

# Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Cavan on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 2.00p.m.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach, presiding

PRESENT: Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, N. Brady, P. Brady, S. Conaty, N. Connell, B. Fay, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, S. O'Reilly, Á. Smith, N. Smith, T. Smith, V. Smith, P. Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE: E. Doyle, Chief Executive  
P. Connaughton, Director of Services  
B. Jennings, Director of Services  
L. McGavigan, A/Director of Services  
M. McNally, A/Head of Finance  
E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

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Councillor T.P. O'Reilly welcomed all to the meeting.

## Confirmation of Minutes

### 1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 14<sup>th</sup> Deireadh Fómhair 2024 a dhearbhú.

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor N. Smith

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 be hereby approved”

### 2. Disclosure 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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Noted.

### 4. To hear presentation from Shane McLaughlin re. Special Olympics.

Mr. Shane McLaughlin from Clones addressed the members and stated that he always had the vision of getting truck pulling into the Paralympics in 2028. Mr. McLaughlin stated that as an amputee he has set his third Guinness World Record for truck pulling. He informed the members of his achievement and success to date and efforts to get the sport adopted by the Paralympics. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he is determined to get truck pulling into the Paralympics and hoped this will happen with his endeavours in highlighting and raising

awareness. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he hoped to receive his fourth Guinness World Record by pulling a forty-eight-tonne aircraft in West Virginia USA. Mr. McLaughlin informed the members that on St. Patrick's Day 2025 he has been invited to pull a 9/11 fire engine in New York and would appreciate all the financial help he could get. The members in turn wished Mr. McLaughlin continued success and congratulated him on this three Guinness World Records to date.

### **Note Members' Reports from Conferences/Training events**

#### **5. 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**

#### **6(a) To note replies from Office of the Minister for Education in relation to school bus scheme.**

Noted. Councillor Kelly asked that a further letter be sent to put a proper scheme in place.

#### **(b) To note replies from Waterways Ireland and Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media regarding the decline in cruiser traffic on the Shannon-Erne Waterway.**

Noted. Councillor D. Brady welcomed the reply and stated that he awaits the outcome of the report.

#### **(c) To note reply from Community Healthcare, HSE regarding vacant HSE Health Centres.**

Noted. Councillor Conaty expressed his disappointment with the reply and noted that a GP is needed in Ballyhaise.

#### **(d) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Housing regarding Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme.**

Noted.

#### **(e) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Housing regarding clarification on housing grants.**

Noted.

### **7. To approve attendance of members at:**

- AILG training held in Sligo Park Hotel on 24<sup>th</sup> October and Radisson Hotel Limerick on 2<sup>nd</sup> November (retrospective approval)

It was

Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors W. Bennett, N. Brady, S.P. O'Reilly and B. Fay at the AILG training held in the Sligo Park Hotel on 24<sup>th</sup> October and Radisson Hotel Limerick on 2<sup>nd</sup> November be hereby approved”

- ALLG training to be held in The Claregalway Hotel on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

It was

Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors W. Bennett, T. Smith, V. Smith, P. Brady, J.P. Feeley, N. Smith, Á. Smith, P. Walsh and C. Kelly at ALLG training to be held in The Claregalway Hotel on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be hereby approved”

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

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

Noted

#### **9. Nomination of member to the Cavan County Council Audit Committee**

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive informed the members that Ms. Sonia McEntee and Mr. Sean Corcoran have been re-appointed to the Audit Committee. Mr. Doyle informed the members that Mr. Gerard Kelly from Kelly Rahill Accountants has been nominated to the Committee and asked for approval from the members.

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that the nomination of Mr. Gerard Kelly to Cavan County Council Audit Committee be hereby approved”.

#### **10. To approve disposal/lease/licence for a period of 5 years of 0.48 hectares of land at Crannadillon, Virginia, Co. Cavan to Mr. Barney O’Reilly, Mr. Tom Gray and Mr. John Donnellan, Virginia Men’s Shed c/o Virginia Show Centre, Virginia, Co. Cavan for the agreed annual licence free of €10, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor T. Smith

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved;

“that the disposal/lease/licence for a period of 5 years of 0.48 hectares of land at Crannadillon, Virginia, Co. Cavan to Mr. Barney O’Reilly, Mr. Tom Gray and Mr. John Donnellan, Virginia Men’s Shed c/o Virginia Show Centre, Virginia, Co. Cavan for the agreed annual licence free of €10, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

- 11. To approve disposal/lease/licence for a period of 5 years of 0.31 hectares of land at Drumnawall, Arvagh, Co. Cavan to Mr. Jim McDonald, Mr. Cyril Sheridan, Mr. Cormac O’Donnell, Mr. Barney Cully, Mr. Michael Ellis and Mr. Brian McAvoy, St. Patrick’s Arvagh GAA, Arvagh, Co. Cavan for the agreed annual licence free of €10, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

Seconded by Councillor N. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the disposal/lease/licence for a period of 5 years of 0.31 hectares of land at Drumnawall, Arvagh, Co. Cavan to Mr. Jim McDonald, Mr. Cyril Sheridan, Mr. Cormac O’Donnell, Mr. Barney Cully, Mr. Michael Ellis and Mr. Brian McAvoy, St. Patrick’s Arvagh GAA, Arvagh, Co. Cavan for the agreed annual licence free of €10, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

- 12. To approve disposal of 1.1 hectares or 2.72 acres of land approximately at Killygarry, Co. Cavan to Fire Doors Ireland Limited, current address Unit 2 & 3 Rahardrum Business Park, Bailieborough Road, Virginia, Co. Cavan for the sum of €90,000.00, 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 C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor P. Walsh

And

Resolved;

“that the disposal of 1.1 hectares or 2.72 acres of land approximately at Killygarry, Co. Cavan to Fire Doors Ireland Limited, current address Unit 2 & 3 Rahardrum Business Park, Bailieborough Road, Virginia, Co. Cavan for the sum of €90,000.00, 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 the draft Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor S. Conaty

And

Resolved;

“that the draft Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme be hereby approved”.

**14. Extension of Litter Management Plan by one year until October 2025.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the extension of the Litter Management Plan by one year until October 2025 be hereby approved”.

**15. To fix date and time of the Budget 2025 Meeting (Section 103 Local Government Act 2001).**

It was

Proposed by Councillor W. Bennett

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the Budget 2025 Meeting be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 10.30am in the Council Chamber.

Ms. Margaret McNally informed the members that an in-committee budget meeting will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at 9.30am in the Hotel Kilmore.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

- Mr. Paul Brady, Mullahoran brother of Councillor Philip Brady on winning his 6<sup>th</sup> World Handball title in the Open Singles competition in Croke Park.

- The members wished Mullahoran Ladies Intermediate Team and Lurgan Ladies Senior Team the best of luck in the upcoming Ulster Finals.
- East Cavan Gaels on winning the Ulster Hurling Junior Final
- Laragh Gala Variety Show on winning the Creative Communities Category in the Pride of Place Community Awards held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan.

Councillor S. Conaty proposed that a Civic Reception be held for Laragh Gala Variety Show and Councillor B. Fay proposed that a Civic Reception be held for Mr. Paul Brady. Both were agreed to by Cathaoirleach Councillor T.P. O'Reilly.

### **Power Up Grant**

Councillor B. Fay stated that problems have arisen for some businesses accessing the new grant worth €4,000 as many businesses have been left devastated by the eligibility criteria. He stated that the categories have been reduced to two, namely accommodation and food service, and wholesale and retail. He stated that only the businesses that had classified themselves within those two categories in Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) 1 for the grant in ICOB 2. Councillor B. Fay stated that the Department must ensure that all businesses that got ICOB 1 get the Power Up Grant as these businesses were not informed about the changes and they need this financial support.

Councillors D. Brady, C. Kelly, P. Brady, P. Walsh and T. Smith supported the motion. Ms. Margaret McNally, A/Head of Finance stated that the matter had been raised with the LGMA and they had already written to the Department to have it rectified.

## **MEMBERS' ITEM – DEFERRED FROM OCTOBER MEETING**

### **16.1 The need to increase income limits for social housing.**

Councillor P. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Darragh O'Brien, T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage asking that the income limits for social housing be increased. Councillor P. Brady complimented the Housing Section on the work they do but noted for people to get on the housing ladder income limits must be increased.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and stated that a lot of middle-income families renting a house fear getting a notice to quit and noted that there are no houses available for them to rent.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and noted that a further increase of at least €5,000 is needed on income limits.

Councillors P. Walsh, W. Bennett, Á. Smith, N. Connell, S. Conaty and B. Fay supported the motion.

## MEMBERS' ITEMS – NOVEMBER

### **16.2 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 stated that there had been no recent updates on the North South Interconnector since the last Council meeting.

### **16.4 Go leanfaidh Comhairle Contae an Chabháin nósanna cuí in dtaobh taispeáint an Bhratach Náisiúnta I limistéir fhoirgnimh poiblí, ag teacht le nósmaireachtaí náisiúnta.**

**That Cavan County Council follow appropriate protocol in the display of our National Flag in the vicinity of public buildings, in line with the national etiquette.**

Councillor S. Conaty proposed that Cavan County Council follow appropriate protocol in the display of our National Flag in the vicinity of public buildings, in line with the national etiquette. Councillor Conaty stated that nothing in the world gives him greater pride than to see our tri-colour taking its rightful place under the sun and among the flags of the nations of the world. He stated that when not under the sun, in the light it should remain and not left out in the dark, unlit at night. Councillor Conaty stated that in the instance where the flag is displayed in the open outside the hours of between sunrise and sunset, it should be lit with a beacon and asked that Cavan County Council observe the protocol when displaying the flag in the vicinity of public buildings.

Councillor N. Connell seconded Councillor Conaty's proposal.

Councillor C. Kelly stated that once the flag is flying at night it should be lit.

Councillor T. Smith noted that there are occasions when the flag is not getting the respect it deserves and there are rules for dealing with the flag.

Ms. Lynda McGavigan, A/Director of Service stated that Cavan County Council had engaged a contractor to put in a spotlight so that it will illuminate the flag when it is flying at night in the same way as the courthouse is illuminated. She stated that this is about a change in protocol and once the light is in place the Council will always leave the flag up.

Ms. McGavigan stated that currently the focus is on the flagpole at the green, and the Council is currently making arrangements for the flagpole to be placed on top of the Courthouse, which will probably take a little bit longer to achieve as there is more work involved.

### **16.5 The need for HSE management to outline the immediate filling of posts in the Dublin North-East clinical area.**

Deferred

### **16.6 That Cavan County Council propose the total abolition of inheritance tax for all**

**domestic homes and family farms.**

Deferred

**16.7 That a full survey of dangerous junctions and road crossings be published and additional funds be sought for their improvements.**

Deferred.

**16.8 Go nglacfaidh Comhairle Contae an Chabháin le moltaí de chuid Chomhchoiste an Oireachtas don Ghaeilge, Ghaeltacht agus Pobal Labhartha na Gaeilge, i dtaobh feiceálachta na Gaeilge ar chomharthaí and marcanna bóithre.**

**That Cavan County Council adapt recommendations from the Oireachtas Joint-Committee on Gaeilge, An Ghaeltacht agus Pobal Labhartha na Gaeilge, on the visibility of the Irish language on road signage and road markings.**

Councillor S. Conaty called on Cavan County Council to adapt recommendations from the Oireachtas Joint-Committee on Gaeilge, An Ghaeltacht agus Pobal Labhartha na Gaeilge, on the visibility of the Irish language on road signage and road markings.

Councillor Conaty stated that the issue of the visibility of the Irish language on roads was discussed at the last two meetings of the joint committee and recommendations were adequately published that are to be adopted by local authorities. He stated that these markings present the Irish language to the public in a way that offers a real use and application of the language and increases both its visibility and relevance in society. He stated that it is also the belief of the joint committee that these markings will significantly add to safety on our roads. He stated that the new road markings will come at limited extra costs and the recommendations have already received significant buy-in from stakeholders.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and warned against Government Departments using Google Translate for the signage and markings in the first instance. She stated that it is important when promoting the Irish language that it is evident in the environment and everywhere.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that currently road signs and road markings for Cavan County Council are in accordance with a traffic signs manual, which is published by the Department of Transport and constitutes direction from the Minister for Transport. Mr. Connaughton stated that the Council will take on board the recommendations of the Oireachtas Joint Committee but would not recommend that the Council adopt a blank acceptance of them. He stated that it would be a costly exercise and would have to be implemented on a phased basis. Mr. Connaughton stated that he would bring the matter to the Transport Strategic Policy Committee.

**16.9 Go gcuirfidh rialtas na hÉireann cosc láithreach le hiompar airm chuig Forsaí Cosanta Iosrael tríd aerspás nan Éireann.**

**To call on the Irish Government to immediately halt the illegal transport of weapons to the Israeli Defence Forces through Irish airspace.**

Councillor S. Conaty proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Irish Government to immediately halt the illegal transport of weapons to the Israeli Defence Forces through Irish airspace. Councillor Conaty noted that the Government has allowed dozens of flights to cross over sovereign Irish airspace knowing that the bombs, guns and missiles are on route to Israel and then being brought to Gaza to aid illegal occupation of that State. Councillor Conaty stated that these weapons are now being turned on our own soldiers as Israel threatens Irish led UN Peacekeeping missions in Lebanon. Councillor Conaty stated that people are disgusted by the illegal use of Shannon Airport, and it must stop immediately.

Councillor D. Brady seconded Councillor S. Conaty's proposal.

**16.10 To call on Cavan County Council to introduce dedicated parking spaces for hidden disabilities.**

Councillor Á. Smith called on Cavan County Council to introduce dedicated parking spaces for hidden disabilities. Councillor Smith noted that everyday tasks such as shopping, attending appointments, going to parks and public amenities with children can be challenging for people with hidden disabilities like autism. Councillor Smith stated that the Council should be providing dedicated parking spaces to people with hidden disabilities as in some cases some of these individuals and families are not entitled to a disabled parking permit but need to be able to park closer to certain facilities and in a safe manner. Councillor Smith noted that in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford there has been a successful rollout of autism-friendly parking spaces in Council owned carparks near playgrounds and Cork County Council are now trying to do similar. Councillor Smith asked if the same could be introduced as a pilot scheme initially in Cavan Town before rolling it out across the County. Councillor Smith stated that the simple addition of these spaces in our county would make a huge difference to those with hidden disabilities and it would be a positive and progressive step if Cavan County Council took it on.

Councillor P. Brady seconded Councillor Á. Smith's proposal and stated that it would be great to see an initiative like this piloted in Cavan town.

The motion was supported unanimously.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service advised the members that the Council are looking at revising the bye-laws in March of next year and will take the proposal into consideration.

### **16.11 Need for more post-natal services.**

Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the HSE highlighting the need for more post-natal services. Councillor Smith stated that the period after childbirth is extremely challenging for mothers. She stated that the Irish Government provides all babies with free extensive checks, appointments and care but new mothers receive one mother and baby checkup at six weeks and that is it. She stated that many postpartum conditions cause considerable suffering in a woman's daily life long after birth, both emotionally and physically and yet they are under appreciated, under recognised and under recorded. Councillor Smith noted that in other European Countries such as The Netherlands and Belgium, postpartum planning begins at around thirty-four weeks, in Spain she noted that mothers receive a passport which enables them to check in with a community midwife monthly. Councillor Smith noted that in Ireland women have final checkups six weeks after the birth usually with their GP when it is assumed that her body has returned to normal. Councillor Smith stated that appropriate care for women in the weeks and months after childbirth would in the long term ensure a better and faster recovery and would mean less chance of suffering from postpartum depression and save money in the healthcare system.

Councillors C. Brady, P. Walsh, B. Fay, N. Brady and T. Smith supported the motion

### **16.12 Asking Cavan County Council to develop more parking spaces in Council owned estates to alleviate traffic congestion.**

Councillor N. Connell requested that Cavan County Council develop more parking spaces in Council owned estates to alleviate traffic congestion. Councillor Connell pointed to the difficulties with parking during peak hours which create bottlenecks and residents feel trapped in their houses, especially in the event of an emergency when emergency vehicles need to access the estate. Councillor Connell stated that this is also having a negative impact on the community and on people's quality of life.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and noted that it is not just one car outside a house now, some houses have three or four cars to park.

Councillor S. Conaty supported the motion and noted that the situation highlights the importance of solving the housing crisis. Councillor Conaty noted that there are hardworking grown adults, being forced to live in the box room in their parents' house as they cannot get themselves onto the property ladder.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and noted that the problem extends beyond council-owned estates and is evident in other estates around Cavan town too.

Councillor Smith noted that residents find it hard to get in or out of Loreto Wood due to drop offs and pick ups from Loreto College. Councillor Smith suggested that the Council write to the school and see if they could manage their traffic a little bit better.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and noted that in some cases there are no spaces for people to park their cars and it is becoming chaotic in estates both Council owned and privately.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion.

Councillor C. Brady stated that these issues were eased when residents and councillors work together through Residents' Association groups. Councillor Brady stated that Residents' Association groups have a role to play as it is a health and safety issue where there are children playing in these estates.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and noted that older housing estates were not built with parking as a priority as people did not own cars back then.

**16.13 That we write to the Minister for Education, Norma Foley, T.D., and the National Council for Special Education and ask for clarification on the lack of communication between the Department on new builds and delays in the school building department which is causing frustration and affects the health and wellbeing of both staff and pupils.**

Councillor B. Fay stated that he had been contacted by a few local schools expressing frustration over the delays in new schools builds. Councillor Fay noted that one local school had a new extension approved for the school in the 2021/2022 school year, which included the sanctioning of a special classroom for autism. He stated that planning for the project had reached stage one and as time went on the school accommodated two new special classrooms for children with autism to meet the needs of the community. He stated that the stage one planning for the new extension has been frozen for the last three years and the principal has pleaded her case with the Department on numerous occasions. He stated that mixed communication has been given to the Board of Management at the school and it has received nothing in writing, and it has not been allocated any funding for the new build. Councillor Fay stated that there appears to be a complete lack of communication between the various departments on the issue. He stated that it is unfair that extensions are being granted and the plans are left waiting by the Department. Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Education and the National Council for Special Education to ask for clarification on the lack of communication between the Department on new builds and delays in the school building department which is causing frustration and affects the health and wellbeing of both staff and pupils.

Councillor D. Brady seconded Councillor B. Fay's proposal.

**16.14 That we write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland and ask for justification in relation to the location of the average speed cameras on the N3. Whilst the use of**

**average speed cameras is welcome, we wish to raise concerns over the current location of the speed cameras in relation to existing junctions.**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland and ask for justification in relation to the location of the average speed cameras on the N3. He noted that whilst the use of average speed cameras is welcome, there are concerns over the current location of the speed cameras in relation to existing junctions. Councillor Fay stated that the average speed cameras on the N3 need to be closer to the Belturbet roundabout. Councillor Fay stated that while the installation of the speed camera is welcome, they have failed to alleviate concerns over traffic navigating junctions along the road.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that while the section between the two speed cameras has reduced, you now have people tailgating to try and avoid the camera getting their number plate and then when people get to the other end, they think they are on a runway and take off at speed to make up for lost time during the drive between the speed cameras.

Councillors D. Brady, Á. Smith and T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

**16.15 That we write to the Minister for Health and the Garda Commissioner to ask for clarification on the sale of vapes to under 18s. To further ask if all vendors have been informed of their responsibilities as there seems to be a total disregard for this law and ask for legislation to totally ban disposable vapes.**

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health and the Garda Commissioner to ask for clarification on the sale of vapes to under 18s and to further ask if all vendors have been informed of their responsibilities as there seems to be a total disregard for this law and ask for legislation to totally ban disposable vapes. Councillor Fay stated that products are being made available to under 18s in shops across County Cavan with a lot of shops selling sweets and vapes side by side. Councillor Fay stated that vendors are saying they got no instructions from the Government or the Garda Commissioner on the matter. Councillor Fay stated that regulations are not being enforced.

Councillor S. Conaty supported the motion and stated there is a place for vapes when they help smokers to quit but disposable ones are a scourge for young people and for health in general. He stated that the colours and flavours make them so enticing for young people and people who never smoked before are vaping.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and noted that the law came into force December 2023, and she challenged a local shop in her own town over selling vapes. Councillor Brady stated vendors must be reported by the public if selling vapes to under 18s.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and noted that vapes are a gateway to further addiction.

Councillors N. Smith, C. Kelly, Á. Smith and T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

### **16.3 To discuss concerns arising around new technologies such as BESS.**

Councillor S. Reilly noted that new technology is moving faster than the human response, e-scooters are banned from buses because of fire risk, some years ago aeroplane companies were not allowing the Samsung Galaxy phone onto flights because of a fire risk and yet forty-eight by forty-foot storage containers of lithium batteries can be given planning permission on a small, unsuitable site in a residential area. Councillor O'Reilly stated that people rely on planning regulations and that the laws governing planning are guided by experts in the relevant fields where specialised planning knowledge and appropriate regulations are needed. Councillor O'Reilly stated that people assume something like a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would have a specialised set of regulations governing how the site should be managed and where such sites can be located so as to ensure optimum safety for the public but unfortunately it is concerning to note that there are no regulations, no governance, no protocol or procedures governing BESS sites. Councillor O'Reilly stated that this is very dangerous and opens the door to unscrupulous or unethical companies who want to make quick money and leave a long-term mess without any deterrent or penalty. Councillor O'Reilly stated that the Council need to hold back before giving planning permission to new emerging technology, especially technology that have chemicals like lithium and phosphates as there are too many unknowns. Councillor O'Reilly stated that there is no regulatory control and nothing to stop a landowner or lease holder who places these forty-foot containers on their land from walking away after ten years and leaving a battery mess leaking in a field for the Council to clean up at a cost to the taxpayer.

Councillor S. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage asking that legislation be implemented around BESS sites including, environmental impact, consultation with local communities, proper regulation and criteria around site location must be put in place.

Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor S. O'Reilly's proposal and stated that legislation must be put in place in relation to Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that the Department and other regulators need to look at the information put in place by people with expertise.

Councillors C. Kelly, B. Fay, V. Smith, P. Walsh, W. Bennett, N. Connell, N. Brady and T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

Any other business:

Councillor T. Smith wished his four colleagues Councillors T.P. O'Reilly, C. Brady, S.P. O'Reilly, S. O'Reilly the best of luck in the forthcoming General Election to be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive joined in the best wishes to the members putting their names forward for the General Election. Mr. Doyle wished Minister Heather Humphreys all the best in her retirement and acknowledged her role and stated that she did exceptional work for the people of Counties Cavan and Monaghan.

Councillor C. Kelly wished the members well in the forthcoming General Election and thanked Minister Heather Humphreys for all the good work in providing funding to both Cavan and Monaghan during her term of office.

It was proposed by Councillor T.P. O'Reilly and seconded by Councillor C. Kelly that a letter of thanks from Cavan County Council be sent to Minister Heather Humphreys.

The meeting concluded at 4.10p.m.

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

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