**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11 July 2016 in the Council Chamber**

Councillor F. Curtin, Cathaoirleach Presiding

Present: Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, P. Brady, N. Connell,

J.P. Feeley, E. Greenan, 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

 J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

 G. Finn, Director of Service

 E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

**1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 13 June 2016. Miontuairisci cruinnithe 13 Meitheamh 2016 a dhearbhu.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S. P. O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 And

 Resolved:

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 13 June 2016 be hereby approved”.

Councillor P. O’Reilly asked for clarification on whether contracts in relation to roads could be viewed by the members prior to signing.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that it is not possible to discuss contracts prior to signing as this is an executive function.

**2. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9 June 2016.**

Noted.

**3. To note Chief Executive’s Orders.**

Noted.

**4. To note Chief Executive’s monthly report.**

Noted.

Councillor C. Kelly welcomed the €20,000 being spent by the Council on safety measures at Cabra Central School.

**5. To approve Municipal Districts Discretionary Allocation Scheme.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S. O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

 And

 Resolved:

“that each Political Group would nominate three members to attend a meeting with Mr. Eoin Doyle and Cathaoirleach Councillor F. Curtin to further consider the draft Municipal Districts Discretionary Allocation Scheme”

**6. To approve Cavan County Museum Policy Documents as part of the Museum’s Maintenance of Accreditation under the Heritage Council’s Museum Standards Programme.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor P. Smith

 And

 Resolved:

 “that Cavan County Museum Policy Documents as part of the Museum’s Maintenance of Accreditation under the Heritage Council’s Museum Standards Programme be hereby approved”.

**7. To nominate 1 no. member to HSE Suicide Prevention Group for Cavan/ Monaghan.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

 Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

“that Councillor C. Brady be nominated to the HSE Suicide Prevention Group for Cavan/Monaghan.”

 It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor P. Brady

“that Councillor S.P. O’Reilly be nominated to the HSE Suicide Prevention Group for Cavan/Monaghan.”

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley and Seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly “that the HSE be contacted to see if both members could sit on the HSE Suicide Prevention Group for Cavan/Monaghan.”

It was agreed that the Executive would contact the HSE in relation to having two members on the Committee and if this was not acceptable Councillors C. Brady and S.P. O’Reilly of Cavan County Council would rotate the role for six months each.

**8(a). To note replies from Sean Dorgan, General Secretary, Fianna Fail & Minister Denis Naughten, T.D. regarding the North South Interconnector project.**

 Noted. Councillor Kelly asked for a further letter to be sent to An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny.

 **(b) To note reply from Simon Harris, T.D., Minister for Health regarding the location of the new Children’s Hospital.**

Noted.

 **(c). To note replies from Office of the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government, Deputy Niamh Smyth and Deputy Brendan Smith regarding new constituency boundaries.**

Noted.

 **(d). To note reply from Commission for Energy Regulation regarding householders selling excess energy back to the grid.**

Noted.

  **(e). To note reply from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine regarding forestry.**

Noted.

 **(f). To note reply from Office of the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government regarding rent certainty.**

Noted.

 **(g). To note reply from Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport regarding control of cage boxing.**

Noted.

 **(h). To note update from ICBAN – June 2016.**

Noted.

 **(i) To note reply from TII in relation to N3 at the L7027 junction for Lisgrey Lake.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly expressed his disappointment that due to staff constraints, Transport Infrastructure Ireland is unable to accede to Cavan County Council’s request to attend a meeting.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that the reply from Transport Infrastructure Ireland was an insult to public representatives who are elected to work on behalf of the people of County Cavan.

Councillor P. Brady stated the TII are using manuals to decide where to put road markings instead of checking accident prone areas.

Councillor P. O’Reilly proposed that a file be opened containing all previous correspondence with NRA now TII and Cavan County Council and bring it to a special meeting of Cavan County Council and the Council’s legal team. This proposal was seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services informed the meeting that he could not answer for Transport Infrastructure Ireland not attending a meeting of Cavan County Council. Mr. McLoughlin advised the meeting that the Council had on the 23rd June received notification from Transport Infrastructure Ireland that the N3 Cornaslieve to North of Virginia will receive consideration as part of the 2017 pavement construction programme. He stated that as part of this programme the Council will consider advancing proposals for the possible realignment of this road. He stated that an application has yet to be finalised in relation to safety measures at Murmod Junction. Mr. McLoughlin informed Councillor P. O’Reilly that national speed limits were brought before the Council previously.

Councillor F. Curtin proposed that a special meeting of Cavan County Council would take place on Wednesday 27th July at 9.30a.m to discuss the impact of Brexit on County Cavan. This proposal was seconded by Councillor C. Kelly. It was agreed that all Oireachtas members and MEPs be invited to attend this meeting.

**9(a). To approve attendance of members at AILG Training Day to be held in Galway on 6th September, 2016.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

 Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

 And

 Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. Smith, V. Smith, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, M. Argue, P. Brady, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, S. Smith, S.P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly and F. Curtin at AILG Training Day to be held in Galway on 6th September, 2016 be hereby approved”.

**9(b) To approve attendance of members at Parnell Summer School to be held in Avondale, Co. Wicklow from 7-11 August.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S. Smith

 Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 And

 Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors P. O’Reilly, P. Smith, W. Bennett, V. Smith and J.P. Feeley at Parnell Summer School to be held in Avondale, Co. Wicklow from 7-11 August 2016 be hereby approved”.

**9(c) To approve attendance of members at McGill Summer School to be held in Glenties, Co. Donegal from Saturday July 16th – Friday July 22nd.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor P. Smith

 Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

 And

 Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors P. O’Reilly, V. Smith, S. Smith, S.P.O’Reilly, P. Brady, J.P. Feeley, S. O’Reilly, F. Curtin and C. Kelly at McGill Summer School to be held in Glenties, Co. Donegal from 16 – 22 July 2016 be hereby approved”.

 **Cavan General Hospital**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to discuss the downgrading of Accident and Emergency services at Cavan General Hospital. This proposal was seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the proposal to downgrade Accident & Emergency Services at Cavan General hospital is not acceptable and asked all public representatives in the County and the Region to act together to prevent any move by the HSE to downgrade these services at Cavan General Hospital. He stated that the publication in the Sunday Business Post of details of the Trauma Steering Group formed at the direction of the then Minister for Health, Minister Leo Varadkar proposed to remove Trauma Care from nine hospitals in Ireland has caused great concern amongst staff and the wider community across the region who rely on Cavan General Hospital. He stated that hospitals who would have these services permanently axed would mean that they would no longer treat patients who have been in car crashes or have serious falls and major head injuries. He stated if Cavan General Hospital loses its Trauma Care, there will be no trauma centre available from Sligo in the West to Drogheda in the East and as far south as Tullamore. He stated that it should be noted that dating back to the days of the old North Eastern Health Board it was recognized that the spending per capita in the region is the lowest in the Country and there is no evidence that this has changed in recent years. He stated that it seems that the Trauma Steering Group are punishing centres like Cavan for historic under-investment rather than demanding proper investment in the future. He noted that any change in trauma services would put a further strain on the already pressured ambulance network. Councillor Feeley proposed that the matter be discussed with the Oireachtas members at the Special Meeting of Cavan County Council on July 27th. Councillor Feeley also proposed that the members representing Cavan County Council on the HSE Committee discuss the matter at their next meeting.

Councillor M. Argue stated that she had received a reply from the Minister’s Office stating that no plans were in place to remove the emergency services from Cavan General Hospital. She stated that Minister Harris had seen no output from the Trauma Steering Group established by Minister Varadkar.

Councillor E. Greenan supported the motion stating that it is imperative that these services are not ceased at Cavan General Hospital. He welcomed the statement by Councillor Argue from the Minister for Health denying any pending plans to reduce services at Cavan General Hospital.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that Cavan General Hospital is one of the finest in the Country. He noted that the A&E Department in Drogheda is already overcrowded and if Cavan General Hospital trauma care services ceased it would create further problems for Drogheda.

Councillor P. Brady agreed that the members on the HSE forum would discuss the matter at their next meeting and report back to the next Council meeting.

Councillor S. Smith seconded Councillor Feeley’s proposal to discuss the matter with the Oireachtas members at the special meeting on July 27th.

 **Votes of Sympathy:**

* The Courtney Family, Drumliff, Carrickaboy, Co. Cavan on the sudden death of Paul Courtney.

 **Votes of Congratulations:**

* Virginia Show Society on hosting the signing of the first batch of Funding Agreements under the LEADER Programme 2020 by Minister Heather Humphreys.
* The Management & Staff of Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia on hosting the AILG Training Day for members on 23rd June, 2016.

 **Members’ Items – Deferred from June Meeting**

**1. That the Council provide the most recent traffic count through Virginia.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly asked the executive for an update on the most recent traffic count through Virginia.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services informed Councillor O’Reilly that the last survey was carried out on Wednesday 23rd May 2015 over a four hour period. He stated that the volume of traffic was 8,500 vehicles each way (total 17,000) and this was measured by volume over the bridge in Virginia.

Councillor P. O’Reilly asked if more detail could be got from the survey in May and also if a survey could not be done on the Bailieboro, Cavan and Ballyjamesduff Roads out of Virginia. Councillor P. O’Reilly noted that islands could not be erected on national or primary roads until volume of traffic exceeds a certain number of vehicles.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service asked Councillor O’Reilly to discuss the issue at a Municipal District Meeting where he may be in a position to get further breakdowns on the survey.

**2. To call on Cavan County Council to report on the problems of dumping in the County, in particular the Council’s policy on schools education, location of cameras at black spots, the searching of rubbish for identification of individuals and notification of the names of those fined for littering.**

Councillor P. Brady stated that that there is a huge increase in the amount of people dumping litter on rural roads across the County. He noted that local groups are now cleaning their roads voluntarily due to the amount of dumping. He stated that something needs to be done urgently to tackle this problem. He stated that a name and shame campaign should be put in place for those convicted.

 Councillor P. O’Reilly supported the motion. He stated that there is a lot of rubbish being left behind by young people leaving late night takeaways.

 Councillor P. Smith noted that people are dumping electrical goods on rural roads when they could dispose of them in the Council’s bring centres. He stated that rubbish bags should be collected by companies at people’s houses rather than bringing them to a centralised location in the town. Councillor Smith stated that he would welcome a second or even third litter warden to the County and have one in each municipal district.

 Councillor S. Smith suggested that the Council carry out a survey in towns to see where people are disposing of their rubbish.

 Councillors W. Bennett and N. Connell supported the motion.

 Mr. Ger Finn, Director of Services informed the members that there are eighteen litter or dumping related cases in the local courts system at the minute. Mr. Finn stated that between 2015 and to date in 2016 two hundred and sixty five incidents of litter or illegal dumping have been reported to the Council. Mr. Finn stated that over €500,000 has been spent on litter and waste management in the County in recent years. He noted that people do not want to report their neighbours and therefore it is difficult for the Council to catch these offenders. He stated that there were data protection issues both with regard to posting offender details and with erecting cameras at littering black-spots, where signage notifying of filming taking place had to be put in place. He stated that the Council is in the process of appointing a second litter warden for the County.

 **Members’ Items – July**

**3. Library for Kingscourt**

Councillor C. Kelly noted that Kingscourt is one of the largest towns in the County without a library. He stated that people in Kingscourt have to travel to Bailieborough, Carrickmacross or Nobber to use library facilities. He stated that it was very important that the town gets a modern library particularly with the opening of the new Dun na Ri College in September.

Councillor P. O’Reilly supported the motion. He stated that it was a disappointment that such services were not co-located with secondary schools in some towns. Councillor P. O’Reilly asked if there were any further updates available on the new library for Virginia.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that the current plan is to be reviewed and it is hoped that Kingscourt will be included in the new plan. Mr. Ryan stated that there was no further update in relation to the Virginia Library project.

**4. That Council tenants under Part V Housing should have the right to purchase them.**

Councillor C. Kelly asked for clarification on why tenants living in Part V housing accommodation could not purchase these houses. Councillor Kelly claimed that Part V tenants were being discriminated against and he was of the opinion that if the matter was challenged in court the current system was in danger of being found to be unconstitutional.

Councillors P. Smith and S. Smith supported the motion.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services stated that Part V was to ensure that units delivered remain available for people in need of social housing supports and that the goals of the legislation are not eroded over time. He stated that the continued development of mixed tenure communities remains very important in promoting social integration. He stated if offered for sale the house passes out of social housing and into the private market. Mr. McLoughlin stated that there were only eighty six houses on estates around the county affected by the Part V restriction.

Councillor C. Kelly queried why the figure of eighty six was so low for County Cavan.

Mr. McLoughlin, Director of Services stated that the figure was low because developers could opt out of the scheme by making additional contributions.

Councillor C. Kelly proposed that the Council write to the Department asking that the regulations be amended in order to allow Part V housing tenants purchase their dwellings.

Councillor S. Smith seconded Councillor Kelly’s proposal.

**5. The need for a house building programme.**

Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council put in place a housing building programme in order to deal with the high demand for houses throughout the County. He stated that in certain parts of the County it is hard to obtain planning permission due to soil type and therefore people cannot build their own homes. Councillor Smith noted that the type of people requesting homes were those that had been refused a mortgage and would prefer to rent a new house.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion stating that there is a need for the Council to build houses. Councillor Feeley noted that in 2015 only 246 new houses were constructed in Ireland for social housing.

Councillor P. McVitty was of the opinion that special funding should be sought from the Department to renovate vacant shops in local towns and make them habitable for older people.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services stated that in the current climate it is more economical for the Council to buy rather than build new housing stock. Mr. McLoughlin noted that Minister Coveney will be launching a new housing strategy within the next two weeks. He stated that the Council recently secured funding to build extra social housing units in Ballyhaise, Butlersbridge and Rosehill in Mullagh. He stated that the majority of people seeking housing accommodation on the Council’s housing list are looking for two to three bedroom accommodation while very few are looking for one-bedroom accommodation. Mr. McLoughlin acknowledged the Government’s plan to pump €20 billion into national housing programmes by 2020 but stated that at the present time acquisitions represent good value for money and these are homes that can be made available to people on the housing list immediately.

**6. A specific allocation for Local Improvement Schemes.**

Councillor S. Smith noted that down through the years the Local Improvement Scheme served the County well. He stated that the last funding made available through the Local Improvement Scheme was in 2010. Councillor Smith stated that he is convinced that those in Government who scrapped the LIS do not understand the situation affecting homes in rural Ireland. He stated that there are hundreds of people living in laneways across the County who may not have roads to leave their homes in a few years time. He stated that there are businesses and farmers located on these laneways who contribute significantly to the local economy. Councillor Smith proposed that the Executive of Cavan County Council prepare a presentation on laneways in County Cavan in need of repair and submit them to Minister Shane Ross seeking a specific allocation for these laneways.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor S. Smith’s proposal. He stated that there is no reason why funding cannot be allocated between a number of Government Departments. He stated that a special case should be made for County Cavan as other counties throughout the Country receive additional funding towards maritime, rail and airport works of which Cavan has none.

Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that there is an allocation made available by the Government to repair laneways. He stated that the Government are allowing Councils use 15% of their discretionary grant for such works. He noted that the residents can make a contribution of 20% of the cost of the work with the Council meeting the remainder 80%. He stated that it is wrong to deny people living on laneways the opportunity to get to their dwellings.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion stating that the Government need to look after the people living in rural Ireland.

Councillor W. Bennett informed the meeting that Fine Gael had met with the previous Minister for Transport who informed them that no additional funding would be made available for LIS as Councils can use 15% of their discretionary grants to do such works.

Councillor C. Kelly stated that he firmly believed that the LIS was a fantastic scheme and should be re-instated.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services stated that the Council would welcome the return of an allocation to address laneways. He stated that the Council always acted as an agent to Central Government to carry out works on laneways. He agreed with Councillor Feeley in that a number of Departments particularly agriculture should be targeted for extra funding. He pointed out that the previous Minster for Transport replied to Council correspondence stating that the maintenance and strengthening of the regional and local road network across the Country remains a priority for local authorities. Mr. McLoughlin stated that the Council cannot be seen to divert funds to lanes from public roads. He noted that under the LIS in recent years the Council had only managed to carry out work on four laneways. Mr. McLoughlin stated that currently there are 156 schemes on the Council’s waiting list, 102 of these have been previously repaired under the LIS and any new scheme should give priority to those who have not received funding to date.

**7. Extension of the Erne navigation from Belturbet to Killykeen and Killeshandra.**

Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council write to Minister Heather Humphreys asking for an extension of the Erne navigation from Belturbet to Killykeen and Killeshandra. He stated that the extension of the Erne navigation would be of great benefit to the towns of Belturbet and Killeshandra particularly in the area of tourism.

Councillor P. McVitty seconded Councillor S. Smith’s proposal.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion stating that the CEO Waterways Ireland previously commissioned a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the proposed extension but the feasibility of the project was found to be unviable at the time.

Councillor W. Bennett stated that Killykeen should be brought up to the highest possible standard as it is a fantastic amenity to have in County Cavan.

Councillor D. Brady stated that the extension of the Erne navigation from Belturbet to Killykeen and Killeshandra would have great potential for the County.

**8. “That Cavan County Council, noting the outcome of the Brexit referendum, calls on the Irish Government to work with the Northern Executive to ensure that the democratic wishes of the people of the North of Ireland to remain within the EU is respected and to ensure that an island wide solution is found that ensures that the interests of communities, workers and employers North and South, as well as the achievements of the Peace Process are safeguarded”.**

Deferred to Special Meeting of Cavan County Council to be held on Wednesday 27th July.

**9. This Council calls on the Minister for Health to increase maternity resources.**

Councillor N. Connell proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Health to increase resources for maternity services at Cavan General Hospital. Councillor Connell stated that maternity services in Cavan General Hospital are understaffed and the Irish National Midwives Organisation have stated that more than 600 midwives need to be recruited in Ireland in order to achieve basic safety levels. He stated that pregnant women need to have confidence in maternity services particularly in recent times when tragic deaths have drawn attention to the need for a national maternity strategy to be implemented.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that Cavan General Hospital is one of the best maternity hospitals in the Country.

**10. That the Council call on the Cross-Border Bodies to look at regulations that impact on those living in border communities.**

Deferred to Special Meeting of Cavan County Council to be held on Wednesday 27th July.

**11. That the Road Safety Authority considers means to assist the small number of generally older drivers who have had multiple provisional licences and have difficulty passing the Driving Test.**

Councillor J.P Feeley noted that there are a small number of people generally older people who have driven for a considerable number of years on a provisional licence but failed their test due to nerves. Councillor Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Road Safety Authority asking them to consider means to assist the small number of generally older drivers who have had multiple provisional licences and have difficulty passing the Driving Test. He noted that if changes could be made it would make a huge difference to this small group of people. He stated that many of them feel they will become a burden on their families if they are unable to drive themselves.

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

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