

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
2 DECEMBER 2014**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.50 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman A Robinson.

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive and the Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors S McGlinchey.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: - None.

PRESENTATION BY HANDS THAT TALK:

The Chair welcomed Ms Patricia McBride, Company Secretary of Hands That Talk to the meeting.

Ms McBride reminded members that Hands That Talk was a charity that worked to support the deaf community through Limavady Borough Council area and beyond. She outlined the main aims & objectives of the group and said that Hands That Talk was a cross-community charity, which sought to engender pride in the deaf community, its culture & language and to promote a greater awareness of deaf people and to the valid contribution they make to society.

Ms McBride referred to the lack of funding in the charitable/community sector and to the reduction in availability of grants. She said that Hands That Talk's approach to this was to reduce dependence on grant funding and to increase income regeneration, revenue creation. She added that the group currently provides sign language interpreting services under contract to the Western Health and Social Care Trust and over the last year this has grown to include other public sector bodies, the education sector and private sector.

In summary, Ms McBride outlined that Hands That Talk were moving towards being self-sustaining by selling necessary services and in turn funding the provision of services for deaf people where those gaps exist. She said that the challenge for the group was funding the transition to sustainability and that Hands That Talk would require seed funding and working capital of £15,000 to provide a solid footing to growing the business. She requested that Council consider supporting the charity by providing hand up rather than hand-out funding.

In the discussion which followed Hands That Talk were highly praised for their work with the deaf. In response to a member, Ms McBride confirmed that the group were working with Magherafelt District Council on a pilot deaf awareness programme for elected members and staff.

The Chair thanked Ms McBride for attending the meeting. It was agreed that request for seek funding would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 4 November 2014 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman M Coyle, seconded by Councillor J McCorkell.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 2 – Rescheduling of Council Meetings: The Chief Executive clarified that from January 2015 although the Mayor would chair the Monthly meetings; the chairs of the other committees and lead Director would present their subsection on the agenda for approval. Noted and agreed.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:

The Chief Executive presented his report for December 2014 as follows:

CC&GSC: The minutes of CC&GSC meeting held 24 October 2014 were circulated for information. The agenda for meeting held on 27 November was also circulated for information.

Dungiven Community and Leisure Project Update: The Chief Executive informed members that at the meeting of Causeway Coast and Glens Organisational Design Committee held 13 November 2014, the recommendation to undertake all activities associated with the appointment of a design team for the Dungiven Community and Leisure Project was approved. He said that the Economic Appraisal for the aproject had been sent to DCAL, however after consultation with Sports NI, several amendments were required. He said that officers would contact DCAL official to clarify what amendments were needed.

Internal Audit – IT: It was agreed that elected members would sign and return the relevant agreement on Councils Internet and IT Policy as per the recommendation made by the Internal Auditors.

Consultation – NI Commissioner for Complaints Guidance on the NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors: It was agreed that if members wished to respond to the above consultation, comments should be submitted to the Chief Executive's office before 30 January 2015.

Dungiven Castle Update: Council approved the request from Glenshane Community Development to sublet Dungiven Castle to MP Estates who had a registered office in Ballymoney and specialised in the hospitality & leisure sector. It was noted that the sublease period was for 5 years from 1 December 2014 commencing at £1,000 per month, to £1,250 per month in 2015/16 and £1,500 in 2016/17.

Monthly Council Meeting – January 2015: In light of the holidays over Christmas and the New Year, it was agreed that the next monthly meeting would be held on 13 January 2015.

The Chief Executive's report was approved on the proposal of Alderman M Coyle, seconded by Councillor E Scott.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

Western Health & Social Care Trust – 2 October 2014.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY BELFAST CITY COUNCIL:

The following resolution was read and noted:

This Council:

1. Recognised in 2000 that it is inherently cruel and unjustifiable for circuses to use animals that are coerced into performing tricks or engaging in behaviours that they otherwise would not do in the absence of coercion and adopted a policy to prohibit circuses containing animal acts from using Council-owned property;
2. Believes that there should be a United Kingdom-wide ban on circuses that use animals; and
3. Would encourage other councils throughout Northern Ireland to adopt the same policy stance as that taken by the Council in 2000."

CONSULTATIONS:

Members reviewed the consultation list for December 2014 and these were noted by Council.

COURSES/CONFERENCES: - None.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Cutting Edge - Banbridge District Council Residents Magazine.
- Local Authority Building & Maintenance, November 2014.
- Sustainable Ireland, Ireland's Environmental Waste Management and Energy Magazine.
- SERCO, Your Scene –Mission Successful at Peterborough
- Sustains Annual Review 2013-14, Our Journey Starts Here.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

Refurbishments Health Suite & Changing Rooms: The contractual document between Council and R J McKelvey for refurbishment of the Health Suite and Changing Rooms at Roe Valley Leisure Centre was signed and sealed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Twinning Event: A member point out that officials from Vignux sur Seine were visiting the Borough on 12 – 14 December and would like to meet with members of Limavady Borough Council. It was agreed that details of the visit would be circulated to Councillors.

Request for Seed Funding – Hands That Talk: Following on from the presentation heard at the start of the meeting from Hands That Talk, members discussed the request for seed funding. Alderman M Coyle proposed, seconded by Councillor A Brolly that Council contribute £15,000 to help the group become self-sustaining.

A member voiced caution to the proposal, given that other groups in the area required financial help. The Chief Executive explained that work was ongoing with the Director of Development on providing financial assistance to community groups in the Borough from the additional funding received from Land & Property Services and that a report on this would be brought back to Council.

Alderman M Coyle's proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried.

NEXT MEETING: - 13 January 2015.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9:15 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting