

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

**1 DECEMBER 2009**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.25 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Councillor Ó hOisín.

Aldermen M Coyle, J Rankin and G Robinson. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, G Mullan, J F McElhinney, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Support Services and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - None.

**NILGA – ANNUAL PLAN:**

The Chair welcomed Ms Nora Winder, Director of Policy & Strategy and Mr Sean McPeake, Vice President of NILGA to the meeting.

Ms Winder explained that the purpose of the presentation was to give a general update to Council on NILGA's Annual Plan and the Review of Public Administration. She said NILGA's objectives were to be the voice of strong, democratic local government and the champion of improved services to citizens; to work with Councils and other stakeholders to champion and support the development of a world class local government system in Northern Ireland which works in partnership with others to serve citizens.

Ms Winder outlined that NILGA had been working over the past year on rates support for Councils, planning policy, EU engagement, anti poverty & social inclusion and on a Northern Ireland Waste Strategy. She said that the main themes were to build strong relationships with Councils, NAC, SOLACE and the Assembly; to have effective and innovative communication through NILGA website, newspapers and through NILGA events; develop local government policy; support local government modernisation and to have effective & efficient services to local government.

Members noted that NILGA had waived the annual increase of 2.5% in light of financial pressures facing councils; suspended clauses 13 & 14 in the NILGA constitution and were considering a new Local Government Association (LGA) as recommended in the PWC 2 report.

Ms Winder indicated that the Strategic Leadership Board (SLB) and Policy Development Panels (PDP's) were working towards the RPA timeline and that the Transition Committees would be given statutory powers early in 2010.

In the discussion which followed, members indicated that a leaked document on RPA had caused confusion and disenchantment and that a ministerial statement was needed as the SLB and PDP's needed to feel that the work they were doing was worthwhile. It was felt that a statement was also needed on funding for RPA and clarity was needed on the boundaries.

The Chair thanked the deputation from NILGA for attending the meeting.

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 3 NOVEMBER 2009:**

The minutes of meeting held 3 November 2009 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Robinson.

#### **MATTERS ARISING:**

**Tender for the Ferry Service:** Members were informed that tenders for the ferry service would be evaluated after the 8 December 2009 submission deadline.

**Development of Outdoor Facilities at Scroggy Road:** A member stated that it should have been clarified in the minutes that the Scroggy Road project would only go ahead if funding became available from Sports NI. He was advised that if funding was unavailable, the matter would be brought back to Council for further decision.

**Bowling:** A member suggested that Council consider sponsoring an annual bowling tournament as this sport was cross community and enjoyed by all ages. It was agreed that the suggestion would be forwarded to the Director of Development.

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2009:**

**Loan Sanctions:** It was agreed that loan sanction approval would be sought for the following projects:

- Purchase of ICT Equipment - £63,150
- Purchase of Noise Equipment - £6,000 (Economic Appraisal tabled)

**RPA Update:** The Chief Executive explained that members comments from workshop held 24 November 2009 had been incorporated into response to the PWC 2 Report. He clarified several points in the response to a member who had not attended the workshop. It was agreed that the response would be forwarded to the Department.

Members were also circulated with copy of latest Transition Committee minutes, which members felt should be more in-depth rather than in bullet points.

**LCDI Playschool/Afterschool:** Alderman Coyle proposed, seconded by Alderman Robinson that approval be given to LCDI to extend its playschool/afterschool facilities on Council owned land at Benevenagh Drive.

**Christmas use of Council Car Park:** It was agreed that the staff car park would be open to the public on 2, 12, 19, 20 and 24 December 2009.

**Public Transport Reform Consultation Event:** The Chief Executive informed members that NILGA were hosting a free event on the above consultation to be held 17 December 2009 in Craigavon Civic Centre and four members & two officers were invited to attend. It was agreed that members interested in attending would contact the Chief Executives Department.

**Presentations to Council:** Council deferred making a decision on requests to present to Council by the Can Media Group and Northern Ireland Music Rights Society.

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CUBITT:**

Councillor Cubitt proposed:

“That Councillor Brenda Chivers has no longer the support of this Council to remain as chairperson of the DPP and that she resigns with immediate effect.”

Speaking on the motion, Councillor Cubitt stated that Councillor Chivers was wrong to issue a press release criticising the police for their approach to the public at weekends. He said she should have gone directly to the police rather than use the media. He added that as Council had elected her as chairperson of the DPP, it had the power to de-select her. Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion.

Alderman J Rankin, Councillors A Robinson, B Douglas & E Stevenson agreed that as chair of the DPP, Councillor Chivers should not have issued a statement and suggested that if she went out on patrol with the police, she would see first hand the problems they faced, especially at the weekend.

Alderman Coyle pointed out that it was sad that the motion had been brought before Council and Councillor Mullan questioned the point of the motion and suggested that it was politically motivated.

Councillor Brolly asked it to be put on record that Sinn Féin had been instructed by its voters to work with the police and also to be critical when necessary. Councillor Butcher praised Councillor Chiver for her good work with the PSNI, especially in the Dungiven area but said people had come to Sinn Féin’s office to complain about the PSNI. He ended the debate by quoting from a recent public consultation by Limavady DPP, which highlighted that heavy handedness and incivility were areas in which Limavady performed poorly.

The motion was put to the meeting and declared lost, 6 for and 9 against.

#### **EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:**

- ◆ Western Health & Social Care Trust – 1 October 2009
- ◆ Western Group Environmental Health Committee – 8 September 2009

#### **CONSULTATIONS:**

Members reviewed and commented on the suggested responses to the following consultation documents:

- ◆ NIO – Police (NI) Act 200 – Review of Temporary Recruitment Provisions: submission by 22 January 2010. *Individual parties to make response.*
- ◆ Department of the Environment - The Local Government (Contracts) Regulations (NI) 2010: submission by 29 January 2010. *Suggested response agreed.*
- ◆ Department for Regional Development – Public Transport reform: submission by 5 February 2010. *Defer response for further consideration by members.*
- ◆ OFM/DFM – Sustainable Development Strategy: submission by 15 January 2010. *Suggested response agreed.*
- ◆ Department of the Environment – Draft Addendum to Planning Policy Statement 7: Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas: submission 5 March 2010. *Individual parties to make response.*
- ◆ Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Regulation on the Sunbed Industry and Northern Ireland: submission by 19 February 2010. *Suggested response agreed.*

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would no longer put forward a suggested response to consultation documents.

#### **COURSES/CONFERENCES:**

It was agreed that the following members/officers would attend the conferences/courses listed:

- ◆ It was agreed that 2 officers would attend the Local Government HR and Leadership Conference to be held 10 December 2009 in Lough Erne Golf Resort, Enniskillen – fee £165 per person.
- ◆ It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten that Councillor Mullan would attend the International Centre for Local and Regional Development Conference to be held 21 & 22 January 2010 in Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen – fee £80.

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** -None.

#### **FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – Equality for All, Annual Report & Accounts 2008/09
- Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – Real People, Real Change – Ten Real Stories
- Connections Magazine, Winter 2009 – Engage Condensed, Keeping you Focused
- Groundwork Northern Ireland – Annual Review 2008/09
- Northern Ireland Water – Annual Report 2008/09
- Invest NI – Looking to the Future, The Independent Review of Economic Policy
- Northern Down Matters – Autumn/Winter 2009
- Clanmil Housing - Clanmil Communique, Issue 1
- Northern Ireland Water – October 2009 Issue 66 – Keeping our Environment Clean & Green
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service – Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2008/09
- Western Health and Social Care Trust – Annual Report.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Town Hall Façade:** Members were tabled with a letter from a ratepayer which requested that the original door on the Town Hall façade be retained. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would advise the ratepayer that drawings for the Town Hall had been through the planning process and that the doorway on the façade would now be a window.

**Book Launch:** It was agreed that Dougie Bartlet would launch his book on the history of Limavady from Council offices.

**Civic Reception:** It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for Carmel O’Kane from Dungiven, who had been named Royal College of Nursing Nurse Manager of the year.

**Wayleave at Benone:** Approval was given for wayleave to NIE to lay cables and earth wires on existing pole at Benone Tourist Complex.

**NEXT MEETING:**

It was agreed the date of the next meeting would be changed from 5 January to 14 January 2010.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.30 pm)**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Meeting