

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 13th July 2020 in The Sports Hall, Leisure Centre, Cavan at 2.00p.m.

Councillor S. O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach presiding

Present; Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, P. Brady, B. Fay, J. P. Feeley, C. Kelly, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, S.P. O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly, 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

An apology was received from Councillor S. Smith.

Councillor S. O'Reilly welcomed all to the meeting. Councillor O'Reilly congratulated Councillor T.P. O'Reilly on becoming the Chief Whip of the Fine Gael Party. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly thanked the members and stated it was a privilege to be elected Chief Whip and he would carry out his duties to the best of his ability.

Vote of Sympathy:

Councillor V. Smith proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Michael Nelson, Grellagh, Carrickaboy, former member of Cavan County Council and Lavey Trio band. He stated that the late Michael Nelson was a great community man and was involved in many a project in Lavey. Councillor V. Smith proposed that the meeting be adjourned for five or ten minutes. This proposal was seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

The Horkan Family, Charlestown on the tragic death of Detective Garda Colm Horkan following a shooting incident in Castlerea.

The O'Gara Family on the death of Brother Harry O'Gara, Sacred Hearts Community, Tanagh, Cootehill.

The Charlton Family on the death of Jack Charlton former manager of the Irish International Football Team.

Following approval of minutes of June meeting, the meeting was adjourned for five minutes and a minute's silence was held in memory of the deceased.

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 15th June 2020.

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 15 Meitheamh 2020 a dhearbhu.

It was;

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 15 June 2020 be hereby approved”

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

Noted.

Note Minutes of Committee Meetings

3. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meetings held on 7 May 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. No conferences attended due to COVID 19.

Correspondence

5(a) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection regarding payment of the COVID 19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment to cross border workers and to people aged 66 and over.

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked that a further letter in relation to above be sent to the new Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Heather Humphreys T.D..

(b) To note reply from Health Service Executive in relation to drug and alcohol services.

Noted. Councillor J.P. Feeley asked that Councillors on the HSE Forum take up the issue with the HSE.

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

6. To note Chief Executive's monthly report (Section 51 Local Government Reform Act 2014).

Noted.

7. To note Financial Report up to 30 June 2020.

Noted.

Ms. Margaret McNally, A/Head of Finance gave a detailed presentation to the members on the Financial Report up to 30 June 2020. Ms. McNally stated that the COVID pandemic and subsequent lockdown could impact on Cavan County Council revenue with a potential loss of €8.524m in rates income. She stated that the collection of rates

has been extremely difficult given a range of factors affecting businesses. She stated that these problems are expected to continue over the next six months which will also present challenges for 2021 and the years going forward. She stated that the Council envisages having to provide a bad debt provision in the 2021 budget and this is expected to affect other areas of anticipated expenditure on additional services. She stated that the Council had budgeted to receive €15.2m from goods and services in 2020 but this too has been hit. She stated that there is a potential loss in parking charges of €400,000, loss in planning fees of €130,000 and a loss of €70,000 from the Museum. She stated that the return to health in many of these finance brackets is heavily dependent on economic recovery in towns across the County. She stated that there is a further reduction of €100,000 in fire safety control and most of this income will never be recovered. Ms. McNally stated that to meet this shortfall the Council is looking to central government for assistance. She stated that the Government already committed to funding rates waived by Councils during the first three months of the pandemic, plus the roll out of a business restart fund and there is anxious wait to see what other subventions could be included in the economic stimulus plan due later in July. She stated that the Council is still no clearer with regard financial security going forward or what government intervention might be. Ms. McNally stated that the review of income and expenditure within all divisions of the Council will continue to be looked at with cash flow projections being prepared and monitored regularly and a tracking system set up to manage all expenditure within the Council specifically due to COVID-19. Ms. McNally informed the meeting that the process of budgeting for next year has already begun with challenging times ahead to prepare a balanced budget.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive reiterated what Ms. McNally had said and noted that the CCMA engaged at an early stage to put a proposal to the Department in relation to the effects of Covid on local authorities. Mr. Ryan stated that the Local Property Tax meeting will be held in September and a decision will have to be made as to whether to increase the LPT to the maximum 15%. He stated that the Cavan County Council is legally required to provide a balanced budget. Mr. Ryan appealed to businesses across the county to access the support of the Government sanctioned re-start grant. He stated that the restart grant was rolled out to provide direct grant aid to micro and small businesses and is a contribution towards the cost of reopening or keeping a business operational. Mr. Ryan stated that if the restart grant is not paid out then it goes back into a national pot and the county is worse off.

The members in turn complimented Ms. McNally, A/Head of Finance for her detailed report.

8. Adoption of Specific Periodic Speed Limit at Aghadreenagh N.S. on the N3.

It was;

Proposed by Councillor V. Smith

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the Specific Periodic Speed Limit at Aghnadreenagh N.S. on the N3 be hereby adopted”.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service informed the members that the change was merely a technicality after it had been listed incorrectly previously and required the sanction of elected members.

9. Approval of nominees to Cavan Local Community and Development Committee under Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Nominees as follows:

- **Social Inclusion Interests – Mr. Charlie Smyth, replacing Olive Hannigan who has served maximum term of 6 years.**
- **Community & Voluntary Interests – Bridget Boyle, replacing Ms. Doris Galligan who resigned from the Committee.**
- **Environmental Interests – Tirloch O’Brien, replacing Mr. Fintan McCabe who has served maximum term of 6 years.**

It was;

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that the nominations of Charlie Smyth, Social Inclusion Interests, Bridget Boyle, Community & Voluntary Interests and Tirloch O’Brien, Environmental Interests to the Local Community and Development Committee under Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 be hereby approved”.

Votes of Congratulations:

- Philip Doherty on winning two awards for his black comedy-musical ‘Redemption of a Rogue’ at the Galway Film Fleadh on Sunday 12th July. It won prizes for best Irish first feature and best Irish film. Aaron Monaghan also a Cavan man was complimented for his acting in the play.

- Fr. Martin Hayes from Co. Tipperary on his appointment as Bishop elect of the Kilmore Diocese.
- Olivia Hutchinson and J.P. Ledwidge new owners of the 74 acres lakeside cabin complex at Killykeen on their grand designs to transform the retreat into a bespoke “staycation” destination.
- Minister Heather Humphreys on her new role as Minister for Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands.
- Minister Helen McEntee on her new role as Minister for Justice.
- Minister Paschal Donohoe on being elected Eurogroup President.
- Kingspan Group on donating €1m worth of personal protective equipment to the HSE to help support the healthcare system in its latest response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Councillor C. Kelly asked that a letter be sent to the Kingspan Group.

MEMBERS’ ITEMS – JUNE

1. North South Interconnector

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. Councillor C. Kelly proposed that a letter be sent to the new Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport asking that the cables for the North South Interconnector be placed underground.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor P. McDonald.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that since the last Council meeting, there has been no communication or discussions between Cavan County Council and Eirgrid or the ESB.

Roads

Councillor C. Kelly stated that the roads situation in the County was recently discussed at the Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal District meeting. Councillor C. Kelly proposed that the Council write to Minister Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister for Transport to arrange a meeting with a deputation from Cavan County Council and Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. in relation to roads allocation for County Cavan. This was seconded by Councillor P. McDonald.

2. To request Cavan County Council not to send out any Water Rates Demands for April, May and June during the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Councillor P. McDonald stated that he spoke with Ms. Margaret McNally and she informed him that it was Irish Water and not Cavan County Council who sent out bills for water.

Councillor P. McDonald called on Irish Water not to send out any water rates demands for April, May and June during the Covid 19 Pandemic. He asked that Irish Water acknowledge

the impact that Covid is having on small businesses and stated that some will be forced to close at the end of the pandemic. He asked that a waiver be made on water rates until the end of the year.

Councillor B. Fay seconded Councillor P. McDonald's proposal.

Ms. Margaret McNally, A/Head of Finance stated that she would raise the issue with Irish Water.

A.O.B

Councillor M. Argue complimented Mr. John Maguire, Civil Defence Officer and all Civil Defence volunteers for the work they are doing to help people in our communities during this pandemic.

Councillor C. Kelly welcomed the funding of €787,500 secured under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for the Kingscourt Town Centre Regeneration Project. Councillor C. Kelly thanked the Council officials for their hard work and planning in preparing this project for Kingscourt Town.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that Central Government will have to step up to the mark with regards to funding in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic. He acknowledged the need for young people to abide by the guidelines set out in relation to Covid 19 and not to get complacent. He stated that everyone needs to be self-aware and continue the good work as we have a long road ahead of us yet in relation to Covid 19.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that the consultation process in relation to the County Development plan is now underway with sessions being held throughout the County in compliance with Covid 19 guidelines and he advised the Councillors and members of the public to attend.

The meeting concluded at 3.30p.m.

The next meeting was arranged for Monday 14th September 2020.