

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
2 AUGUST 2011**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor S McGlinchey

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors A Brolly, J McCorkell and A Robinson.

PRESENTATION – NILGA ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN:

The Chair welcomed Ms Evelyne Robinson, President and Mr Derek McCallan, Chief Executive of NILGA to the meeting.

Ms Robinson thanked members for inviting NILGA to present to Council. She said that local government in Northern Ireland was fragile, regardless of how many Council's it was eventually ended up with. Yet despite the uncertainty, 16 pieces of legislation had been passed and more issues were being transferred to Councils control.

Mr McCallan outlined NILGA's objectives, what it was doing for Limavady and its achievements over the last year. He outlined plans for the future and said that the input of Alderman Coyle, Councillor Chivers, Councillor Nicholl and Councillor Robinson to NILGA's membership was invaluable.

The following was clarified to members;

- ❖ Given the current layers of red tape and bureaucracy, NILGA had to produce a case for change on the way European Funding was drawn down to Northern Ireland.
- ❖ Minister Attwood had met with NILGA to discuss the way forward for RPA.
- ❖ Over the next 4 years NILGA would be engaging in consultation on planning, the local economy, agriculture, EU grants, waste management and rural development.

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

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 7 June 2011 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Alderman Coyle.

The minutes of meeting held 13 June 2011 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Ulster Fleadh: Alderman Coyle referred to the success of the Ulster Fleadh and said that clean up team were to be congratulated on the physical change to Main Street, Dungiven in terms of flowers and painting of derelict properties. Agreed.

Complaints about Smell: Chief Executive agreed to contact Planning Service as a matter of urgency to reinforce members continued concerns about foul odours emanating from an unauthorised waste storage facility off Broad Road.

Legal Opinion: Councillor Douglas referred to legal opinion on the flying of the Union Flag in Council chamber and said that as far as he was concerned, his original view had not changed on his right to fly the flag. He indicated that he would be replacing the flag with the TUV logo and then proceeded to erect a small flag bearing the TUV logo onto his desk.

The Mayor called for a 5 minute break at 8.55 pm to discuss the actions of Councillor Douglas with his party colleagues.

Upon return at 9 pm Councillor Chivers asked Councillor Douglas to remove the flag from the working environment and to get on with council business. He responded that the logo was not a flag.

A discussion took place and various comments were made regarding Councillor Douglas's actions. The Mayor stated that as chair of the meeting, he had the right to propose that the flag be removed from the chamber. This was seconded by Councillor Chivers and on being put to the meeting was declared carried, 8 for and 4 against. Councillor Douglas insisted that the object on his desk was not a flag but a party emblem and that he would not be taking it down.

The Chief Executive quoted guidance from the Equality Commission on emblems that had the potential to cause disharmony in the workplace, which included football shirts, emblems, badges and insignia linked to paramilitary or political organisations. He urged members to step back from the brink as council had serious business to conduct.

Councillor Chivers proposed that Councillor Douglas be excluded from the rest of the meeting. Alderman Coyle said this was an unworkable proposal. He proposed an amendment that Council move on to items 5 of the agenda. This was seconded by Alderman Rankin.

The Mayor insisted however that the continuing presence of the flag was unacceptable and that he could not continue with the flag present, stating his intention to adjourn the meeting.

In response to a query the Chief Executive read out point 35 (c) of Standing Orders on Disorderly Conduct and reminded members of legal opinion previously received. The Mayor stated that as Chair of the meeting, under Point 35 (c) of Standing Orders, he was adjourning the meeting until 5 pm on Tuesday 9 August 2011.

The decision to adjourn the meeting was objected to strongly by various members.

NEXT MEETING: - 9 August 2011.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.25 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting