the Cavan Burren and County Museum are two prominent fixtures on the Ancient East tourist road-map.

Councillor Feeley accepted the views of the Director but stated on a broader element one would have to question the logic behind placing Cavan as part of Ireland’s Ancient East.

**9. That Cavan County Council invites Minister Simon Coveney to our next meeting for a briefing on how the recently published Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness will be implemented in County Councils and what immediate plans are in place to provide housing in the County.**

Councillor E. Greenan welcomed the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. He noted that the plan is to significantly increase the supply of social housing, double the output of overall housing from the current levels to 25,000 per annum by 2020 and tackle homelessness in a comprehensive manner. Councillor Greenan proposed that the Council invite Minister Coveney to Cavan County Council’s next meeting asking that he brief the members on how the recently published Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness will be implemented in County Councils and what immediate plans are in place to provide housing in County Cavan.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion.

Mr. Philip Coleman, A/Director of Services informed the meeting that the Rebuilding Ireland- Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness was launched by Mr. Simon Coveney, Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government on the 19th July, 2016. Mr. Coleman noted that the plan was brought before the SPC meeting on 22nd July, 2016. Mr. Coleman stated that the plan is comprehensive and addresses all aspects of the housing system under the following headings - address homelessness, accelerate social housing, build more homes, improve the rental sector and utilise existing housing. Mr. Coleman stated that housing adaptation grants increased from 1.14m in 2015 to 1.36m in 2016. He noted that under Rebuilding Ireland a further 25% increase for housing adaptation grants is proposed. He stated that the Council purchased 14 units in 2015 and to date in 2016, 30 units have been purchased. Mr. Coleman noted that the plan will increase the involvement of the voluntary sector which Cavan County Council are already engaging with in relation to projects in Cavan, Kingscourt and Bailieborouogh. Mr. Coleman also pointed out that housing assistance payments will be commencing in Cavan in December 2016.

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

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