**MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON**

**TUESDAY 22nd MAY, 2012 IN THE COURTROOM, COURTHOUSE, CAVAN**

COUNCILLOR VAL SMITH, LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH PRESIDING

COUNCILLOR SEAN MCKIERNAN PRESIDING AT 3.15 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors M. Argue, D. Blake, W Bennett, C. Boylan, D. Boylan, A. Boyle, Damien Brady, F. Curtin, M. Maguire Lynch, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, G. Murray, J. O’Hare, P. O’Reilly, S. P. O’Reilly, P. Smith, S. Walsh, P. Walsh

**IN ATTENDANCE:** J. Keyes, County Manager

G. Finn, Director of Services

J. McLoughlin, Director of Services

J. Brannigan, Senior Executive Officer

K. Reilly, Senior Executive Officer

O. Smith, Senior Staff Officer

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Apologies were received from Councillors Danny Brady, N. Smyth, A. Boylan, J.P. Feeley and G. Brady.

Councillor W. Bennett thanked fellow councillors for adjourning the meeting last week owing to the death of his son Mark. He also thanked councillors, the executive, County Manager, staff both indoor and outdoor for calling to the house and attending the funeral.

He especially thanked the staff of the Fire Station and Library and stated that Mark thoroughly enjoyed every moment of his work experience with them. He also thanked the Cavan Institute where Mark attended college, the Gardai for all their help and the Anglo Celt for what they had written about Mark.

Councillor Bennett said he was glad to be living in Cavan and that he and his family would never forget the community for all their help.

A vote of sympathywas passed toCouncillor JP Feely on the death of his uncle Mr. Brian Maguire in England.

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

1. **To request the HSE to clarify when additional services as promised will be provided at the Darley Day Care Centre, Cootehill.**

Councillor J. O’Hare proposed that the Council write to the HSE to clarify when additional services as promised will be provided at the Darley Day Care Centre, Cootehill.

Councillor A Boyle supported the motion.

1. **Hidden costs of Medical Cards.**

Councillor J O’Hare stated that there are hidden costs to holding a medical card in Ireland. The number of services not covered is causing hardship to patients, many who are unable to work and are already struggling financially. The hidden costs include phlebotomy (blood testing), Warfarin, 24 hour blood monitoring, dressings, pre employment, legal and fitness to drive medicals and are among a list of 14 or more medical services not currently covered by a Medical Card.

He proposed that the Council write to the I.M.O and Minister for Health asking that they drop charges immediately for such services.

1. **Road numbers for minor roads**

Councillor J. O’Hare stated that 80-85 % of the roads in the Bailieboro Area have road numbers. He enquired when the remainder would be completed.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service informed the meeting that under a National Initiative all local roads off regional roads have been completed. The rest of the network would have to be completed from within our own resources. There is no provision in the current year’s budget to carry out road posts as all available resources this year have been allocated to road maintenance.

1. **Cutbacks in Community Employment Schemes**

Councillor P. McDonald criticised the recent cuts in Community Employment Schemes. He said in the Bailieboro area where he is Chairman of the Local Area for FAS Schemes, they have 36 participants on the scheme this year and they will now have a shortfall of €6,000. He stated that the schemes do a lot of community work in towns and community centres etc and at local level it works well. He said of the 25 people who left the scheme in the Bailieboro area in 2010, only 4 went back on the live registrar, some went back into full time employment, part-time employment and further training.

Councillor P. McDonald called on Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton to make funding available to all FAS Schemes and to expedite the new scheme as soon as possible.

Councillor Sean Smith endorsed the above and stated that what is happening in East Cavan, the same applies to West Cavan. A FAS Scheme has commenced in Bawnboy Workhouse and he thanked the Council for all the support they have given to the Templeport Community Group.

Councillor Damien Brady, C. Boylan and P. McVitty all spoke in favour of the motion.

1. **Tidy Towns/Litter Control**

Councillor David Blake spoke on the importance of the Tidy Town Competition and sought to establish what the council’s position was in relation to Tidy Towns. He stated the recent retirements in the local authority’s outdoor staff has left growing workload in sections such as litter prevention and detection. He called for the appointment of an all county co-ordinator from the council to ensure participation of all towns and communities in the county.

He also requested the following information;

* How many fines were issued in 2011 for litter offences
* What income was generated from these fines
* How many successful Court prosecutions were there.

Councillor M. Maguire Lynch raised the issue of posters and said that at election time, postering on each and every pole and surface added to making towns look untidy. She asked if posters were to be put up that they should only be allowed beyond the 50 kmph zones on the outskirts of urban areas.

A discussion took place on election posters in which all councillors present contributed. It was decided that each individual party discuss the matter with a view to taking a common position nearer to local election time in 2014.

John Brannigan informed the meeting that the Council are operating with reduced resources and that steps are being made towards greater county-wide involvement in Tidy Towns. A public meeting is being held with local groups on 6th June, 2012 and a tidy town adjudicator will be in attendance.

Mr. Jack Keyes, Manager welcomed all aspects of the debate from Tidy Towns to littering, derelict sites and fly-tipping, saying it was timely given the impending closing date for Tidy Towns applications. He added that the council looks forward to working with local groups to improving the overall look of the county and hoped to improve its rating in areas such as heritage.

Councillor P McVitty asked that when houses are left vacant and developers have abandoned estates, can we put pressure on people who own the property to tidy up and make them safe.

In relation to requests for extensions of time on planning permissions, Kevin Reilly, Senior Executive Officer informed the meeting that resulting on from a high court case, the Local Authority is specifically excluded from dealing with any issues other than those criteria set out in the Planning Acts for determining whether to grant or refuse extensions to permissions.

Councillor P Reilly suggested that street wweepers in towns be shared with local voluntary groups involved in tidy town, estate management etc.

**11. Changes in disadvantaged areas**

Councillor Sean Smith informed the meeting that there are going to be changes to the rules governing disadvantaged areas and some of these are to apply retrospectively. This will affect this county as farmers have rented land in other counties.

He asked the Council to write to the Minister for Agriculture and the Taoiseach to support farming organisations to withdraw above changes.

Councillor G Murray and C Boylan supported the motion.

Councillor W. Bennett and D Boylan agreed that above changes should not be retrospective but agreed with the proposals whereby a stocking rate of greater that .3 LU per hectare were necessary to ensure that land was utilised fully.

Items 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, were deferred to the next meeting.

**A.O.B.**

Councillor D Blake stated that a protest had taken place in Kingscourt town that morning by Kingscourt Brick workers as Lagan Brick were resurfacing the main street in Kingscourt. The work by Lagan Brick was stopped. Councillor D Blake asked if it was appropriate that Lagan Brick were awarded this contract under the circumstances and can a new contractor be brought in at this stage.

Chairperson Sean McKiernan said that it is very important that the law is respected i.e. employment law, procurement law and law re conduct of people.

J. McLoughlin, Director of Service informed the meeting that the Council awarded the contract for work under normal procurement and that they hoped to resolve the contractual situation shortly.

Councillor D Blake asked could there be another effort from the Council to help resolve the issue.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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