

**-LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**

5 MAY 2009

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.40 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor Chivers.

Aldermen G Mullan, J Rankin and G Robinson. Councillors P Butcher, M Carten, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson, and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - Councillors A Brolly and J F McElhinney.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 7 April 2009 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten.

MATTERS ARISING: - None.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2009:

Use of d'Hondt – AGM: The Chief Executive reminded members of decision by Council at the 2005 AGM to use d'Hondt to allocate positions of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Committee chairmanship for a 4 year period. He said Council had continued to use this version of d'Hondt from 2005 with the list order being adjusted to reflect current party strengths when the DPP was reconstructed in 2007. He added that the list order to reflect party strengths had been utilised again to make nominations to the Voluntary Transition Committee but when this was debated it became clear that there was a difference in the list order using Council's methodology as opposed to that employed within the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Chief Executive pointed out that the life of the current Councils had been extended to 2011 and therefore, it was imperative that there was clarity as to the method to be used at the 2009 AGM to allocate the remaining 12 positions of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Committee Chairs over the two year period. He said given the suggestion from the PDP in their consultation document that the Statutory Transition Committee use a method of d'Hondt based upon that used in the Assembly, it was recommended in the interest of having consistency that Council agree to use the Assembly based methodology and list order outlined.

Following discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that Council would defer decision for two weeks so that members had time to reflect on the various options available.

Results of EQIA – Extension of the use of Council Bilingual Logo: The Chair welcomed Mr John Kremer, Queens University Belfast to the meeting.

Mr Kremer presented the results of the EQIA carried out by Limavady Borough Council on the extension of the use of the bilingual logo. He said that a wide range of responses to the draft report had been taken into consideration in arriving at the final decisions and that the proposed actions would further promote equality of opportunity between Section 75 grounds as well as helping to promote good relations within the Council area.

Mr Kremer explained that in light of the comments received, the Council's preferred course of action would be to continue to progress its policy of consistently applying the adopted bilingual logo to all facilities, buildings and equipment in a fair, reasonable and proportionate manner. However, in response to concerns that have been raised regarding the impending RPA merger, cost, staff well-being and the promotion of good relations among staff and the wider community, it has been decided from now on to issue unbranded PPE clothing and uniforms as may be required. He said that where appropriate Council ID cards would be issued to ensure that employees could be identified as bona fide Council staff. In response to issues and controversies raised during the carrying out of the EQIA and in order to promote greater understanding, it is further proposed that a programme of appropriate good relations training should be devised for all Council staff. .

It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that Council would accept the recommendations of the EQIA.

The Chair thanked Mr Kremer for attending the meeting.

Loan Sanction Approval: It was agreed that loan sanction approval would be sought to purchase various items of plant and equipment all of which had been budgeted for in the 2009/10 rates estimates at a total cost of £88,000.

Diabetes UK (NI) Briefing: Members endorsed the campaign by Diabetes UK for a Northern Ireland Diabetes Service Framework in 2009 and for a Regional Strategy to tackle diabetes in Northern Ireland.

PEACE III – Joint Committee – Memorandum of Understanding: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Butcher that the Memorandum of Understanding, which outlined the roles, responsibilities and liabilities of the six Councils involved in the North East PEACE III Partnership would be approved, signed and sealed.

RPA Update: The Chief Executive circulated a copy of the most recent RPA Update from NILGA. He reminded members that a draft response to consultations on *Local Government Reform – Establishment of Transition Committee in Statute and Severance Arrangements for Councillors* needed to be submitted before 31 May 2009.

Application for Consent to Discharge Effluent to Water under Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999: The Chief Executive informed members that application had been received for consent to discharge effluent to a waterway under Water (NI) Order 1999 from 142 Tartnakilly Road, Glack. Approved on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Douglas.

Draft Response to Consultation (1st Stage) on Proposals for “Local Partnership Working on Policing and Community Safety”: The draft response to the above consultation document to consider proposals for closer working relationships between the DPP and CSP was approved on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

EXTERNAL MINUTES – NOTED:

- Western Health & Social Care Trust – 5 March 2009
- Northern Group Building Control Committee – 22 January 2009

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL:

The resolution submitted by Ards Borough Council on privatisation proposals for the Royal Mail was tabled and noted.

CONSULTATIONS:

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

- ◆ Northern Ireland Environment Agency – Revised NIEA Enforcement Policy – 22 June 2009: *A number of members were opposed to NIEA interfering in farmers business;*
- ◆ Department for Regional Development – The Proposed Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 – 22 May 2009;
- ◆ Faber Maunsell (on behalf of the Loughs Agency) – Consultation on Scoping Report, Strategic Environmental Assessment on Loughs Agency Fisheries and Aquaculture Implementation Plan 2009/2015 – 15 May 2009;
- ◆ Rivers Agency – The Lough Neagh Levels Scheme 2009 – 20 July 2009;
- ◆ Department of Environment – Drink Driving Limit in Northern Ireland, Penalties and Police Powers to detect Drink Drivers – 31 July 2009: *It was felt that the rules on drink limits should be the same throughout Europe given the number of foreign drivers on NI roads; members did not agree with sliding scale and felt education played vital part in informing people about drink limits; keep drink limits consistent; drivers should not drink even if take a sip of alcohol; zero tolerance on drink drivers and that the consultation should consider impact of drugs while drinking.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES: - None.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS: - None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- It was agreed that a letter would be forwarded to Planning Service Headquarters to support the objectors’ viewpoint against the proposed application for a wind farm at Smulgedon.
- It was agreed that the Chief Executive would write to the Divisional Planning Manager Mary McIntyre to request that the application for the new Health Care Village proposed for the former Gorteen Hotel site to be fast tracked.
- Members totally condemned the individual who had felled 4 healthy cherry trees at Eventide Gardens the previous weekend.

- It was agreed that the Mayor Brenda Chivers, Councillor Cubitt and Alderman Mullan would take part in round table discussion regarding the Ferry Service with the Minister for Regional Development on 12 May at 2.30 pm.
- Members were advised that a public information event would be held in Dungiven Sorts Pavilion on Thursday 7 May 2009 to outline details of the proposed Household Recycling Centre at Chapel Road.
- Members were informed that documents relating to the proposed development of a non hazardous landfill infrastructure of leachate treatment and storage; gas collection and flaring; waste inspection area; plant shed and administration facilities on land 500 m north of 19 Cam Road was available for members to view via Chief Executives office.
- The Chief Executive informed members that the Vale Centre had written to advise that their Property Committee were willing to meet Councillors between 11 – 20 May at the Vale Centre. After discussion, it was agreed that the meeting would take place either on 12 or 19 May at 6 pm in Council offices. Alderman Mullan and Councillors from the Bellerena Ward to be in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE TABLED FOR INFORMATION:

- Invitation to attend annual Battle of the Somme anniversary church service in Drumachose Presbyterian Church on 28 June at 4 pm.
- Planning Service letter advising of erection of micro wind turbine and associated works at Tesco Limavady.
- Letter from the Minister of the Environment regarding withdrawal of core funding from the Road Safety Council.
- Letter from the Minister for Health & Social Services and Public Safety to advise of latest Swine Flu outbreak.
- Translink – changes to Ulsterbus Service

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- ◆ NIAO – The Investigation of Suspected Contract Fraud
- ◆ Quarry Products Association – Northern Ireland Providing Essential Material
- ◆ SCIE – Towards a Seamless Service in Dementia Care
- ◆ NICCY – Children’s Rights: Rhetoric or Reality – A review of Childrens Rights in Northern Ireland 2007/08
- ◆ Holocaust Memorial Day Trust – Stand up to Hatred
- ◆ LBRO – Confidence and Consistency: The basics and benefits of the Primary Authority Scheme
- ◆ Invest Northern Ireland – Performance Information Report 2002 – 2008
- ◆ DPP News – Dealing with Domestic Abuse
- ◆ UNISON – Taking Stock: The future of our public library service
- ◆ Post Office Limited – Code of Practice on Public Consultation and Communication with respect to change in the Post Office network

NEXT MEETING: - 2 June 2009.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.30 pm)**

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting