**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in The Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on Monday 11th April, 2022 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor C. Kelly, Cathaoirleach presiding

Present; Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, P. Brady, C. Brady, A. Fitzpatrick,

B. Fay, J.P. Feeley, C. Lovett, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, S. O’Reilly,

S.P. O’Reilly, T.P. O’Reilly, S. Smith (online) 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 (online)

 L. McGavigan, Senior Executive Officer

 E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

 E. Smith, Senior Staff Officer

Councillor C. Kelly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th March 2022.**

**Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 14 Márta a dhearbhu.**

 It was

 Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

 Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 14 March 2022 be hereby approved”

**Dún Uí Neill, Army Barracks.**

Councillor P. Walsh proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Roderick O’Gorman, T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth asking that Dún Uí Neill Army Barracks be made available as emergency accommodation for Ukrainian Refugees coming to Ireland. She noted that the army barracks is a modern building with plenty of bedrooms, kitchen and a communal area.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor P. Walsh’s proposal. Councillor Feeley acknowledged the work of the Council and other state agencies and community groups in welcoming Ukrainian Refugees to Ireland. He stated that it is not logical to rule out the army barracks as it has many services within easy access to it.

Councillor M. Argue supported the motion and stated that CMETB had informed her that the building was looked at and it was deemed unsuitable.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that the Council are aware that the CMETB had considered potential use of the building for accommodation, and he is not aware where the discussion is at the minute as IPAS are responsible for organising same. He stated that he would contact CMETB directly.

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked for clarification regarding the situation in Cavan Leisure Complex with accommoding Ukrainians and what parts are still open to the public for use.

Mr. Doyle stated that the Local Authority has reserved the playing hall and the two rooms above it for accommodation and the swimming pool is still available to the public.

Councillor C. Brady as Chairperson of the Board of Management, Breffni College welcomed eleven students to the college and noted that there will be a lot more families arriving in the coming weeks. She stated that of the eleven families, there are only two in emergency accommodation.

Councillor B. Fay asked who people contact when they are offering accommodation to Ukrainian Refugees.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service informed the members that International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) is the organisation responsible for organising accommodation for the refugees.

**Pig Industry**

Councillor W. Bennett proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Agriculture asking him to forward immediately the rescue package of €100 million to the pig sector. He stated that farmers are enduring losses of thousands of euros weekly, due to the massive increases in the cost of feed coupled with prices far below production cost. Councillor Bennett stated that pig farmers are losing between €40 and €50 per pig.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and seconded Councillor W. Bennett’s proposal.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

**2. Disclosure of Interests (Section 177 Local Government Act 2001).**

Noted.

**3. To note minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 10 February 2022.**

Noted.

**4. To hear presentation from Ann Marie Lacey, Director of Cavan Institute.**

Deferred.

**5. 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.

**6. Correspondence**

**(i) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Health regarding orthopaedic care for**

 **children with Spina Bifida and/or hydrocephalus.**

Noted.

**(ii) To note reply from Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister for Transport regarding the Local**

 **Improvement Scheme.**

Noted. It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley and seconded by Councillor T.P. O’Reilly

 that the Council write to Minister Eamon Ryan stating that monies for Local Improvement

 Scheme should be under the Department of Transport’s remit. The members in turn

 thanked Minister Humphreys for her Department’s contribution towards the Local

 Improvement Scheme.

**7.**  **MEMBER’S QUESTION – COUNCILLOR MADELEINE ARGUE**

 To ask when the Customer Service Desk, which was re-located to the Library Event Space in the Johnston Central Library as an emergency measure at the beginning of Covid 19, will be returning to its former location on the first floor.

 An answer to the question posed by Councillor M. Argue was circulated to her prior to the

 Meeting.

**Votes of Congratulations**

* Cavan Civil Defence Team on winning gold for “Emergency Response Team of the Year” at the LAMA awards held in Dublin on 9th April 2022.
* Cavan Calling on winning silver for “Best Connected Council” at the LAMA awards held in Dublin on 9th April 2022.
* Cavan County Library Service on winning bronze for “Best Community Based Initiative” in relation to its Covid-19 book delivery service at the LAMA awards held in Dublin on 9th April 2022.
* Councillor P. Brady, Manager Cavan Camogie team on winning the All-Ireland Division 3 league final against Wexford.

  **Votes of Sympathy**

* The Johnston and Dunne Families, Cavan on the death of Mrs. Mary Johnston (nee Dunne) wife of former Cavan County Manager Mr. Brian Johnston, R.I.P.
* The Le Blanc Family, Jaunay-Clan on the death of Monsieur Michel Le Blanc, former President of the Wine Fair in January-Clan which is twinned with Cavan Town.
* The Green Family, Virginia on the death of Mr. Wilson Green.
* The Hyland Family, Pollamore, Cavan on the death of Mr. Jimmy Hyland.
* The Merriman and Keogh Families on the tragic death of Mr. Richard Merriman following an accident in Munterconnaught.

A minute’s silence was held in memory of the deceased.

**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. Consideration of the Annual Financial Statement 2021 under *Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2001***

Deferred to Tuesday 19th April for meeting online at 10.00am

**10. Approval of additional Revenue Expenditure 2021**

 Deferred to Tuesday 19th April for meeting online at 10.00am

**11. Approval of Transfers to Capital 2021**

 Deferred to Tuesday 19th April for meeting online at 10.00am

**12. Statement of Rate Collection 2021.**

 Deferred to Tuesday 19th April for meeting online at 10.00am

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS DEFERRED FROM MARCH MEETING**

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

Councillor C. Kelly asked the executive of Cavan County Council if there had been any

recent updates on the North South Interconnector.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that there had been no

meetings with Eirgrid or ESB Networks since the last Council Meeting. He stated

that an email was received by the planning department from the consultants, and this

has yet to be replied to. He noted that the three local authorities of Cavan, Meath and

Monaghan will work together in relation to same.

**2. To request Bus Eireann to make clear its plans regarding the separation of charges between Bus Eireann and Bus Eireann Expressway services.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to Bus Eireann asking them to make it clear with regards to its plans on the separation of charges between Bus Eireann and Bus Eireann Expressway services. He stated that this will create havoc for bus drivers and passengers if they cannot transfer their ticket from a standard service to an express service.

 Councillor B. Fay seconded Councillor S.P. O’Reilly’s proposal.

 Councillor M. Argue supported the motion and she acknowledged the fact that the bus station in Cavan will be open to the public in June.

**3. That Cavan County Council address the issue of rent arrears after 3 incidents of non-payment of rent.**

Councillor P. McDonald stated that better communication is needed between social housing tenants and the Council as he knew of a family who found themselves in arrears of over €7,000. He stated that lower income families are not notified of further increases or changes to their rental agreements and as a result people are left in a vulnerable position with limited means to clear impossible debts. He stated that if one payment is missed or an incorrect move is made by the tenant three times then they should be contacted by the Council. Councillor P. McDonald stated that the system needs to be changed urgently, noting that other local authorities had adopted online pay portals through which tenants can log in with an account and pin number to make the payment and check their balance. Councillor P. McDonald stated that if this system was introduced by Cavan County Council it would allow for more transparency and a fairer operating system for people. Councillor McDonald welcomed the allocation of extra staff to the Housing Section.

 Councillor M. Argue supported the motion and queried the issue of overpayment as she knew a Council tenant who had overpaid and said they were unable to get their money refunded.

 Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and stated that people should be contacted to come up with payment plans and noted that Council staff of the housing department are always willing to help.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly complimented the staff of housing especially the rate collectors who always conduct their work in a fair and transparent manner and do their utmost to help people. He also stated that we need to support the post office network and if we go online this will take work from our rural post offices.

 Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and noted that the housing department are excellent in dealing with tenants.

 Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service acknowledged the concerns of the members. He noted that there is always open communication with the Housing Department, and they are currently looking at the process around the collection of payments. Mr. Doyle noted that over payments can be re-imbursed.

**4. That Cavan County Council write to EIR asking for more collaboration with landowners, the Council and all stakeholders to keep their lines repaired after falling trees and various damage to their lines along our local roads.**

 Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to EIR asking for more collaboration with landowners, the Council and all stakeholders to keep their lines repaired after falling trees and various damage to their lines along our local roads. Councillor B. Fay noted that landowners are willing to cut trees but are afraid to do so in case they damage wires. Councillor Fay highlighted two situations where fallen branches of trees had managed to bring down wires from poles. He stated that when locals contacted EIR in relation to same they often got no response.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that EIR are completely lost when dealing with these issues in a timely way. He stated that EIR need to be taken to task.

 Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion and noted that the matter had been raised at several Council meetings previously.

 Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service noted that the landowner is responsible for dangerous trees and stated that the Council will take the matter up with the Department.

**5. To ask Cavan County Council, as we approach the 80th Anniversary of the fire at St. Joseph’s orphanage, to erect a memorial in the town centre in memory of the children who lost their lives on the 23 February 1943.**

Deferred to May meeting.

**To approve five nominations to the LCDC Peace Plus Partnership Committee**

It was Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

And resolved

“that the appointment of Councillors P. McDonald, T. Smith, V. Smith. P. Walsh and C. Kelly to the LCDC Peace Plus Partnership Committee be hereby approved”.

**The meeting concluded at 3.45p.m.**

Certified Correct: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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