

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
3 NOVEMBER 2009**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 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, M Donaghy, B Douglas, G Mullan, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor J F McElhinney and Councillor Cubitt.

MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 6 OCTOBER 2009:

The minutes of meeting held 6 October 2009 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Carten.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 3 – Ferry Service Working Group: The Chief Executive agreed to take the initial first steps in making contact with Donegal County Council with regard the terms of reference and first meeting for the Ferry Service Working Group:

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE DATED 10 JUNE 2009:

The minutes of Audit Committee meeting held 10 June 2009 were tabled and noted.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2009:

Loan Sanction Approvals:

Development of outdoor facilities at Scroggy Road: The Chief Executive reminded members that it had been agreed at a Special Development Committee meeting held 22 October 2009 to proceed with the development of a 3G pitch and upgrading of changing facilities at Scroggy Road. He said the capital cost for the project was £2,224,164 and with indicative funding of £559,500 from Sport NI, it was recommended that the Economic Appraisal for the project be forwarded to the DoE and that Council seek loan sanction approval for the remaining £1,665,000.

Several members voiced concern that Council had decided by majority vote to proceed with an option other than the preferred option set out in the revised business case. It was also stated that Limavady Wolfhounds did not intend to use the facilities, except in extreme circumstances; the decision meant the loss of a small pitch for junior soccer and was not in the best interests of the people of Limavady.

A recorded vote was requested on the recommendation and on being put to the meeting was declared carried, 8 for, namely Councillor Carten, Alderman Coyle, Councillor Mullan, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Chivers, Councillor Donaghy, Councillor Brolly and Councillor Ó hOisín, 5 against, Councillor Douglas, Councillor Stevenson, Alderman Rankin, Councillor Robinson, and Alderman Robinson.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre: It was recommended that the Economic Appraisal for purchase of a number of items and minor works to the infrastructure at Roe Valley Leisure Centre be forwarded to the DoE and that Council seek loan sanction approval for £63,540 to carry out the works. Agreed.

RPA Update:

- ◆ **PWC 2 Report:** The Chief Executive informed members that the PWC 2 Report had now been issued to members and that there was a limited consultation process underway through NILGA and the political parties. He said the preferred option highlighted in the Economic Appraisal was option 5, which involved a major change and reform process to amalgamate the Councils, bringing over the transferring functions and creating a new organisation (Business Service Organisation) under a joint committee to oversee regional wide services by May 2011, with the BSO continuing through to 2015. He added that the report highlighted a potential saving of £450 million over a 25 year period. It was agreed that a special meeting would be held on 24 November 2009 to discuss NILGA response to the PWC report and that David Jackson, Head of Performance, Policy and Governance Coleraine Borough Council would be asked to attend the meeting.
- ◆ **Local Government Reform Joint Forum:** Members were tabled with the latest communiqué arising from the 4th meeting of the Local Government Reform Joint Forum.
- ◆ **Voluntary Transition Committee:** The minutes of the September 2009 Transition Committee were tabled for information.
- ◆ **Transferring Functions:** Members were updated on the latest list regarding transfer of functions and activities.

Lough Foyle Car Ferry Update: The Chief Executive advised that the Lough Foyle Ferry Company had signed the permit which allowed the company to conduct sailings between Magilligan and Greencastle Port at no cost to Council until 31 December 2009. He said that the tendering exercise for the Ferry Service was now being re-advertised for a range of possible ways of delivering the service and that a funding application for INTERREG IVA had been submitted to SEUPB on 30 October 2009.

Corporate Risk Register: The updated Corporate Risk Register was approved by members.

Limavady Youth Council: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Limavady Youth Council could use Council Offices for their bi-monthly meetings.

Presentations to Council: It was agreed that Roads Service would present their Autumn Consultation at the November 2009 Planning & Services meeting and that NILGA would present their Annual Plan to Council at the December 2009 Monthly Meeting of Council.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DONAGHY:

Councillor Donaghy proposed that:

"That this council notes the recent increased number of fire-fighter deaths highlighted in the Fire Brigades Union report *In the Line of Duty*; further notes the lack of safety-critical operational guidance for fire authorities highlighted in that report, and the absence of a properly resourced body with overall responsibility for recording and investigating fire-fighter deaths and other serious incidents; and therefore calls for work to be commenced with stakeholders to see through the creation of such a body with responsibility for developing and agreeing safety-critical operational guidance arising from these investigations"

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Donaghy said the motion was timely as it had been six years since local fire-fighter Joe McCloskey had tragically died and that he was still greatly missed within the community. The motion was seconded by Councillor Brolly.

In the discussion which followed the following points were made:

- ◆ everyone owed a debt of gratitude to the Fire & Rescue services
- ◆ Northern Ireland had 68 Fire Stations employing 2,100 full time and 53 part time officers.
- ◆ 30,000 calls were made to the Fire Service in the year 2008/09.
- ◆ a member queried if pushing for guidance was the responsibility of Council and suggested that members go into the community to stop fire-fighters being stoned.
- ◆ over the last 6 years 21 fire-fighters had been killed in the line of duty and mistakes surrounding the death of Joe McCloskey were being repeated.
- ◆ The Fire Brigade were lobbying Councils and the Assembly for as much support as possible for the motion.

Councillor Donaghy summed up the debate by calling for members to support the motion as there was nothing more important than trying to prevent the death of a neighbour.

The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, 9 for and 4 abstentions.

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST:

The minutes of Western Health & Social Care Trust held 3 September 2009 were noted.

RESOLUTIONS NOTED:

Submitted by Ballymena Borough Council:

"Ballymena Borough Council calls upon the Prime Minister to reconsider the decision to remove British Forces Post Offices from Mainland Europe by September 2010"

Submitted by Newry & Mourne District Council:

“That this Council fully supports and endorses the acceptance and implementation of the NI Autism Bill and forward a letter to the Minister of Health; the Minister of Education and the NI All Party Executive on Autism, requesting that they support the Council’s action”

CONSULTATIONS:

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would respond on Council’s behalf to the following consultation documents:

- ◆ DARD – Consultation of the Horse Racing (Charges on Bookmakers) Order (NI) 2010: submission by 27 November 2009.
- ◆ Planning Service – Permitted Development Rights for Small Scale Renewable Energy (Microgeneration) Development: submission by 22 January 2010. *It was felt that objectors should have an opportunity to have their say.*
- ◆ Planning Service - Non-Householder Permitted Development Rights: submission by 22 January 2010. *It was felt that objectors should have an opportunity to have their say.*
- ◆ Planning Service – Householder Permitted Development Rights: submission by 22 January 2010. *It was felt that objectors should have an opportunity to have their say.*
- ◆ Department for Employment and Learning – Additional Paternity Leave and Pay: submission by 8 January 2010. *Council was of the opinion that additional pay and leave would have implications for small businesses and that there should be a balance whereby large firms should take this into consideration.*
- ◆ Northern Ireland Office – Filling Casual Vacancies on District Councils: submission by 15 January 2010. *Members to decide at a later date if individual parties or Council as a Corporate Body should respond to the consultation by the given deadline.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

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

- ◆ **Joint ACINI/CIPFA Audit Committee Forum** The Chief Executive informed members that four spaces had been reserved for members of the Audit Committee to attend a course on ‘Fraud Risk – ensuring that Audit Committees play an active role’ to be held 19 November 2009 in the Mount Conference Centre, Belfast at a cost of £195 per person. Members to confirm their attendance to the Chief Executives Department. It was also agreed that the Chief Executive would attend a course on ‘The Role of the Audit Committee in Times of Change’ to be held 11 March 2010 in the Mount Conference Centre, Belfast at a cost of £195 per person.
- ◆ **Clare Tourism Conference:** It was agreed that Councillor Brolly would attend the Clare Tourism Conference to be held 26 – 28 November at a cost of €249 + accommodation.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

Permit for the Ferry Service: It was agreed that the permit between Limavady Borough Council and the Foyle Ferry Company for continuation of the ferry service up to 31 December 2009 would be signed and sealed.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Housing Executive – Corporate Plan Summary 2009-2012
- Community Relations Council – Shared Space A research journal on peace, conflict and community relations in Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Tourism Facts 2008 – Knowing the Visitor
- The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland – Foundation News Autumn 2009
- DPP News – Autumn 2009
- Northern Ireland Museums Council – Annual Report 2008/09
- TV Licensing – In Brief – Autumn 2009
- TV Licensing – Annual Review 2008/09
- NILGOSC – Annual Report & Accounts 2008/09
- Roads Service – Annual Report and Accounts 2008/09
- Delivery of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy – the Second Report of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group 2005/09

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Limavady United – 125 Anniversary: It was agreed that a letter of congratulations and a Civic Reception would be extended to Limavady United Football Club who were celebrating their 125 anniversary.

Limavady CRFC Indoor Bowls Club: It was agreed that a Mayors Reception would be held for Ryan O’Neill, Arnold Daly, Nishy Logue and Leigh Harrison who were representing Ireland at the world short mat bowls competition being held in Dumfries in March 2010.

Kevin Lynch Hurling Club: It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for Kevin Lynch under 12 Hurling Team who win the Derry & Antrim Championships.

O’Brien’s Foreglen GAC: It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for O’Brien’s Foreglen GAC on winning the senior football league.

NEXT MEETING: - 1 December 2009.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.40 pm)**

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting