**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 15th January 2018 in the Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor P. McDonald, Cathaoirleach Presiding

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

N. Connell, F. Curtin, D. Downey, C. Kelly, 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

J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service

E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

An apology was received from Councillor J.P. Feeley.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meetings held on 8th December 2017. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 8 Nollaig 2017 a dhearbhu.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S. Smith

Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

And

Resolved:

“that minutes of meetings of Cavan County Council held on 8th December 2017 be hereby approved”.

**2. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9 November 2017.**

Noted.

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

Noted.

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

Noted.

1. **To hear presentation from Sinead Tormey, Community & Enterprise Department on Healthy Ireland.**

Ms. Sinead Tormey, Community & Enterprise Department informed the members that a framework for improved health and well being 2013 - 2025 was launched in March 2013. The plan which aims to shift the focus to prevention, seeks to reduce health inequalities and emphasises the need to empower people and communities to look after their own health and well being. Ms. Tormey stated that the healthy Ireland goals are to increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life, reduce health inequalities, protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing and create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland. Ms. Tormey stated that a healthy Cavan Committee has been established which is a sub-committee of the LCDC. She stated that the Committee plays a key part in developing linkages with and between partners and advising on priorities. Ms. Tormey noted that Cavan Sports Partnership Strategic Plan (2017-2021) promotes a holistic and whole of life approach to sports, activity and recreation which emphasises wellbeing, good mental health and social interaction. Ms. Tormey stated that application for funding has been approved for €100,000 and projects must be completed and monies spent by 31st March 2018. Ms. Tormey outlined a list of actions to be carried out by healthy Cavan with the funding. Ms. Tormey stated that Local Authorities have a significant role in protecting and promoting their citizens’ health and wellbeing. Ms. Tormey noted that there has been no notification of when application process can commence and no guidelines regarding what areas of health to focus on has been outlined.

1. **To note statutory requirement to complete Annual Declaration in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government Act, 2001 – Part 15, Section 171 (Ethics Register) by 28th February 2018.**

Noted. Mr. Eoin Doyle informed the members that the annual declaration forms must be completed and returned to Ms. Evelyn Smith, Ethics Officer by 28th February, 2018. He also noted that these forms are available to the public for inspection.

7. **To note Northern & Western Regional Assembly Spatial and Economic Strategy Issues Paper.**

Mr. Nicholas O’Kane, Senior Planner gave a detailed presentation to the members in relation to the Northern & Western Regional Assembly Spatial and Economic Strategy Issues Paper. He stated that this paper will in turn feed into the National Planning Framework which is to be drawn up by the Government in tandem with the National Investment Programme for the next twenty years. He stated that the Issues Paper on a regional level is a consultation document prepared in advance of the drafting of a new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the entirety of the Northern and Western Region. He stated that nationally the National Planning Framework will stand above all else, following by the various spatial strategies. Mr. O’Kane stated that the National Planning Framework is due to be adopted by the end of January 2018 and submissions must be made to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy by Friday January 26th. Mr. O’Kane noted that according to the National Planning Framework ten thousand new Cavan jobs will be needed to meet demand as Cavan’s population is predicted to swell to around one hundred thousand over the next two decades. Mr. O’Kane outlined that the expected population growth would require the construction of two hundred and thirty new homes per annum in County Cavan. Mr. O’Kane stated that the estimated growth in population reflects the growth experiences between1996 - 2016 when the County population increased by twenty three thousand and present day levels, climbing towards circa seventy six thousand. Mr. O’Kane stated that this growth is double that of most neighbouring counties. Mr. O’Kane stated that to assist the creation of ten thousand new jobs locally there will be a need for the provision and rezoning of more than seven hundred and eighty hectares for commercial and industrial purposes. Mr. O’Kane stated that the Cavan County Council would urge the Northern and Western Regional Assembly to back calls for the implementation of a specific fund for border counties to enable purchase and service of such lands in order to be Brexit ready. Mr. O’Kane stated that the enhancement of Cavan Institute as a potential Institute of Technology sometime in the future would be significant and it would play a key part both in terms of attracting businesses and keeping young people in the region. Mr. O’Kane stated that there are a substantial number of workers in County Cavan working outside the County and commuting for employment, Cavan needs to start getting jobs into the County. Mr. O’Kane noted that in relation to housing one-off rural properties did not feature significantly in any development strategies and this he felt would pose a much greater blocking point than present stiff planning regulations. In relation to tourism it is felt that Cavan needed definite branding beyond being situated between Ireland’s Ancient East and the Wild Atlantic Way.

Councillor P. McDonald thanked Mr. O’Kane for his presentation and stated that unfortunately there are not enough jobs coming to County Cavan.

Councillor W. Bennett congratulated Mr. O’Kane on an excellent presentation. He stated that in relation to rural houses there must be an initiative to get around the T test to allow people build houses in rural Ireland particularly County Cavan.

Councillor P. Smith a member of the Northern and Western Assembly congratulated the Executive on their submission. Councillor Smith stated that the East-West link connecting Sligo and Dundalk through Cootehill, Bailieborough and Kingscourt needs to be developed as soon as possible. He stated that the plan has been put on hold for over a decade due to lack of funding.

Councillor D. Brady queried if the Council had any lands purchased in West Cavan to meet development demands.

Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that County Cavan cannot supply the number of people living in it with jobs and most of the County’s population is travelling elsewhere to work. He stated that the hold ups in Virginia is partly caused by commuters travelling to Dublin to work. He stated that National Schools need to be kept open or otherwise our Communities will be under threat.

Councillor C. Kelly proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport asking that he meet with the members of the Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal District and the Executive in relation to the East West Link. This proposal was seconded by Councillor S. O’Reilly.

Mr. Nicholas O’Kane informed the members that their views will be taken on board and included in the submission.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that Cavan County Council’s submission is that Cavan has a lot to offer and will have a lot to offer in terms of delivering and meeting the targets set out in the National Planning Framework. Focusing on population and job creation Mr. Ryan noted Cavan’s key strategic positioning adjacent to airports, ports and other main drivers of trade. Mr. Ryan stated that if we don’t have a target in the plan for Cavan then we will not attract the necessary investment in infrastructure.

Councillor V. Smith asked for an update on the digital hub for Cavan.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service informed the members until funding is received for the proposal a costed plan cannot be given to the members.

**8. To approve 2 year lease of 0.0092 hectares or 0.0227 acres of land at 61 College Street, Cavan to Cavan Arts and Culture Centre Area, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

Seconded by Councillor D. Downey

And

Resolved:

“that a 2 year lease of 0.0092 hectares or 0.0227 acres of land at 61 College Street, Cavan to Cavan Arts and Culture Centre Area, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved.

**9 (a) To note reply from Deputy Brendan Smith in relation to Life Saving Equipment Bill.**

Noted. .

**(b) To note reply from Health Service Executive regarding Killeshandra Primary Care Centre.**

Noted. Councillor S. Smith asked that a letter be sent to the HSE asking for an update on the current situation with the Primary Care Centre for Killeshandra. Councillor P. McVitty noted that the HSE had identified a new provider and it is expected to have a new Primary Care Centre by 2019.

**(c) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding funding for Ballyhaise Agricultural College.**

Noted.

**(d) To note reply from Financial Services Ombudsman regarding the reversal of newly introduced cashier services in the town of Bailieborough.**

Noted. Councillor S. O’Reilly informed the meeting that she along with Councillors C. Brady, F. Curtin and P. McDonald met with Mr. Kieran Tuite, Regional Manager of Bank of Ireland in Bailieborough on 10th January. She thanked Mr. Tuite for attending the meeting and taking the views of the members on board.

**(e) To note reply from EIR regarding the cutting down of trees and hedges along roads.**

Noted. Councillor P. McVitty expressed his disappointment with the reply and asked that the Council write back to EIR asking them to identify dangerous sites along the road.

**(f) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding fodder.**

Noted. Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council write to the Minister asking for help with fodder. Councillor P. McVitty seconded the proposal.

**(g) To note reply from Bus Eireann regarding the reinstatement of the 109 Bus route its original route.**

Noted. Councillor M. Argue expressed her disappointment with the reply received from Bus Eireann. Councillor Argue proposed that the Council write to the National Transport Authority in relation to reinstating the 109 bus route to its original route and that a representative from Bus Eireann be invited to attend a meeting of Cavan County Council. Councillor D. Downey seconded the proposal.

**(h) To note reply from Minister Shane Ross, T.D. regarding the testing of tractors.**

Noted.

**10. To approve attendance of members at Celtic Conferences “EU Cohesion Policy**

**2014-2020” in Carlingford, Co. Louth from 2 – 4 February 2018.**

No Attendees.

**Votes of Sympathy:**

* Councillor J.P. Feeley on the death of his Aunt Ms. Nora Carthy.
* The McKay Family Cavan Town on the death of Mr. John McKay former CEO of Cavan VEC.
* Kathleen Reilly, staff member on the death of her mother Mrs. Julia Devine, Drumgoa, Killeshandra
* Padraig McGivney, staff member on the death of his father Mr. Andy McGivney, Crenew, Kilnaleck.

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

**1. Prospecting Licences**

Councillor S. Smith stated that a prospecting licence was granted to an Australian mining company BMEx Pty.Ltd late last year to allow for exploration in West Cavan. He stated that the licence only allows for exploration and does not allow for mining to be carried out. Councillor S. Smith stated that he had recently attended a public meeting in Belturbet where a lot of concerned people raised issues in relation to same. Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Communications, the mining company and the objectors asking them to attend a meeting of Cavan County Council and make a presentation to the members.

Councillor D. Brady seconded the proposal. Councillor D. Brady noted that the exploration may have a negative impact on the Geopark Area.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion and suggested that maybe we should also listen to the views of the people who are not objecting to the exploration.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, A/Director of Services stated that the prospecting licence was granted by the Department of Communications in November 2017. He stated that the exploration is non intrusive and will have no effect on the environment. He agreed that the Council would make contact with the Department of Communications and BMEx Pty.Ltd and ask them to make a presentation to Cavan County Council at a Council meeting.

**5. Funding for drainage.**

Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council allocate funding for drainage in the forthcoming roadworks scheme. He noted that County roads are deteriorating fast and the Department are not allocating sufficient funding for the upkeep of same. He stated that if money is allocated to drainage in the roadworks scheme it will benefit in the long run. He asked that a survey be done on the roads in the County to identify the roads that are holding onto water.

Councillor F. Curtin seconded the proposal. He stated that the life of the road depends on keeping water of it. Councillor Curtin also queried if the pot hole machine has been used in the Bailieborough Cootehill Area in recent times.

Councillors P. McDonald, P. McVitty and D. Brady supported the motion.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service stated that since 2010 the Council received only 50% of the money it had previously received from the Department. He noted that the pot hole machines are out as much as possible. Mr. McLoughlin stated that the Council do their best to keep the water of the roads but in recent times this has proven difficult with the amount of rainfall. He stated that a roadworks in-committee meeting will take place with the members and the issue of funding towards drainage can be discussed.

**6. That Cavan County Council ask the Minister for Health, the Minister for Children and the HSE to provide assistance to development and operation of Down Syndrome Centre North East which will provide support to those with Down Syndrome and their families in Counties Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly on behalf of the Fianna Fail group stated that a group of parents who have children with Down Syndrome have taken a very brave step by taking matters into their own hands and setting up a Down Syndrome Centre for the North East in Carrickmacross. She stated that as a result of frustration with current services, they are taking on a huge challenge, financial risk and extra burden in their family lives by providing the necessary and essential services their children need and deserve. She stated that the aim of the Centre is dedicated towards providing support and services to families and carers of people with Down Syndrome. She stated that the Carrickmacross Centre will be the fourth to open its doors and will be servicing counties Cavan, Monaghan, Meath and Louth. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that it is a shame that these parents are so deprived of services that should be provided by the HSE. Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that the Council ask the Minister for Health, the Minister for Children and the HSE to provide assistance to development and operation of Down Syndrome Centre North East which will provide support to those with Down Syndrome and their families in Counties Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath.

Councillor D. Downey seconded the proposal.

Councillors P. O’Reilly, M. Argue, F. Curtin and S. Smith supported the motion.

**Meeting with TII**

Councillor P. O’Reilly complimented Mr. Brendan Jennings and Mr. Alan Lyons arranging a successful meeting with the TII, members of the executive and County Councillors. He stated that he was delighted to see Virginia By-pass back on the agenda. He stated that he was delighted to hear that the TII had no problem in meeting with the members at least once a year.

Councillor C. Kelly complimented Mr. Joe McLoughlin and his team for organising a successful meeting with the TII.

Councillors F. Curtin and P. McVitty also complimented the executive for organising the meeting.

Councillor M. Argue acknowledged the money allocated under the outdoor recreation scheme to improve the access route to Castlesaunderson Scout Centre.

Councillor D. Downey complimented the fire service for their hard work during the recent spell of bad weather.

It was agreed that the Council would ask Mr. Noel Burke retired Chief Fire Officer and Civil Defence Officer to a meeting of Cavan County Council.

The meeting concluded at 5.00p.m.

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

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