

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

6 JUNE 2005

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen G Mullan, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, L Cubitt, B Douglas, J F McElhinney and A Robinson.

In Attendance: Committee Clerk, Chief Environmental Health Office and Chief Technical Service Officer.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Donaghy, Councillor Ó hOisín and the Town Clerk & Chief Executive.

It was agreed that Council best wishes would be forward to Councillor Donaghy, who was recovering from tonsillectomy.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR:

The Mayor - Councillor Coyle reminded members that at Council's AGM it had been agreed that the chair of Environmental Services Committee would be a member of the unionist block.

As there were no nominations from unionist members, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Alderman Mullan that Councillor Coyle would chair the meeting.

Councillor Coyle said he was disappointed at the decision by unionist members not to accept the position and said for the next 12 months, a chair would be appointed at the start of the Committee meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of previous meeting dated 4 April 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten subject to an amendment on page 2, paragraph 3 '...Councillor Douglas said the results would be beneficial in identifying rock formations which would help find water sources.'

MATTERS ARISING:

None

CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – JUNE 2005:

The Chief Environmental Health Officer presented his report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Robinson subject to the following:

Helani Strategic Plan 2005 – 2008: The Chief Environmental Health Officer explained that the Health & Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and the 26 District Councils shared responsibility for securing health and safety at work standards in Northern Ireland and that both applied similar legislation in different business sectors. He said that in June 2000, the Health and Safety Executive Local Authority Liaison Committee for Northern Ireland (HELANI) was established as a HSENI Board Committee and both had representation from HSENI and District Councils as a strategic committee.

The Chief Environmental Health Officer outlined that the mission of the committee was to collectively improve occupational health and safety standards in Northern Ireland in an effective, consistent proportionate and targeted manner. He said that Strategic Plan (2005 – 2008) sought to build on the good work achieved to date by continuing to focus District Councils on the priority issues to be tackled in improving health and safety standards over the next three years.

The Chief Environmental Health Officer highlighted the particular aims and strategic themes of the plan and members noted that the prioritised issues of musculoskeletal disorders; stress; falls from height; workplace transport; slips and trips; asbestos and vulnerable workers had not changed significantly from the previous strategic plan.

Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland: The Chief Environmental Health Officer drew to members' attention specific proposals within the latest consultation document produced by the Review of Public Administration Team. He said that these proposals set out a single option for the future of health and safety enforcement in Northern Ireland and state that the responsibility for health and safety should be removed from district councils and transferred to the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland.

Members agreed that potentially this would have a serious effect upon the future delivery of effective services by Environmental Health departments and that the proposal to remove health and safety enforcement from district councils and centralise the function in an extended executive body would fly in the face of required characteristics of future administration.

The Chief Environmental Health Officer pointed out that the proposal within the RPA consultation appeared to run counter to principles and characteristics set for the public service post the review and to contradict the public policy statements and working commitments of the Health and Safety Commission and Executive in Great Britain. He said the proposals were ill founded, supported by inaccurate argument and wrong for the effective delivery of health and safety protection.

It was agreed that views expressed would be included in any corporate response to the RPA to be submitted by Council.

Home Safe Home Scheme: The Chief Environmental Health Officer stated that the Home Safe Home scheme was a free confidential service provided in the Limavady Borough area and delivered as part of an overall home safety project across the five councils of the western area. He said that Aisling McAteer, the Home Safety Officer (HSO), provided education and advice through home safety stands or through talks and presentations at various events. He added that the HSO also provided home safety checks to individuals' homes at the request of either the client or through referrals from community groups or Health Service staff and a variety of safety equipment could be provided if considered necessary.

The Chief Environmental Health Officer reported that the HSO's of the Western Area together with the Western Health Action Zone have been successful in obtaining an additional grant from ROSPA for the purchase of medicine cabinets and that approximately 120 cabinets would be purchased in each council area and made available to clients of the Home Safe Home Scheme, with Roeguard/LCDI handyman fitting the cabinets at no cost to Council.

Members noted that in addition to this, an additional £2,800 had been provided by Western Health and Social Services Board, which would be used to provide various types of falls prevention equipment, including helping hands, long handled sponges, shoe horns and bath mats. Members also noted that during home safety check visits, the HSO would identify homes in need of a smoke detector.

The Chief Environmental Health Officer explained to Councillor Butcher that fire alarms would be fitted by the Fire Service and their insurance would cover any damage caused to property during the course of fitting equipment.

Air Quality Review and Assessment: The Chief Environmental Health Officer highlighted that work had been undertaken to measure levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀) as part of Air Quality Review and Assessment. He said that a PM₁₀ had been monitored in Limavady town from October 2004 for a six month period and provisional results indicated levels of this pollutant were within the limits set out in air quality strategy.

Passive diffusion tubes were located within Irish Green Street, Limavady and Main Street, Dungiven to measure concentrations of NO₂ and results revealed that the junction at Main Street and Ballyquin Road, Dungiven may be experiencing elevated levels of NO₂. To establish a true indicative of pollutant levels a more comprehensive study would be carried out over a twelve months to monitor levels further.

Members registered their disappointment at the results and said the only long term solution would be diverting traffic from town centres and in the case of Dungiven, completion of the by-pass.

Review of Police Patrolling: The Chief Environmental Health Officer informed members said that Council was in receipt of correspondence from the PSNI regarding Best Value Review of Patrolling and as part of the review were interested in what issues the Council may have in relation to the current standard of service. He said that members' views were sought on any joint patrols between Council Officers and police in their area.

In giving the suggestion a cautious welcome, member's queried officer safety, relevant training and any cost to Council. It was agreed that the Chief Environmental Health Officer would include member's comments in responding to the consultation.

CHIEF TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICER'S REPORT – JUNE 2005:

The Chief Technical Service Officer presented his report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Rankin subject to the following:

North West Regional Cross Border Group – *Regional Landfill Site Selection:*

The Chief Technical Service Officer reported that six expressions of interest were received in response to the call from the Group and following Phase 1 assessment criteria, tender documentation was currently being prepared for Phase 2 of the procurement exercise. He said that Phase 2 would take up to 4 months to complete as applicants were required to produce detailed environmental statements, together with detailed financial offers describing the terms under which the site/sites can be made available to the Group up to the year 2020.

Waste Management/Recycling Key Performance Indicators January – March 2005: The Chief Technical Service Officer outlined key performance indicators and enlarged thereon. Members noted that the overall Municipal recycling rate for Limavady Borough for 2005 Q1 was 31.4%, which was up 1.2% on the 2004 Q4 of 30.2% and up 10.3% on the overall 2004 return of 21.1%.

Multi-Purpose Civic Centre: The Chief Technical Service Officer explained that since his last report Fold Housing Association had been in contact and confirmed that their preferred choice with regard to their road was that it should become an adopted road. He said that agreement had been reached on the standards that would have to be achieved for adoption and that meetings were currently being arranged with Roads Service and Fold Housing to facilitate this process.

The Chief Technical Service Officer said that in respect of design works for the new building, a number of decisions must be taken with regard to energy efficiency measures. He said that it had been assumed that Council would use natural gas as the primary fuel source following information provided by BGE (Northern Ireland) and if the natural gas supply was not available at the date of opening of the new complex, an alternative would be supplied from a temporary gas storage tank until the natural gas supply become available.

The Chief Technical Service Officer pointed out that Council's consultants had discussed the updated energy report with Council's Technical Officers and there was an agreement to recommend that the following elements be included in the scheme:

- (a) installation of under floor heating through the building;
- (b) water consumption saving measures;
- (c) natural ventilation of atria and circulation spaces and Multi Purpose Hall;
- (d) high efficiency motors and variable speed drives on fans and pumps; and
- (e) to include number of elements eligible for grant aid.

Members agreed to the recommendations.

Drumaduff Landfill Site: The Chief Technical Service Officer reminded members of events and previous deadlines set for commencement of restoration to the closed landfill site at Drumaduff. He said as at 29 April 2005 no agreement had been reached and therefore it is assumed that negotiated settlements could not be achieved and advice from the Valuation and Lands Agency was to implement the compulsory purchase procedure for the lands in question.

Members noted that approval to issue the formal notices to the relevant parties of Council's intention to acquire these lands by way of compulsory purchase was expected within the next few weeks.

Proposal to Develop the Site of the Former Castle Restaurant and Nightclub at 145 Main Street, Dungiven: The Chief Technical Service Officer reported that Council had been approached by MBC Developments who own the site at the former Castle Restaurant and Nightclub for comments/approval on accessing arrangements to their proposed development.

The Chief Technical Service Officer outlined 3 options and after careful consideration it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Douglas that option 3 was the best way to preserve the safety of all users of the existing lay-by and accesses.

It was noted that it would be necessary to resolve the access details with Glenshane Community Development Limited and made the appropriate legal amendments to their current lease with Council.

Proposed Playground at Blackburn Park, Limavady: Members welcomed that the contractor was on site and that work had commenced on the playground at Blackburn Park.

The Chief Technical Service Officer agreed to keep Alderman Robinson informed about resolving the concerns and objections of residents.

Vandalism: Members expressed their outrage that vandals had again broken into Council Depot and stole various tools. Alderman Robinson said even though the unpleasant incident was in hands of Council's solicitors, he would like to think such an occurrence would not happen again.

Magilligan – IT Facilities: The Chief Technical Service Officer explained that the McAvoy Group had submitted a formal quotation of £16,408 excluding VAT, despite initially indicating a budget cost in the region of £9,000.00 and that the Community Association had been asked to investigate the possibility of obtaining additional funding to take account of the shortfall.

Councillor Butcher expressed his outrage on behalf of Magilligan Community Association on how this was handled and suggested that an officer from Council attend the Association's AGM to help explain the situation. It was agreed that Mr Adrian Street, Technical Assistant would attend the AGM to be held on Tuesday 14 June 2005 at 7.30 pm.

BUILDING REGULATIONS APPLICATIONS (schedule enclosed):

The District Chief Building Control Officer's report detailing applications approved, acknowledged and issued between 25 March to 26 April 2005 and 27 April to 31 May 2005 were tabled and noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Playarea – Greysteel: Councillor McElhinney pointed out Greysteel did not have a playarea and suggested that the Chief Technical Service Officer write to the Vale Centre requesting use of vacant land inside the Vale Centre gates. The Chief Technical Service Officer agreed to pass this information onto Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer.

Provision of Bins - Dog Foul: The Chief Technical Service Officer explained to members that whilst requests for the provision of bins for dog foul were a regular occurrence, if Council started providing these outside the town centre, a precedent would be set and this could end up costing Council additional money.

Retirement of Chief Technical Service Officer: Councillor Robinson wished Victor Wallace, Chief Technical Service Officer, a happy and long retirement. Alderman Rankin said he was an efficient officer and Councillor Cubitt praised his work in waste management. Councillor Brolly, Councillor Coyle, Councillor Carten and Councillor McElhinney concurred with these remarks.

The Chief Technical Service Officer reflected on his time with Council and reminded members of ongoing works that still to be implemented as follows:

- *regional landfill site selection and development*
- *brown bin scheme*
- *bio-stabilisation trial*
- *transfer station*
- *recycling centre*
- *continuation of IAP from Waste Management Plan*
- *recruitment of Recycling Officer*
- *Multi-function Civic Centre*
- *Benone improvements*
- *Northern Area Plan*
- *development at Dungiven adjacent to the Castle*
- *Gorteen Lands*
- *Single Status*
- *Town Centre improvement works and*
- *GIS.*

Workshop – Hazardous Waste: It was agreed that attendance at Waste Management Workshop on Hazardous Waste, to be hold 30 June 2005 in De-Vinci's Hotel, Londonderry be considered an approved duty.

NEXT MEETING:

1 August 2005

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 10.15 pm)