**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in The Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on Monday 9th May, 2022 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor C. Kelly, Cathaoirleach presiding

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

B. Fay, J.P. Feeley, 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

B. Jennings, Director of Service

M. McNally, A/Head of Finance

J. McKernan, Senior Engineer

L. McGavigan, Senior Executive Officer

E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

E. Smith, Senior Staff Officer

Councillor C. Kelly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th April 2022.**

**Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 11 Aibrean a dhearbhu.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11 April 2022 be hereby approved”

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

Noted.

**3. To note minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 10 March 2022.**

Noted.

**4. To hear presentation from Ann Marie Lacey, Director of Cavan Institute.** Councillor C. Kelly welcomed Ms. Ann Marie Lacey, Director of Cavan Institute to the meeting. Ms. Lacey stated that Cavan Institute is a leading Further Education and Training College in Ireland noting that it accepts applications from leaving certificate, mature students, returning graduates, unemployed, early school leavers and national training schemes. Ms. Lacey stated that 50% are under the age of 25 and 50% are from Cavan. Ms. Lacey stated that Cavan College of Further Studies was founded in 1985 with its building located in Main St., Cavan and has grown significantly over the years. She stated that the latest site visit by SOLAS and DFHERIS was made in August 2021 and Cathedral Road has been considered the better option for the location of the new building. Ms. Lacey stated that the college provides 63 full time courses to 850 full time students and the courses lead to QQI awards (Irish national awarding body) at levels 5 and 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications. She stated that part time hobby courses are offered through the Institute’s night school. Ms. Lacey noted that 59% of last year’s graduates continued their education to further education or higher education. She noted that with work experience built into all courses, many students have job offers before they have completed their course. Ms. Lacey noted that recent developments/initiatives within the college included new culinary facilities, CI courses on CAO and further education training into schools programme. She stated that taster modules for transition year students are offered in coding and control systems, 3D design, radio and podcasting, enterprise & innovation, logistics & supply chain and professional cookery. She stated that the Institute had 34 participants from Breffni College, 50 participants from St. Pats and 24 participants from Virginia College last year. She stated that priorities for the future include expanding degree programmes to deliver year 1 of a business degree at Cavan Institute ideally through DKIT. She stated that they want to increase numbers accessing courses for employment and building graduate output in trade areas for this region by removing fees from course for employment to attract students to trade areas. Ms. Lacey noted that the Institute wants to secure a new premises that will ensure the future of the Institute, support the growth of business in Cavan Town and attract investment to the area. She stated that it is hoped to seek support from all stakeholders in lobbying for the building of a new, fit-for-purpose college in a location that is accessible to students and benefits local businesses. Ms. Lacey stated that in four years, the Institute will reach 40 years and the College wants to lead and build integrated further education training in Cavan Town. Ms. Lacey thanked the members and Cavan County Council for their support and giving her the opportunity to make the presentation.

The members in turn thanked Ms. Lacey for her presentation.

**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 Office of the Minister for Health regarding Covid-19 restrictions in**

**maternity hospitals.**

Noted.

**(ii) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Health regarding Cavan Mental Health**

**Services.**

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick stated that the reply received from the Minister for Health only

listed what is already happening in the County. He stated that people are not getting over

suicide because there is a lack of support and counselling available to them. He noted that

in the letter it states that the HSE go to the local hall with leaflets but unfortunately after

that people are left to their own devices. Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that he wants a pilot

scheme started in Cavan to look at how we tackle the problem of suicide in our County.

Councillor B. Fay supported Councillor Fitzpatrick and stated that the HSE are hiding

behind GDPR.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported Councillor Fitzpatrick and noted that Cavan has the

highest rate of youth suicide in the Country and no County needs supports as much as

Cavan at this present time. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly complimented Ms. Emer Mulligan,

resource officer for suicide prevention on the great work she is doing but unfortunately, she

cannot do this alone. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that the hierarchy are not listening

and a pilot scheme needs to be put in place in Cavan for the prevention of suicide.

Councillor P. Brady noted that in the letter the HSE highlighted the work it does following a

suicide to provide supports and information to schools and the GAA and other sports

clubs. Councillor Brady stated that the HSE provide very little help to the GAA or teachers.

Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that there are too many administrators and managers and not

enough counsellors. Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to Ms. Christine

Wynne from SOSAD and Ms. Emer Mulligan, Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention

inviting them to a meeting of Cavan County Council to make a presentation to the members

on the services they provide and work they do. This proposal was seconded by Councillor

B. Fay. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Health

asking that he meet with a delegation from Cavan County Council to discuss the issue of

Mental Health.

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick seconded the proposal.

Councillors T.P. O’Reilly and P. Walsh supported Councillor Fitzpatrick.

Councillor C. Kelly proposed that the Council write to the HSE, CEO and the Secretary

General of the Department of Health to make them aware of the situation.

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

**AILG Training (Module 2) “Climate Action – The Role of Local Government” to be**

**Held on 14th May in The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. McVitty, T. Smith, V. Smith,

J.P. Feeley, S. O’Reilly, A. Fitzpatrick, B. Fay and S.P. O’Reilly at the AILG Training

(Module 2) “Climate Action – The Role of Local Government” to be held on 14th May in

The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan be hereby approved”

**8.**  **MEMBER’S QUESTION – COUNCILLOR JOHN PAUL FEELEY**

The number of times in he past two years that the Fire Service and/or Area Staff have had

to respond to roads flooded in the Dowra & Glangevlin areas and the duration that roads

were closed.

An answer to the question posed by Councillor J.P. Feeley will be circulated at a later

date.

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

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

Noted.

**10 That Cavan County Council enter into an agreement with Louth County Council in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). The purpose of the agreement is to give Louth County Council all the powers, duties and functions of Cavan County Council in relation to the “FASTER PROJECT” (Facilitating a Sustainable Transition to EVs in the Regions).**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved;

“that Cavan County Council entering into an agreement with Louth County Council in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) be hereby approved”.

**11. Approval of nominee to Cavan Local Community and Development Committee under Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014:**

* **Dr Fiona McGrath, Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board, replacing Mr. John Kearney, Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the approval of Dr Fiona McGrath, Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board to replace Mr. John Kearney, Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board as nominee to Cavan Local Community and Development Committee under Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 be hereby approved”.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS DEFERRED FROM APRIL 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

meetings with Eirgrid or ESB Networks since the last Council Meeting.

**2. To ask Cavan County Council, as we approach the 80th Anniversary of the fire at St. Joseph’s orphanage, to erect a memorial in the town centre in memory of the children who lost their lives on the 23 February 1943.**

Deferred to June meeting.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS MAY MEETING**

**3. That this Council oppose the ban on the cutting and sale of turf.**

Councillor P. McVitty proposed that Cavan County Council oppose the ban on the cutting and sale of turf and asked that Cavan County Council write to all local authorities to support the motion. Councillor McVitty proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Eamon Ryan stating that this Council opposes the ban on the cutting and sale of turf. Councillor P. McVitty noted that ending the cutting of turf is ending a tradition in Ireland. He noted that currently there is serious concerns about the ability to heat homes. He noted that in the context of the current climate, in particular wholesale oil and gas prices, if people are refrained from burning turf it is likely that many will be unable to obtain an economically viable heat source for their homes. Councillor P. McVitty stated that Minister Ryan does not know what it is like to live in rural Ireland.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor McVitty’s proposal. He noted that Minister Ryan has nine advisors, and they are allowing Minister Ryan to go on a self-destruction path. He stated that the Government need to question the Minister on what he is doing to Rural Ireland.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and expressed the disappointment that when Sinn Féin had a motion in the Dáil two weeks ago and criticised the other parties for not backing moves by Sinn Féin to delay carbon tax rises.

Councillor S. Smith supported the motion. He noted that the amount of turf being cut in this country has already reduced over the years and therefore has very little effect on the Environment.

Councillors P. Brady, W. Bennett, T.P. O’Reilly, B. Fay, S. O’Reilly and M. Argue supported the motion.

**4. To seek a review of Enable Ireland and waiting times for referrals of children.**

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly stated that there is currently up to three years of a waiting list for children to avail of services. He proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Children and Minister for Health to seek a response on what their recommendations would be to reducing waiting times. He stated that young children are slipping through the net because of the backlog and families are concerned that children are missing out on early intervention and support methods which are critical to the development of their child.

Councillor S.P O’Reilly seconded the proposal. He stated that there is a major backlog with Enable Ireland getting assessments done for those in emergency situations. He stated that in some cases parents need to go privately and pay money for these services. He noted that Enable Ireland has received significant funding over the years and yet there is a hydrotherapy pool in Cavan lying idle due to lack of personnel.

Councillor M. Argue supported the motion. Councillor Argue stated that the continued closure of the hydrotherapy pool at the Hillside Centre in Cavan is not good enough. She noted that this pool would be of great benefit to the people in the region.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion and noted that there is a major problem with no speech therapists available to children with special needs.

Councillors W. Bennett, A. Fitzpatrick, S. O’Reilly and P. Walsh supported the motion.

It was agreed to include the problem with speech therapists and the closure of the hydrotherapy pool in the letter to the Ministers.

**5. That Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Justice to introduce legislation providing for a domestic violence register.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee, asking her Department to introduce legislation providing for a domestic violence register. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that those convicted of violence against women should be placed on a register for offenders. He stated that the proposed register could then be made accessible to protect women who are in a relationship with someone who has previous convictions. Councillor Feeley referred to the murder of Jennifer Poole who was stabbed seven times by her partner in Dublin in 2021 and noted that it was only during the sentencing of her murder, that the Poole family became aware that her killer had previously served time in prison for assaulting a previous partner prior to his relationship with Ms. Poole. Councillor Feeley stated that the current situation is a huge worry with no system in place for victims or their families to be made aware of potential abusers.

Councillor P. McDonald seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley’s proposal. Councillor McDonald stated that those who hold a criminal record for domestic abuse, should notify relevant authorities when they are in a new relationship or sharing a household with someone.

**6. To arrange a meeting between Cavan County Council and TFI local link Cavan Monaghan to look at potential new bus stops in the County.**

Councillor P. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council arrange a meeting with TFI Local Link Cavan Monaghan to look at potential new bus stops in the County. Councillor P. Brady noted that elderly people want the local link to stop outside their house. He stated that elderly people cannot get to bus stops as they may live alone and have no means of transport to get to a bus stop, yet the bus passes by their door. He stated people have active travel passes and yet cannot use it to go to their local town.

Councillor A. Fitzpatrick supported the motion and noted that the 108 Bus Eireann service will only stop in Bailieborough and Cootehill and nowhere in between. He stated that it is a pointless route if you cannot get on the bus somewhere in between.

Councillor W. Bennett seconded Councillor P. Brady’s proposal and stated that he had been contacted by a number of people in the Cashel Cross area who have to go to Ballinagh to avail of Local Link despite the fact that the bus to Cavan town passes their doors.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion noting that the service had moved away from its original purpose of linking smaller towns to bigger towns.

Councillors T.P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly and B. Fay supported them motion.

**7. To ask the HSE and the Minister for Health why people with disabilities are being charged to travel every day to training centres.**

Councillor P. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the HSE and Minister for Health asking why people with disabilities are being charged to travel every day to training centres. He stated that many are travelling to centres like Drumlin House, Cootehill and it is costing them €4 a day which is not good enough. Councillor Brady also noted that service users cannot use their free travel pass on private services. Councillor Brady noted that this daily cost is stressing parents out and the HSE are taking money from the vulnerable in our society.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and stated that it is a disgrace that people accessing services are being charged. He stated that the HSE need to address the issue.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion and noted that families are already saving the State a fortune by looking after their loved ones at home.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion.

**8. Doc on call services in Cavan.**

Councillor P. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the head of North-East Doctor on Call and the HSE in relation to Doc on call services in Cavan and as to why trained nurses cannot sign a letter to give to somebody being referred to A & E. He stated that they experienced first-hand the issues that lie within the service. He stated that the incentive should be given to young doctors to practice in local communities for at least two years, before jetting off elsewhere as soon as their studies are completed. He stated that Doc on Call are not seeing patients they are sending them in through Accident and Emergency in the Hospital who are then charging the patient €100 for attending A & E. He noted that nurses are not authorised by the HSE to sign referral letters for the patients, even though they are trained and know what they are talking about.

Councillor S.P. O’ Reilly supported the motion noting that Doc on Call service was set up to help those in an emergency setting and instead now it is causing immense stress on families. He stated that it is far easier to get a vet on call to your house than it is to get Doc on Call because the HSE do not want to pay extra staff or locums. He stated that Doc on Call needs to be overhauled in the County.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly supported the motion stating that there is a clear lack of engagement with the HSE and smaller communities.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and noted that the issue lies with the lack of staff willing to participate in the Doc on Call scheme. She stated that there are only three GPs in Cavan willing to cover weekend and out-of-hour emergencies, and that the scheme would close if the retention and recruitment of staff continued to be an issue.

Councillors P. McVitty, B. Fay, P. Walsh, A. Fitzpatrick, P. McDonald, S. Smith and S. O’Reilly supported the motion.

**Votes of Congratulations**

* Virginia Rugby Club, Senior Team and Management on a brilliant finish to the season winning against Monaghan in the Final.

**Votes of Sympathy**

* The Wade Family, Templeport on the death of John Wade, former employee of Cavan County Council.

Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that last year the Courthouse was lit up blue/green for National Neurofibromatosis (NF) Awareness Day. This year National NF Awareness Day takes place on 17th May and she proposed that the Council light up the Courthouse blue/green.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service reminded the members of the Cavan County Development Plan briefing being held on Wednesday 11th May in Hotel Kilmore at 9.15am.

Councillor Clifford Kelly informed the members that the next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Monday 13th June in the Council Chamber.

**The meeting concluded at 4.35p.m.**

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

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