**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in The Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on Monday 14th March 2022 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor C. Kelly, Cathaoirleach presiding

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

B. Fay, J.P. Feeley, C. Lovett, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, S. O’Reilly,

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

In Attendance; T. Ryan, Chief Executive

 E. Doyle, Director of Service

 P. Connaughton, Director of Service

 B. Jennings, Director of Service

 M. McNally, A/Head of Finance (online)

 L. McGavigan, Senior Administrative Officer

 E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

 E. Smith, Senior Staff Officer

Councillor C. Kelly welcomed all to the meeting.

Councillor C. Kelly referred to a recent meeting of the Cultural Development, Irish Language and Sport SPC of which he is chair and advised the members that he was unable to attend due to personal commitments.

Councillor C. Kelly informed the meeting that Councillors S. Smith and P. McVitty have matters they wish to raise at the start of the meeting.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th February 2022.**

**Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 9 Feabhra a dhearbhu.**

 It was

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 14 February 2022 be hereby approved”

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting of Chief Executive’s Report on Draft County Development Plan, incorporating Local Area Plan for Cavan Town 2022-2028**

It was

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved

“that minutes of meeting of Chief Executive’s Report on Draft County Development Plan, incorporating Local Area Plan for Cavan Town 2022-2028 be hereby approved”

**Councillor S. Smith – Vacant Properties to accommodate refugees**

Councillor S. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Taoiseach, Tanaiste and Leader of the Green Party, Minister Eamon Ryan T.D. asking them to put in place measures to allow vacant state-owned properties be used to accommodate Ukrainian refugees. Councillor Smith noted that numerous people have arrived in Ireland after fleeing Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian invasion on February 24th. Councillor S. Smith praised the response of the people of Cavan in donating money and much needed items as well as offering spaces in their homes for people fleeing Ukraine. He noted that those fleeing their homes were predominantly women and children and they would be delighted to get a roof over their heads.

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

**Councillor P. McVitty – Cost of Fuel**

Councillor P. McVitty stated that the current cost of diesel is putting people out of business and noted that coach companies, farming contractors and hauliers are feeling the impact of price increases. Councillor P. McVitty proposed that the Council write to Mr. Paschal Donohoe, Minister for Finance and Mr. Michael McGrath, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform asking that the Government cap the price of diesel at €1.40 per litre for a period of six months.

Councillor S. P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that this issue was raised last December when the Council wrote to the Minister for Finance and Minister for the Environment calling for a reduction in the VAT rate on fuels to match the 9% rate for the hospitality sector but to date no reply has been received. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that Hungary capped their diesel price at €1.30 per litre and stated Ireland is an island nation that depends on haulage.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and noted that some fuel retailers put up their price four or five times on the day before the Government approved a cut in excise duty.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and called for a postponement of the increase in carbon tax to offset rising prices. Councillor T.P. O’Reilly stated that a decrease in VAT is also needed.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and noted that the Corrib Gas field off the coast of Mayo is running low.

Councillor M. Argue supported the motion and noted that prices are dearer in the North and therefore people are travelling down South to fill their tanks with diesel.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and highlighted the importance of the haulage sector for Cavan, particularly when it comes to jobs.

**19. I call on Cavan County Council to condemn outright Russia’s unlawful unprovoked aggression against an independent sovereign democratic State Ukraine. I call for an immediate cessation of the violence against the Ukrainian people and against its small friendly neighbour. I also call on all the elected MEP’s in Europe to stand up to the plate and send an unambiguous message to the criminals in the Kremlin.**

Councillor M. Argue called on Cavan County Council to condemn outright Russia’s unlawful unprovoked aggression against an independent sovereign democratic State Ukraine. Councillor M. Argue described the invasion as an unprovoked, unjust attack on a smaller neighbour after Russia assured the world they would not invade. Councillor M. Argue praised the Irish people for their response in donating and offering accommodation to the refugees. Councillor Argue also called on the elected MEP’s in Europe to stand up to the plate and send an unambiguous message to the criminals in the Kremlin.

**20. To ask Cavan County Council to write to Minister Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and any other relevant Ministers to expel the Russian Ambassador to Ireland.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Simon Coveney, T.D. Minister for Foreign Affairs and any other relevant Ministers to expel the Russian Ambassador to Ireland. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that there is a large difference in the number of diplomats based in the Russian embassy in Dublin compared to the Irish embassy in Moscow. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick noted that Russia has 30 diplomats working here in comparison to four in the Irish embassy in Moscow. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that the Russian Ambassador to Ireland, Yuri Filatov is constantly telling lies and noted his comments in relation to the bombing of a maternity hospital which he said was a hoax. Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that there is no longer a Céad Míle Fáilte here for the Russian Ambassador.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor Fitzpatrick’s proposal. Councillor S. P. O’Reilly stated that Russians who have made County Cavan their home are disgusted and upset with what their leader is doing.

 Councillor T.P O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that if we expel the Russian Ambassador to Ireland, it could effectively cut relations between Ireland and Russia. He stated that while he was not condemning the events taking place, he felt that we need to keep the embassy open because we need to secure the Irish people living in Russia.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and felt that it is very important to make vacant properties available to the refugees. Councillor J.P. Feeley complimented the Taoiseach Micheal Martin on representing Ireland very well and also on adopting a humanitarian approach. He stated that Russia don’t need 30 diplomats in the Irish embassy and could easily expel 20 of them.

 Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion and stated that we should leave it in the Government’s hands as to how they wish to deal with the Russian Ambassador to Ireland.

 Councillors B. Fay, W. Bennett and P. Walsh supported the motion.

 Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and stated that he was delighted to see Cavan County Council working with the Ukrainian Council. He stated that the LAMA organisation hopes to make a major contribution on behalf of Councillors.

 Councillor A. Fitzpatrick thanked the members for their support.

**3. Disclosure of Interests (Section 177 Local Government Act 2001).**

Noted.

**4. To note minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 6 January 2022.**

Noted.

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

 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.

**6. Correspondence**

**(i) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Transport regarding request for**

 **meeting.**

Noted.

**(ii) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Education in relation to HEPA filters.**

Noted

 Councillor C. Kelly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the new Secretary

 General at the Department of Education, Carrickmacross native Ms. Bernie McNally

 congratulating her on her new position.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor C. Kelly’s proposal.

**7. To approve attendance of members at the following training and conferences.**

**AILG Training**

To approve the attendance of members at Annual Conference to be held in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal on 23 & 24 March 2022.

 It was

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved;

 “that the attendance of Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, P. McVitty, C. Brady, T. Smith, V. Smith, T.P. O’Reilly, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, P. Walsh, C. Lovett, S.P. O’Reilly, B. Fay and S. O’Reilly at AILG Annual Conference to be held in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal on 23 & 24 March be hereby approved”

 **LAMA**

To approve attendance members at Spring Training Seminar to be held in the Hotel Kilkenny on 11 & 12 April

 It was

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor W. Benentt

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, P. McVitty, C. Brady, T. Smith, V. Smith, T.P. O’Reilly, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, P. Walsh, C. Lovett, A. Fitzpatrick, S.P. O’Reilly, B. Fay and S. O’Reilly at LAMA Spring Training Seminar to be held in the Hotel Kilkenny on 11 & 12 April be hereby approved.

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

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

Noted.

**9. To adoption of the Cavan County Council Derelict Sites Policy.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor T.P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that the Cavan County Council Derelict Sites Policy be hereby approved.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that the Derelict Sites Policy was done in conjunction with the Planning and Economic Strategic Policy Committee. Mr. Jennings stated that going forward, the policy will be for the local authority to work with a property owner to bring a site back into use. He stated that if this does not work then there are other powers and levies to bring about improvements. He stated that the latest data held by the Department of Housing showed 23 properties listed on the derelict sites register in Cavan at the end of 2020.

**10 To approve the LCDC 2021 Annual Report under Section 128(b)(i) of the Local Government Act 2014.**

 It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor A. Fitzpatrick

And

Resolved

“that the LCDC 2021 Annual Report under Section 128(b)(i) of the Local Government Act 2014 be hereby approved.

**11. To approve disposal of plot of land containing 0.402 acres or 0.163 hectares at Annagh, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan to Annagh Properties Ltd., 78 Ballyconnell Road, Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh for the sum of €7,628.00, 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 P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved

 “that the disposal of plot of land containing 0.402 acres or 0.163 hectares at Annagh, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan to Annagh Properties Ltd., 78 Ballyconnell Road, Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh for the sum of €7,628.00, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

**12. To approve disposal of plot of land containing 0.0407 acres or 0.0165 hectares at Annagh, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan to Annagh Properties Ltd., 78 Ballyconnell Road, Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh for the sum of €772.00, 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 the disposal of plot of land containing 0.0407 acres or 0.0165 hectares at Annagh, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan to Annagh Properties Ltd., 78 Ballyconnell Road, Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh for the sum of €772.00, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

**13. To approve draft Training and Development Programme for Councillors 2022-2023 in accordance with Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 53(2) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and S.I. No. 236 of 2014 Regulations.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S. P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor T.P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved

 “that the draft Training and Development Programme for Councillors 2022-2023 in accordance with Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 53(2) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and S.I. No. 236 of 2014 Regulations be hereby approved.

**14. 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 2022 Annual Service Delivery Plan.**

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

 Seconded by Councillor T.P. O’Reilly

and

Resolved

 “that in accordance with134(A) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as inserted by Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014) the 2022 Annual Service Delivery Plan be hereby approved”

 **Corlea Road, Kingscourt**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that there is a lot of anger over the way in which works are being carried out on the Corlea Road, Kingscourt. He stated that there was no consultation process with residents and as a result there is now no co-operation with the residents and the contractors. He stated that he has spoken to the Area Manager in relation to same and felt that the people living there should have been treated with more respect.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS DEFERRED FROM FEBRUARY MEETING**

**1. That Cavan County Council provide an update on the North South Interconnector.**

Councillor C. Kelly asked the executive of Cavan County Council if there had been any

recent updates on the North South Interconnector.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service informed the members that there had been no

communication with Eirgrid or ESB Networks since the last Council Meeting. He stated

that he is aware that communication has been made with his colleagues in the Municipal

District regarding traffic management plans. He stated that initial contact had been

made with area managers regarding the proposed plans to deal with traffic management

during the construction phase of the project and the Council is liaising with its

counterparts in Monaghan and Meath to ascertain how they are dealing with the

correspondence. Mr. Jennings stated that he suspected that all correspondence from

Eirgrid would be directed to the planning office in future to ensure a consistent approach

to the project.

**2. That Cavan County Council once again call upon the Minister for Justice and the relevant authorities to hold a public enquiry into the circumstances of the death of Shane O’Farrell and the subsequent terms of sentence imposed on the conviction of the perpetrators.**

 Councillor S. P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council once again call upon the Minister for Justice and the relevant authorities to hold a public enquiry into the circumstances of the death of Shane O’Farrell and the subsequent terms of sentence imposed on the conviction of the perpetrators. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that Shane O’Farrell was killed in a hit and run on the N2 outside Monaghan town in August 2011 while cycling. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that the driver of the car, a foreign nationalist fled the scene of the accident. Councillor O’Reilly noted that Mr. Gridziuska was on bail at the time of the accident and an administrative error within the Court Service meant the prison term was never activated and Mr. Gridziuska has since returned to Lithuania. Councillor O’Reilly noted that the Dáil and Seanad passed motions in 2018 calling for a full public enquiry into the circumstances surrounding Shane O’Farrell’s death. He stated that the O’Farrell family have been let down by a chain of events and they are now asking for a full enquiry to bring some closure to the case.

 Councillor B. Fay seconded Councillor S.P. O’Reilly’s proposal.

**3. That Cavan County Council investigate and explore the possibility of provision of serviced individual sites for sale to those who wish to design and build their own home in their local area but don’t comply with the current land ownership criteria under the rural local needs rules.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly called on Cavan County Council to investigate and explore the possibility of provision of serviced individual sites for sale to those who wish to design and build their own home in their local area but don’t comply with the current land ownership criteria under the rural local housing needs rules. He stated that the Council could purchase land and instal services like water, sewage, and electricity before selling to interested buyers. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that this would be a fantastic way to get people back to rural villages and would also benefit schools and shops in the locality.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the proposal was already adopted as part of the approvements in the County Development Plan. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council seek funding for the works, and it would allow for the slow growth of villages and give people what they want.

 Councillor W. Bennett concurred with Councillor Feeley and seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley’s proposal to seek funding.

 Councillors P. McDonald, T.P. O’Reilly, C. Lovett, S. Smith, B, Fay, P. Walsh and C. Kelly supported the motion.

 Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that the issue was discussed at length during the workshops on the County Development Plan. He stated that the lack of funding is the key issue but acquiring a property would be challenging also. He stated that there may be funding available under the Housing for All project.

**4. That Cavan County Council call on Stephen Donnelly, T.D., Minister for Health to fast-track funding to deal with the waiting list of children awaiting urgent orthopaedic intervention for Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, T.D., asking him to fast track funding to deal with the waiting list of children awaiting orthopaedic intervention for Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus. Councillor Feeley stated that treatment is being withheld because of delays but stated that delays in this area are very severe and unacceptable. He noted that delays to these waiting lists were going on long before Covid existed. He stated that everyday is an extra day of suffering for the children. Councillor Feeley stated that some families are facing delays of up to 18 months. He stated that a shortage of funding is leading to a backlog in cases, which often require prompt treatment if long term effects are to be avoided.

 Councillor B. Fay supported the motion noting that one in every 1,000 babies born here has spina bifida.

 Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that urgent action is needed as the issue is affecting the most vulnerable in our society.

**5. That Cavan County Council call on the Revenue Commissioners to assign additional resources to better enforce the Carbon Tax to deal with unfair competition affecting local coal merchants and in the event that the national ban on smoky coal is enacted that proper resources are provided for the implementation of such a ban.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Revenue Commissioners to assign additional resources to better enforce the Carbon Tax to deal with unfair competition affecting local coal merchants and in the event that the national ban on smoky coal is enacted that proper resources are provided for the implementation of such a ban. He stated that most people agree with the principle of the ban but the fact there is no carbon tax on fuel in Northern Ireland means there is a case of unfair competition. Councillor Feeley stated that he does not expect the Council to have to step up in this case, but something needs to be done as it is very unfair to legitimate suppliers.

 Councillor P. Walsh stated that local fuel traders are facing closure due to the smoky coal ban in Cavan town. Councillor P. Walsh noted that a supplier from Northern Ireland was making deliveries of smoky fuels in and around Cavan town. She stated that under legislation it is illegal for any fuel supplier to sell smoky fuel products or for a householder to burn them. She stated that the price of a bag of smokeless coal could be as high as an extra €7 per bag.

 Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and noted the price difference in fuel north and south of the border.

 Councillors M. Argue. P. McDonald and S. Smith supported the motion.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that the smoky fuel ban in Dublin had led to a 70% reduction in the number of deaths linked to the fuels since the ban was introduced in 1990. He agreed that the Council write to Revenue calling for the regulation of fuel suppliers to better enable the tracking of those selling fuels here. He stated that a nationwide fuel ban is expected to be introduced later this year but Cavan County Council has received no additional resources from the Department of the Environment and the ban is extremely difficult to enforce.

**6. To request an update on library services.**

Councillor S. Smith asked Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Services for an update on library services in the County.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Services stated that Cavan Library has now reopened fully to the public and services available to the public include a browsing service, providing access to lending stock, public computers, printers, local studies research, and study spaces. Mr. Doyle stated that some libraries have resumed programming of events in their libraries, such as meetings of local craft and reading groups, along with meetings of local groups including Cootehill Senior Citizens and Cootehill Town Team. Mr. Doyle stated that Cavan libraries have also resumed their programme of class visits by pre-schools and primary schools. Mr. Doyle stated that Cavan library service with the support of Cavan Civil Defence continue to provide a book delivery service to vulnerable members in the community. Mr. Doyle noted that Cavan library service is currently redeveloping the library website and is currently in the process of migrating to a new and improved national library management system which is due to go live on March 29th. Mr. Doyle stated that a strong focus continues to be placed on the range of free online services that can be accessed through Cavan Library Service. Mr. Doyle stated that work is ongoing in Virginia Library, and it is hoped to build libraries in Ballyjamesduff and Kingcourt going forward.

 Councillor S. Smith thanked Mr. Doyle for his reply and asked if Killeshandra could have its own community run library as the town is without a library since it closed in 1982. Councillor Smith stated that there is an excellent community waiting to provide a service, particularly for the elderly. Councillor S. Smith asked if Cavan County Council would consider giving the books and they would police it and provide the premises. He stated that it could be done on a pilot basis to see if it would work and expense to the Council would be minimal.

 Councillor M. Argue supported the motion and noted that a library in any town is invaluable and praised the work of the library service in Cavan particularly during the pandemic.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and acknowledged the work being done by the library service. Councillor J.P. Feeley called for the service to be extended further into West Cavan. He noted that there is a library in Loughan House that is operated by the Council but only for use by the residents. Councillor J.P. Feeley asked if a mobile library service would be considered or could the Council use public buildings as libraries.

 Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion noting that there was a mobile library service that covered West Cavan years ago.

 Councillor C. Lovett supported the motion noting that there is serious investment needed in smaller libraries as Ballyjamesduff library is currently not fit for purpose.

 Councillors B. Fay, P. Walsh and C. Kelly supported the motion.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Services stated that he had consulted with the Library Service on Councillor Smith’s proposal and the reaction is positive. He stated that the library staff are open to meeting with the group in Killeshandra to further discuss plans. Mr. Doyle agreed that significant investment is needed in the service throughout Cavan and stated that emphasis should be on improving stock and infrastructure rather than extending the service. He stated that mobile library service was ruled out due to the cost and limited coverage it would provide.

**7. To write to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) to reinstate an exemption that was previously in place to allow farmers to burn waste generated by agricultural practices.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) to reinstate an exemption that was previously in place to allow farmers to burn waste generated by agricultural practices. Councillor T.P. O’Reilly noted that an exemption was previously in place to allow for the burning of waste generated by agricultural practices including branches or trees cut from hedgerows or through land clearance and noted that the exemption came to an end on January 1st this year.

 Councillor W. Bennett seconded Councillor T.P. O’Reilly’s proposal. Councillor Bennett noted that this ban stops farmers from burning bushes on their land.

 Councillor S. Smith supported the motion stating that we must keep our hedges in order.

 Councillor B. Fay supported the motion.

 Councillor T.P. O’Reilly thanked the members for their support and stated that derogation is needed on a permanent basis.

**8. That Cavan County Council include policies and objectives promoting the use of renewable resources for the generation of power to include Hydro Powered (Water) electricity generation (considering the extensive national water resources in the county) in the County Development Plan 2022-2028, as part of the Green Agenda.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

Seconded by Councillor T.P. O’Reilly

And

Resolved

that the following motion – “That Cavan County Council include policies and objectives promoting the use of renewable resources for the generation of power to include Hydro Powered (Water) electricity generation (considering the extensive national water resources in the county) in the County Development Plan 2022-2028, as part of the Green Agenda be hereby withdrawn”.

**9. To discuss income limits for Social Housing.**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that income limits for social housing in County Cavan are totally crazy and we are being told constantly that there is a review taking place and at this stage the review has outlasted several Housing Ministers. Councillor C. Kelly stated that the income limit set by the Department of Housing is excluding people from social housing. He stated that it makes no sense increasing the number of houses yet limiting who can apply. He stated to be eligible for social housing in County Cavan a person must have an income below €25,000 a year whereby in neighbouring Meath, limits are €5,000 higher. Councillor C. Kelly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Darragh O’Brien, T.D., asking for a date when the review will be completed.

 Councillor S. Smith seconded Councillor C. Kelly’s proposal

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion noting that €26,000 of an income limit for a married couple was far too low.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and stated that increasing the income limits would increase the number of people eligible for social housing and claimed that the Department will not want to see this happening.

 Councillors P. Walsh, A. Fitzpatrick, P. McDonald and M. Argue supported the motion,

**10. To discuss charging points for electric cars.**

Councillor C. Kelly asked the executive who is responsible for placing electric charging points in the County. He noted that there is very little charging points in County Cavan and more are needed.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that there are a number of stakeholders involved in installing electric charging points including the ESB and An Post. He stated that the main problem in Cavan is that the chargers are slow chargers and take between six and eight hours to charge a car. He stated that 80% of charging is done domestically. He stated that funding is an issue in relation to installing fast chargers which could cost €12,000 annually. He stated that the Council is currently in talks with the providers and looking at the feasibility of putting chargers in every town.

 Councillor B. Fay noted that extensive work had been done in Belturbet at the Post Office.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that charging points would be very welcome in the County. He stated that currently there is no charging point from Cavan to Sligo and not everyone can afford a charging point at their house. He stated that electric cars are not an option in rural locations.

Councillors S. Smith, S. O’Reilly, C. Brady and T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

**11. To discuss dog litter.**

Councillor C. Kelly stated dog litter is a terrible problem in the County at present. He stated that it is a health hazard posed by pet owners not cleaning up after their animals. He stated that only a small few out there create a huge problem. He stated that dog litter is very unpleasant particularly for people with buggies/prams and for wheelchair users, as it is easily transferred from wheel to hand.

 Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and stated that owners of pets need to be taken to task.

 Councillor M. Argue supported the motion and stated that people ignore signs and ignore the bags made available to pick up their pet’s litter. She stated that dog litter is particularly dangerous to small children.

 Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and stated that the law needs to be enforced on these people.

 Councillor A. Fitzpatrick supported the motion and noted that dogs are not allowed on the beach and therefore should not be allowed on footpaths or pitches either. He stated that dog parks should be formed in bigger cities.

 Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and stated that dog owners are spending large amounts of money on grooming, dressing up their pets, flashing leads and yet they don’t care about them when the problem comes from the other end.

 Councillors T. Smith, S. Smith and T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that the Council has published a booklet and ran social media campaigns in relation to dog fouling. He stated that the number of complaints received by the Council in relation to dog fouling is low in comparison to other complaints. He stated that most witnesses will not provide a statement. He stated that in 2022-2023 the Council are planning to provide additional bins in Bailieborough, Shercock and other areas of the County. He stated that the Council has provided over 100 bag dispensers around the County. He stated that the Council’s awareness campaign will commence March/April this year. He stated that the Council is currently restructuring traffic, litter, and dog wardens so that they will all have powers to take action. He stated that Cavan is one of the leading counties in relation to dog registration and licensing fees. He stated that dog fouling is a national problem and enforcement is an issue.

**12. To request an update on the status of the wastewater treatment plant upgrades for Virginia, Kingscourt, Bailieborough, Cootehill and Ballyjamesduff.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly asked the executive for an update on the status of the wastewater treatment plant upgrades for Virginia, Kingscourt, Bailieborough, Cootehil and Ballyjamesduff. He stated that infrastructure must be put in place before going any further.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that in relation to Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Kingscourt, Cootehill, & Virginia WWTP’s, Feasibility Study reports were completed for the above-named sites in Q4 2019 and were progressed to gate 2 works, (Planning, Design, EIA, EIS etc.), in Q1 2020. He stated in relation to Virginia it is intended to increase current capacity from 2000PE to 6075PE. He stated that Virginia WWT works are well advanced, and it is hoped to have the works complete in quarter 4 2024. He stated that in relation to Ballyjamesduff it is intended to increase the current capacity from 2000PE to 6600PE.

**13. To request the Minister for Transport to put in place whatever resources are required to allow the NDLS to expedite the issuing of driving licences.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Transport to put in place whatever resources are required to allow the NDLS to expedite the issuing of driving licences. He stated that he was referring mainly to lorry drivers particularly youth away in Australia, when they arrive home hand in their Australian licence and are then waiting up to 6 months to get an Irish licence.

 Councillor W. Bennett seconded the proposal.

**14. That Cavan County Council write and request the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to review all social media giants for their refusal to stamp out anonymous accounts on their platforms and therefore make people accountable for online bullying.**

Councillor Brendan Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., to review all social media giants for their refusal to stamp out anonymous accounts on their platforms and therefore make people accountable for online bullying. Councillor B. Fay stated that social media giants need to take more responsibility, especially when it comes to bullying on their platforms. He stated that these social media giants set up social media accounts where people are bullied online and then remove the account an hour later. He stated that this is destroying our society. Councillor B. Fay noted that one in four teens are bullied online.

 Councillor S. Smith seconded Councillor B. Fay’s proposal.

**ITEMS MARCH MEETING**

**15. To ask Cavan County Council what the current Regulations are regarding the use of e-scooters and e-bicycles on Irish roads.**

Councillor P. McVitty asked the executive what the current regulations are with regards to the use of e-scooters and e-bicycles on Irish roads. Councillor P. McVitty noted that these scooters and bicycles move very fast on our footpaths and streets and are a danger to people coming out of shops, particularly the elderly. He stated that he was not against the use of e-scooters and e-bicycles.

 Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and noted that there seemed to be no rules or regulations regarding the usage of e-scooters and e-bicycles. She noted only some people wear helmets on them and they are lethal on footpaths.

 Councillor A. Fitzpatrick noted that in Germany people travel everywhere on e-scooters and it is working well. He stated if the proper rules and regulations were imposed then it would work well here too.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that e-scooters are a cheap and easy way of travelling to work for some people and they are used in Europe all the time.

 Councillors C. Kelly, M. Argue and S. Smith supported the motion.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services informed the members that there is a Bill currently going through the Dáil in relation to the usage of e-scooters. He stated that currently in Dublin on University Campus e-scooters are being hired out for usage. He stated that the Bill will deal with age limit and speed limits.

**16. To request Bus Eireann to make clear its plans regarding the separation of charges between Bus Eireann and Bus Eireann Expressway services.**

Deferred.

**17. To request an update from Bus Eireann regarding the re-opening of Cavan Bus Station which had been closed due to the Covid pandemic.**

Councillor M. Argue proposed that Cavan County Council write to Bus Eireann regarding the re-opening of Cavan Bus Station which remains closed due to the Covid pandemic. Councillor M. Argue stated that people are being forced to stand outside in all weathers waiting on a bus. She stated that there is no toilet or washroom available for people who may be facing a three-hour journey or returning from a long journey.

 Councillor P. McVitty seconded Councillor Argue’s proposal and stated that it is ridiculous that there are no facilities available to the public.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly supported the motion and stated that the building needs to re- open for safety to people at nighttime. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that Government Agencies are using Covid as an excuse.

 Councillors P. Walsh, B. Fay, S. Smith, T.P. O’Reilly, and J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

 Councillor M. Argue thanked the members for their support.

**18. To ask Cavan County Council for an update on what it is doing regarding the promotion of the Irish Language and the protection of our heritage.**

Councillor P. McDonald asked the executive of Cavan County Council for an update on what it is doing regarding the promotion of the Irish Language and the protection of our heritage. Councillor McDonald stated that in Louth and Clare place naming committees were established to advise and monitor the selection of suitable names for housing estates within the County. Councillor McDonald noted that in Laois a place naming committee was established and upon receipt of planning permission developers will be required through planning conditions to submit names to the planning section who will in turn forward the place name proposals to the place naming committee. The Committee then decide to accept or reject the name proposed. Councillor P. McDonald asked if Cavan County Council in consultation with the Cultural Development, Irish Language and Sport SPC could do the same.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion endorsing what Councillor P. McDonald had said.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service informed the members that an Irish Officer had been appointed by Cavan County Council through the library service. Mr. Doyle stated that Cavan County Council is currently seeking submissions in relation to its new Irish Language Scheme. He stated that the scheme will run for a three-year period from March 2022. He stated that this scheme will be brought before the members of Cavan County Council to formally adopt. Mr. Doyle noted that Irish forms in relation to different services can be downloaded from Cavan County Council’s website. Mr. Doyle stated that staff are available to assist the public through Irish. He stated that the Council run Irish language reading groups in the library in Cavan town and leaving certificate students can avail of oral Irish workshops in Arva, Cootehill, Baillieborough and Virginia Libraries. Mr. Doyle stated that the Place Naming Committee could be reviewed as part of the Draft Scheme.

 Councillor A. Fitzpatrick noted that a private estate in Cootehill named in Irish has the incorrect spelling on it and wondered would the Council be in a position to change it to the correct spelling.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that the Irish Language Officer could liaise with the Residents Committee in relation to same.

**Theatre Brochure –** Councillor C. Kelly encouraged all members to take with them the brochure in relation to upcoming events in the Town Hall Theatre, Cavan.

**Drama Festival**

Councillor M. Argue informed the members that Cavan’s 74th Drama Festival is taking place from March 20th to March 23rd and asked all members to support.

**John Kearney, Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board.**

Councillor C. Kelly proposed that the Council send a letter of thanks and appreciation to Mr. John Kearney, former CEO, CMETB who is taking up a new position as CEO of The National Council for Special Education, He stated that Mr. Kearney served on the LCDC Committee for two terms. He stated that Mr. Kearney had a great relationship with Cavan County Council and wished him well in his new position.

 Councillor M. Argue seconded Councillor C. Kelly’s proposal.

 Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive wished Mr. Kearney well as he takes up his new position with the National Council for Special Education. He stated that Mr. Kearney was a valued member of the LCDC and he always worked closely with Cavan County Council.

**Ecumenical Service Kingscourt**

Councillor C. Kelly informed the meeting that a Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection will take place in the Market Square, Kingscourt on Friday 18th March at 2pm. He stated that the ecumenical service is to remember all those who died from Covid-19 and acknowledge the great work done by all frontline workers in the County throughout the pandemic.

**Price increase for fuel**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly welcomed the announcement by Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys T.D. of a €125 once-off extra fuel allowance payment to 372,000 households. He stated that he hoped it would alleviate some of the pressure going forward,

**Firefighters New York Parade**

Councillor P. McDonald wished all firefighters from County Cavan who will be marching in the St. Patrick’s Day, Parade in New York City the best of luck and safe travelling,

 **Votes of Sympathy**

* The Corrie Family, Bailieborough on the death of John Corrie.
* All the people killed in Ukraine due to an unprovoked war.

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

**Item No 16 was deferred to April Meeting.**

**The meeting concluded at 5.00p.m.**

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

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