**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 11th February, 2019 in the Council Chamber at 2 p.m.**

Councillor M. Argue, Cathaoirleach presiding

Present; Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, N. Connell, F. Curtin,

D. Downey, J. P. Feeley, P. McDonald, P. McVitty,

P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly, S. P. O’Reilly, S Smith, V. Smith

In Attendance; T. Ryan, Chief Executive

E. Doyle, Director of Service

P. Connaughton, Director of Service

B. Jennings, Director of Service

L. McGavigan, Senior Executive Officer

E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held on 14th January 2019. Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 14 Eanair a dhearbhu.**

It was;

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty,

Seconded by Cllr. C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 14th January, 2019 be hereby approved”

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

Noted.

**Note Minutes of Committee Meetings**

1. **To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 6 December 2018.**

Noted

**Note Members’ Reports from Conferences / Training events**

1. **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 Department of Rural and Community Development regarding rural Ireland.**

Noted.

**(b) To note reply from Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport regarding proposed traffic legislation.**

Noted.

**(c) To note reply from National Transport Authority regarding public transport in East Cavan.**

Noted. Councillor S. O’Reilly asked that a further letter be sent to the National Transport Authority asking for clarity on when it is expected that the NTA and Cavan Local Link will have improved bus services running from Bailieboro and Ballyjamesduff to Cavan town.

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

**(a) AILG Annual Conference to be held in the Longford Arms Hotel on 21-22 February.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. McVitty, V. Smith, M. Argue, J.P. Feeley, F. Curtin, S.P. O’Reilly, S. Smith, S. O’Reilly & C. Kelly at AILG Annual Conference to be held in the Longford Arms Hotel be hereby approved.

**(b) Celtic Conferences “Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations in Ireland” to be held in Clonakilty from 22-24 February 2019.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. McVitty, M. Argue, J.P. Feeley and S. O’Reilly at Celtic Conferences “Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations in Ireland” to be in Clonakilty from 22nd to 24th February 2019 be hereby approved.

**(c) LAMA Spring Seminar to be held in the Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon on 7-8 March.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. McVitty, J.P. Feeley, S. Smith, S. O’Reilly & C. Kelly at LAMA Spring Seminar to be in Carrick on Shannon from 7th to 8th March 2019 be hereby approved.

**MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS**

**Councillor J. P. Feeley**

**7(i)To ask the Director of Service to outline:-**

1. The number of applications on hand under the Local Improvement Scheme
2. The number of applications that have been fully processed and costed
3. The estimated cost of completing the roads on the list
4. The estimated local contribution required
5. The year of application of the next lanes due to be completed.

Councillor J.P. Feeley was circulated with a detailed reply to the question as submitted.

**(ii) To ask the Director of Service to outline:-**

1. The number of applications on hand for local authority housing
2. The number of such applicants who avail of housing support schemes such as HAP
3. The first preference for location of housing
4. The second preference for location of housing
5. The number of existing local authority houses that are vacant and the cost of rendering such houses habitable
6. The number of houses Cavan County Council proposed to construct or acquire, the stage at which projects are and the likely waiting period for construction.
7. The number of houses to be provided using approved housing bodies and location thereof.

Councillor J.P. Feeley was circulated with a detailed reply to the question as submitted.

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

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

Noted.

1. **Election of Leas Cathaoirleach (Section 38 Local Government Act 2001, as amended)**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S. P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor F. Curtin

And

Resolved;

“that the election of Councillor Philip Brady as Leas Cathaoirleach be hereby approved”

**10(a) To approve the lease of the building known as 2 Keadue Lane, Cavan to Cuan Cancer Care for the sum of €1.00 per annum, 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 F. Curtin

And

Resolved;

“that the lease of the building known as 2 Keadue Lane, Cavan to Cuan Cancer Care for the sum of €1.00 per annum, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

Councillor F. Curtin asked that a letter be sent to the HSE and the CMETB to see if more suitable accommodation is available to facilitate Cuan Cancer Care.

**(b) To approve of the disposal of a plot of land at Kilconny l,.7, Belturbet, Co. Cavan containing 0.021 ha/0.052 acres to Andrew Reynolds, Kilconny, Belturbet, Co. Cavan 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 S. Smith

Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

And

Resolved;

“that thedisposal of a plot of land at Kilconny, Belturbet, Co. Cavan containing 0.021 ha/0.052 acres to Andrew Reynolds, Kilconny, Belturbet, Co. Cavan 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 be hereby approved”.

**11. In accordance with 134(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as inserted by Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014), adoption of 2018 Annual Service Delivery Plan (to be circulated).**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor F. Curtin

And

Resolved;

“that the2018 Annual Service Delivery Plan be hereby approved”.

**Addendum to Agenda**

**To approve Arts Awards recommendations.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor F. Curtin

And

Resolved:

“that payment of Arts Grants in accordance with following list, as circulated, be hereby approved”.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Arts Development Awards Recipients 2019** | | | |
| **No** | **Name of Group / Event** | ***Event description, location, etc.*** | **Fund amount approved** |
| 1 | Kate Ennals - At the Edge literary evenings | Published authors or poets read for 15 minutes and Open mic sessions | € 1000.00 |
| 2 | The Open Door Session | Continue monthly arts gathering in Bailieborough sourcing more established local artists (musicians, artists and poets) to perform to a growing audience. | € 750.00 |
| 3 | Bee Smith | A series of creative writing workshops (poetry and prose poetry) at Loughan House VEC Centre, using the stages of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey | € 400.00 |
| 4 | Bailieborough Creative Hub | Have a programme of workshops facilitated by members who will share their skills and from professional artists to develop and learn new skills. Workshops will also be available to the public to attend. | €600.00 |
| 5 | Maria Bagnoli | To work together with the users of the Dowra Courthouse to create an explorative piece that reflects the creative activities taking place. | €400.00 |
| 6 | Susana Komolafe | Susuana Africa Storytelling for School and Exhibition Expo | €500.00 |
| 7 | Aisteoiri Muinchille | 3 local productions: 'Play On' (Comedy) in April/May; Cootehill Arts Festival production (play) in Jun/Jul & "Murder in the Cathedral" (Dec, in local church). All productions will be directed and performed by Aisteoiri Muinchille members, supplemented where appropriate by local singers/musicians. | € 800.00 |
| 8 | Kilnaleck Youth Drama Society | To produce three age appropriate plays in May/ June 2019, providing parts for each of our 75 members | €800.00 |
| 9 | Cootehill Arts Festival | Host the annual Cootehill Arts Festival | €1000.00 |
| 10 | Cavan Rugby Male Voice Choir | To improve artistic ability, continue performing and participating in events both locally and nationally. | €300.00 |
| 11 | The Virginians Drama Group | Production and public performance at The Ramor Theatre on 31/5/19 and 1/6/19 of an entertainment evening entitled ‘No Place Like Home’. | € 400.00 |
| 12 | Gonzo Youth Theatre | To produce two plays this year with our youth drama groups. Our 14yrs+ group will perform Shakespeare's 'Much Ado about Nothing" and our 11-13yrs group will perform 'Grimm Fairytales' by John Morton. Both plays will be performed in Cavan Rugby Club in April and June 2019. | € 1000.00 |
| 13 | PROJECT Belturbet | To help the youth and adults to produce vibrant wall murals and public art around the town. We would like an expert to help with the design to promote the towns individual character. | € 600.00 |
| 14 | Ballyhaise Community Pre-school GLC | To extend and develop the current drama workshops which are facilitated by Trina McCann and to promote access and inclusion within our pre-school service. | €600.00 |
| 15 | Theatre Lab Cavan | Developing on work undertaken throughout 2018 as part of our Arts award we hope to continue working with director Mitch Mitchelson on the development of a piece entitled "The Beggar on O' Connell Bridge" based on a short story by Ray Bradbury. | €600.00 |
| 16 | Cavan Sinfonia Youth Orchestra & Cavan Sinfonia Orchestra | The Cavan Sinfonia Youth Orchestra is aimed at children who are learning an instrument, or would like to learn an instrument, and provides an opportunity to get involved in ensemble and group playing. The orchestra meets once a week and holds performance evenings for parents, family and the wider community during the year. There are 3 volunteers who train and instruct the children. | €1000.00 |
| 17 | Eimear Crowe | To run a series of ceramic and drawing workshops with Transition Year. The artist would provide professional help and knowledge on how to maximise the creative potential of the newly installed ceramic kiln in the classroom. | €420.00 |
| 18 | Tomasz Grzesik | Solo Exhibition of Assemblage Art called also Recycled Art | €500.00 |
| 19 | Carrie Lewis | Title: Small, but not far away. To create an 3D miniatures of Cavan businesses and landmarks past and present to be integrated into a site specific installation like ConSmith park. | €600.00 |
| 20 | Cavan Town Comhaltas | The one-day event with children from Cavan Town Comhaltas and other branches throughout the county , attending masterclasses with some of the finest traditional musicians in Ireland. The tutors are Dan Boland (fiddle), Jeremy Saich (button accordion), Andrew Beirne (flute) and Karen Dolan (banjo) . | €500.00 |
| 21 | NYAH Comhaltas Branch Cavan | The life and times of Seán Ó Sé From Ballylickey in West Cork, to Belturbet Co Cavan celebrated by 30 artists on stage . A night of stories ,songs & music. | €500.00 |
| 22 | Cavan Camera Club | The Club's objective is to teach new members photography and upskill existing members (novice to senior) in all aspects of photography. We are planning to purchase 2 Elinchrom Rotalux Softboxes, 1 Lastoile TriGrip Large, 2 Light Tent Soft Box plus 2 lamps. | €600.00 |
| 23 | Dowra Court House | To provide lighting for delivering community concerts. The plan is to begin to create concerts on a quarterly basis that include local musicians, poets, writers and other art disciplines. The only lighting in the main room does not create the ambience best suited for performance. | €278.00 |
| 24 | Colm Mullen | Run a five-week project, to engage with young people aged 16-25 who fall within the ‘not in education, employment and training’ (NEETs) category, working in the medium of self-reflective film and photography, | €750.00 |
| 25 | Tony Cuckson | To do a follow up concert at Loughin House Prison based around the Hero's Journey. This will be different from the last concert in that it will be based around the poetry of W. B. Yeats. | €450.00 |
| 26 | POD Youth Theatre | For assistance towards insurance, facilitator expenses, development of a resource library of plays, scripts and materials for use in the development of the artistic programme, production expenses for the Senior performance as part of the Cavan Arts Festival in May 2019 | €300.00 |
| 27 | Cootehill Community Childcare | To run a Pop Art style self portraits or portraits of friends showing multicultural and ethnicity of the afterschool children whilst giving them the opportunity to nurture their artistic interests and skills as there are no regular art classes for children in Cootehill. Exhibition as part of Cootehill Arts Festival 2019. | €500.00 |
| 28 | Rosie Cole & Cavan Arts Festival | Run workshops for teenagers of Youth Reach Cavan during April & May in sculpture design & creation using willow & other natural materials leading to an installation and exhibition at Cavan Arts Festival 2019 | € 700.00 |
| 29 | Cavan Active Retirement | Run a 10week ceramics course with Artist Marie Smith | € 500.00 |
| 30 | Lit Lab Writers Group | Host 7th annual Bailieborough Poetry Festival | € 900.00 |
| 31 | Kingscourt Youth Drama | To appoint two tutors to run weekly drama workshops | €500.00 |
| 32 | Cootehill Branch, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann | To run the 15th annual Gerry Whelan Memorial Weekend | € 300.00 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 33 | Cavan Youth Drama | To run a weekly drama workshop in line with school terms by two facilitators | €500.00 |
| 34 | Belturbet CCÉ | To host an event/project on the main street of Belturbet during the County Fleadh weekend. | €500.00 |

**Votes of sympathy:**

* Ms. Caitriona O’Reilly, Arts Officer, Cavan County Council on the death of her mother Mrs. Alice O’Reilly.
* Mr. Pat Gaynor, Senior Executive Engineer, Cavan County Council on the death of his father Mr. Patrick Gaynor, Senior.
* The Sheridan Family on the death of Fr. Dan Sheridan former PP of Killeshandra.

A minutes silence was observed in memory of the deceased.

**Votes of congratulations:**

* Cavan Older People’s Council on winning first place at the LAMA awards in the “Best Community Based Initiative” category for “The best years of our lives have yet to come” a play written and performed by members of Cavan Older People’s Council.
* Coláiste Dún a Rí, Kingscourt on winning first place in the LAMA awards for “Best Educational Building”.
* Marty Lynch, Housing Liaison Officer and housing staff for organising the Estate Awards.
* Leanne Kieran on winning the Anglo Celt Sports Star of the Year.
* **Comhairle na nÓg Leitrim County Council ‘Use your Brain Not Your Fists’ - an educational video highlighting the effects a fight can have on both the victim and the perpetrator.**

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

It was agreed at the Corporate Policy Group meeting that item 14 be swopped with item 1.

**14. “In welcoming the announcement by Minister of State Andrew Doyle, T.D., that an independent study on the forestry sector in Co. Leitrim is to be conducted by Dr. Aine Ni Dhubháin of the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, that Cavan County Council call for:**

**1. The inclusion of County Cavan in the study**

**2. That pending the completion of the study and the implementation of appropriate changes to the regulatory framework that the Department cease to issue Consents for Afforestation.**

**3. That the terms of reference of the study take into account the many aspects of afforestation.**

**4. That Cavan County Council make a detailed submission setting out the impact of afforestation on our county.**

**5. That changes in the regulation of afforestation include:**

**(a) making the afforestation of lands and related works subject to the Planning & Development Act.**

**(b) introduce a level playing field for other farmers who want to acquire lands for active farming**

**(c) that lands grant aided for afforestation are made available for public access and public benefit.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that the Government had announced a review of forestry in

County Leitrim and he called for this review to also take in areas of County Cavan and the

Wider North West. He stated that a protest took place recently at Leinster House by the

Save Leitrim Campaign to highlight the negative impact of virtually unregulated afforestation

in Counties Cavan and Leitrim and elsewhere in the North West. Councillor Feeley noted

that forestry has a role in the rural economy but what is happening now is not acceptable. He

stated that there is not a level playing field in terms of the vast financial supports for those

who plant land rather than active farming of land. Councillor Feeley proposed that Cavan

County write to Minister of State Andrew Doyle asking that County Cavan be included in the

independent study being carried out by Dr. Aine Ní Dhubháin, that pending completion of the

study and the implementation of appropriate changes to the regulatory framework that the

Department cease to issue Consents to Afforestation. Councillor Feeley asked that the terms

of reference of the study take into account the many aspects of afforestation and that Cavan

County Council make a detailed submission setting out the impact of afforestation on County

Cavan. He asked that changes in the regulation of afforestation include:- making the

afforestation of lands and related works subject to the Planning & Development Act,

introduce a level playing field for other farmers who want to acquire lands for active farming

and that lands grant aided for afforestation are made available for public access and public benefit.

Councillor P. McVitty seconded Councillor Feeley’s proposal. Councillor McVitty stated that too much afforestation will depopulate rural areas.

Councillor S. Smith supported the motion and stated that in the submission being made to the Department the Government should be asked to meet Europe’s criteria and every County should subscribe equally not just those with poorer lands.

**7. Cohesion Funding**

Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council call on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to seek cohesion funding similar to funding allocated in the nineties to assist poorer regions of Europe and stabilise their economies with a view to promoting growth. Councillor S. Smith noted that an allocation of additional funding is required for the Border region in view of challenges that may arise following Brexit and the need to improve infrastructure to assist existing businesses remain competitive.

Councillor P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor S. Smith’s proposal.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion.

**4. To call on the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Health to immediately**

**cease construction of the National Children’s Hospital pending an independent review and accountability process being completed.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly expressed his disgust and condemned the protest that took place outside the home of Minister for Health, Simon Harris. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that Cavan County Council had previously passed a motion asking that the new National Children’s Hospital be sited at Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown. He stated that the road network to Blanchardstown hospital makes the hospital accessible to all parts of the country and away from congested traffic in the city centre. He stated that the hospital was initially going to be built on the Mater Hospital site and this was stopped by An Bord Pleanála. He stated that as a State we are standing over the wastage of €950m. He stated that Minister Harris admitted he was made aware of the possible cost overruns in August last year, but not the final cost. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that the Government needs to stop using Brexit as an excuse for avoiding an election and noted that they have reached crisis point in terms of confidence and supply agreement. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Health calling on them to immediately cease construction of the National Children’s Hospital pending an independent review and accountability process being completed.

Councillor F. Curtin seconded Councillor S.P. O’Reilly’s proposal.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion. He stated that if works were to cease on the hospital it would push the completion stage further away and the children of the country would suffer as a result.

Councillor P. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated the personnel who are not doing their jobs should be exposed.

It was proposed by Councillor P. O’Reilly and seconded by Councillor W. Bennett that construction of the hospital would not cease.

Councillors J.P. Feeley and D. Downey supported the motion.

It was proposed be Councillor F. Curtin and seconded by Councillor D. Downey to adjourn the meeting for five minutes.

After much discussion it was agreed to write to the Minister for Health seeking urgent clarification as to the timeline and cost of the proposed National Children’s Hospital prior to the March meeting

1. **To call on the Minister for Finance and Minister for Health to reverse the decision to increase VAT on health foods and vitamin supplements.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Health asking them to reverse the decision to increase VAT on health foods and vitamin supplement. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that Health Stores have reacted angrily to moves that could impose a VAT of 23% on food supplements including vitamins, minerals and probiotics. He stated that this is a tax on the health of people of Ireland and pointed out that many people regularly take food supplements to keep their bodies functioning normally.

Councillor D. Downey supported the motion stating that these supplements are a preventative not a cure.

Councillor C. Brady stated that she had listened to Dr. Illona Duffy recently on the radio and she stated that there is no scientific proof that vitamin supplements are of benefit to the consumer.

1. **That the Minister for Finance engages in an urgent review of the VAT increase in the hospitality trade.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that he had been approached by publicans and restauranteurs seeking his support to not increase VAT in the hospitality trade. He stated that the Restaurants’ Association of Ireland want to keep the VAT at 9% as an increase in VAT will have a huge effect on tourism in our country. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that there is a massive urban/rural divide in terms of who benefited and who was most impacted.

Councillor P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that it took a long time to reduce the VAT rate initially to 9%. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that stand alone restaurants are the hardest hit by the VAT increase. Councillor P. O’Reilly suggested that the staff in the Local Enterprise Office be asked to speak with businesses in the hospitality trade.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and suggested that the relationship between the Government and the print media may have leveraged the decision to introduce a 9% VAT rate to sale of printed newspapers.

Councillors S, O’Reilly and S. Smith supported the motion

1. **Tourism/TV Licences**

Councillor S. Smith stated that it was unfair that owners of holiday homes, chalets or self-catering apartment which are only let for a few months of the year should have to purchase a yearly television licence. He stated that a number of these houses are let to fishermen throughout the summer months who may never even turn on the television. Councillor S. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to An Post asking that a member of An Post address a Council meeting giving their reason as to why they want to bring in this facility.

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

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

1. **That Cavan County Council resolves to write to the Department of Housing and the Residential Tenancy Board to request a consideration of the French model of blocking evictions of tenants from October 31st to March 31st each year.**

After much discussion on the motion it was agreed to defer the motion until the March meeting.

1. **Re-examination of Salting Routes for County Cavan.**

Councillor D. Downey noted the difficulty faced by many motorists on a steep and hilly 1.7km of road at Crubany School when there is ice and snow on the road. He stated that this part of the road should be salted to allow motorists drive safely on it. Councillor D. Downey stated that it was not good enough for the Council to only act upon gritting the roads when locals in the area phone to seek assistance.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion noting that there were roads at Kiloughter Church and near Redhills that also require salting in bad weather.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion and asked that the L3540 road near Bailieborough be treated as there are two schools, a creche and a Church located on this road.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly asked that the carpark at Carrigabruise N.S. be salted in bad weather.

Councillor J.P. Feeley praised Council staff stating that there were situations where Council staff had acted on initiative much to the appreciation of the local community that benefited.

Councillors S. Smith, C. Brady, N. Connell, W. Bennett, F. Curtin and P. McVitty supported the motion.

1. **Provision of separate access to road and parking at Cavan Astro-Park, Tullacmongan**

Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council examine the provision of separate access to road and parking at the Astro Park at Tullacmongan in Cavan Town following ongoing frustration among locals in the area who have expressed traffic management concerns in the past. Councillor S. Smith stated that the residents in the Ard na Greine area have endured some negative interaction. He stated that parking continued to be an issue and has impacted on emergency services in the area.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion noting that this was a fine facility used by the wider sector of the County.

Councillors P. McVitty, D. Downey and M. Argue supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service praised the work done over the years at the astro park by the late Peter McCaffrey. Mr. Connaughton stated that the Council are aware of the ongoing issues concerning parking and are examining the matter with a view to accessing a funding stream in future to provide for a separate access route to the facility.

**12. That Cavan County Council supports our nurses, midwives and ambulance**

**personnel having a right to pay parity with other graduate professions and better**

**working conditions thus reducing the risk to patients.**

**15. That Cavan County Council call on the Government to engage as a matter of urgency**

**with the Irish Nurses and Mid-Wives Organisation to resolve the current industrial**

**dispute and support the establishment of a judge-led commission to study the wider**

**issues in the nursing and mid-wifery profession.**

**17. Support for the nurses and midwives strike.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council support our nurses, midwives and ambulance personnel having a right to pay parity with other graduate professions and better working conditions thus reducing the risk to patients. Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that patients cannot receive adequate care any more because nurses have too much to do. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that the last thing nurses or midwives want to do is go on strike but unfortunately they have to as they are not paid a competitive wage and have to work in very difficult circumstances.

Councillor J.P. Feeley called on the Government to engage as a matter or urgency with the Irish Nurses and Mid-Wives Organisation to resolve the current industrial dispute and support the establishment of a judge-led commission to study the wider issues in the nursing and mid-wifery profession. Councillor J.P. Feeley called also for support for ambulance personnel and psychiatric nurses noting that these are essential services used by every family at some stage.

Councillor D. Brady stated that we need to support those who support us in our darkest needs. Councillor Brady stated that staffing levels and morale are at an all time low among nurses and they need to be treated fairly. He stated that it takes four years of College education to graduate as a nurse, a health care assistant can obtain a level 5 FETAC and be paid higher than a graduate nurse despite the fact that the health care assistant reports to a nurse.

All members unanimously supported the motion.

**13.Propose that Cavan County Council engage a sub-committee of engineers and**

**designers to come up with relevant ideas and plans to address parking issues in large towns in the county.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly called on Cavan County Council to engage a sub-committee of engineers and designers to come up with relevant ideas and plans to address parking issues in large towns in the County. Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that parking is a problem in towns like Bailieboro, Kingscourt and Virginia. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that more car parking space is required at the new Garda Station in Baileboro as ten spaces is not enough.

Councillor F. Curtin supported the motion stating that small businesses need proper car parking facilities.

Councillors P. McDonald and C. Brady supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service noted the members’ concerns and stated that the Council is in the process of arranging a meeting with the OPW in relation to parking. He stated that consultants have been engaged in relation to off street parking in Virginia and a solution is being looked at in relation to parking in Kingscourt.

**1. That Cavan County Council call on the Government to implement a programme of**

**decentralisation of government departments and agencies from the greater Dublin**

**area.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that currently in Dublin there is a lack of office space and rental accommodation is unaffordable. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that in 1981, 40% of the public sector was located outside of Dublin and it is just over 50% in 2018. Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that the Department of Agriculture was moved to Cavan when decentralisation took place in the 1980’s and provided work within the region and money to the local economy. He stated that in 2003 decentralisation of government departments was announced with the intention of moving 10,000 people down the country to which only 3,148 were decentralised. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council call on the Government to implement a programme of decentralisation of government department and agencies from the greater Dublin area.

Councillor W. Bennett seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley’s proposal.

Councillors S. Smith and S. O’Reilly supported the motion.

**16. Cavan County Council against a hard border on the Island of Ireland.**

Councillor P. McDonald on behalf of the Sinn Fein group called on Cavan County Council to declare their stance with regard to opposing a hard border on the Island of Ireland. Councillor P. McDonald stated that divisions such as those in the past will not be tolerated. Councillor P. McDonald stated that Cavan is a border county and the region had suffered decades of neglect as a result of the border. Councillor P. McDonald noted that he did not want to see a return of checkpoints.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and recalled three stopping points between Blacklion and Belcoo in the past. Councillor Feeley stated that as a country we need to make sure that we are not sold out or used as a bargaining chip against our best interests. Councillor J.P. Feeley complimented the Government on its handling of matters in relation to Brexit to date.

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

**18. Clarity on obligations to local community by sex offenders settling into area.**

Councillor N. Connell called for clarity on obligations to local community by sex offenders settling into an area. Councillor Connell asked if locals and local schools should be notified prior to housing a sex offender.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion noting that there is concern within areas where this is happening.

Councillors D. Downey, P. McVitty and S. Smith supported the motion.

Councillor M. Argue stated that clarification on same would be sought.

Councillor M. Argue informed the members that a retirement function for Mr. Des Maguire, Head of Finance will take place on Friday 22nd February at 8pm in Hotel Kilmore.

It was agreed at the Corporate Policy Group meeting that the March monthly meeting will take place on Friday 8th March in the Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.

**Item Nos. 2,3,9,19,20,21,22, and 23 were deferred to the March meeting.**

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

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