**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Friday 8th March, 2019 in the Council Chamber at 2 p.m.**

Councillor M. Argue, Cathaoirleach presiding

Present; Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, P. Brady, N. Connell,

F. Curtin, D. Downey, J. P. Feeley, 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

 P. Connaughton, Director of Service

 B. Jennings, Director of Service

 M. Mohan McNally, Financial Accountant

 L. McGavigan, Senior Executive Officer

 E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held on 11th February 2019. Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 11 Feabhra a dhearbhu.**

It was;

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty,

Seconded by Cllr. C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11th February 2019 be hereby approved”

The meeting went In-Committee and Mr. John O’Sullivan, Commissioner of Valuation briefed the elected members of Cavan County Council on the National Revaluation Programme.

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

Noted.

**Note Minutes of Committee Meetings**

1. **To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 14 January 2019.**

Noted

**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

1. **To note OPW Flood Risk Management Plans.**

 Noted.

**Correspondence**

**6(a) To note reply from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding road safety.**

 Noted.

 **(b) To note reply from Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment regarding the provision of high-speed broadband in Cavan.**

Noted.

 **(c) To note reply from Finian McGrath, T.D., Minister for Disabilities regarding Assessment of Need.**

Noted.

**7. To approve attendance of members at the following:**

**(a) “Ireland and Plastic Waste” to be held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford from 8-10 March.**

No attendees.

 **(b) “The Finance Act 2018 Cost Analysis” to be held in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty from 22-24 March.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, S Smith, S. O’Reilly, F. Curtin, S.P. O’Reilly and P. Brady at “The Finance Act 2018 Cost Analysis” to be held in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty from 22-24 March be hereby approved.

**(c) Irish Planning Institute’s Annual Planning Conference 2019 to be held in the Landmark Hotel, Leitrim 4-5 April.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, P. Smith, P. O’Reilly and W. Bennett at the Irish Planning Institute’s Annual Planning Conference 2019 to be held in the Landmark Hotel, Leitrim 4-5 April be hereby approved.

**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. Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the installation of a permanent CCTV camera at the Blacklion Bring Centre. Councillor J.P. Feeley asked what the response was to the notices published in the local newspaper in relation to abandoned vehicles and disposal of unwanted vehicles, scrap vehicles and end of life vehicles.

Mr. P. Connaughton, Director of Service informed Councillor J.P. Feeley that he would get the figures for him as he did not have them to hand at the meeting.

Councillor S. O’Reilly asked that accessibility be placed on the agenda for Municipal District meetings so that the Councillors can discuss same with the area engineers.

 **Business and reports submitted by the Chief Executive.**

1. **Register of Electors.**

Ms. Elaine McGinn informed the members that the closing date for receipt of application forms for the Supplement Register is Tuesday 7th May 2019 and the closing date for receipt of postal votes is Sunday 28th April, 2019. Forms for the supplement and different postal categories were given to all members. Ms. McGinn stated that in order to be eligible to receive a supplement postal vote you must be currently on the live register.

1. **To approve Roadworks Programme 2019.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved

“that the Roadworks Programme 2019 be hereby approved”

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that while he welcomed the increase in funding in 2019 compared to last year, it is still way below what Cavan County Council received in 2007. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that specific funding for the County Town needs to be looked for from the Department.

Councillor F. Curtin supported Councillor Feeley noting that more money is required for the Local Improvement Schemes. He stated at this present time there are 225 applications on hand by the Council under the Local Improvement Scheme some dating as far back as 2008 and it may take decades to before the list is finally worked through.

Councillor S. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council send a resolution to the Minister asking for more funding for County Cavan.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton stated that the Council will look at a funding model for Cavan through which it is intended to develop and enhance the network in and around the environs of the County town. He stated that any proposals in relation to same would be discussed at the Roads SPC.

1. **To approve Cavan Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2018 under Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S. Smith

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved

“that Cavan Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2018 be hereby approved”

 **Virginia Library**

Councillor P. O’Reilly raised the issue as to why the application made under the rural regeneration scheme did not qualify for funding for the library in Virginia. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated he was disappointed to see that in total only €146,000 was allocated to County Cavan whereas €2.8m was allocated to Co. Monaghan. Councillor P. Smith supported Councillor P. O’Reilly and asked why the Part 8 for planning permission was not done at an earlier meeting of the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service outlined in detail the background behind the building of a new library in Virginia. He stated that in 2016 a grant of €850,000 was given to Cavan County Council on the condition that it would not be drawn down until 2021. Mr. Doyle noted that a further €1m is required to provide a basic library. Mr. Doyle noted that in July 2018 the Department announced the rural regeneration scheme and a large scheme project was submitted for Virginia which would cost of total of €4.5m. A significant amount of work was completed by the Council in preparing plans for the development.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that an application will be submitted with the next funding call being announced in March 2019 and applications are to be submitted by June.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that the project was not a failure and it was all about timing. He stated that this is a quality proposal and will hopefully get funding in the next round. Mr. Ryan stated that you would not get a big library for €850,000 so therefore it was linked to the theatre and car parking and submitted under the rural regeneration scheme as a project for Main Street, Virginia.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that it is important that public representatives appreciate and acknowledge the work done by Cavan County Council. Councillor Feeley stated that in accordance with a reply to a parliamentary question, the Department are now verifying with applicants who were successful that they have all in place.

Councillor P. Smith stated that funding of €90,000 was granted to Ballyjamesduff to advance the overall project for Ballyjamesduff. Councillor Smith asked that Cavan County Council meet with members of Ballyjamesduff Community Council and other agencies to see what ideas they have in preparing a plan for the town.

Mr. Brendan Jennings stated that the Council will meet with the community in Ballyjamesduff.

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

1. **Mobile Phone Coverage.**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that mobile phone coverage is a serious problem in Cavan and in particular along the stretches of road from Kingscourt to Bailieborough, Bailieborough to Cavan and Kingscourt to Carrickmacross. Councillor Kelly stated that it is ridiculous that you might have to call a person numerous times to have a conversation. Councillor C. Kelly proposed that Cavan County Council write to ComReg asking that the person responsible for mobile phones address a meeting of Cavan County Council.

Councillor S. O’Reilly seconded Councillor C. Kelly’s proposal.

Councillor F. Curtin supported the motion. Councillor Curtin noted that most households now have no landlines and depend on mobile phones for communicating. He stated that it is terrible that with all the technological advances that have been achieved we still cannot rely on decent mobile phone coverage.

Councillors D. Brady, P. Smith and S. Smith supported the motion.

1. **Insurance for Men’s Sheds.**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that Men’s Sheds provide a social outlet for men of all ages and act also as a resource for a host of community and voluntary groups. He stated that it is a precondition of the Men’s Sheds Association that affiliated sheds have appropriate insurance in place for the activities they undertake in order to protect the health and safety of shed members. He stated that the current growth in insurance premiums is causing significant difficulty for the running of men’s sheds. Councillor C. Kelly proposed that the Council write to the Insurance Regulator asking that reasonable insurance quotes are given to men’s sheds.

Councillor S. Smith seconded Councillor C. Kelly’s proposal. Councillor S. Smith noted that the rapid growth of Men’s Sheds in Ireland indicates its value to members and their families. He stated that there should be a National Insurance Company giving help to Men’s Sheds.

Councillor D. Downey supported the motion and asked that the Council contact the National Men’s Sheds Association asking that they lobby Insurance Companies on the matter.

Councillors S. O’Reilly and P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

1. **That Cavan County Council resolves to write to the Department of Housing & the Residential Tenancy Board to request a consideration of the French model of blocking evictions of tenants from October 31st to March 31st each year.**

Withdrawn.

1. **That Cavan County Council call on the Government to establish a Task Force with**

**specific funding to address the damage Brexit will do to the Border Region.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Government to establish a Task Force with specific funding to address the damage Brexit will do to the Border Region. Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that the general public are tired of hearing about Brexit and yet the debate surrounding Britain’s decision to leave the EU is still ongoing and no further on than when it initially decided to leave the EU. He stated that the comments made recently by Northern Ireland Secretary, Ms. Karen Bradley, had lifted the very thin veneer of Britain’s consideration of Irish issues. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that Brexit is going to impact on businesses locally and the taskforce would take cognisance over a wide range of issues including any damage arising from increased volumes on the region’s roads. Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that the proposed East-West link road from Dundalk to Sligo via Cavan may now need to be re-evaluated in a post Brexit scenario.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and noted that a hard border would be devastating for exports from this country heading to the UK.

Councillor N. Connell supported the motion and called on Ms. Bradley to tender her resignations from Westminister’s front bench.

Councillors S. Smith and S. O’Reilly supported the motion.

1. **Calling on Cavan County Council to engage with local disability groups and consider supporting an initiative similar to Monaghan County Council’s #MakeWayDay aiming to raise awareness of the obstacles and barriers people with disabilities and mobility difficulties face in public areas.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly called on Cavan County Council to engage with local disability groups and aim to raise awareness of the obstacles and barriers people with disabilities and mobility difficulties face in public areas. Councillors S. O’Reilly noted that obstacles such as badly parked cars, bicycles, sandwich boards and other promotional items are often caused by a genuine lack of awareness. Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that another issue was dog foul on our streets.

Councillors C. Brady and D. Downey supported the motion.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stating that the Council is already engaging with local disability groups and are currently working with age friendly groups in relation to the matter. He stated that the obvious scenarios that appear as obstacles for person with a disability would be dealt with in due course however money is required in order to do this. Mr. Jennings stated that the Council is currently engaging in a countrywide audit of towns which started in 2016.

1. **This Council provide an update on Diaspora Strategy since meeting in Leinster House.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly asked that Council for an update on the Diaspora Strategy since meeting in Leinster House.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the meeting that the Cavan Diaspora Strategy was launched in May 2017 and had been distributed in Londan and Germany. He stated that a bi-annual newsletter is produced and will be distributed in hard copy to the people in America in the forthcoming days by the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive. Mr. Jennings informed the members that over 8,000 people have contacted the Council through its genealogy service to trace their ancestors. He stated that the upcoming Digital Hub will be a focal point to sell Cavan’s wares.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that the Council set up a web site asking people to register on it and these people are sent a copy of the newsletter also. He stated that the Council are continuously trying to build on Cavan’s diaspora, but it will take a long time. He stated that the Council are planning to organise an event in 2020 and are going to get communities in the County to do the same. He stated that the event will feature a mix of sport and culture and there will also be an element of business to it. Mr. Ryan stated that if the mini-gathering type festival is successful it could see several thousand members of Cavan’s diaspora and their friends welcomed home.

Councillors D. Downey, W. Bennett, F. Curtin. P. McDonald and P. Smith supported the motion.

Item Nos. 7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 and 15 were deferred.

The meeting concluded at 5.15p.m.