

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH**

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
1 NOVEMBER 2011**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor S McGlinchey

Aldermen M Coyle, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, C McLaughlin, G Mullan, D Nicholl, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - None.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 4 October 2011 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 3 – Consultation on Libraries NI: Reference was made to the above consultation which proposed to reduce the opening hours of Limavady Library from 56.5 to 40 hours per week. It was agreed that Council would respond to the consultation by pointing out that members would be reluctant to see services removed or diminished in the Borough by reducing the library opening hours. .

Page 3 – (AOB) Provision of Footpath, Bellarena: Members were advised that the request for provision of 1000m of footpath between Bellarena Train Station to Bellarena Primary School had met Roads Service criteria and the that the proposal would be added to a list of similar schemes that would be developed in accordance with current policy and procedures. Given the length of the proposed scheme and potential high cost, it was likely that the scheme would be delivered in stages. The response from Roads Service was welcomed.

Page 3 – No Parking Lines at Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró: Members welcomed that Roads Service had agreed to introduce double yellow no parking lines at the entrance to the centre. It was also suggested that bollards be put in place as soon as possible to stop vehicles entering the pedestrian square.

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE – HELD 15 JUNE 2011:

The minutes of Audit Committee meeting held 15 June 2011 were approved by members. The Chief Executive highlighted that Council had been given a SUBSTANTIAL level of assurance in its systems of internal control. He said this assurance was to be commended and not one the internal auditors gave out lightly.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:

The Chief Executive presented his report for November 2011 which was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

RPA: The Chief Executive informed members that the Transition Committee had met with Minister Attwood on 27 October 2011 and that he had praised Causeway Coast & Glens Transition Committee, with Banbridge/Craigavon/Armagh as the two exemplar clusters who continuing to work together and invest in Transition Manager resource going forward. He said that the Minister was firmly of the belief that the 15 Council model was the optimum model for restructuring of the 26 Councils and that he would be proposing to the Executive this option to see a shadow Council in 2015 before final hand over to the new Councils in 2016. Despite this, the Minister was also of the opinion that the 11 Council model may be forced through by parties in 2015 without further hindrance.

The Chief Executive outlined that the Minister envisaged that resources to fund RPA would be met by Councils through a mixture of loans and savings from the ICE programme. He also envisaged the interim transfer of some minor aspects of planning processes to Councils in advance of RPA but expressed a note of caution in light of difficulties experienced by Scotland and elsewhere when planning became the responsibility of Council. He added that the Minister accepted that there were concerns over legislation being passed to councils in an unplanned manner from Departments bringing potential financial implications to Councils. It was noted that the Minister would look into how the Department could help in this regard.

Several members voiced their discontent at the RPA process and the cost to date with very little progress to show so far.

Corporate Risk Register: The revised Corporate Risk Register for 2011/12 was approved by members.

Corporate Planning Process: The Chief Executive reported that the consultation process on the development of a new Corporate Plan for 2012-15 was now underway. He said that staff had been consulted on 21 October and that community/business & statutory bodies were being consulted on 2 November 2011. He said a consultation survey exercise was also taking place through a number of avenues, including online survey, hard copy at venues and by staff interviewing residents in Limavady, Ballykelly and Dungiven. He added that the results would be utilized to present a first draft plan for interrogation or amendment by members at a meeting provisional organised for 29 November at 7pm.

It was stressed by members that it was important that all sectors and all areas be consulted with regard to their views on the Corporate Plan for 2012-15.

Support for Rural Community Transport – Health & Wellbeing Funding: Member's gave their support for a letter from Moyle District Council to Minister Poots, which points out an anomaly in the dial-a-lift scheme that provides for people visiting family or friends in hospital but cannot be used to facilitate patients attending hospital appointments. It was noted that Moyle District Council had asked that consideration be given to extending the criteria to facilitate patients attending appointments.

December Council Meeting: Members were asked to bear in mind that a special meeting to discuss the outcome of the NWWMG procurement exercise for the provision of an MBT plant would be required in early December. It was noted that as there were huge resource implications associated with the decision to appoint a preferred bidder, each Council in the NWWMG would be holding a special meeting in confidence.

The Chief Executive advised that a date had not been finalised for the NWWMG study visit to Norway.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR McCaul:

Councillor McCaul proposed:

‘that following the 3 recent damning reports which highlight the lowering of operational independence of the Ombudsman’s Office, that this council calls for the immediate resignation of the Ombudsman Al Hutchinson in order to begin the restoration of public confidence within this Office’

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor McCaul highlighted that the actions of Mr Hutchinson had damaged the Ombudsman’s Office as it was now discredited by the expense scandal. The motion was seconded by Councillor Brolly.

In the discussion which followed points made included:

- There was no need for the Ombudsman to resign as his post was being replaced within 3 months.
- Even though the Ombudsmen’s Office had been discredited, time factors had now made the motion irrelevant.
- That the IRA was responsible for most violent acts during the troubles.

The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, 6 for, 6 against and 3 abstentions, with the chair using his casting vote in favour of the motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR McCORKELL:

Councillor McCorkell proposed:

‘that this Council notes the excellent work of the Royal British Legion and recognises the outstanding service and dedication of Legion members in this, their 90th anniversary year, in supporting ex-service personnel and their families throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland.

This Council therefore resolves to:-

- (a) Request the Chief Executive to write to the Royal British Legion, Limavady Branch to express Council’s support for the ongoing work of the Legion, both here locally in the Borough and at a National level;
- (b) Encourage residents throughout the Borough to support the Poppy Appeal 2011, which is aiming to raise £90m, £1m for every year of the RBL;

- (c) Encourage residents throughout the Borough to remember all the victims of conflicts across the world by observing the 2 minutes silence at 11am on 11.11.11.

Councillor McCorkell detailed background to the formation of the Royal British Legion and to its work over the last 90 years in helping to care for those suffering as a result of war. He pointed out that the Legion helped people of all ages, backgrounds, class, colour or creed and requested that members support the motion even if they did not agree with war or support the armed forces. The motion was seconded by Alderman Robinson.

The work of the Legion was recognised by members. A Sinn Féin Member indicated that the motion would be supported if points (a) (b) and (c) were removed as Sinn Féin members felt these were not appropriate for Council.

The motion as presented was put to the meeting and declared carried, 9 for, 0 against and 6 abstentions. The Mayor confirmed that he would be hosting a Mayor's Reception for the local branch of the Royal British Legion to mark the 90th anniversary.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

- ◆ Western Group Environmental Health Committee – 21 June 2011
- ◆ Western Health & Social Care Trust – 4 August 2011

CONSULTATIONS:

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would respond to the following consultation documents and include comments made by members:

- Department of the Environment – District Councillors' Allowances and Multiple Mandates. *Individual parties to respond.*
- Department of the Environment – Draft Guidance on Councillors' Allowances: *Individual parties to respond.*
- DHSSPSNI – Policy for Car Parking Provision and Management in the Health & Social Care Sector. *It was pointed out that when someone was in hospital seriously ill and possibly at deaths door, parking charges should not apply to the immediate family.*
- DHSSPSNI – Maternity Services: A Draft Maternity Strategy for NI. *Noted.*
- OFM/DFM – Social Investment Fund. *Noted.*
- DARD – Revised Proposals for the Introduction of Changes to Animal Disease Compensation Arrangements for Bovine TB and Brucellosis. *It was pointed out that people were taking advantage of the compensation scheme by deliberately spreading TB. .*
- Department of the Environment – Draft Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations NI 2012. *Noted.*
- NI Courts and Tribunals Service – Costs in Criminal Cases (Magistrates' Courts) *It was highlighted that this would impact on insurance.*
- Mr Jim Allister, MLA – Proposal for a Special Advisers Bill. *Noted.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

Attendance at the following courses/conferences was agreed:

- ◆ Alderman Coyle and the Chief Executive to attend the NILGA Annual Conference/Exhibition on 23 February 2012 in Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick at a cost of £145+VAT.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

The conditions of contract between Donegal County Council & Limavady Borough Council and the Lough Foyle Ferry Company from 1 April to 31 December 2011 was signed and sealed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

It was agreed that the Director of Development would confirm at the next Development meeting if the Ferry Company was due any further payments for the ferry service.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Annual Review Autumn 2011.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Lighting on the War Memorial: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McCorkell, seconded by Councillor Stevenson that subject to the lighting at the War Memorial being separately metered, that Council would cover the cost of the lighting bill on the basis of the estimate provided and that a donation would be made to cover the cost of the photo cell installation.

Work on Market Street: The Chief Executive agreed to contact NIE and Roads Service regarding an accommodation to works to be carried out on Market Street.

Motorbikes/Quads on Beach: Councillor McLaughlin provided vehicle registrations for those bringing motorbikes onto the beach and requested that these be forwarded to the Director of Development with a view to the vehicle owners being prosecuted.

Award for Most Improved Town: It was highlighted that Dungiven had win the Best Improved Town in the Northern Ireland Amenity Council Best Kept Awards. The Mayor commended the work of Technical Service staff and the local community for tidying up Dungiven and said this was a perfect example of what could be achieved by working together. Members gave their support for a similar tidy up of Limavady. It was agreed that the £200 award would be forwarded to the community group in Dungiven.

RVLC Maintenance Work to Water System: It was agreed that Roe Valley Leisure Centre would be closed on Sunday 6th November to accommodate essential maintenance to the water system.

NEXT MEETING: - 6 December 2011.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 10:10 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting