**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in The Council Chamber, Courthouse, Cavan on Monday 13th February, 2023 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley, Cathaoirleach presiding

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

C. Kelly, C. Lovett, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, S. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly,

T.P. O’Reilly, T. Smith, V. Smith, P. Walsh.

In Attendance; T. Ryan, Chief Executive

 B. Jennings, Director of Service

 P. Connaughton, Director of Service

 E. Doyle, Director of Service

 L. McGavigan, Senior Executive Officer

 E. McGinn, Senior Staff Office

Apologies were received from Councillor P. Brady and Ms. Margaret McNally, A/Head of Finance. Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed all to the meeting including staff members Paula McEntee and Tamera Leddy.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly and Special Meetings held on 9th January and 20th January 2023.**

 **Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 9 Eanair agus 20 Eanair a dhearbhu.**

 It was

 Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

 Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly and special meetings of Cavan County Council held on 9th and 20th January 2023 be hereby approved”

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

 Noted**.**

1. **To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8th December 2022**

Noted.

1. **To hear presentation from Kim McCafferty on Cavan Arts Festival**

Deferred to March Meeting.

**Note Members’ Reports from Conferences/Training Events.**

1. **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**

1. **(a) To note replies from the Office of the Minister of State for the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan, Delivery and Reform Ossian Smith, T.D., and the Commission for Communication Regulation regarding charges for directory enquiries.**

 Noted.

**(b) To note reply from Vodafone Ireland Limited regarding television coverage in Kingscourt.**

Noted. Councillor C. Kelly asked that the Municipal District send a reminder to Vodafone.

**(c) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the zones adjacent to ESB power lines.**

Noted.

**(d) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Justice regarding the General Scheme of the Sale of Alcohol Bill 2022**

Noted.

**(e) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth regarding financial support for private occupational therapists.**

Noted. Councillor T.P. O’Reilly stated that he was asking for financial support for families not for Occupational Therapists.

 **(f) To note reply from the Health Service Executive regarding Long Covid Clinics.**

Noted.

1. **To approve attendance of members at the following Training and Conferences:**
2. **Clonakilty Conferences “Protecting your mental health as a public representative” to be held in Clonakilty from 3-5 March 2023.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors T.P. O’Reilly and A. Fitzpatrick at Clonakilty Conferences “Protecting your mental health as a public representative” to be held in Clonakilty from 3-5 March be hereby approved.”

1. **Dundalk Chamber “Cross Border Tourism Conference” to be held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford on 29 March.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillor A. Fitzpatrick at Dundalk Chamber “Cross Border Tourism Conference” to be held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford on 29th March be hereby approved”.

1. **AILG Elected Members February 2023 Module 1 Training “A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act” to be held on Thursday 23rd February 2023 in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors T. Smith, V. Smith, P, McVitty, T.P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly and B, Fay, atAILG Elected Members February 2023 Module 1 Training “A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act” to be held on Thursday 23rd February 2023 in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly be hereby approved”.

1. **AILG Elected Members February 2023 Module 1 Training “A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act” to be held on Saturday 25th February 2023 in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, M. Argue, W. Bennett, A. Fitzpatrick, P. Walsh, C. Kelly and J.P. Feeley, atAILG Elected Members February 2023 Module 1 Training “A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act” to be held on Saturday 25th February 2023 in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick be hereby approved”.

1. **LAMA Seminar from 2 – 4 March in West Lodge Hotel. Bantry, Co. Cork.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors P. Walsh, C. Kelly, A. Fitzpatrick, S. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly, B. Fay, T. Smith, V. Smith, P. McVitty, C. Brady, W. Bennett and M. Argue atLAMA Seminar from 2 – 4 March in West Lodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork be hereby approved”.

**Meeting re Mental Health**

Councillor J.P. Feeley informed the members that a meeting will take place in the Council Chamber on Friday 3rd March at 10.00am with officials from HSE and other organisations in relation to the issue of mental health which was discussed at the January meeting. Councillor Feeley asked all Councillors to attend.

**Member’s Questions**

1. **Councillor John Paul Feeley**

**To ask the Director of Services for Housing to give an update on the rollout of the serviced sites initiative in County Cavan.**

A reply to the question posed by Councillor J.P. Feeley was circulated prior to the meeting.

1. **Councillor John Paul Feeley**

**To ask the Director of Service to report on the implementation of Housing for All targets for social housing and to set out the status of the various projects, the current stage of development and time scale to bring each to completion and detail any delays arising on construction.**

 A reply to the question posed by Councillor J.P. Feeley was circulated prior to the meeting.

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

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

Noted.

1. **To approve Arts Awards under the Categories: Professional Artist and Arts Development Awards.**

It was proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

and

Resolved

that payment of Arts Grants in accordance with following list, as circulated, be hereby approved”

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| **Arts Development Awards Recipients 2023** |

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| **No**   | **Name of Group / Event**  | ***Event description, location, etc.***  | **Fund amount approved**  |
| 1  | Bailieborough Creative Hub   | To further engage with other community /diverse groups for inclusive workshops/projects. Development to include members creative profiles, Poetry Day event, Collaboration Kell’s Type Trail, Cruinnau na nOg Event, Mid- Summer Festival – public art activities and collaborative art installation.  | €1,000  |
| 2  | MAGHERA ICA GUILD   | 6 weeks of 2-hour duration in clay workshops. The award will allow participants to be creative and learn new art skills with a professional artist and share the enhanced skill sets.   | €500  |
| 3  | Royal School Cavan   | Local artisan and jewellery designer, Elena Brennan will provide a workshop for senior cycle students. Contact time will be 1.5 hours plus 3 hours of preparation. The workshop will be provided for 14 students in the 5th year class.  | €410  |
| 4  | Kildallan ICA Guild    | Artist Marie Smith will provide 6 sessions of 2 hours each to take place at the Community Centre in Kildallan, commencing in March/April 2023. This will include firing the finished art works.  | €500  |
| 5  | Cavan Down Syndrome   | Art Lessons for Cavan Down Syndrome with Marie Smith, sculptor and Anita Martin Kidoodle Art Clubb will work with groups of 8 - 10 participants, ranging in age from 7-14 in process focused workshops. Parents and siblings will be encouraged to participate allowing all the family to enjoy the activity together.  | €1,500  |
| 6  | Killeshandra Comhaltas   | Killeshandra Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann are holding their second Irish traditional music, song, and dance weekend. This weekend will cater for all ages and abilities.  | €1000  |
| 7  | Creative Voice   | Due to high interest Creative Voice following the I Am Tree show at Townhall Cavan, CV will offer the “Taste of the Arts” workshops once again. 10 workshops in 10 different art forms will be offered under creative director, Carolann Farrelly.  | €1,500  |

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| 8  | Hens Shed, Belturbet   | An art workshop where all 65 participants are invited to a painting party with an artist. Allow the group to express themselves artistically in a fun and enjoyable environment.  | €500  |
| 9  | BelTrad Festival   | A new festival in Belturbet called 'BelTrad Festival'. This festival will focus on all aspects of Irish traditions; Irish music, Irish Dance, Sean nos dance, Irish poetry, Storytelling, Ballad singing, and Irish music workshops with children. The festival will take place across a weekend in September.  | €750  |
| 10  | Rosie Carroll (COLE) in conjunction with Cavan Arts Festival 2023   | ‘A Nest Through the Eyes Of Another’. The plan is to nurture the diverse audience of the Cavan Arts Festival in exploring life from the viewpoint of another. In the development of this high-quality nest, which will be made from willow, wood and soft furnishes.  | €1,500  |
| 11  | Healing Spirit Festival at Drummany Spirit   | Healing Spirit Festival is a 3 day festival held in the heart of Cavan's Lakelands, an holistic art & music festival held at Drummany Spirit, Milltown, Co.Cavan. This is the 2nd year of the festival. This year artist workshops with the local community and children to create art pieces that will be displayed at the festival.  | €1,000  |
| 12  | Virginia Gospel Choir   | The choir propose to build on their very successful visits to Nursing Homes in County Cavan in 2022. Virginia Gospel Choir propose in 2023 to visit an increased number possibly up to 12. At each Nursing Home visited approximately 20 to 30 of the residents enjoy the music.  | €750  |
| 13  | Gold Star School of Music   | We will provide limited trial lessons for students to try different instruments which could help discover new abilities and provide sessions of free music and theory lessons for young talented students which will help them in their development of musical education.  | €750  |
| 14  | Merchants Quay Project Community Employment Scheme (MQPCE)   | As the flower festival was a great success last year (LongfordFlowerFestival), the intention is to expand the experience further and with three established Cavan artists share skills with participants as well as enhance the nature of the festival. Art in the process of addiction recovery - Art therapy for substance abuse is a treatment that harnesses the power of art to help recovering addicts’ express thoughts and emotions they may not be able to say with words. A trained therapist who specializes in this therapeutic modality is always there to facilitate the artistic experience.  | €2,000  |
| 15  | Jago Studio   | Jago Studio project is aimed towards the support of local creative artists through the short promotional videos. This award will help me to produce up to 5 promotional videos about Co Cavan local artists. The locations will vary within Co. Cavan.  | €750  |
| 16  | Crosserlough ICA   | Crosserlough ICA plan to engage artist Rosie Carroll to provide classes in animal painting/ expressionist landscape painting/ special occasion cards for 6 weeks commencing March/April 2023 for 10-12 participants at the 2 hourly classes in Crosserlough old school. Classes will be open to ICA members and others who wish to develop their artistic skills. | €500  |

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| 17  | Accora Orchestra   | We have 85 members from age 5 to adult. Weekly music lessons in accordion, theory, percussion, and ensemble/orchestra. This award enables the children to be a part of a production where every child's contribution is important.  | €500  |
| 18  | NYAH Traditional Arts Group   | NYAH Group will organise an evening of Marching Band Music & Shared Culture in Cootehill to Launch an online documentary of the History of ‘Mullaghboy Orange Lodge Accordion Band’. This Video will be available Online to view and has over 60 Mins of interviews with Johnny Mills (94). On the Night we will do a Plaque Presentation to last living founder Johnny Mills.  | €1,000  |
| 19  | Karen McMahon NYAH Comhaltas Youth   | Month of March will see NYAH Comhaltas Youth coming together under the direction of Karen McMahon CCE Youth Leader. Listening to Irish Music and Song is a wonderful activity to enjoy with our seniors in nursing homes. Comhaltas Youth Coordinator Karen McMahon and NYAH Comhaltas Youth propose to perform and record a one hour You Tube Video to be shown in Cavan nursing homes.  | €350  |
| 20  | St. Anne's National School Bailieborough Co. Cavan   | Our project is to turn our old run-down shelter into a sensory, calm space for children with a beautiful mural. We would work with a local artist, Rosie Cole, who would engage with the pupils to come up with the theme for the art piece in the shelter and paint it together.  | €1,000  |
| 21  | Cavan Clickers Photography Group   | The group have identified a desire to further develop their photography skills and learn from experienced photographers. This funding is to enable the Cavan Clickers photography group to attend the Mike Bunn / ‘Plein Air’ photographic workshop on 11th March 2023 in Farmleigh House, Dublin  | €684  |
| 22  | The Cottage Market Cavan CLG   | A theatrical show, with a targeted audience of young children-up to 10 years of age, will prove immeasurably beneficial to the community, the artists and to the future of our market events. We also feel it is a great opportunity, if not imperative currently, to explore the educational advantages of such a project.  | €750  |
| 23  | Shercock Drama Festival   | The costs involved in hosting an event like this are ever increasing. This contribution would help with advertising costs, posters, roadside signage, flyers, and programmes, helping to ensure that we continue to draw and attract a large audience.  | €500  |
| 24  | Aisteoiri Muinchille   | Directing workshop - for members. Approximately 10 members will partake in a directing workshop with Geoff O'Keefe or another recommended director. Acting for screen/tv workshop - we would hope to open this to members of other groups who have an interest in this area.  | €500  |
| 25  | Belturbet Heritage Railway CLG   | Present 2 concerts in Belturbet during the course of 2023; celebrating Irish music and song. 1) Larry Beau, songwriter and vocalist with Dave Sheridan, pianist. 2) Éiru, a group of 6 female musicians blending elements of traditional Irish folk, Scottish and Celtic music.  | €1,000  |
| 26  | Áine Farrelly   | Wild Clay Workshop over three days in August this workshop will accommodate 7 artists (including me) at my studio 5k from Virginia. I will lead the group in clay digging with knowledge of the land and processing the clay thereafter. A paid artist specializing in wild clay in their practice will be invited to speak about the theory behind clay deposits.  | €500  |
| 27  | Dowra Courthouse Community Group   | Our project would involve working with Cavan artist, Heather Brett in conjunction with Dowra Children’s Arts Hub group. The idea of the project is to stop and look at the quality of nature at our feet, in the sky or hiding in the grass. The project would be based around nature and biodiversity in Dowra village.  | €500  |
| 28  | Cavan Youthreach   | ‘The Circle of Life’. Promoting positive mental wellbeing for young adult learners through sculpture workshops with professional artist, Joe Mc Caul leading to exhibition of work by the young adult learners at Cavan Arts Festival May 18th-21st, Con Smith Park.  | €2,000  |
| 29  | Belturbet Comhaltas -Cavan County Fleadh   | To hold performances and workshops at the Cavan County Fleadh 2023 on the June Bank Holiday weekend from Friday 2nd June to Sunday 4th June. Along with competitions, there will be street music with bands and local performance groups on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings.  | €1000  |
| 30  | PJ Flood Festival  | Annual PJ Flood concert taking place in April. Featuring artists; Blackie O’Connell, Siobhan Peoples, Padraig McGovern, Mick O’Brien, Isaac Scanlan, Shane Scanlan.  | €750  |

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| **25,944**  |

# Professional Artists Award Recommendations 2023

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| **No**   | **Name of Group / Event**  | ***Event description, location, etc.***  | **Fund amount approved**  |
| 1  | Rebecca O'Connor     | To commence a new novel which explores the lives of two young women. I The novel would be completed by the end of the year.  | €1,240  |
| 2  | James O'Donnell     | Propose to use three days and three actors to research and develop an idea for a ghost play set in Cavan. These research workshops will form the basis for the play and be the start of the writing process.  | €1,780  |
| 3  | Kevin Gaffney    | This award will allow the creation of a multi-screen film (working title ‘New bodies of water’) this summer for exhibition at the Butler Gallery, Spring 2024. The film will reflect on the restorative power of nature, alongside the irreconcilable reality of climate change and climate anxiety. It will be shot on my family farmland and plot of bog, in Magheraboy Lower, near Finea.  | €3,000  |
| 4  | Paul McCann     | Album launch at Townhall, Cavan on 29th April 2023. This release event will allow the presentation of songs I have crafted before a live audience.  | €1,500  |
| 5  | Jane McCormick   | In 2023, I will create a series of contemporary ceramic pieces in response to the pottery in the County Museum's collection. This award will fund my research, basic materials, and the assistance of a support worker when needed.  | €3,000  |
| 6  | Jessie Keenan   | I am currently researching a new work in The Townhall, Cavan. It’s history, architecture, and role in the community is an inspiring place for me to begin developing ideas. As part of this process, I will be sharing a work-in-development during Cavan Arts Festival 2023. Three days rehearsal with dancers Sarah Ryan and Róisín Harten and time working with sound designer Tom Lane.  | €3,000  |
| 7  | Marie Smith   | This award would assist me realise my objective of becoming a better portrait sculptor. I will be travelling to Italy to study at the Florence Academy of Art. I will complete a 10-day workshop making two portraits under the guidance of Master sculptors, focusing on anatomy, form, and expression.  | €2,900  |

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| 9  | Laura O'Connor  | I will attend two casting workshops at Flax Belfast, one called Plaster Mould Making and the other called Silicone Mould Making and Other Materials thus developing new skills for my personal practice.  | €1,248  |
| 10  | Stephen Dunne  | I have been accepted onto a seven-day masterclass program called “Quarantine” in Lazeretto on Menorca Island in April this year. The project is an intensive seven day, twelve hours a day series of masterclasses, bootcamps, talks and active painting workshops working from life and the landscape.  | €1,710  |
| 11  | Sarah McKenna Dunne  | For two and a half years, I have been researching and writing a play under dramaturgical mentorship from Jo Egan, creating a full length site-specific, memory play examining the 1943 orphanage fire tribunal through the memories of Brian O’Nolan, secretary to the report. I will professionally record the voices of the children for the professional production with Garth McConaghie, music producer and Gonzo Youth Theatre for three days to record the audio.  | €3,000  |
| 12  | Michelle Boyle  | Over the 20 years of my creative practice, Lough Ramor has been a constant feature of inspiration for my studio and exhibition work and to develop professionally I will undertake research on ‘fresh water spaces in the Irish landscape’, namely Lough Ramor in 2023.  | €800  |

**12. 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 28 February 2023.**

Noted.

 **Votes of Sympathy:**

* The Finnegan Family, Kingscourt on the death of Mr. Christopher (Kit) Finnegan.
* The McDowell Family, Crossdoney on the death of their daughter Abby McDowell.
* The Kenny Family, Ballinagh on the tragic death of Mr. William Kenny
* Geraldine McCabe, Corporate Services on the death of her uncle Mr. Patrick McCabe
* The McCabe Family, Muff, Kingscourt on the death of Mr.Thomas McCabe
* The Crotty Family on the death of Mr. Donal Crotty former Principle of Cavan Vocational School.
* Marian Smith former employee of Cavan County Council on the death of her husband Mr. John Smith

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Cootehill Town Team on winning a Pride of Place Award in the Town with a population between 300 and 1000 category.
* All groups nominated and recognised at the Pride of Place awards.
* Mr. James Fulton on his role as co-driver for Craig Breen on winning 2nd place in the Rally of Sweden, World Championship.

**Dribble Bars**

Councillor W. Bennett noted that a decision is being made by the Department of Agriculture to disallow grant aid on dribble bar slurry equipment in favour of grant aiding trailing shoe technology. Councillor Bennett stated that the trailing shoe will not work for ninety percent of Cavan farmers and stated that removing the dribble bar from the latest TAMS funding is a backward step. Councillor W. Bennett proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D. asking him not to remove the dribble bar from grant aid.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor W. Bennett’s proposal. Councillor T.P. O’Reilly stated that this decision would result in more farmers having to use contractors to carry out slurry spreading at a time when financial pressures are mounting.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – DEFERRED FROM JANUARY**

**13.1 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.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick proposed that Cavan County Council erect a memorial in the town centre in memory of the children who lost their lives on the 23 February 1943 as we approach the 80th Anniversary of the fire at St. Joseph’s Orphanage. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick accepted that it is a sensitive matter that needs to be approached with thought and consideration. Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that he is determined not to let the matter die until this has been achieved. Councillor Fitzpatrick expressed his disappointment that a memorial could not be erected before the 80th Anniversary but thanked the Council for working on it with the orphanage committee.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and noted that the fire was an unspoken truth growing up in Cavan town. She stated that the Committee are meeting with the Council and stated that a ceremony will take place in Cavan town on the 23rd February 2023 to mark the 80th Anniversary.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that work has progressed between the Council and the orphanage committee. Councillor Feeley stated that it is a very sensitive issue and many families were affected in different ways. Councillor Feeley thanked the Council staff who are engaging with the Committee.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that there had been numerous meetings over the past three months with the Council and orphanage committee. He stated that it is of paramount importance that the process of erecting any such memorial is handled with appropriate sensitivity and with input from all stakeholders, especially the families of the victims. He stated that a memorial ceremony will take place on 23rd February 2023 from 6–6.30pm on Main Street.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that it is a very sensitive part of history.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that it needs to be considered and managed appropriately.

**13.2 Car parking charges at hospitals nationwide.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that car parking is becoming a major issue in our

hospitals. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that everyone seems to get the same time for outpatient appointments and therefore everyone arrives at the same time looking to park their vehicles. He stated that one of the biggest problems is the cost of car parking stating that some people could pay up to €30 a day in car parking charges. He stated that with the current cost of living people cannot afford to pay these charges and the HSE need to take a serious look at car parking charges. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the HSE, Dublin North East hospital group area to voice the public’s annoyance and condemnation of the process of car parking charges currently in place.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that a review of car parking charges is needed.

Councillors P. Walsh, B, Fay, P. McDonald and S. O’Reilly supported the motion.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – FEBRUARY**

**13.3 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.

**13.4 That Cavan County Council request further protections for family farms by writing to the Minister for Agriculture demanding him to-**

 **(a) Urgently intervene and prevent Semi-State body Coillte from entering into joint venture arrangements with the Gresham House Fund.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Deputy Charlie McConalogue T.D. asking him to urgently intervene and prevent Semi-State body Coillte from entering into joint venture arrangements with the Gresham House Fund. She stated that Coillte is aiming to plant 250,000 acres of new forests by 2050 and for Coillte to meet their green targets they have entered into an arrangement with a British hedge fund company to buy up over a hundred thousand acres of rural Ireland as part of a deal to help Coillte meet these climate targets. She stated that this proposal is frightening for farmers in the Cavan area, and will have huge impact on land prices and on the ability of farmers to buy land. She stated that the agreement with Gresham House fund will price family farmers out of the market and there is a fear that down the road no farmer will own any of the land and likely to have situations where a farmer cannot expand their holding due to them being fenced into their existing farm and surrounded by forestry. She stated that it is intended that Gresham House Fund will purchase land and that Coillte will manage the forestry which means that Gresham House Fund can draw down substantial grants and not only that, if the land has entitlement the investment fund can also draw down a single farm payment. Councillor O’Reilly stated that there is an instinct in this Government to outsource decision making to other organisations. She stated that while Coillte is a semi-state body the Government sets the parameters by which it functions and should be able to change these parameters at any stage.

**13.10 That we write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue and Minister of State Pippa Hackett to outline that the forestry deal between Coillte and Gresham House and selling Irish lands to an outside fund is not in the best interest of the people of Ireland and that we should circulate to all Councils in Ireland.**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D. and the Minister of State, Pippa Hackett T.D. to outline that the forestry deal between Coillte and Gresham House and selling Irish lands to an outside fund is not in the best interest of the people of Ireland and that we should circulate to all Councils in Ireland. Councillor B. Fay stated that the deal changed the dynamic whereby Coillte would change from landlords to tenants. Councillor B. Fay stated that if the EU want deals done in relation to climate change why not let us manage our own lands instead of selling to an outside fund. He stated that farmers should be asked to plant 1% of their own lands and give them the grants to do this. He stated that the Government need to put a plan in place to keep Irish land and public money in Ireland.

**13.13 That Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to review the relationship between Coillte and Gresham House and the proper control of commercial afforestation.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to review the relationship between Coillte and Gresham House and the proper control of commercial afforestation. Councillor Feeley noted some members had been raising issues around afforestation for the past decade. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that he had an issue with the long term damage done by afforestation to an area. He stated that he welcomed the interest in the debate and noted that regulations are not being enforced and that planting too close to roads or other essential infrastructure was being affected by felling. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that communities are slowly being killed off by commercial planting. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the problem was not with one or two applications but the cumulative affect afforestation was having now and into the future.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that there is a need for the Government to reach climate targets but could not see how the deal with Gresham House and Coillte would work to solve the problem.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and noted that the Irish had fought for their independence for over eight hundred years to get land off the British and now we are selling it back to them.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion and noted that down the line it will be the young farmer who will suffer the consequences.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that the elephant in the room was the debate around climate change and how afforestation was being promoted as a great fix.

**13.4 (b) To investigate how a Go Vegan poster campaign promoting disinformation targeted at farmers on public buses, did so without challenge and to ask what measures are being put in place to ensure this does not happen again.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D. asking him to investigate how a Go Vegan poster campaign promoting disinformation targeted at farmers on public buses, did so without challenge and to ask what measure are being put in place to ensure this does not happen again. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that posters on 120 buses and billboards across the Country as part of Go Vegan World’s 2023 campaign for Ireland created huge upset for farmers in Ireland. She stated that farmers are unhappy with the advertisement which reads “dairy takes babies from their mothers” and “it’s not an individual choice for someone to be killed” displayed on Dublin bus and Translink buses. She stated that she is concerned about the extreme language and narrative that is being used and urged campaigners to ensure that they do not demonise farmers in discussions about vegetarianism or veganism.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor S. O’Reilly’s proposal. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that if we did not have agriculture we would have nothing.

 Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion. He stated that it is a disgrace companies should be allowed publish advertisements like this on their buses. Councillor Bennett asked who is funding these advertisements.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and asked who paid for the slogan to be put on the buses.

 Councillor C. Lovett supported the motion.

 Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that he did not see anything wrong with the advertising and noted that we have to be open minded in the times we live in.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly agreed with Councillor Fitzpatrick that people can eat what they like. She stated that she was disagreeing with the inflammatory advertisement and it is grammatically and factually incorrect.

**13.5 Considering the enormous pressure on the asylum seekers process currently in Ireland and the burden on the State, to ask the Minister for Justice what steps she is taking to reduce the asylum processing time in Ireland.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that considering the enormous pressure on the asylum seekers process currently in Ireland and the burden on the State that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Justice asking what steps are being taken to reduce the asylum processing time in Ireland. Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that 5,000 asylum seekers arrived in Ireland without valid travel documents last year and the cost of providing accommodation for those 5,000 who provided false or no documentation on their arrival was approximately €140m. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that those who destroy their travel documents to confuse their application process or make it slower and longer should be sent home. She stated that airline and ferry services should also be held to account on ensuring that proper travel documentation is in place. She stated that the Government must where possible work out whether migrants have criminal records. She stated that the majority of Irish people want to do the right thing for people who are fleeing from war, violence and famine and they do not want to see the system abused. Councillor O’Reilly stated that many working class areas are already suffering from the lack of housing, GPs, school places and transport and proposing to bring large numbers of people into an area that is already deprived must be accompanied by a community dividend and real investment into housing and services.

**13.12 To ask Cavan County Council to write to the relevant authority asking what plans they are going to put in place to help towns and villages get the necessary services and resources to help communities accommodate incoming refugees.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick proposed that Cavan County Council write to the relevant authority asking what plans they are going to put in place to help towns and villages get the necessary services and resources to help communities accommodate incoming refugees. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that the former White Horse Hotel in Cootehill is being renovated and it is rumoured that refugees are moving in. He stated that if this is the case it will result in a situation where one in five people living in Cootehill town will not be Irish. He stated that it is a small complaint to make in the face of the devastation faced by those fleeing persecution, but still it remained a concern for the community he represented. He stated that there are already issues in the town in terms of providing supports for young people including problems around crime and addiction. He stated that Cootehill has already welcomed Ukrainian refugees and local schools are bursting at the seams. He asked if there was going to be public consultation in relation to refugees coming to the White Horse and does the White Horse Hotel need planning permission for change of use.

 Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and noted that we need to start looking after ourselves and the people in our communities.

 Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and agreed that it is a delicate subject for which something needs to be done.

 Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that we need a better processing system for asylum seekers coming into the Country. He stated that the Ukrainians in the Country are more than willing to work and join our society.

 Councillor J.P Feeley supported the motion and acknowledged that the arrival of Ukrainian refugees to Blacklion had been welcomed. He noted that many of the people fleeing persecution from the likes of Syria for example would, due to their variance of opinion with the political structure in place, often have criminal convictions, merited or otherwise.

 Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that in relation to planning due to European wide introduced legislation, accommodation could be transformed for emergency use without planning permission or public consultation.

**13.6 That Cavan County Council opposes any proposed plans to reduce the opening time of the NDLS office.**

Councillor T. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council oppose any proposed plans to reduce the opening time of the National Driving Licence Service (NDLS) office. He stated that there are plans in the near future to reduce opening hours from five and a half hours a week to two and a half hours a week. He stating that people are being forced to go online but not everyone in rural Ireland has access to good broadband and not all people are computer literate.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that the people in the NDLS office in Cavan are more than helpful. He stated that it is a very essential service particularly for the older generation.

 Councillor M. Argue supported the motion and noted that it is very complicated to apply for a drivers licence online.

 Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion.

**13.7 This Council supports the setting up of a Citizens’ Assembly to give people from all backgrounds across the Island a voice in which to debate and prepare for an Irish Unity referendum.**

Councillor P. McDonald welcomed the establishment of two new Citizens’ Assemblies by the Irish Government and noted that Citizens’ Assemblies are powerful democratic exercises that inform citizens, allowing them to debate specifics, develop positions and inform policy. He stated that they have operated effectively in many jurisdictions across the world. Councillor P. McDonald proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Irish Government to establish an all-Ireland Citizens’ Assembly to debate on Irish Unity which is live and growing and plan for constitutional change in the context of the Good Friday provision for a unity referendum. Councillor McDonald proposed that the motion be forwarded to the offices of An Taoiseach and An Tanáiste.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor P. McDonald’s proposal.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion in principle and noted that we are 25 years on from signing of the Good Friday Agreement and we have not managed to implement it. He stated that the Good Friday Agreement needs to be implement in totality before a United Ireland can take place.

**13.8 This Council commits to clamping down on short term holiday lets that don’t have the necessary planning permissions in place.**

Councillor P. McDonald noted that Cavan County Council needs to clamp down on short terms holiday lets that do not have the necessary planning permissions in place. Councillor P. McDonald stated that there are four hundred and fifty short-term lets advertised on the Airbnb website for County Cavan and the majority of these are whole, detached properties. He stated that a huge percentage of these have no planning permission in place for living quarters. Councillor P. McDonald stated that we have no official emergency accommodation in Cavan and approximately 1,100 people on the housing list and HAP, if these short-term lets were examined more, there would be a lot more housing stock available for families who desperately need rental properties.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly seconded Councillor P. McDonald’s proposal.

 Mr. Brendan Jennings. Director of Service stated that the Council is aware of cases where people have let homes for short-term holiday stays without the necessary planning permission in place and noted that it is not a major problem in Cavan. Mr. Jennings stated that currently where a house or apartment is not a principal private residence, planning permission must be sought for it to be used in the short-term rental sector. Mr. Jennings stated that the Council are going down the enforcement route in relation to those premises with no planning permission.

**13.9 That we write to the Minister for Finance, Michael McGrath T.D., and the Central Bank to highlight people’s total fear and worry that their mortgages have been sold to third party lenders who are now refusing to re-negotiate with them on high interest rates.**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Finance, Michael McGrath, T.D. and the Central Bank to highlight people’s total fear and worry that their mortgages have been sold to third party lenders who are now refusing to re-negotiate with them on high interest rates. Councillor B. Fay stated that families are at risk of defaulting on payments following a fifth rise in rates by the European Central Bank. Councillor B. Fay stated that these vulture funds bought bad debts from banks but are failing to engage with homeowners struggling to make ends meet.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor B. Fay’s motion and acknowledged that people are worried at the present time. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that the hope for many was that the rate of inflation would begin to drop again. He stated that if something does not happen people will lose their homes.

 Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that inflation had levelled off to a great extent.

**13.11 That we write to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, T.D., the HSE and the General Medical Council of Ireland highlighting the serious problem with G.P’s retiring from practice and the lack of new doctors in rural towns and villages resulting in families sometimes waiting up to two weeks for appointments with their overrun local G.P’s**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, TD, the HSE and the General Medical Council of Ireland highlighting the serious problem with G.P.s retiring from practice and the lack of new doctors in rural towns and villages resulting in families sometimes waiting up to two weeks for appointments with the overrun local G.P.s. Councillor B. Fay stated that families sometimes have to wait up to two weeks for an appointment due to current demand for services. Councillor B. Fay called for better supports to be put in place as pressures regarding workload and cost of insurance for surgeries were driving G.P.s away from taking up roles.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that in Monaghan a local G.P. had stopped taking new patients.

 Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that more needs to be done to attract qualified G.P.s to set up surgeries in rural areas.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that one concern that continues to exist is that lucrative GMS patients, medical card holders and GP visit card holders, stay with the original doctor unless the list is taken over. He stated that this system precludes young doctors from taking up positions in towns and villages meaning that currently Ireland is only training G.P.s to leave the Country.

 Councillors P, Walsh, A. Fitzpatrick and P. McDonald supported the motion.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that the option of being a locum was too profitable in some areas, resulting in it being difficult for a G.P. to take up the post full-time. Councillor Feeley also noted that a lot of G.P.s were taken off the field during Covid and it is not acceptable that they cannot be contacted now other than by phone. He stated that people are entitled to see their doctor.

**Holy Family School**

Councillor P. McVitty stated that he had received a phone call from the Chairperson of the Parents Association of the Holy Family School, Cootehill asking for permission to attend a meeting of Cavan County Council to highlight their concerns over the lack of services and opportunities for young adults after they graduate from the Holy Family School.

Councillor M. Argue seconded Councillor P. McVitty’s motion.

 The meeting ended at 4.25p.m.

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

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