**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 14th October, 2019 in Cavan County Museum at 12.00 noon.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly, Cathaoirleach presiding

Present; Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, P. Brady, B. Fay,

A. Fitzpatrick, J. P. Feeley, C. Kelly, C. Lovett, P. McDonald, P. McVitty,

S. O’Reilly, T.P. O’Reilly, S Smith, T. Smith, V. Smith, P. Walsh.

In Attendance; E. Doyle, Acting Chief Executive

P. Connaughton, Director of Service

B. Jennings, Director of Service

L. McGavigan, A/Director of Service

M. Mohan McNally, A/Head of Finance

E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held on 11th September 2019. Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 11 Mean Fomhair 2019 a dhearbhu.**

It was;

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11 September 2019 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 11 September 2019.**

Noted

Ms. Savina Donohoe, Curator Cavan County Museum welcomed all to the meeting stating that she is delighted to have the October monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Museum to coincide with the official opening of the new shared space. Ms. Donohoe informed the members that the Museum was first opened in 1996 and that it was a great vision at that time by the members of Cavan County Council to purchase St. Clare’s Convent. Ms. Donohoe outlined in great detail the different events that have taken place in the Museum over the years and what the plans are for the Museum going forward. She noted that the next exhibition will be on the War of Independence. She stated that the Museum will use the new space funded by Peace IV Capital Programme to accommodate the school and tour groups from across Ireland that visit the Museum. Ms. Donohoe stated that going forward it is hoped to purchase more lands and an application has been made to build a national storytelling centre at the Museum. Ms. Donohoe thanked Cavan County Council and Peace IV for funding the new Shared Space. Ms. Donohoe thanked all the staff in the Museum for their hard work and support in bringing the Museum to the fine building it is today.

The members in turn thanked Ms. Donohoe for her hard work and commitment and noted that they are extremely proud of the fine building located in County Cavan.

Councillor Bennett proposed that a plaque be erected in the Museum showing the seven hundred and fifty names of the people of Cavan who were killed in the war. This was seconded by Councillor M. Argue.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that work in currently ongoing on a plaque which will be erected by the end of the year showing the names of those killed in the war from County Cavan. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that he met Councillor Dermot Lacey from Dublin City Council in the Museum and noted that Councillor Lacey has stated that he wants to become a strong advocate for Cavan County Museum.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, A/Chief Executive thanked Ms. Donohoe and Mr. Michael Finnegan for their warm welcome and hospitality. Mr. Doyle also thanked all the staff of the museum for their hard work and commitment in making the Museum the fine facility that it is.

**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 Mairead McGuinness MEP regarding the proposal to ban the use of lead ammunition in wetlands.**

Noted.

**(b) To note reply from Communications, Climate Action & Environment regarding climate change.**

Noted.

**(c) To note reply from An Post regarding TV licencing.**

Noted.

**(d) To note correspondence from Local Authority Waters Programme regarding public meetings in Priority Areas for Action in County Cavan.**

Noted.

It was agreed to do a spreadsheet on outstanding correspondence and update the members bi-monthly.

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

**Conferences:**

* **Energy Action Fuel Poverty Conference to be held in Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin on 21st October.**

No attendees.

* **Celtic Conferences “Emerging Threats and Persistent Conservation Challenges for Freshwater Biodiversity” to be held in Clonakilty from 8-10 November.**

It was proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors P. Brady and B. Fay at Celtic Conferences “Emerging Threats and Persistent Conservation Challenges for Freshwater Biodiversity” to be held in Clonakilty from 8-10 November be hereby approved”.

**Training:**

* AILG in conjunction with the Office of the Planning Regulator training programme on “The Planning Process” to be held in Dundalk on 12 October.

It was proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved

“that the attendance of Councillors P. McVitty, C. Brady, V. Smith, S. O’Reilly, B. Fay, M. Argue, W. Bennet, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, P. Walsh, P. Brady and S.P. O’Reilly at AILG in conjunction with the Office of the Planning Regulator training programme on ”The Planning Process” to be held in Dundalk on 12 October 2019 be hereby approved”.

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

**7. To hear presentation from Gas Networks Ireland on “Decarbonising Ireland with Gas”.**

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service welcomed Mr. Jason Hannon, Mr. John Lowry and Mr. David Hanahoe from Gas Networks Ireland to the meeting. Mr.

Connaughton also welcomed Ms. Bronagh Keating, Waste Management, Cavan County Council.

Mr. Jason Hannon and Mr. John Lowry made a presentation to the members on “Decarbonising Ireland with Gas”. Mr. Lowry congratulated Virginia International Logistics, a Co. Cavan based company on becoming the first haulier to complete a zero carbon delivery to Europe using a lorry fueled by renewable gas.

Questions and answers followed the presentation.

**8. To note Financial Report for period ending 30 June 2019.**

Noted.

**9. To** **note Chief Executive’s monthly report (Section 51 Local Government Reform**

**Act 2014)**

Noted.

**10. To fix date and time of Budget 2020 Meeting (Section 103 Local Government Act**

**2001).**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved

“that the Budget 2020 Meeting be held on Friday 22nd November at 10.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber”

It was also agreed that an In-Committee meeting in relation to Budget 2020 be held on Wednesday 13th November in the Cavan Crystal Hotel at 11.00a.m. Mr. Eoin Doyle, A/Chief Executive offered the members an opportunity to make an appointment with the Executive in relation to same as a group or individually.

**11. To approve Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024 (Section 48 of the**

**Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 41 of the Local Government**

**Reform Act 2014).**

Ms. Lynda McGavigan informed the members that a number of submissions were received from members of the public as a result of the consultation period for the SPC Scheme 2019-2024. She stated that it was agreed at the AGM to increase the number of SPC’s to five and this was published on the Draft SPC scheme that went to public consultation.

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved

“that the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024 (Section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 41 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014), be hereby approved”.

**Business and reports submitted by the Chief Executive.**

**12. To appoint members to the Local Government Audit Committee (Section 131**

**Local Government Act 2001).**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved

“that the appointment of Mr. Con Dolan, Ms. Sonya McEntee and Mr. Sean Corcoran to the Local Government Audit Committee be hereby approved”.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Castlerahan Senior Football Team on winning the County Championship Final.
* Laragh Intermediate Football Team on winning the County Championship Final.
* Ballyhaise Minor Team on winning the Division 2 Minor County Final.
* Killinkere Junior Football Team on winning the County Championship Final.
* Drumloman Gaels on winning the Division 1 Minor Football County Final.

**Votes of Sympathy**

* The Family of the late Brendan O’Hanlon, Cornafean and former staff member Cavan County Council.
* The Family of the late Gerard Blake, Kingscourt, father of former Councillor David Blake.

It was agreed that Councillor P. McDonald’s motion on Brexit would be dealt with first on the agenda.

**Slurry Spreading**

Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine asking that the slurry spreading deadline be extended given the inclement weather in recent weeks. Councillor W. Bennett seconded the proposal.

**Liberty Insurance**

Councillor P. McVitty proposed that the Council send a letter of congratulations to Minister Heather Humphreys, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation for supporting Liberty Mutual through IDA in Ireland on the creation of 120 jobs at Liberty Insurance in Cavan over the next three years. This was seconded by Councillor W. Bennett.

**Tidy Towns**

Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that Cavan County Council works closely with Tidy Town Committees in the County and following the recent tidy town results the Council should recognise various communities for the work they do at County Level. Councillor Feeley felt that a formal recognition would give them a boost.

Councillor P. McVitty asked the executive if anything was going to be done in relation to roadworks at the Cavan Crystal or at the retail park where Supervalu is located. Councillor McVitty noted that cars are still turning right coming out of the retail park and there will be a serious accident at this location if something is not done.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that the Council will look into same and currently there is a transportation study being carried out in Cavan Town which will include this area.

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

1. **That the Minister for Employment Affairs & Social Protection review the conditions for Disability Allowance and the Blind Pension and other payments in terms of their impact on persons with visual impairment.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that while people in receipt of disability allowance are entitled to an income disregard in respect of their spouse or partner, a visually impaired person is not entitled to this disregard. Councillor Feeley stated that people with visual impairments are also excluded from the now-suspended Motorised Transport Grant. Councillor Feeley stated that people with visual impairments are being discriminated and he proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection asking that the Government review the conditions for Disability Allowance and the Blind Pension and other payments in terms of their impact on persons with visual impairment.

Councillor P. McVitty seconded Councillor Feeley’s proposal.

**10. That this Council support border communities against Brexit.**

Councillor P. McDonald stated that in the event of a no deal Brexit he is calling on Cavan

County Council to support an immediate call for a Border poll as it becomes

increasingly clear that the majority of people, North and South, want to maintain

links with Europe. Councillor McDonald stated that after all the time and effort that went into getting the Good Friday Agreement up and running, by people on all sides, with the peace and free movement that came with it, we cannot allow this progress to be shattered in the event of a no deal Brexit. Councillor McDonald noted that the vast majority of Northern Ireland voted to stay in the EU and we have to protect the democratic will of the people. Councillor McDonald stated in the installation of checkpoints along the border would be unreasonable and would have significant economic implications.

**17. The impact of Brexit on the Border Region.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley endorsed what Councillor P. McDonald had said. He stated that a no deal Brexit would have devastating effects for Ireland. Councillor Feeley stated that there is no good Brexit and we need to have a sensible deal that will have the least impact on all parties. He stated that if Britain and Northern Ireland are not in the Customs Union there will be additional demands on the local economy. Councillor J.P. Feeley called for a Council task force to examine the many practical implications of Brexit from business and tourism to travel.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and noted that Minister Heather Humphreys held three seminars in relation to Brexit for large and small businesses in the border region.

Councillors P. McVitty, B. Fay and S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

1. **To ask the Executive of Cavan County Council what their plans are for encouraging industries into our county and for the development of industrial sites.**

Councillor W. Bennett asked the Executive what their plans are for encouraging industries into our county and for the development of industrial sites. Councillor Bennett welcomed the good news of the creation of 120 jobs at Liberty Insurance over the next three years.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that since Mr. James Boyle became Regional Business Development Manager for the border counties, Cavan is bearing the fruits already. Mr. Jennings stated that an audit of the County to identify available workforce has just been finalised and this will be made available to the IDA. He stated that there is thirty acres of developed sites at Cootehill Enterprise Park and the access road to same will be completed within the next number of weeks. He stated that in Cavan Town, Breffni Air have currently started to construct on the IDA site. He noted that Cavan County Council own 7 acres adjacent to the IDA land and it is hoped to develop this land in a similar fashion to Cootehill. He noted that Cavan Digital Hub opened on the 1st June and to date it has four companies based in it. Mr. Jennings stated that the Council has submitted a regional development funding application for lands at the rear of the CITC and this is a competitive application for funding with other counties.

Mr. Jennings stated that in relation to the site in Virginia, now that progress is being made on Virginia by-pass, this will help alleviate issues with the site.

Mr. Jennings stated that he would like to think that the same could be done with lands in other appropriate towns in the County.

**9. That Cavan County Council write to Paschal Donohoe, T.D., Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform stating that “Eurostat has confirmed that the Northern and Western Region, which includes our local authority, has moved back from a “Developed Region” to “Region in Transition” and considering that this points to a two speed national economy, how is the Minister proposing to address it; is there opportunity for positive discrimination? Can the Minister also confirm that European Regional Development Funding will continue to be delivered in the regions post 2020?”**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Smith and seconded by Councillor C. Lovett that Cavan County Council write to Paschal Donohoe, T.D., Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform stating that “Eurostat has confirmed that the Northern and Western Region, which includes our local authority, has moved back from a “Developed Region” to “Region in Transition” and considering that this points to a two speed national economy, how is the Minister proposing to address it; is there opportunity for positive discrimination? Can the Minister also confirm that European Regional Development Funding will continue to be delivered in the regions post 2020?”

Item nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11,12,13,14,15 and 16 were deferred.

The meeting concluded at 4.10p.m.

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

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