**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 9th March 2020 in The Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly, Cathaoirleach presiding

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

J. P. Feeley, C. Kelly, C. Lovett, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, S. 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 Administrative Officer

 E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

Apologies were received from Councillors B. Fay and S. Smith.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 17 February 2020.**

**Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 17 Mi Feabhra 2020 a dhearbhu.**

It was;

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 17 February 2020 be hereby approved”

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

Noted.

**Note Minutes of Committee Meetings**

**3. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9 January 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.

**Correspondence**

**5(a) To note reply from Finian McGrath, T.D., regarding the Personal Assistance Service.**

Noted.

 **(b) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Education and Skills regarding school secretaries.**

Noted.

 **(c) To note reply from Irish Water regarding attendance at Council Meeting.**

Noted. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that members had met earlier with Irish Water and put their issues to them. She noted that Irish Water stated that they would notify local Councillors in advance in order to let them know the situation.

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

 **Training:**

**LAMA Spring Training Seminar to be held in the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on the 12th and 13th March 2020.**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Argue

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

and

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors S. O’Reilly, J.P. Feeley, A. Fitzpatrick, P. Walsh, C. Kelly, C. Brady, W. Bennett, T.P. O’Reilly, V. Smith, T. Smith, P. McVitty and M. Argue at the LAMA Spring Training Seminar to be held in the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on 12 & 13 March, 2020 be hereby approved”.

**Conferences**

**Celtic Conferences “Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020” to be held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford from 20-22 March 2020.**

**No Attendees.**

**Celtic Conferences “Tourism Technology & Competitive Strategies” to be held in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 27-29 March 2020.**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Argue

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

and

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors S. O’Reilly, T.P. O’Reilly, V. Smith and T. Smith at Celtic Conferences “Tourism Technology & Competitive Strategies” to be held in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 27-29 March 2020 be hereby approved”.

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

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

Noted.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley congratulated all those involved in the launch of the new food and beverage brand for County Cavan “Created in Cavan” which was launched on 26 February. Councillor W. Bennett congratulated Deirdre Donnelly, Food Co-ordinator for Cavan County Council and wished her well with her new project.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley congratulated all those involved in Local Enterprise week.

**8.** **To note Standing Orders for Meetings of Strategic Policy Committees.**

Noted.

**9.**  **To note Report on NOAC Performance Indicators 2018.**

Noted.

**10. To approve the LCDC 2019 Annual Report under Section 128(b) of the Local**

 **Government Reform Act 2014.**

It was proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor A. Fitzpatrick

and Resolved:

“that the LCDC 2019 Annual Report under Section 128(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 be hereby approved”.

**11. To approve Roadworks Programme 2020.**

It was proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

and Resolved:

“that the Roadworks Programme 2020 hereby approved”.

Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that no monies had been allocated yet this year for Local Improvement Schemes which is vital to fund improvement works to non-public roads. Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that last year an allocation of almost €270,000 was received which completed only four roads. Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that assessments have been carried out to 31 more LIS roads, with the cost of repairs for same estimated at €2.2m. He stated that a further 127 lanes have been partially assessed with an estimated cost of €9.75m and the remaining 71 lanes on the list have not yet been assessed. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the Council is facing an uphill battle in struggling with such demands. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport seeking funding for LIS.

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that it could take the best part of 50 years to clear the current backlog. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick seconded Councillor Feeley’s proposal.

Councillor P. McVitty asked that the Council explore a system whereby the Council would cut overgrown hedges and trees and then bill the landowner.

Councillor M. Ague supported the motion seconding Councillor P. McVitty’s proposal.

Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that the Bailieboro Cootehill Municipal District should be allocated extra funding due to the fact it does not have a national primary route and the roads are being used by high volumes of lorries.

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

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that the views of the members will be taken onboard and implemented. Mr. Connaughton stated that the Council will look at a funding model through the Roads SPC.

**Votes of Sympathy**

* Councillor Aiden Fitzpatrick and his wife Geraldine on the death of Geraldine’s niece Ms. Aisling Brady, Trim, Co. Meath.
* The Families of the late Ms. Joan McAllister and Mr. Ian Kindley from Co. Armagh who were killed in a tragic accident at Ballinagh, Co. Cavan.
* The McElgunn Family, Carrick-on-Shannon and Belturbet on the death of Farrell McElgunn former member of Leitrim County Council, Senator and MEP.
* The Hand Family on the death of Mr. Michael Hand, Kingscourt, former employee of Cavan County Council.
* Edel, Leo, Aoibhe, Darragh and Jack Reilly, Fintavin, Ballyjamesduff on the death of their much beloved son and brother Seán who passed away aged 13 years.
* Bernie O’Rourke, member of Cavan County Council staff and the Brady Family, Tullyco, Cootehill on the death of her father Mr. Cathal Brady,
* Jo Donlon member of Cavan County Council staff on the death of her father-in-law Mr. Peter Donlon, Swellan, Cavan.

A minute’s silence was held in memory of the deceased.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – MARCH**

**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.

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

**2. That Cavan County Council requests the Minister for Health to undertake the following: “That the stillbirth register and stillbirth registration be removed and be replaced with a birth and death certificate for babies who are stillborn”.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that families of stillborn babies often only realise that they will receive no birth or death certificate for the baby when they go to register for a birth certificate. She stated that a stillborn child is listed on a special stillbirth register that is closed to the public. Councillor O’Reilly noted that when a stillborn child dies, no one has easy access to any State records about the baby and future descendants might never know that they existed. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that parents whose babies are currently listed on the stillbirth register should now be given the opportunity to have their children recognised and placed on the birth and death register and that they may also receive a birth and death certificate. Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council requests the Minister for Health to undertake the following: “That the stillbirth register and stillbirth registration be removed and be replaced with a birth and death certificate for babies who are stillborn”.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor S. O’Reilly’s proposal.

 The motion was unanimously supported by the members.

1. **That Cavan County Council calls on the Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan, T.D., and the Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris to keep our current 28 district models and 6 regions as they currently exist.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that the new operating model has already commenced with the amalgamation of Regions and will be introduced into Divisions on a phased basis. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that the restructuring will reduce the number of Garda Regions from 6 to 4 and Garda Divisions from 28 to 19. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that Cavan Monaghan will lose its headquarters and will now be part of Louth Division which will have its new regional headquarters in Drogheda. Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that the model is under pilot currently in four divisions. Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that Garda Commissioner Drew Harris has stated that divisions in the border Region are unlikely to see any significant change until further clarity is available on Brexit. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that members of the GRA are concerned that the new model will lead to a centralisation of resources and leave less busy areas more vulnerable to crime. Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council calls on the Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan T.D. and Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to keep our current 28 district models and 6 regions as they currently exist.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor S. O’Reilly’s proposal and expressed his concerns in relation to the changes. Councillor J.P. Feeley acknowledged the service of Superintendent Jimmy Coen who is retiring at the end of the month. Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the news that Garda Commissioner Drew Harris will meet with Cavan Joint Policing Committee in September.

Councillors T.P. O’Reilly, P McVitty and W. Bennett supported the motion.

1. **The need for urgent and long-term funding for drug and alcohol awareness and rehabilitation services.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stressed the importance of local drug awareness and rehabilitation charities such as Cavan Drug Awareness which last November announced that it was struggling to continue to deliver the same level of services on the stringent budget assigned. Councillor J.P. Feeley called for urgent and long-term funding to be assigned for drug and alcohol awareness and rehabilitation services in the region. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the rising reports of cocaine use in towns and villages across the country is almost seen as acceptable. Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that funding for Cavan Drugs Awareness has remained static for that last six years. Councillor Feeley stated that it is crucial that this service does not fall by the wayside. Councillor Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Health and the HSE conveying their concerns and the need for extra funding.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and praised the work of CDA and An Garda Siochána who co-hosted a parental drug awareness evening in Bailieborough. Councillor P. McDonald stated that children in their early teens are being forced into drug use, and soon after forced to sell illicit substances.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor Feeley’s proposal noting that there is widespread drug use among not only young people, including those involved in sporting activities but also among professionals in all walks of life.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and stated that hard penalties need to be imposed on drug users.

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick, a member of the North East Regional Taskforce, suggested that parents play a greater role in early detection in the home and asked that Councillors hold information evenings in their respective areas.

Councillors T.P. O’Reilly, P. McVitty, M. Argue, S. O’Reilly and C. Brady supported the motion.

1. **Review of the requirements of the Green Certificate and related entitlements**

Councillor J.P. Feeley called on the Government to carry out a review of the requirements of the Green Certificate and related entitlements. Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that Teagasc run Green Cert online course for student farmers working the land sets the young farmer back about €3,000. He stated the course is only available to students who already have a FETAC/QQ1 Major Level 6 or higher qualification in a non-agricultural area and is delivered over an eighteen-month period. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that it is unfair that participants must attend college for a total of 25 days during the eighteen month period and these college days take place on normal working days, usually one day a month with a block of days at the end of the course. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the requirements to attend college during the week was an onerous ask for farmers already operating farms or those who may have a full-time job elsewhere. Councillor J.P. Feeley felt the course should be completed at weekends. Councillor J.P. Feeley was also of the opinion that the course should cover farming activities more relevant to more peripheral lands such as biodiversity and climate change.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and stated that on-site learning was awkward but praised the course overall.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that there is currently a backlog for green cert applicants getting access to on-site learning.

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Agriculture and Teagasc asking that a review of the requirements of the Green Certificate and related entitlements take place.

Councillor S.P.O’Reilly stated that Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Services intended to hold voting for members for the Seanad Elections on Friday 20th March at 12 noon.

Councillor P. McVitty wished Councillor S.P. O’Reilly and the Chief Executive a safe trip to America for St. Patrick’s Day noting that it is very important that the County is represented.

The meeting concluded at 3.30p.m.

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

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