

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

**SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**

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

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Admin Officer and Director of Support Services

**APOLOGIES:**

Alderman G. Robinson

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor McElhinney. Councillor Cubitt referred to minutes dated January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and sought clarification why a reason for the adjournment was recorded, when previously this had not been the practice. The Chair advised that it had been a difficult meeting and in dealing with the situation had requested an adjournment.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

The Director of Support Services advised that the cost to Council for the work carried out by Alistair Joynes had been £3840.

**PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:**

The payment of accounts for the month of January 2008 were presented with expenses over £2,000 duly itemised. Accounts were approved on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Carten.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

**IN COMMITTEE** on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Robinson.

The Director of Support Services presented the report and advised that the interviews for the Irish Language Officer would be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 with Magherafelt being the lead Council.

He also reported that interviews had taken place on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 for the Waste Management Officer position, however, the successful applicant had not yet confirmed his appointment.

**Absenteeism:** The Director of Support Services reported that the Council's year to date absence per full time equivalent employee was 13 days against a target of 11 days. It was anticipated that Council would endeavour to get the figures reduced next year.

**Training:** The Director of Support Services drew attention to the proposed one day workshop being carried out by PSM Consulting. The purpose of which was for senior managers to meet with members to gain a better understanding of the decision-making process and to encourage a better working relationship between elected members and senior officers. He encouraged a representative from each political party be nominated to attend this workshop which had been well received in Newtownabbey and Cookstown. It was agreed that Councillors Rankin, Carten and Butcher would attend. Councillor Cubitt or Douglas would be available and depending on availability either Alderman Robinson or Councillor Robinson would attend. The Director of Support Services would liaise with Human Resources and Wavell Moore of PSM Consulting to confirm a date and advise members and service managers accordingly.

The Human Resources Report dated March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

Councillor Boyd Douglas joined the meeting at 7:20pm.

**Policy Statement on Council's Discretionary Powers on the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations (NI) 2006**

The Director of Support Services explained that under the above regulations, Council had a duty to have in place policy statements in relation to discretionary powers on various issues dealing with retirement. He drew members attention to the various discretions and suggested policy statements which were adopted by Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

**Policy Statement on the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (NI) 2002 (Amended 2007)**

The Director of Support Services recommended approval of the above policy and gave an overview of same. In summary, Council is obliged to publish and keep under review a statement of its policy on certain discretions which it can exercise under the regulations. The main areas where policy statements are required are as follows:

- Requests from employees and former employees to retire early
- Granting of additional membership to members
- The introduction of a shared cost AVC
- Re-entry to the Scheme for members who have left
- Flexible retirement

The Director of Support Services went through the various policy statements and outlined that the policy was similar to Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC). The policy was adopted by Alderman Mullan, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

**LIMAVADY DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP:**

The Chair read out a statement from PriceWaterhouseCoopers who had the lead role in the appointment of Independent Members. The number of candidates appointable after recent interviews was 9. The proposal was adopted by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Chivers. Upon recommendation by Council, the names would be forwarded to the Policing Board in Belfast for finalisation. Successful candidates would be advised by end of March along with current independent members who would be fast-tracked. The Chair reiterated the sensitive nature and hoped that the names would not reach the public domain.

**OUT OF COMMITTEE** on the proposal of the Chair, seconded by Alderman Mullan.

**TENDERS 2008/2011:**

The Director of Support Services presented the tender report and pointed out that the lowest tender in each case had been accepted except for two tenders. These were the tender for tyres, tubes and batteries and for general protective clothing which were the most advantageous to Council. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Rankin.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Greysteel Glen.** Following discussions at the Monthly Council meeting dated February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 a site meeting had been scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 11am. Members' were invited to attend along with Acting Technical Services Manager. Noted.

**NEXT MEETING:** - April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 8 pm)**

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_