**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 10th July, 2017 in the Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor P. McDonald, Cathaoirleach Presiding

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

F. Curtin, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly,

S. P. O’Reilly, P. Smith, V. Smith.

In Attendance: T. Ryan, Chief Executive

 E. Doyle, Director of Service

 J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

 P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service

 E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

Apologies were received from Councillors C. Brady and S. Smith

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting & In-Committee Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 12 June 2017. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 12 Meitheamh 2017 a dhearbhu.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor D. Brady

 Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

 And

 Resolved:

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council & in-committee meeting held on 12 June 2017 be hereby approved”.

**2. To confirm Minutes of meeting of the Environment & Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 6 June 2017.**

It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S. O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

 And

 Resolved:

“that minutes of meeting of the Environment & Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 6 June 2017 be hereby approved”.

1. **To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meetings held on 19 May, 8, 22 & 29 June 2017.**

Noted.

1. **To hear presentation from Teresa Thompson, SIPTU in relation to “Early Years Big Start Campaign”.**

Councillor P. McDonald welcomed Ms. Teresa Thompson, SIPTU, Ms Ann Clarke, owner of Playaway Creche, Rocklands, Cavan and Ms. Mary Farrelly, Community Childcare Manager, Cootehill to the meeting.

Ms. Ann Clarke outlined the difficulties faced by her business once the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) ceases for the summer months. Ms. Clarke who employs seven staff criticised the ECCE programme where the capitation level for the standard rate has not changed over its seven years in existence, yet the associated work load has increased greatly. She stated that childcare workers are barely making a living wage, with some earning less than €10 an hour yet tasked with the responsibility of positively shaping the lives of future generations. Ms. Clarke stated that there are so many parts to the childcare sector which are unjust, disgraceful and unworkable. Ms. Clarke stated that childcare staff and services need to be recognised for their work on a daily basis as it is one of the most important jobs in the State.

 Ms. Mary Farrelly, Community Childcare Manager, Cootehill stated that action is needed now before more childcare services are forced to shut their doors due to increasing financial pressures. Ms. Farrelly stated that the childcare sector does not feel valued or recognised as a sector. She stated that early year’s education is not valued in Ireland and has the lowest investment in Europe. She stated that preschool is the first stage of education and needs to be recognised and supported in order to give every child the best start possible. She informed the members that 80% of preschool income is spent on wages with the remainder covering overheads associated with operating the business. She stated that many businesses are faced with applying for bridging loans while many staff work far and beyond the allocated 38 hour week.

 Ms. Teresa Thompson, SIPTU stated that major reform is needed to address the crisis in Ireland’s childcare sector. She stated that “Big Start” campaign is rolling out a National Strategy to pull together workers, childcare providers and parents as they demand increased investment.

 The members unanimously supported the childcare sector and it was agreed that the Council would write to Minister for Children Katherine Zappone asking for more investment in high quality care and education for preschool children and a decent wage for the workers providing these services.

1. **To note Cavan Sports Partnership “Cavan Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2017-2021: Sport and activity for life, for all” – Consultation**

Noted.

Ms. Nadine McCormilla, Sports Coordinator gave a detailed presentation on the draft Cavan Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2017-2021. She noted that Cavan Sports Partnership was established in 2008 as an initiative of Sport Ireland and Cavan County Council. She stated that it forms part of a National network of 31 local sports partnerships. She stated that the key role of the Local Sports Partnerships was and is to increase participation in sport by creating sustainable structures for people to become involved at a level of their choosing, regardless of their ability, gender or background. She stated that Cavan Sports Partnership Board comprises of a strong interagency group of relevant stakeholders who are consulted with on the plans of the Partnership and who oversee the work of Cavan Sports Partnership. She noted that Councillors M. Argue, P. Brady and P. McDonald are members of the Board. Ms. McCormilla informed the members that comments are invited in relation to the draft plan through the three elected members on the Board or directly to Ms. McCormilla. Closing date for comments is Thursday 20th July 2017. Ms. McCormilla stated that the vision of the Cavan Sports Partnership is very simple and reflects the determination to contribute towards improving the levels of sport and physical activity for all of the people in the county at all stages of life. She stated that Cavan Sports Partnership’s mission is threefold: (i) more activity throughout the county and more people taking part, (ii) support for and partnership with communities, clubs, sports providers and volunteers in the county and (iii) building Cavan’s sport and activity infrastructure and resource base. Ms. McCormilla stated that the work of Cavan Sports Partnership in the period 2017 to 2022 will be guided by building participation, enhancing community capacity and partnerships and improving communications and marketing.

 The members thanked Nadine for her presentation.

**6. To hear presentation from John Nugent, Regional Business Development Manager & Anne-Marie Tierney-LeRoux, Head of Regions, IDA Ireland on the strategy of IDA Ireland.**

Councillor P. McDonald welcomed Ms. Anne-Marie Tierney-Le Roux, Head of Regions and Mr. John Nugent, Regional Business Development Manager, IDA Ireland to the meeting. Ms. Tierney Le-Roux informed the members that IDA Ireland is Ireland’s inward investment promotion agency. She briefly outlined the workings of the IDA stating that it is a state agency 100% funded by the Irish Government. Ms. Tierney Le-Roux stated that the IDA has set a target to increase industry by 30%-40% in each region. She stated that in the border region it is hoped to increase from 47 projects to 61 projects. She stated that in order to meet these targets IDA will be supported by €150m property investment. She stated that the IDA will focus on regional urban centres and strengthen regional footprint.

 Mr. John Nugent, Regional Business Development Manager noted that the border region is made up of counties Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal. He stated that the IDA has offices in Cavan, Dundalk, Letterkenny and Sligo. He stated that in Cavan there are 7 IDA Ireland clients employing over 1,200 staff. He noted that in the last seven years there has been a fall of 41.5% in the live register. He stated that every country and almost every state has IDA equivalent. He stated that the ultimate decision on a location rests with the company and key markets remain in US, Europe and Asia. He stated that talent availability and associated infrastructure around education, housing, transport, healthcare etc are all contributing factors to inviting FDI site visits. He stated that it was not up to the IDA alone where new businesses entering Ireland choose to set up, noting that more was being done to sell regions outside of Dublin. Mr. Nugent stated that these challenges can be overcome if collaborative marketing to promote Cavan and the Border Region in a positive pro-business manner is carried out and by placing specific initiative on talent availability in Cavan and functioning region. Mr. Nugent stated that the IDA is cautiously optimistic for FDI in 2017 however, all investments are hard won and there is increased competition internationally for FDI.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the IDA members to the meeting. He acknowledged the good work done by the IDA on behalf of Ireland particularly in the recession years. Councillor Feeley welcomed the fact that IDA Chief Executive Officer Martin Shanahan met with Cavan County Council Chief Executive Mr. Tommy Ryan and a delegation from Cavan County Council. Councillor Feeley welcomed the one stop shop at the CITC building between the local enterprise office and the IDA. Councillor Feeley stated that he would like to see more IDA presence on the ground. He noted that Cavan featured low down the list when it came to FDI and visits from the IDA. Councillor Feeley asked what targets the IDA had for Cavan stating that direction and guidance is needed from the IDA in relation to the targets.

 Mr. Nugent stated that one of the targets for Cavan and the Border Region is to increase its projects from 47 to 61 and these are not specific to any one location.

 Councillor P.O’Reilly noted that many people are travelling from Cavan to Dublin to work every day as there are no job opportunities in the County. He asked what the people of Cavan can do to help attract an IDA sponsored company to Cavan. Councillor O’Reilly stated that the Council owns a site of up to 70 acres on the Dublin side of Virginia and asked it the IDA had any interest in same.

 Ms. Anne-Marie Tierney, Le-Roux informed the meeting that this particular site is actively being promoted among those being examined to develop large scale data management centres across the Country. She stated that earlier in the year the IDA appointed Jacobs Engineering to identify further strategic sites for the construction of data centres to accommodate Apple and Amazon style investments. While Ms. Tierney Le-Roux accepted that data centres do not traditionally create large employment their development is key to underpinning further investment in the area.

Councillor N. Connell noted there were no visits to the County under the leadership of former CEO Barry O’Leary.

Ms. Tierney Le-Roux informed Councillor Connell that the new CEO Mr. Martin Shanahan had met in June with a delegation from Cavan County Council.

Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that Brexit is not good for FDI and was of the opinion that the IDA should be promoting Ireland as the only English speaking country in the European Union.

Councillor W. Bennett queried whether alert issues for suitable sites to cater for proposed regional data centres capable of backing up new tech companies, would be hampered should there be further hold ups in Eirgrid’s controversial North-South Interconnector.

Councillor P. McVitty queried whether, during any visits to the County, if the IDA visited the west of the County which holds a significant portion of the region’s industrialized business.

Ms. Tierney Le-Roux assured the members that the IDA’s commercial property division were aware of what was and is available to them.

Mr. John Nugent informed the members that in relation to the IDA site in Killygarry, it will be retained for internationally trading or manufacturing companies. He stated that the IDA is working with the Council to accelerate plans for the site. Mr. Nugent stated that of the two IDA sponsored visits to the County last year both were major manufacturers. Mr. Nugent informed the meeting that as yet unreleased departmental figures will show that the county attracted one visit from a potential investor in the second quarter of this year.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive thanked Mr. Nugent and Ms. Tierney Le-Roux for addressing the meeting. Mr. Ryan noted that a productive meeting was held on the 6th June with CEO Mr. Martin Shanahan and a delegation from Cavan County Council. Mr. Ryan stated that the Council has a good working relationship with the IDA and the objective is to bring foreign direct investment to Cavan. Mr. Ryan noted that works needs to be done on the Killygarry site. He stated that it is proposed to develop a county website to market County Cavan. He stated that Cavan has the lands, the people, the talent pool and all the rest and the Council will build on them from here.

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

Noted.

 Councillor P. Smith welcomed the discretionary grants allocated for the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly queried why the discretionary grants for Bailieborough Cootehill were not listed. Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services informed him that they will be listed in the next Chief Executive’s Orders.

 Councillor P. O’Reilly welcomed the rise in planning applications stating that this is a positive move for the County.

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

Noted.

**9. To note casual vacancy on Cavan County Council in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act.**

 Noted.

The members in turn wished Mr. Greenan well in his future. They noted that he was the youngest member of the Council to take a seat in the last election and his departure will be a loss to politics.

**10(a) To approve the disposal of plot of land at Errigal, Cootehill, Co. Cavan containing 0.0393ha. or .972 acres of land to Mr. Damien Sherlock, No. 6 Errigal, Cootehill for the sum of €100.00 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor F. Curtin

 Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

 And

 Resolved:

 “thatthe disposal of plot of land at Errigal, Cootehill, Co. Cavan containing 0.0393ha. or .972 acres of land to Mr. Damien Sherlock, No. 6 Errigal, Cootehill for the sum of €100.00 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act2001 and Section 211of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, be hereby approved**.**

**(b) To approve the 10 year lease of a building known as Old Fire Station, Holborn Hill, Belturbet, Co. Cavan to Monaghan Youth Federation for the nominal fee of €50.00 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

 And

 Resolved:

 “that the 10 year lease of a building known as Old Fire Station, Holborn Hill, Belturbet, Co. Cavan to Monaghan Youth Federation for the nominal fee of €50.00 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, be hereby approved”.

**(c) To approve a 30 year lease of 1.973 acres of land at Drumalee, Cavan for a nominal fee of €50.00 per year to the Trustees of Drumalee Gaelic Athletic Association namely: Thomas Molloy, Brian Comaskey, Pat Sharkey (deceased), George Cartwright and Danny Murphy, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 and notices circulated.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

 Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 And

 Resolved:

 “thata 30 year lease of 1.973 acres of land at Drumalee, Cavan for a nominal fee of €50.00 per year to the Trustees of Drumalee Gaelic Athletic Association namely: Thomas Molloy, Brian Comaskey, Pat Sharkey (deceased), George Cartwright and Danny Murphy, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, be hereby approved”.

**11(a) To approve attendance of members at MacGill Summer School to be held in Glenties, Co. Donegal from 16-21 July.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor P. Brady

 Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

 And

 Resolved:

 “that the attendance of Councillors P. O’Reilly, P. McVitty, S. O’Reilly, F. Curtin, C. Kelly, S. Smith, P. Brady and J.P. Feeley at MacGill Summer School to be held in Glenties, Co. Donegal from 16-21 July be hereby approved”.

**(b) To approve attendance of members at 2017 Parnell Summer School to be held in Avondale, Co. Wicklow from 13-17 August.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor P. Smith

 Seconded by Councillor V. Smith

 And

 Resolved:

 “that the attendance of Councillors P. O’Reilly, V. Smith and P. Smith at 2017 Parnell Summer School to be held in Avondale, Co. Wicklow from 13-17 August be hereby approved”.

**12(a) To note reply from Health Service Executive regarding GP out-of-services for children.**

Noted.

 **(b) To note reply from Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the amenity park at Lavey, Co. Cavan.**

Noted.

 Councillor V. Smith expressed his disappointment with the reply received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Councillor Smith was irate at the fact that TII failed to acknowledge the existing car parking facility on site stating that it was clear officials from TII failed to survey the scene properly. He stated that all the people of Lavey want is a safety barrier and the speed limit extended 100meters either side of the village. Councillor Smith noted that annual swimming lessons at the lake had to be cancelled this year due to safety issues.

 Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services informed the members that the Council would examine the site, after which safety proposals would be designed, including the possibility of barriers, with an application for funding arising from same. Mr. McLoughlin stated that it is unlikely that work would take place this summer.

 **Re-unite Cavan**

 Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the recommendation of the Constituencies Commission to reunite County Cavan in future elections to Dáil Eireann. Councillor Feeley thanked Cavan County Council and acknowledged the work of Dr. Emer Coveney for their detailed and comprehensive submission to the Constituencies Commission. Councillor Feeley thanked the Chairman of the Constituencies Commission and his colleagues for listening to the thousands of submissions made by people and organizations in County Cavan. Councillor Feeley thanked Deputy Brendan Smith who spearheaded a campaign which secured 5,000 signatories on a petition from throughout the County and also the Anglo Celt who played a pivotal role in the campaign.

 Councillors P. O’Reilly, D. Brady and M. Argue also welcomed the recommendation of the Constituencies Commission to reunite County Cavan.

 **Vote of sympathy:**

* The Martin Family, Belturbet on the death of Sean Martin former member of Belturbet Town Council.

 **Vote of Congratulations:**

* Minister Leo Varadkar on his appointment as Taoiseach. It was agreed to send a letter to Minister Varadkar congratulating him on his new position.

It was proposed by Councillor P.O’Reilly and seconded by Councillor M. Argue that a letter be sent to former Taoiseach Enda Kenny wishing him well on his retirement and good health and happiness in the future.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS**

1. **Problem getting HGV Drivers and Insurance.**

Councillor P. McVitty stated that the average age of HGV drivers continues to rise while young drivers are finding it difficult to get experience due to insurance stipulations. He stated that under current law anyone looking to drive a HGV must first acquire Rigid and Artic licences respectively which cost in the region of €5,000. Councillor McVitty stated that a young person may have a full licence but will not get insurance unless he/she has two years driving experience. Councillor McVitty proposed that the Council write to AXA Insurance asking how a driver can gain experience if they cannot get insurance. Councillor McVitty stated that each year HGV drivers must to do a certificate of professional competence course (CPC) which costs in the region of €50 to €70 and asked that the Council write to the Minister for Transport asking that this course be extended to once every five years.

Councillor P. Smith seconded the proposal. He stated that taxi drivers too have to do refresher courses each year.

Councillor P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

1. **Number of vacant houses in Cavan.**

Councillor P. McVitty noted that in a certain housing estate in Cavan town there are twenty vacant Council houses. He stated that some are boarded up and have been closed for the past ten years. He stated that these vacant houses are spoiling the neighbourhood for residents who take pride in looking after their property. Councillor McVitty noted that a number of vacant properties are attracting vermin and people are using them as dumping grounds. Councillor McVitty called on Cavan County Council to look for funding in order to re-construct these houses. Councillor McVitty queried if the rural cottage scheme is still in existence.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service informed the meeting that up to the 7th July 2017 there are 83 vacant properties out of a total of 2025 Council stock. Mr. McLoughlin stated that thirteen of these vacant houses were built in the 1930s and need major refurbishment. He stated that the Council will discuss with the Department Inspector to see if a feasibility study can be carried out on these houses before funding is sought. He stated that there is currently no demand for these thirteen vacant houses from people on the social housing list. He stated that the rural cottage scheme is not encouraged due to percolation areas. Mr. McLoughlin asked the members to give him a list of houses they were concerned about and he would see what could be done.

Items 3 and 4 were deferred.

Meeting concluded at 5.10p.m Next meeting Monday 11th September, 2017.