

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

1 AUGUST 2005

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen G Mullan, Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, L Cubitt, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle (chair) , M Donaghy, C Ó hOisín, J F McElhinney, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

In Attendance: Committee Clerk, Director of Support Services, Senior Environmental Health Officer and Senior Building Control Officer.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR:

The Mayor – Councillor Coyle reminded members that it had been agreed that the Environmental Committee be chaired by a unionist member. Councillor Cubitt said unionist members did not have a chance to meet or decide on the chair due to the summer recess and requested that decision be deferred to the next Environmental meeting. Agreed.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Brolly that Councillor Coyle would chair the August Environmental Services meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Alderman Robinson, Alderman Rankin, Councillor Douglas and Director of Environmental Services.

DEPUTISING:

Members welcomed Jacqueline Glass and Nicky Matthews, who were deputising for the Director of Environmental Services at the meeting. They also welcomed Eamon McCotter, who was deputising for the Chief Executive.

MINUTES:

The minutes of previous meeting dated 6 June 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Councillor Brolly.

MATTERS ARISING:

Roe Fold – Access to Multi-Purpose Civic Centre: Councillor Cubitt highlighted that residents from Roe Fold were unhappy with decisions taken by Fold Management and would be objecting to their road being adopted by Road Service.

Compulsory Purchase of land at Drumaduff Dump: The Senior Building Control Officer agreed to update Councillor Chivers at the next Environmental Services meeting on the compulsory purchase of lands at Drumaduff dump.

Playground at Blackburn Park: Councillor Cubitt said that whilst the playground at Blackburn Park was to be welcomed, larger children were causing problems and rubbish was not being put in the bins provided.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – JULY/AUGUST 2005:

Environmental Health Department:

The Senior Environmental Health Officer presented the Environmental Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to the following:

Environmental Health Management – ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System: The Senior Environmental Health Officer reported that Derry, Limavady, Omagh and Strabane Councils and Western Group were recommended for registration of Quality Management Systems to ISO 9001:2000 and had received the Certificate of Registration in Omagh on 27 January 2005. She said that in June 2005 the four Council's Environmental Health Services and Western Group were subject to an external audit and she was pleased to report that Limavady had been successful in demonstrating that the Quality Management Systems was being maintained.

The Senior Environmental Health Officer thanked staff from Council's Environmental Health Department for their commitment and effort in preparing for and administrating the necessary documentation required to comply with the standard. She also thanked staff of the Western Group Environmental Health Services for their continued support and assistance.

Food Safety Week 2005: The Senior Environmental Health Officer reported that as part of Food Safety Week, a marquee had been present in Market Street on 16 June 2005 and the public had shown great interest in the 'Calamity Kitchen' stand and food safety messages, which were promoted by Environmental Health staff. She said that members of the public had been invited to participate in a local "Spot the Hazards" competition and in addition all entries were forwarded to a nationwide competition by the Food Standards Agency.

Londonderry & Limavady Agricultural Show: Members referred to the success of the Londonderry and Limavady Agricultural Show, which took place at Tullyhoe, Ballykelly on Saturday 9 July 2005. The Senior Environmental Health Officer said the show had given staff from the Environmental Health Department the opportunity to promote safe food messages and that imitation farm animals had been used to demonstrate the need to wash hands after being in contact with animals. She said that in addition staff promoted home and farm safety messages through leaflet distribution and display of equipment such as smoke alarms and medicine cabinets.

Pollution Incident at River Roe, Limavady: The Senior Environmental Health Officer explained that on 22 July 2005 the Environmental Health Department received notification of a pollution incident on the lower reaches of the River Roe.

She said the matter was immediately referred to Environment and Heritage water Quality Division for investigation and that incident was also being investigated by the Loughs Agency.

Councillor Stevenson referred to the excessive length of time taken to get results from water samples and said aerators were put in the river to appease the public. Councillor Ó hOisín said the incident was disastrous for the river and that the figure of 150 given for fish killed had been underestimated as he knew of one fisherman who had taken 75 dead fish from the river. Councillor Cubitt pointed out that the EHS were notorious for being slow in getting results and that he hoped that whoever had caused the pollution would be prosecuted.

In the lengthy discussion that following, Alderman Mullan proposed that the Senior Environmental Health Officer write to EHS and to Loughs Agency requesting a speedy response to the investigation into contamination of the River Roe and state that Council was unsatisfied by events and would like the response to be provided as soon as possible. This was seconded by Councillor Brolly.

Councillor Ó hOisín suggested that a site needed to be identified for a hatchery and proposed that the Senior Environmental Health Officer write to the Lough Agency requesting a salmonoid hatchery for the River Roe. Councillor Carten seconded the proposal.

Noise Complaint: The Senior Environmental Health Officer reported that a complaint had been received by the department in March 2005 regarding noise from an entertainment venue in the Borough. She said that the complainant who lived in the adjoining property had alleged that the music was clearly audible and keeping her awake. The Senior Environmental Health Officer said contact was made with the proprietors who were asked to ensure that noise emanating from their premises did not cause annoyance to others living nearby and advised that should complaints continue, monitoring would be carried out to ascertain if a statutory nuisance existed.

The Senior Environmental Health Officer explained that following a further complaint, monitoring had been carried out and the noise was found to be in excessive of World Health Organisation's night time noise criteria. She said that a noise abatement notice had been served on the licensees of the premises on 24 June 2005 to abate the noise within 21 days of notice and that Council would be kept informed if the notice were complied with.

Building Control Department:

The Building Control report detailing applications approved, acknowledged and issued between 1 June and 30 June 2005 and 1 July and 26 July 2005 were tabled and noted.

Technical Services Department:

The Senior Building Control Officer presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to the following:

Playground at Blackburn Park: The Senior Building Control Officer reported that members of the local community had requested that the fence enclosure and

picnic table at Blackburn Park be extended to provide space for additional seating and picnic tables and this request had been acceded to. The retrospective approval of additional costs, which included ground works, seating and picnic tables totalling £4,790 + VAT was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Brolly.

Multi-Purpose Civic Centre – Additional Asbestos Removal: The Senior Building Control Officer highlighted that asbestos containing material had been found in the lift shaft of the Town Hall and this had been undetected by White, Young and Green during initial asbestos surveying or costed in the original tender sum for the demolition works. He said that costs of £13,800 were submitted for the demolition contractor to Consarc design Group on 21 July 2005 for removal of the material and Consarc, White, Young and Green had confirmed the removal cost to be fair and reasonable. Accordingly Consarc authorised the demolition contractor to proceed with removal of the asbestos material.

Members voiced concern as to why the asbestos had not been detected in the initial survey and also to the escalating cost of the Multi-Purpose Civic Centre. At Councillor Coyle's suggestion, Councillor Cubitt formally proposed that Council be provided with a accurate report from White, Young and Green on events leading to the asbestos discovery and that health and cost grounds should be taken into consideration. This was seconded by Councillor Brolly.

Multi-Purpose Civic Centre – Out Building Demolition: The Senior Building Control Officer informed members that the out building which Council had intended to retain was found to be structurally unsound and had been demolished. Members agreed to the retrospective costs of £500 + VAT.

Ground Maintenance: The Senior Building Control Officer stated that all planting had now been carried out and hanging baskets had been distributed to the various sites within the Borough, with leftover plants being distributed to community groups. He said that works at Burnfoot pitch was now complete and a decision had been taken to install a number of drains to wet areas at Curragh Road pitch. It was agreed that costing for the drains would be provided to members.

Councillor Cubitt highlighted that Scroggy Road playing fields were being damaged by people using the fields as a golf course and requested that this be investigated. Agreed.

Grass Cutting: The Senior Building Control Officer reported that grass cutting was well underway and that quotations were sought for repairs to some of the machinery. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten to accept the lowest quotations of £2,900 + VAT submitted by D A Forgie.

Councillor Donaghy suggested that agreement be reached between Council and the Housing Executive on grass cutting as it was visually unattractive when Council cut one area and left areas nearby for the Housing Executive to cut. Councillor Cubitt said the roundabouts on the by-pass were a disgrace and long grass needed cut in Greysteel. It was agreed that a meeting be organised between Council, Roads Service, Housing Executive and the private sector to co-ordinate grass cutting for 2006.

Dungiven Sports Pavilion and Community Centre – Provision of Children’s Play Room: As there had been insufficient response to the building works contract it was agreed that the contract be re-tendered. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín to accept the tender from House of Play in the sum of £20,000 + VAT for soft play equipment.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Signs – Alexander Road/Crawford Square: Councillor Cubitt requested that signs be provided for Alexander Road and Crawford Square.

Provision of Toilets – Ballykelly: Councillor Cubitt requested that quotations be provided for provision of toilets in Ballykelly. Alderman Mullan suggested that a balance was needed and that Council would have to think carefully before agreeing to give up much needed car parking space for toilets. It was agreed that the Senior Building Control Officer would investigate past decisions taken regarding the provision of toilets in Ballykelly.

Road Traffic Accident: Councillor Brolly advised that she had been involved in a hit and run accident a few months previously when driving on Council business. The Director of Support Services agreed to investigate insurance cover.

London Bombings: The Mayor – Michael Coyle explained that the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone had written to express thanks for extending sympathy to the families of those killed by the London bombings. Councillor Coyle reminded members that he had opened a Book of Condolence for those wanting to express their sorrow at the tragedy.

NEXT MEETING:

5 September 2005

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.05 pm)