**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 10th April 2017 in the Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor F. Curtin, Cathaoirleach Presiding

Present: Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, P. Brady, N. Connell, J.P. Feeley, E. Greenan, C. Kelly, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly, S. P. O’Reilly, P. Smith, S. Smith, V. Smith.

In Attendance: T. Ryan, Chief Executive

E. Doyle, Director of Service

G. Finn, Director of Service

J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

**1(a)To confirm Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 13th March 2017. Miontuairiscĺ cruinnithe 13 Márta 2017 a dhearbhu.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that at the March meeting the minutes of the meeting were challenged but yet no amendments were made to them. He stated that the Chief Executive was referred to as being dishonest and he was referred to as a liar. Councillor Feeley stated that he was disappointed at the term used and asked that the word be withdrawn.

Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that in a printed article in the Anglo Celt he is alleged to have stated that the Chief Executive was dishonest. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that the words he used in relation to the Chief Executive was “I am not accusing you of being dishonest” and asked the Chief Executive to accept his explanation. Councillor P. O’Reilly noted that in the Anglo Celt he was listed as having asked who edited the minutes of the February meeting when in fact it was Councillor P. McVitty that asked the question. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that he would withdraw the word liar in relation to Councillor Feeley and replace it with economical with the truth. Councillor Feeley was not happy to accept the changed wording and the meeting was adjourned. The meeting reconvened at 3.35pm with Councillor Paddy O’Reilly stating that he was withdrawing the word liar and replacing it with economical with facts, Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the clarification.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S. Smith

Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

And

Resolved:

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 13th March 2017 be hereby approved”.

**(b) To note minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9 March 2017.**

Noted.

**2. To note Minutes of Environment & Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 24 January 2017.**

Noted.

**3. To hear presentation from Ms. Sally Murphy regarding the Diaspora Strategy.**

Councillor F. Curtin welcomed Ms. Sally Murphy to the meeting. Ms. Murphy thanked the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive, elected members and staff for asking her to speak in relation to the Diaspora Strategy. She informed the members that the Diaspora Strategy is an action focused document created for County Cavan giving Cavan County Council the opportunity to become leaders in the implementation of Diaspora. She stated that the mission of the strategy is to put Cavan and its people, at home and abroad first. She noted that the main aims and objectives of the Cavan Diaspora Engagement Strategy are:- to create, nourish and develop a global network of Cavan Ambassadors; to create a Diaspora programme of events and services; to create a platform of communications for those at home and abroad and to ensure the continuity of the work. Ms. Murphy stated that the strategy has been compiled with careful consideration of the unique identity of Cavan as well as existing knowledge about the Cavan Diaspora. She stated that the strategy reflects many perspectives following extensive consultations with stakeholders and seeks to contribute to the wellbeing of the region. She stated that Cavan offers stunning landscapes, vibrant sporting communities, proud heritage, incredible culture and a skilled workforce. She stated that geographically the County has great links to the West, to Northern Ireland and to Dublin. She stated that the strategy is consistent with the core strategy and objectives of the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 which provides a framework to guide local economic and community development in County Cavan for the next five years. Ms. Murphy noted that Cavan Diaspora Engagement Strategy 2017-2021 will be launched in Dublin on the 9th May.

Councillor P. Smith thanked Ms. Murphy for her excellent presentation and the document produced in conjunction with the executive of Cavan County Council. Councillor P. Smith stated that Cavan people in Canada and Toronto should also be considered in the future.

Councillor J.P. Feeley acknowledged the work of Majella Tierney and John Donohoe in producing a very appealing document with well known local people featured in it.

Councillor P. O’Reilly complimented all on a well presented document incorporating local knowledge.

Ms. Murphy informed the members that the next part of the strategy is to bring it to local communities.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive thanked all involved in producing the strategy. He stated that Cavan County Council has been working towards the development and implementation of a Diaspora Engagement Strategy for those with a connection to County Cavan. He stated that the document sets out to harness and build on existing connections as well as building new relationships for the long-term. Mr. Ryan stated that the strategy was launched in New York after the St. Patrick’s Day parade. Mr. Ryan also stated that the plan will be launched in Dublin on 9th May.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service asked the Party whips to forward names of Cavan people living in Dublin who they felt should be invited to the Diaspora launch to Ms. Majella Tierney.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved:

“that the launch of the Cavan Diaspora Engagement Strategy 2017-2021 in Dublin on 9th May 2017 be hereby approved”.

**May Monthly Meeting.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved:

“that the hosting of the May monthly meeting of Cavan County Council in Leinster House on Tuesday 9th May at 11.00a.m. be hereby approved”.

**4. To hear presentation from Mr. David Minton, Director of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly in relation to the National Planning Framework.**

Councillor F. Curtin welcomed Mr. David Minton, Director of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly to the meeting.

Mr. David Minton informed the members that the Northern and Western Regional Assembly has its headquarters in Ballaghderreen and is made up of twenty five members with Councillors P. Smith and S. Smith representing Cavan on the Assembly.

Mr. David Minton informed the members that the level of entrepreneurship and success of our start up eco-system is greater per capita than Tel-Aviv and this story should be told more effectively and internationally. Mr. Minton informed the members that the region faces a challenge to market itself against the growing magnetism of Dublin and the east of the country. Mr. Minton informed the members that the Northern and Western Assembly made a submission to the National Planning Framework process asking that Rural Ireland be recognised in the years to come. He stated that the new National Planning Framework would have legislative holding, which was a major shortfall in previous strategies. Mr. Minton stated that people need to be informed of this rural but vibrant region. Mr. Minton noted that we need to improve access to the region but also intra-regional infrastructure. He stated that the key element of the looming Brexit would be for the National Planning Framework to be adaptive to any potential economic developments arising. He informed the meeting that the Northern Western Regional Assembly had applied for the title of EU Entrepreneurial Region in 2018.

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the presentation. Councillor Feeley stated that the region needs to invest in infrastructure in order to bring jobs to the region. Councillor Feeley stated that this region is becoming a disruptor to the existing economic cycle of investment to major urban centres.

Councillor C. Kelly stated that the East/West link is a very important link for Cavan and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly should be pushing for this to happen as it is a development that can be done in stages.

Councillor P. Smith welcomed the presentation and thanked Mr. Minton for his excellent work as Director of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly. Councillor P. Smith noted that County Cavan connects the Western and Eastern Region and this is not emphasised enough.

Councillor E. Greenan complimented Mr. Minton on his presentation. Councillor Greenan stated that the eastern part of the country has benefited greatly from foreign direct investment with huge parts of the country left without any significant investment in recent years.

Councillor S. Smith thanked Mr. Minton for his informative presentation. Councillor S. Smith called for the development of the River Erne navigation from Belturbet to Killykeen as it will have the potential for capitalising on tourism investment.

Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that County Cavan should be entitled to extra funding towards roads due to the fact that the county does not have any rail, port or airport services.

Mr. Minton thanked the members for their input. He stated that the draft National Planning Framework is due to go before the Oireachtas before the summer recess and stated that it is all about building on our strengths, developing what we are good at and setting out our goals for what we want to achieve.

It was proposed by Councillor W. Bennett and seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley that the duration of the meeting be extended to 5.45p.m.

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

Noted.

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

Noted.

**7. To adopt 2017 Annual Service Delivery Plan**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor E. Greenan

And

Resolved:

“that the 2017 Annual Service Delivery Plan be hereby adopted”.

**8. To approve the lease of Creche facility at Fairgreen, Belturbet, Co. Cavan to Happy Days Childcare Services for a period of four years for the sum of €400 per annum, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 90 of the Housing Act 1966 and Section 26 of the Housing (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1992, and notices circulated.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved:

“that the lease of Creche facility at Fairgreen, Belturbet, Co. Cavan to Happy Days Childcare Services for a period of four years for the sum of €400 per annum, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 90 of the Housing Act 1966 and Section 26 of the Housing (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1992 be hereby approved”.

**9. To approve Councillor P. O’Reilly as Cavan County Council’s nominee to Irish Public Bodies Insurance in place of Councillor Val Smith.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor W.Bennett

And

Resolved:

“that the nomination of Councillor Paddy O’Reilly as Cavan County Council’s nominee to Irish Public Bodies in place of Councillor Val Smith be hereby approved”.

**10. To approve attendance of members at the LAMA 2017 Spring Training Seminar to be held in the City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath on the 28th & 29th April.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

And

Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors M. Argue, C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. Smith, V. Smith, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, J.P. Feeley, S. Smith, S. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly, P. Brady, C. Kelly, F. Curtin at the LAMA 2017 Spring Training Seminar to be held in the City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath on the 28th & 29th April be hereby approved”.

**11. To approve nomination of two members from each party as nominees to the Protocol Committee.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved:

“that the nominations of Councillors C. Kelly and J.P. Feeley to the Protocol Committee be hereby approved”.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved:

“that the nominations of Councillors C. Brady and P. O’Reilly to the Protocol Committee be hereby approved”.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor E. Greenan

Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

And

Resolved:

“that the nominations of Councillors P. McDonald and N. Connell to the Protocol Committee be hereby approved”.

**12(a)To note reply from Minister John Halligan, T.D. in relation to school transport.**

Noted. Councillor J.P. Feeley expressed his disappointment with the reply and asked that a further letter be sent to Minister Bruton asking him to meet with a delegation from Cavan County Council.

**(b) To note reply from Department of Social Protection regarding payment rate review for people with disabilities.**

Noted.

**(c) To note replies from Deputy B. Smith, Deputy N. Smyth and Senator J. O’Reilly in relation to IDA.**

Noted.

Councillor C. Kelly asked that a further letter be sent to Minister S. Ross in relation to meeting with a delegation from Cavan County Council regarding roads allocation and the East/West link.

**Vote of Sympathy:**

* The Conaty Family, Carriga, Crosskeys on the death of Mr. Harry Conaty
* The Doughty Family, Ballyjamesduff on the death of Mrs. Bridie Doughty.
* The McGuinness Family, Derry on the death of Mr. Martin McGuinness, Former Deputy First Minister.
* The O’Donoghue Family, Cavan on the death of Mrs. Noreen O’Donoghue mother of Cavan County Council employees Noreen Brady and Loretta McCormack, grandmother to Niamh Creamer and mother of retired employee Cavan County Council, Charlie O’Donoghue.
* Nadine McCormilla, employee Cavan County Council on the death of her grandfather Mr. Patrick Crotty.
* The Fitzpatrick Family, Dublin and Cavan on the death of Captain Dara Fitzpatrick pilot of the Rescue 116.

A minutes silence was held in memory of the deceased.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* The Shalvey Family, Maudabawn on hosting “Big week on the Farm” Television show and also Patrick Shalvey on breaking the work record by reversing a tractor and trailer for more than 13 miles.
* Barry John Crowe on breaking the world record for making most sausages in one minute.
* Domhnall Kennedy, Teagasc who made the nomination to RTE to host the “Big week on the Farm” on the Shalvey Family’s farm.
* Mary Hanley who retired as Director of Ramor Theatre, Virginia. Mary also set up the Living Dread Theatre Company.
* Grainne O’Connor, Geopark and all involved in the production of the RTE programme “Tracks and Trails”. Footage was exceptional and also received international coverage.
* Organisers of the St. Patrick’s Day in Cavan town which despite the rain was a great success.
* Vote of congratulations to An Taoiseach Enda Kenny on promoting Ireland during his visit to Washington on St. Patrick’s Day.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly expressed his disappointment at the fact that voluntary search and rescue members travelling back from Blacksod had to pay toll fees on the M7. He noted that these vehicles were emergency vehicles and should not have to pay toll fees. He proposed that the Council write to Mid Link Organisation outlining the Council’s disgust at their actions towards these volunteers.

**Rural Post Offices:** Councillor J.P. Feeley called on the Government to take urgent action to save the Post Office Network. Councillor Feeley stated that communities need and want their post office to stay open and postmasters will work to honour this. Councillor Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Communications asking that urgent action is taken to save the post office network.

**Bus Eireann:** Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the Fianna Fail Group met with Bus Eireann workers in Cavan. He stated that negotiations are ongoing and welcomed this stating that hoped buses would be back running as soon as possible.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – APRIL MEETING.**

1. **To request the management of the HSE to provide free parking for cancer patients at Cavan General Hospital.**

Councillor C. Kelly proposed that the Council write to the HSE asking them to provide free parking for cancer care patients at Cavan General Hospital. He stated that currently there is a nationwide campaign by the Irish Cancer Society asking hospitals to provide free parking for cancer patients who visit hospitals regularly. He noted that if Cavan General Hospital agrees to the request they will be following in the footsteps of St. Luke’s Hospital, Mayo and Wexford General Hospitals.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor Kelly’s proposal. Councillor stated that it was nonsensical to impose these charges on families already dealing with an often difficult situation.

Councillors P. Smith and P. McDonald supported the motion.

1. **Hedgecutting.**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that hedgecutting is becoming a county wide problem. He stated that landowners who fail to cut their hedges are causing an obstruction and problems to motorists. He stated that drivers on main roads particularly those in the haulage business are forced to choose between losing a wing mirror and crossing the white line along the centre of the road. Councillor Kelly noted that wing mirrors on some of these trucks can cost up to €400 to be repaired. He stated that the problem needs to be addressed and landowners must cut their hedges.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion stating that between now and August the Council engineers should make a list of hedges that need cutting and send a letter to the relevant landowners.

Councillor P. McVitty called for a pilot scheme to be put in place taking one municipal district at a time and making sure all hedged in that district are cut. Councillor McVitty asked who is responsible if a mirror on a truck gets broken.

Councillor P. Smith supported the motion.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service informed the members that the onus is on the owners and occupiers of land to cut their trees and hedges and make sure they do not present as a hazard to motorists. Mr. McLoughlin stated that two hundred and forty two notices were already served this year on owners of property. He stated that legal responsibility lies with the landowner in the event of an accident and this is stated on letters sent by Cavan County Council to landowners.

Councillor P. O’Reilly proposed that the Council invite Mr. Harald Felzen, Sparkassen Banking to a meeting of Cavan County Council. He stated that Mr, Felzen spoke at the AILG Conference in Ennis on Local Public Banking. This was seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

**Items 3 – 8 were deferred to May Meeting.**

The meeting concluded at 5.45p.m.