

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING  
3 DECEMBER 2013**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.55pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Councillor G Mullan.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive and the Committee Clerk.

**APOLOGIES:** - None

**PRESENTATION BY WINDWATCH NI:**

The Chair welcomed Dr Kane, who was representing Windwatch NI, to the meeting. Dr Kane thanked Council for the opportunity to inform members of the very important issues and effects of windfarms.

Dr Kane believed the quality of information the public were provided with from the wind industry was based on their concept of the benefits, maintaining windfarms provided a vast majority of jobs and were good for the economy. Dr Kane continued by informing members the wind industry did not provide permanent employment they only contributed a small percentage of employment to building trade when windfarms were being erected and a large number of permanent staff were not required at operational windfarms as they were maintained by a small quantity of technicians. Dr Kane outlined the significant increase in electricity costs and informed members 50% of applications were rejected in England and only 5% of applications rejected in Northern Ireland. He advised farmers to be cautious in regards to the contract into which they enter when agreeing to the erection of wind turbines on their land as it could lead to further implications when seeking planning opportunities for the future.

Dr Kane outlined further negative impacts relating to windfarms:

- Reduction in property value
- A decrease in tourism
- Impact on nature and health issues to animals
- Expensive
- Health impacts and safety issues for residents

Councillor C McLaughlin left the meeting at 8.30pm.

Dr Kane advised members wind turbines standstill when the wind is too strong therefore they do not produce any power and when the wind speed is low, the windfarms operate using the normal power supply from the power station in order to prevent the blades from warping or deforming therefore they are draining power from the grid rather than supplying power. Dr Kane stated there were a number of other various renewable energy sources to take advantage of and windfarms were not a reliable and sustainable energy source and the policy in place for erecting windfarms need reviewed and changed.

The Chair thanked Dr Kane for his compelling presentation before he left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

#### **MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held 5 November 2013 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor S McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor T McCaul.

#### **MATTERS ARISING: -**

**Page 2 – NI Commission for Children and Young People:** The Chief Executive informed members that endorsing the Participation Policy Statement of Intent would require Council to consult with children and young people to take their views into consideration regarding any decisions affecting them. Members agreed to endorse the Participation Policy Statement of Intent.

**Page 2 – Magilligan Prison:** Members were informed the meeting of the Magilligan Elected Members' Liaison Group to be held on 10 December 2013 would be postponed and a new date provided in due course.

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:**

The Chief Executive presented his report for December 2013. The items for information were noted and the report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey subject to the following:

#### **Local Government Reform:**

**Statutory Transition Committee (STC):** The minutes of Statutory Transition Committee meeting held on 26 October 2013 were presented for information. The Chief Executive directed members to the tabled item regarding the chosen domain address for the STC website. Members agreed this was a decision for the STC therefore a domain address would not be chosen by Limavady Borough Council.

**Revised Expenditure Controls Guidance:** The Chief Executive advised members a comprehensive list of planned capital projects from across the existing councils which fall within the Expenditure Controls guidance parameters was referred to the STC for consideration and approval.

**Regional Transition Committee (RTC):** The Chief Executive provided members with an update on the Regional Transition Committee meeting held on 27 November 2013.

**Improvements, Collaboration & Efficiency (ICE) Programme:** The Peer Review of Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency (ICE) Programme Final Report was provided to members for information.

**NILGA Evidence on the Local Government Bill:** The NILGA Response to the Call for Evidence on the Local Government Bill was circulated for information.

**Consultation Report – Delivering the right ICT Option to support Local Government Reform:** The Chief Executive updated members on the response to the consultation outlining Councils views on the way forward, the consultation response was approved by members.

**Public Consultation on DETI’s Proposals for Future Consumer Representation in Northern Ireland:** It was agreed to endorse the statement of support on the proposal of Councillor E Stevenson, seconded by Councillor A Brolly.

**DVA Working Group – Petition Request:** A request for a petition against the proposed centralisation which could see the loss of 324 jobs in Coleraine to be placed in the reception area of the Council Offices. Agreed.

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

- Western Health and Social Care Trust Board Meeting – 3 October 2013

#### **RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY FERMANAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

Resolution from Fermanagh District Council

“That this Council would request Mr Edwin Poots, MLA, Minister for Health to replicate the model currently operating in Scotland and Wales where free car parking is available at all hospitals.”

#### **CONSULTATIONS: -**

Members reviewed the consultation list for December 2013. It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would draft a response on behalf of members to the following consultation:

- ✓ Proposed Relocation of Dungiven Post Office: *A member expressed his concern regarding the fact the notification was already in press.*
- ✓ Fundamental Review of GCSE’s and A Levels – Proposed Recommendations: *A member stated the language used by the Minister of Education was offensive to a Unionist as himself and the proposals put forward by the Minister scared him.*
- ✓ Making Choices: Meeting the current and future accommodation needs of older people: *It was agreed a workshop be held with members and relevant officers to discuss items for the consultation response questionnaire.*

**COURSES/CONFERENCES: -**

- NILGA Annual Conference and Exhibition, 27 February 2014, La Mon Hotel, Castlereagh – agreed Alderman M Coyle and Councillor D Nicholl would attend at a cost of £168 + VAT.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tourism Conference, 21 & 22 February 2014, Co Clare – agreed Councillor A Brolly and 1 officer attend at a cost of €195 plus accommodation.

**FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Chief Commissioner's Annual Report for the period April 2012 - March 2013 [www.pacni.gov.uk](http://www.pacni.gov.uk)
- Oaklee Homes Group Annual Review 2012-2013
- Quarry Products Association NI Agenda 2013-2015
- North Antrim Community Network Annual Report 2012-2013
- The Application of the Charter in Respect of the Irish Language 2009-2013
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive 2012 Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey (CTOS) – Annual Report
- Groundwork NI Annual Review 2012-2013
- Labour Relations Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2012-2013

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS: - None****ANY OTHER BUSINESS: -**

**Dungiven Sports and Community Project Steering Group:** The Chief Executive advised members the next meeting of the Dungiven Sports and Community Project Steering Group would take place on Tuesday 10 December 2013 at 6pm in Limavady Borough Council Offices.

**Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1969:** The Chief Executive informed members the map showing the area over which the application from Lonmin (NI) Ltd for mineral prospecting rights would be displayed in reception area of Council Offices until Monday 16 December 2013. Council had no comments regarding the application.

**IN COMMITTEE - Dungiven Castle Right of Way:** The Chief Executive read members the proposal received from Council's solicitor regarding the Dungiven Castle Right of Way. The attached map outlining the right of way was circulated to members for approval. It was agreed to proceed with the recommendation however should agreement not be forthcoming the issue is to be brought to Court.

**OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

**Alderman G Robinson Retirement:** Council acknowledged Alderman Robinson's 29 year service to Limavady Borough Council and fellow Councillors wished him all the best for the future both in and outside politics. Alderman Robinson thanked those for their contribution over the years, stating he enjoyed his time in office and did his utmost best to help his electorate. He thanked Officers, Staff, Mayor and Chief Executive, past and present for their help and thanked the press for all their support.

**NEXT MEETING:** - 7 January 2014.

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.25PM**

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