

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
6 MAY 2014**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.25 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor G Mullan.

Aldermen J Rankin and M Coyle. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, R Donaghy, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey, D Nicholl, A Robinson, E Scott and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive and the Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES: - None.

PRESENTATION – ROE VALLEY EDUCATION FORUM (RVEF):

The Chair welcomed Ms Diane Rathfield, General Manager and Mr Glen Reilly, Chairman of Roe Valley Education Forum to the meeting.

Mr Reilly explained that in order to access funding of £150k, the RVEF had to find 35% match funding. He said that the forum had received support from the North West Regional College and requested that Council also support the Flexible Steps to Work Programme by providing a grant of £20,000 towards the initiative.

Members were shown a video of those who had completed the programme and received either level 2 or three certificates, which had led to employment in childcare, administration or customer service.

Ms Rathfield answered queries on selection criteria for the Flexible Steps to Work programme; cost to deliver the programme and to the success rate in clients finding work.

Ms Rathfield and Mr Reilly left the meeting at this point.

There followed a discussion on the request for funding and points made included:

- It was difficult to put a value on the confidence and pride experienced by those finding employment.
- If Council agreed to the request it could open the floodgates for similar requests.
- Caution was urged when other groups had to resort to fund raise through street collections.
- It was queried if Council had £20,000 within its budget.

Alderman M Coyle proposed that subject to finances being available and grant application being properly completed, that Council would grant the Roe Valley Education Forum £20,000 towards their Flexible Steps to Work programme. This was seconded by Councillor E Scott.

The Chief Executive agreed to explore funding options with the relevant officers and said that whilst funds might be available, criteria on how it could be used would need to be explored. It was agreed that additional information would be brought back to the May 2014 Development Services meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 1 April 2014 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor B Chivers, seconded by Councillor S McGlinchey.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 3/4 Job Losses in the Borough: The Chief Executive highlighted that a letter on behalf of the Mayor and Council had been forwarded to the office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister with regard to job losses in the Borough. He said in a letter of response it was clarified that the Executive was committed to working with Council to ease the hardship involved and to assist redevelopment in the Limavady area. He added that the response indicated that officials had contacted government Departments and that assurances had been given that good progress was being made on job creation. It was noted that Council was waiting on a response from Invest NI on what job creation in the Borough over the last 5 years.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:

The Chief Executive presented his report for May 2014. The items for information were noted and the report was adopted subject to the following:

Local Government Reform: The Chief Executive outlined that the Statutory Transition Committee had met on 24 April 2014 for the last formal meeting before the local government election on 22 May 2014. It was noted that the STC would be formally dissolved when the new Council met in June 2014.

The following documents were circulated for information:

- Minutes of STC meeting held 27 March 2014
- Minutes of RTC meeting held on 26 March 2014
- DoE Reform Inform Bulletin and
- Local Government Reform Joint Forum's April Bulletin.

Scorecard Report: The final Integrated Business Plan for 2013/14 for the year across Councils directorates and departments was approved by Council. It was noted that 88% of the plans themes and outcomes had been achieved, 9% partly achieved and 3% unachieved.

Update – Civic Pride Programme: The Chief Executive explained that the Civic Pride programme aimed to encourage volunteers to look after their local areas in terms of appearance, combatting litter and improving the appearance of open and derelict spaces. He said that Council had received a request for match funding of £5,000 for 2014/15 building on an overall pot of over £200,000 over 3 years, with funding from the DoE and NITB. The request for funding was approved on the proposal of Councillor McGlinchey, seconded by Alderman Coyle.

Request to Address Council: It was agreed that the Rev David Latimer would present to Council at the 17 June 2014 Development Services meeting on the Pathway to Peace Initiative.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED: - None.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE DUP:

Councillor A Robinson proposed:

‘That this Council notes with concern the number of cases of extreme animal cruelty that have occurred recently, the low number of convictions and the failure to impose the maximum sentence available; and calls on the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in conjunction with the Minister of Justice, to initiate a review of the implementation of animal cruelty legislation, particularly sentencing guidelines and practices, to review the potential of further legislation, including the offence of aggravated animal cruelty and to ensure that the maximum effectiveness is being brought to bear to combat these crimes.’

Councillor Robinson explained that he had brought the motion before Council due to the fact that despite the Animal Welfare (NI) Act 2011 which creates a maximum penalty for causing acts of animal cruelty of two years in prison, there had been a number of recent cases whereby convictions or custodial sentences had not been imposed. He highlighted a number of prominent cases involving animal cruelty, in particular the Kirkwood case whereby despite pleading guilty; the individuals had been handed down a suspended jail sentence, which in his opinion was not a sufficient enough deterrent to the level of crime.

Councillor A Robinson welcomed that following a motion by his party colleague Peter Weir MLA, a review would now take place on the effectiveness of the legislation. He highlighted that further measures could be taken to include Aggravated Animal Cruelty, which distinguishes between offences of neglect and those that were intentionally cruel & serious and would carry a higher penalty. He requested that Council support the motion and for a copy of the motion to be forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development and to the Minister of Justice.

The motion was seconded by Councillor A Brolly and on being put to the meeting was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL:

The following resolution was noted by Council.

‘This Council, which is the authority responsible for the licensing of premises for the storage of petroleum spirit, is concerned following the recent announcement that almost 500 filling stations are selling either rebated or laundered fuel to the unsuspecting public in Northern Ireland. This Council would call upon Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to inform the licencing authorities and the public of the names of premises which have been prosecuted for these serious offences and if found guilty by the court, they are ‘named and shamed’.

CONSULTATIONS: -

Members reviewed the consultation list for May 2014 and the following was agreed:

DoE – The Draft Local Government (Executive Arrangements) Regulations (NI) 2014: *Agreed that a Workshop would be held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 13 May 2014.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES: - None.**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:**

It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman M Coyle, seconded by Councillor T McCaul, that the legal document between O'Brians Foreglen GAC with Limavady Borough Council on lease of land for playarea at Foreglen would be signed and sealed.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Utility Week – Investors overboard?
- Community Relations Council - Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report
- Community Relations Council – Ten Key Points of Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report
- Pobal – Looking Back, Moving Forward.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: -

Lands at Bovally: IN COMMITTEE. The draft Tenancy of Will agreement between Mullan Farmers LLP and Limavady Borough Council for lease of an area of open space at Bovally for a period of 2 years was discussed and accepted by Council. OUT OF COMMITTEE.

Mayor – Last Meeting: The Mayor Councillor G Mullan thanked members for their indulgence as chair of the Monthly meeting during his year in office. He said that an exhibition of his pottery was being held in Roe Valley Arts & Culture Centre from Thursday 8 May 2014 and that members were welcome to attend.

NEXT MEETING: - 10 June 2014.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.30 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting