**Minutes of Virtual Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Microsoft Teams on Monday 8th February 2021 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly, Cathaoirleach presiding

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

A. Fitzpatrick, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, C. Lovett, P. McDonald, P. McVitty,

S.P. O’Reilly, T.P. O’Reilly, S. Smith, 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

 L. McGavigan, Senior Executive Officer

 E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

Cathaoirleach S. O’Reilly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11 January 2021.**

**Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 11 Eanair a dhearbhu.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11 January 2021 be hereby approved”

**Agreed statement, Cathaoirleach, Sarah O’Reilly delivered the following on behalf of the members regarding the publication of the Mother and Baby Home and County Homes Report.**

“As Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council and on behalf of the Council, I wish to apologise unreservedly to the girls, young women and their babies, the survivors and those now deceased and their relatives for the pain and suffering caused while in any institution under the support of this Council. I welcome the fact that An Taoiseach Micheal Martin, TD issued a formal apology on behalf of the State and people of Ireland, to all former residents of Mother and Baby Home and County Homes institutions. His apology follows the publication of the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes on January 12th. The Government now intends to give detailed consideration to the Report over the coming months with a view to developing a comprehensive Action Plan to address eight specific themes to include:

* A survivor-centred approach;
* Apology;
* Access to Personal Information;
* Archiving and Databases;
* Education and Research;
* Memorialisation;
* Restorative Recognition;
* Dignified Burial.

In 1954, Cavan County Council partnered with four neighbouring local authorities (Louth, Longford, Monaghan, and Westmeath), supported Meath County Council to establish a Mother and Baby Home in Dunboyne, which operated from 1955 until it closed in 1991. Cavan County Council acknowledges its role in the establishment of the Dunboyne Mother and Baby Home and that as a health authority, the Council also supported a number of other facilities such as Bethany, Dublin and Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath.

I wish to sincerely apologise to the residents, their children, their families, and the relatives of those who resided in these Homes and who suffered or were mistreated while resident there.  While this apology cannot undo the past, it is acknowledgement of our deep regret that the girls and young women were failed by the State and a recognition that this Council was part of that failure. It is an acknowledgement of the stories of these Cavan people. Their stories should be listened to and respected by us all.”

A minutes silence was held in memory of the deceased.

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 5 November and 16 November 2020.**

Noted.

**Note Members’ Reports from Conferences / Training events**

**4. 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. Councillor P. McDonald asked if the monies saved from Councillors not attending

 conferences due to Covid could be put back into Municipal District funds to be used in their

 local areas.

 Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive informed the members that this has been provided for in the

 budget and re-allocation of funds would mean amending the budget. He stated that this money

 will be taken into account at the end of the year in the Annual Financial Statement.

**Correspondence**

**5(i) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Health regarding Haemochromatosis screening and treatment.**

Noted. Councillor M. Argue stated that she would pass the letter onto the organization and see if they are happy with the reply.

 **(ii) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding Jadotville.**

Noted.

 **(iii) To note reply from Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland regarding payment of the Annual Registration fee by nurses and midwives.**

Noted. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly thanked the Board for their reply but stated that they had missed the context of what was said.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly stated that he had received a positive response in relation to his motion on Community Employment Supervisors pension scheme and it is progressing towards a positive outcome.

**6. Member’s Questions – Councillor S. O’Reilly**

To ask:

1. The number of pothole machines owned and currently in service for Cavan County Council.
2. To ask the age/year of purchase of each pothole machine
3. To ask the yearly cost of (a) maintenance, (b) repairs/parts of each pothole machine for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
4. To ask the yearly cost of hiring private pothole machines by Cavan County Council for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.

An answer to the question posed by Councillor S. O’Reilly was circulated to her prior to the meeting.

**7. Member’s Questions – Councillor S. O’Reilly**

To ask Cavan County Council in relation to drainage notices issued –

1. The number of admin staff solely dedicated to the issuing of drainage notices;
2. To confirm the number of drainage notices issued by Cavan County Council in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020
3. To confirm the number of drainage notices not complied with by landowners;
4. To confirm the number of drainage notices forwarded to the courts and the result of cases brought

An answer to the question posed by Councillor S. O’Reilly was circulated to her prior to the meeting.

**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. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that there are a large number of planning applications being sent back to applicants for further information even though they are living more that 200m away from any of the proposed by-pass corridors in Virginia. He stated that Road Design are putting an addendum to the planning permissions granted in these areas stating that the application be withdrawn or deferred until the corridor is chosen. He noted that there were six different applications held recently that are not on route of any of the proposed corridors and a definite ruling is needed on this. He stated if the planning application is not on the route then the applicant should not be asked to defer or withdraw the application.

 Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that he was not aware of this but would seek clarity on it and come back to Councillor S. P. O’Reilly.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service noted that the preferred option for the route will not be known until Summer 2021.

**9. To approve recommendations for Arts Awards including development, emerging and professional artist awards.**

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

and

Resolved

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Arts Development Awards Recipients 2021**  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Name of Group / Event** | ***Event description, location, etc.*** | **Fund amount approved** |
| 1 | Bailieborough Creative Hub | “Hub Huddles” creative workshops and continued online support to members encouraging the sharing of work with the aim of curating an exhibition late 2021 when restrictions allow.  | €1,100 |
| 2 | Belturbet Comhaltas | The Bridges Project : physically and musically linking townlands by music, song and dance.  | €1,500 |
| 3 | Cavan Arts Festival | Paintbox : bring colour and beauty to Cavan by employing professional artists to create murals for street utility boxes. | €1,500 |
| 4 | Cavan Sinfonia Junior and Senior Orchestra | Creation of a studio based online EP to celebrate 10years of Cavan Sinfonia Junior and Senior Orchestra. | €1,500 |
| 5 | Gonzo Youth Theatre | Support for ongoing Zoom workshops in association with Padraig Conaty Filmmaker, to develop, produce and perform a series of monologues and duologues with a physical performance if restrictions allow, or online dissemination.  | €1,500 |
| 6 | Niamh McCormack | Research the promotion of the arts in the county of Cavan during the resurgence of Gaelic music and arts of the early 1900s, with a recital of Irish songs and ballads from this era, live/online event in late 2021  | €1,000 |
| 7 | NYAH  | Not Your Average Hooley. 10 weeks of online zoom classes with tutors Aoife Murray (Cavan) and Cathal Lynch (Tyrone) for participants aged 7+ | €1,048 |
| 8 | Pod Youth Theatre | Open Mic Night : solo performances and member collaborations of monologue, poetry, comedy sketch, short film.  | €1,500 |
| 9 | Tomasz Grzesik | Recording and editing of two singles produced in home studio for release in 2021. | €430 |
| 10 | Virginia Gospel Choir | Purchase of suitable software and equipment including microphones, cameras, sound and recording equipment to enable members and viewers to connect virtually. | €1,500**€12,578** |

**Emerging Artists Awards Recipients 2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Name of Group / Event** | ***Event description, location, etc.*** | **Fund amount approved** |
| 1 | Áine Farrelly |  | €800 |
| 2 | Clare Martyn |  | €2,000 |
| 3 | Colette Kearney |  | €1,000 |
| 4 | Dean McDonnell |  | €1,000 |
| 5 | Johanna Nulty |  | €500 |
| 6 | Sarah Fennell |  | €2,000 |

**€7,300**

**#**

**Artist Residency Awards 2021**

Cavan Arts Office will three artist residencies during 2021, these awards will be implemented in line with Covid-19 guidelines.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Moth Retreat (two artists for one week) | €600 |
| Tyrone Guthrie Centre (one artist for two weeks) | €770**€1,370** |

**Professional Artists Awards Recipients 2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Name of Group / Event** | ***Event description, location, etc.*** | **Fund amount approved** |
| 1 | Alan D’Arcy  | Record a soundscape of the Woodford River between Aghalane Bridge and the Senator George Mitchell Peace Bridge. | €1,721 |
| 2 | AlanJames Burns | Mentorship with architectural conservationist Jessica Lange to experiment, conceive and develop a new body of work in response to one of Cavan’s historic building.  | €2,500 |
| 3 | Daragh Slacke | Collaboration with Pat McManus to create, write and arrange new music.  | €2,000 |
| 4 | Eimear Crowe | An investigative collaboration with Dr Benjamin Gearey at Fartrin Bog Ballyconnell, Co Cavan to visualise and experience core sampling to further develop ceramic sculptural practice.  | €1,568 |
| 5 | Kim Mc Cafferty | Research, develop and collaborate to deliver a large scale bespoke, site specific ensemble performance at Clough Oughter Castle. | €2,275 |
| 6 | Laura Smith | Development and production of a feature documentary ‘The Honeypot’ | €2,495 |
| 7 | Mark St.John Ellis | To complete works for soundscape installation in the Catherdral of Saint Patrick and Saint Felim. | €1,700 |
| 8 | Michelle Harton | Support to explore dreamlike abstract landscape artwork. | €1,000 |
| 9 | Peter O' Hanlon | Funding support for ‘Zen Arcade’ to record and release EP. | €2,500 |
| 10 | Sally O'Dowd | Support working within the community, issuing ‘care packages’ in the form of printed projects to allow participants a connection and online group discussion of the work.  | €2,000 |
| 11 | Trina McCann | Mentorship with Theatre Director Mitch Mitchelson. | €2,000 |

**€21,759**

**Votes of Sympathy**

* The Turner Family, Bailieborough on the death of former Councillor Winston Turner former member of Cavan County Council.
* The Harten Family, Kilnaleck on the death of former Councillor Seamus Harten former

member of Cavan County Council.

The meeting was deferred for 10 minutes as a mark of respect to both former members of Cavan County Council.

* Seamus Enright, Belturbet on the death of his father Jim Enright.
* The Keogan Family Crosskeys and Councillor Philip Brady on the death of his aunt Mrs. Teresa Keogan.
* Derry and Evan Scanlan, employees of Cavan County Council on the death of their mother Mrs. Mary Agnes Scanlan, Ballyconnell.
* The Donoghoe Family, Oghill, Ballinagh on the death of John Joe Donoghoe
* The O’Callaghan and Smith Families, Bruskey on the death of Sarah O’Callaghan Smith, former Operation Transformation leader.
* The Plunkett Family, Kilcogy on the death of Maureen Plunkett.
* The Harten Family, Ballytrust on the death of Annie Harten.
* The McKenna Family, Laragh on the death of Dominic McKenna.
* Meabh Brady, Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia on the death of her mother Mrs. Bernadette Reilly.
* The Leddy Family, Ardleny, Kilnaleck on the death of Dan Leddy.
* The Minogue Family, Belturbet on the death of Sean Minogue.
* The Shalvey Family, Cootehill on the death of Eileen Shalvey.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Tom Brady on making history when he lead the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a Super Bowl victory over Kansas City Chiefs. He claimed his 7th Super Bowl title and has strong connections with County Cavan. He became the oldest player to feature in a Super Bowl final with him now holding more titles than any of the franchised teams and has been named the games most valuable player for a record breaking 5th time.
* Aisling Doonan on her retirement from Cavan Ladies inter county football. The members thanked her for her contribution to the County and wished her well in her retirement.
* All the Cavan players nominated for All-Star awards and the players who received Ulster awards.

**Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement**

Councillor S. P. O’Reilly thanked Councillor S. O’Reilly, Cathaoirleach, for allowing him to speak on the Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement as it would be too late to leave it until the March meeting. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., asking that international trade agreements, such as the Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), providing a right to multinational corporations to take recourse against the State outside of ordinary legal systems, should be fully and properly scrutinised by a Joint Sub Committee before any Dáil vote ratification.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

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

1. **That Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting that consideration be given to a stipulation that objectors to planning approvals who reside outside the district of the subject application be required to submit a deposit of €2,000. This deposit not to be refunded in the event of the objection being overruled.**

Councillor W. Bennett stated that it is most annoying to see the same names objecting to planning applications and they not even residing in the area. Councillor Bennett gave examples of a number of applications that were granted by Cavan County Council and then appealed to An Bord Pleanala by objectors from outside the County and had the Council’s decision overturned by An Bord Pleanala. He also noted that Mr. Sweetman, an Environmental activist has made numerous objections to a variety of applications to Cavan County Council. Councillor Bennett stated that the €2,000 deposit would act as a deterrent to people making objections for the sake of objecting. He stated that the current objection fee of €20 is far too low. Councillor W. Bennett proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting that consideration be given to a stipulation that objectors to planning approvals who reside outside the district of the subject application be required to submit a deposit of €2,000. This deposit not to be refunded in the event of the objection being overruled.

Councillor P. McVitty seconded Councillor W. Bennett’s proposal. Councillor P. McVitty stated that he had no problem with people objecting to planning applications as long as they were relevant to the area.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that there are a number of serial objectors who put in objections against applications by local companies employing local people.

Councillor S. P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that Mr. Sweetman is a woodturner who has taken it upon himself to destroy any infrastructure project in the country.

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked how many planning applications Cavan County Council receives an objection on and how many of those do the Council come down on the side of the objectors. Councillor J. P. Feeley asked if there was anything that could be done to ensure the veracity of the names and addresses supplied by the objectors.

Councillors M. Argue and B. Fay supported the motion.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Services stated that he totally understood the frustration of the members and the difficulty it is causing for applicants. Mr. Jennings stated that the Planning Authority must adhere to regulations and it is quite clear in the regulations that those who submit applications list their name, address and nature of the objection. Mr. Jennings stated that the Council would forward Councillor Bennett’s motion to the Department.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – FEBRUARY MEETING**

1. **That Cavan County Council demands An Taoiseach, Micheal Martin, T.D., the Tanaiste, Leo Varadkar, T.D., the Minister for Climate Change, Communications, Networksand Transport, Eamon Ryan, T.D., all Government Ministers, the Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Green Party Oireachtas members to have issued an immediate government direct to Eirgrid to stop all works on the North-South 400KV Interconnector as it is currently proposed. This includes the procurement or signing of contracts for pylons or construction, until an independent report, incorporating international industry expertise to examine the technical feasibility and cost of undergrounding the North-South Interconnector reports as in line with the Private Members’ Business adopted by Dail Eireann on Thursday 16 February 2017 and subsequently by Seanad Eireann.**

Councillor C. Kelly asked the Director of Service, Mr. Brendan Jennings if there had been any communication or discussions between Cavan County Council and Eirgrid or ESB in relation to the North South Interconnector.

 Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that since the last Council meeting there had been no correspondence from anyone in relation to the North South Interconnector.

Councillor C. Kelly stated that this motion is on the agenda on behalf of all the members of the Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal District. Councillor C. Kelly proposed that Cavan County Council demands An Taoiseach, Micheal Martin, T.D., the Tanaiste, Leo Varadkar, T.D., the Minister for Climate Change, Communications, Networks and Transport, Eamon Ryan, T.D., all Government Ministers, the Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Green Party Oireachtas members to have issued an immediate government direct to Eirgrid to stop all works on the North-South 400KV Interconnector as it is currently proposed. This includes the procurement or signing of contracts for pylons or construction, until an independent report, incorporating international industry expertise to examine the technical feasibility and cost of undergrounding the North-South Interconnector reports as in line with the Private Members’ Business adopted by Dail Eireann on Thursday 16 February 2017 and subsequently by Seanad Eireann. Councillor C. Kelly stated that he is shocked that Minister Eamon Ryan, T.D., Leader of the Green Party cannot see the massive damage these pylons will cause if they are erected overhead and wondered if he realises the height of these pylons. He stated that all the TDs both sides of the border who support undergrounding cables should be coming out and looking for them to be undergrounded. He stated that they need to stand up and be counted.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and seconded Councillor C. Kelly’s proposal. Councillor P. McDonald noted that recently Deputy Pauline Tully asked Minister Eamon Ryan T.D. if it will be ensured that an independent analysis of the north-south interconnectors takes place in line with the motion passed by Dáil Eireann on 16 February 2017 in view of the fact that the communities affected by the proposed Kildare-Meath grid upgrade are being consulted on an underground option, if he will establish a consultation process for the communities affected by the proposed north-south interconnector with the option of undergrounding this project included as part of the consultation, and if he will make a statement on the matter. Councillor McDonald stated that unfortunately the Minister’s response was dismissive of the difference in the way that communities along the Kildare-Meath grid are being treated compared to the communities along the North-South Interconnector, arguing that projects are not comparable, citing the main difference as the distance in the length of both projects.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion noting that Government Departments are being fed a diet of information suitable to them. She stated that this is a very valuable and commercial project for some people.

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick supported the motion.

1. **Seeking the current status of the rolling out of broadband in County Cavan and the need for the fast-tracking of same.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly asked for clarity and what the current status is in the rolling out of broadband in County Cavan and the need for the fast-tracking of same. Councillor T.P. O’Reilly acknowledged the good work currently being done since the New Year.

He stated that with home schooling and people working from home good broadband is essential in households.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and stated that it is crucial to have proper broadband all over the County. He stated that the programme currently in place is very slow and noted that more contractors need to be put out on the ground.

Councillor S. P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that he had concerns about companies like Imagine and Net 1 putting posters up in local areas stating that high speed broadband in now available. He stated that there are false promises being made by companies and therefore placing huge costs on families to connect to broadband.

Councillors W. Bennett, M. Argue, T. Smith, P. McVitty, C. Brady, C. Kelly, A. Fitzpatrick and S. O’Reilly supported the motion.

1. **That this Council notes the centenary of the British Government at Westminister of the Government of Ireland Act in December 1920.**

Councillor P. McDonald called on Cavan County Council to note the centenary of the British Government at Westminister of the Government of Ireland Act in December 1920. Councillor P. McDonald stated that as a Council we need to reiterate our support for the Good Friday Agreement and the political process arising from it. He stated that we need to bring about a United Ireland by peaceful means with the consent of the majority of the people, democratically expressed in both jurisdictions. He stated that we need to call on both the Irish and British Governments to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement and all their obligation with regards to the rights of citizens. He stated that the British Government need to set a date for the Irish Unity referendum as provided in the Agreement. He stated that we need the Irish Government to step up and work harder for this outcome.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion noting that we should achieve unity by peaceful and democratic means. He stated that a lot of thought and effort needs to go into how a United Ireland will shape up. He stated that it should present numerous benefits for all of Ireland.

1. **That payment for security measures be included as part of Housing Adaptation Grants.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing for grant support for security measures for the elderly and vulnerable. Councillor T.P. O’Reilly noted that presently security measures are not seen as an essential repair. He stated that it is important for older people living alone to be able to feel safe in their own homes.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion noting that there are currently a lot of old people living in fear.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion stating that when the Council are building new houses they should be fitted with security measures.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that security measures are a major problem for people living in rural areas.

Councillor M. Argue supported the motion.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that the Council would write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to make a case for this type of assistance.

1. **To discuss and acknowledge the serious condition of the roads in our County, to agree a plan to address the need for a more targeted urgent response to the current alarming deterioration in the situation and to action those plans as soon as possible.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly noted the serious condition of the roads in County Cavan and she asked that members agree a plan to address the need for a more targeted urgent response to the current alarming deterioration in the situation and to action those plans as soon as possible. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that the matter had become a serious problem since December, noting that the combination of significant weather events in the last two months along with ten years of underfunding by central government and restrictions due to Covid have created a perfect storm. Councillor S. O’Reilly also suggested that the Council purchase a new pothole repair machine and focus on landowners to improve drainage and maintenance of hedgerows. Councillor S. O’Reilly appreciated the pressure staff are currently under but insisted that pothole repair should be considered as essential works.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion and noted that the amount of water standing on our roads is desperate. He stated that there must be co-operation between landowners and the Council in order to have the problem addressed.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion stating that it is vital that the problem does not escalate and that everything possible is done to save our roads.

Councillor S. P. O’Reilly supported the motion and seconded Councillor S. O’Reilly’s proposal. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that every measure possible should be employed to find a solution to this problem. He stated that the lack of funding is the biggest issue facing the County at this point in time. Councillor O’Reilly paid tribute to the staff of Cavan County Council both indoor and outdoor for their work in these difficult times.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and was of the opinion that pothole repair should be considered as essential works.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion stating that some roads in the County are impassable. He complimented the Council on the excellent work already carried out on dealing with drainage as well as road surfacing. He stated that he is looking forward to the Municipal District meeting where the upcoming roads programme will be discussed.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and commended the work that has already been undertaken.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and suggested that the Council work with the Department of Agriculture in relation to water on our roads. She stated that if there is any money made available through grants to farmers they will avail of it.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion stating that it is important to acknowledge the good work Council staff are doing with limited resources. He stated that there had been significant under funding from Central Government for the last ten years. He stated that when the CPG members and executive met with Minister Ryan T.D., he was given the straight facts about the roads in the County and hopefully he will have listened and give extra funding to Cavan.

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick supported the motion and commended Deputy Niamh Smyth for organising the meeting with Minister Ryan. He stated that something constructive needs to be done in relation to the condition of our roads.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that the Local Authority were doing their best to stay on top of the situation. Mr. Connaughton noted that underfunding among other issues were not helping with the situation of our roads. He stated that the Council has hired four road patching machines. He stated that the roadworks programme will be discussed in each Municipal District over the coming month and there will be an examination to see if resources can be deployed in a more effective manner.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that the long-term investment in roads has been steadily decreasing. He stated that the current situation is 50% of what funding is required. Mr. Ryan noted that in 2008 there was a €22m grant for roads and in 2020 this has decreased to €17m. Mr. Ryan stated that he had a duty of care to his staff and pointed out that non-essential construction was not proceeding and all local authority housing projects that could not be finished in the coming months would not proceed.

1. **That Cavan County Council call on the Commission on Regulation of Utilities and Irish Water to review the costs imposed on applicants for connection to sewerage and water supplies and for flexibility in the appointment of contractors to complete works.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the scheme of charges and the manner which Irish Water treat people making applications to them is very unfair in comparison to the ESB. Councillor Feeley stated that you have no choice when it comes to who you hire as the developer to do the work, Irish Water contractor must do the work and therefore there is no incentive to be competitive. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Commission on Regulation of Utilities and Irish Water to review the costs imposed on applicants for connection to sewerage and water supplies and for flexibility in the appointment of contractors to complete works.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that if a contractor is insured and competent to do the work then he should be able to apply for it.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and wondered if staff from Cavan County Council who went to Irish Water carry their service with them.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service informed the members that enquiries and applications regarding connections are made via Irish Water and this application is then referred to the Council to assess its feasibility. He stated that Irish water has a standard connection fee for standard connection up to 10m to boundary as follows, water connection €2,272 and wastewater €3,929. He stated that these fees are for single domestic units. He stated that from 10-15m there is a standard rate of water €358 per metre and wastewater €422 per metre. He stated that Irish Water send the offer to the applicant and the applicant has a period of three months to accept the offer. Mr. Connaughton stated that the standard charge is reasonable.

Mr. Connaughton stated that he was not aware of any issues with transfer of staff and the Council have a service level agreement with Irish Water until 2025.

**Ballyjamesduff Fire Station**

Councillor T. Smith asked how far on were we in relation to the proposed new fire station in Ballyjamesduff and if the Covid restrictions were causing any hold ups.

Ms. Margaret McNally, Acting Head of Finance informed Councillor Smith that the Department are working with the consultants at the minute and she will have more information for him at the March meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 4.55p.m.**

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

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