

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

SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

6 FEBRUARY 2007

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Support Services and Director of Environmental Services.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor Donaghy

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 17 January 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor McElhinney.

MATTERS ARISING: - None

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

The Director of Support Services answered a number of queries in relation to payment of accounts for the month of November and December 2006 which were signed and agreed.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

IN COMMITTEE: The Director of Support Services presented the Human Resources Report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

Benenden Health Care: The Director of Support Services informed members that Benenden Health Care Society Limited was one of the largest friendly societies in the UK and complimented the NHS by providing help to members when they experienced problems with their health. He said a representative from Benenden had a short presentation to Council employees in January 2007 and would be in attendance on 12 & 13 February at Roe Valley Leisure Centre and Council Offices to provide information to employees who wished to become a member.

Carry Over of Annual Leave: Members noted and approved requests by 12 employees for carry over of more than 5 days annual leave into the new financial year. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

AUDIT REPORT AND ACCOUNTS:

The Director of Support Services presented audit report and accounts from the Local Government Auditor for the year 2005/2006. Members noted comments made in the report regarding:

- financial out-turn and closing balance in district fund
- landfill closure costs and delay in ownership of site at Drumaduff
- envisaged cost savings not occurring from the appraisal audit
- tribunal cases and resultant legal costs by former employee
- improvement in absenteeism and
- revised cost estimates for reconstruction of old town hall site.

Alderman Robinson and Councillor Cubitt suggested that Council review the decision to build a new Multi Purpose Civic Centre if costs went above the revised figure of £4 million. Councillor Brolly indicated that Council needed to investigate ways of progressing vesting of land at Drumaduff.

ACCOUNTS FOR 9 MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006:

The Director of Support Services submitted Accounts for the 9 months ended 31 December in respect of Limavady Borough Council, Roe Valley Leisure Centre, Benone Tourist Complex and Vehicle Repairs/Hire/Loans. He explained variances from budgeted figures in relation to salaries & wages, other expenses, loan charges, grants and other income.

COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES – DOE CIRCULAR LG/03/07:

The Director of Support Services informed members that the DOE circular LG/03/07 confirmed details of members' revised remuneration as agreed by Minister David Cairns, MP, following recommendations contained in the Councillors Remuneration Working Group Report.

Members noted that the new package of allowances effective from 1 April 2007 no longer included an attendance allowance but a basic allowance of £9,500 paid to each Councillor and based on Borough population of less than 50,000, the Special Responsibility Allowance has been revised to £20,000 allocated as follows:

	<i>Per annum</i>
• <i>Mayor (20%)</i>	<i>£4,001</i>
• <i>Deputy Mayor (10%)</i>	<i>£2,001</i>
• <i>Planning & Services chair (17.5%)</i>	<i>£3,499</i>
• <i>Support Services chair (17.5%)</i>	<i>£3,499</i>
• <i>Development chair (17.5%)</i>	<i>£3,499</i>
• <i>Environmental Services chair (17.5%)</i>	<i><u>£3,499</u></i>
	<i>£20,000</i>

Members welcomed the increase in Councillors allowances but it was emphasised that Councillors were elected to serve the community and not for financial gain.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive would advise members at the February 2007 Monthly meeting if the Special Responsibility allowance could be shared amongst all members and if the position of chair would be rotated.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RIGHT OF WAY – 145 MAIN STREET, DUNGIVEN: *Councillor Butcher declared an interest in the topic under discussion and left the meeting.*

The Director of Environmental Services outlined that Council was in receipt of a renewed request from MBC Developments Ltd for relocation of right of way (r.o.w) to facilitate redevelopment of site at 145 Main Street, Dungiven, formally the Castle restaurant.

The Director of Environmental Services tabled a map of current r.o.w and explained details of Deed of Exchange established in April 2004. Maps of the proposed amended r.o.w were also tabled and members were advised to decide if Council wished to agree in principle to the relocation subject to any conditions it might wish to impose on new Grant of Easement. Council may in particular wish to consider the implications of retaining Schedule 3 Para 1 of the original Deed of Exchange which states that Council pay a proportion of costs of repairing, maintaining and clearing the r.o.w. Members were also advised to consider if Council should impose any charges on its agreement to the relocation of r.o.w and if so, would they include a premium for potential added value to the developer and/or defray Council's expenses in connection with the request for realignment of the r.o.w?

An in-depth discussion took place regarding the request and the opportunities and threats this might present for all interested parties. The Director of Environmental Services pointed out that Council did not own the land and that any potential delay in decision may leave Council open to claim for financial loss by the developer.

Members requested further clarification on the proposal and it was agreed that the matter would be deferred until Council had the opportunity to examine the maps in detail.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Request by Westcare (FHSS Trust) for Land Acquisition – Dungiven Health Centre: Council agreed to transfer 12m² of land to FH&SS Trust to facilitate extension to the Health Centre waiting area, and to grant wayleave for access to a new boiler house and oil store, subject to valuation and departmental approval.

Civic Reception – Wolfhounds: It was agreed that Council would host a civic reception for Limavady Wolfhounds GAC to celebrate their success in winning at a tournament in Dubai.

NEXT MEETING: - 6 March 2007.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.45 pm)

Chair: _____