

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
6 OCTOBER 2009

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.45 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor Ó hOisín.

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - Alderman Robinson and Councillor J F McElhinney.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 1 September 2009 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Civic Receptions: Members were advised that the cost for hosting Civic Receptions for 2008/09 were £4,501.47 for food and drink and £4,445.89 for corporate gifts. Noted.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2009:

RPA Update: The Chief Executive informed members that the final report by PWC on Phase 2 proposals for local government service delivery models was to be with the SLB by mid October 2009. He said that the Minister for the Environment, Edwin Poots had addressed the Causeway Coast & Glens District Council Voluntary Transition Committee meeting and commended the process to date. Final drafts for the short term Vision, Mission, Values and Key Planning themes were agreed by the Committee, as well as a high level implementation plan and facts profile for the new Council area.

Planning Reform: The draft response on consultation for Planning Reform was approved for submission to Planning Service subject to it being reinforced in the first bullet point on page 1, that there was a need for Central Government to provide proper finances to implement changes to the current system.

Standing Orders: The suggested changes to Standing Orders which had been compiled following a workshop by members were agreed. It was agreed that additional points made would be incorporated into the final document. These included point 11, line 1, change 'admitted' to 'considered by'. It was suggested that the wording within this point should make it clear that it was Council who decided on deputations to Council. It was also suggested that the definition of what constituted a deputation should be included as an appendix to the document.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN M COYLE:

Alderman Coyle proposed that:

“This council calls on the Minister for Department for Regional Development in the Assembly and the Minister for Transport in the Southern Government to jointly provide funding for the continuation of the Ferry Service between Magilligan and Greencastle.”

In proposing the motion, he outlined that the service reduced travel time to Donegal, minimised the Boroughs carbon footprint, opened up the whole region to visitors and had transported approximately 2 million passengers since commencing operations. He said the ferry service needed a cash injection and that although funding from INTERREG was being investigated; any funding from Council was short term, therefore, both governments should look to providing funding for the ferry service. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Brolly.

Members made the following points for and against the motion:

- Several members were opposed to the decision to ring fence £100k for retention of the ferry service and it was queried if this decision was legitimate.
- The service did not help local businesses as ferry traffic went to Coleraine or the north coast.
- It was queried who was responsible for the jetty, docking fees and if the operator had insurance in place.
- It was pointed out that the £100k ring fenced for the ferry service was money Council had saved on security.
- Members welcomed that Stormont Ministers were discussing how the ferry service could be retained
- The ferry was a regional service and should be supported by both governments.
- There was a desire to retain the ferry service but it should not be financed through Council.

Alderman Coyle thanked those who spoke on the motion. He clarified that the motion had nothing to do with the decision to ring fence funds for the ferry service and had been submitted not to support the ferry operator but to fund the ferry service.

A recorded vote was requested on the motion and on being put to the meeting was declared carried, 8 for, namely Councillor Carten, Alderman Coyle, Councillor Mullan, Councillor Chivers, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Donaghy, Councillor Brolly & Councillor Ó hOisín; 4 against, Councillor Douglas, Councillor Stevenson, Alderman Rankin & Councillor Cubitt, with 1, Councillor Robinson abstained from the vote.

Update on the Ferry Service: The Chief Executive advised that the ferry operator had volunteered to continue the service to 31 December 2009 without financial support from Council. He said tendering for the service would commence as soon as possible and that the current service would be regularised through a permit. He advised that Donegal County Council had confirmed to the current operator that funding options would be explored by both Limavady and Donegal Councils pending budget constraints and that the two governments would be lobbied by the Councils. It was suggested that a working group be

established to keep in touch with Councils counterparts in Donegal and to report back to each Council. After further discussion it was agreed that Alderman Coyle, Councillor Butcher and Councillor Cubitt would sit on the working group.

EXTERNAL MINUTES – NOTED:

- Western Health & Social Care Trust – 4 June and 6 August 2009
- Northern Group Building Control Committee – 29 May 2009.

CONSULTATIONS:

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

- ◆ DENI – “The School Admissions (Exceptional Circumstances) Regulations 2010”: submission by 23 October 2009. It was agreed that response would be deferred until additional information had been forwarded to members.
- ◆ DENI – “Draft Food in Schools Policy”: submission by 11 December 2009.

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

It was agreed that the following members/officers would attend the conferences/courses listed:

- Chief Executive to attend the SOLACE/CCMA joint conference in association with Co-operation Ireland on 18 November 2009 in Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin. Fee: conference free, accommodation £99.
- Human Resource Manager to attend the Legal Island Employment Law Annual Review Conference on 26 November 2009, Belfast. Fee: £376.74+VAT.
- Members were advised that attendance at seminars on 26 November 2009 on Planning for the Future of Local Government in Belfast City Council could be booked through the Chief Executives Department and that this would be an approved duty.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS: None.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Northern Ireland Housing Council – Bridging the Gaps Convention
- Bird Watch Ireland – Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2008-2013
- UK Statistics Authority Annual Report 2008/09
- The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland – Annual Report & Accounts 2008/09
- Invest Northern Ireland – Annual Report and Accounts 2008/09
- Invest Northern Ireland – Business Development Solutions
- Rural Restructuring: Local Sustainable Solutions to the Rural Challenge

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- The Mayor apologised for not inviting members to a Mayors Reception for Dr Stafford Carson, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church.

- It was queried if officers could contact the owner of the KFC site in Ballykelly to make the site secure.
- Members were informed that NI Water had requested a meeting with Council to discuss works to commence Main Street, Limavady on 26 October 2009. It was suggested that this be scheduled into a forthcoming meeting.
- It was felt that the loss of funding for Dentistry Services would have serious implications on dental health in the province.
- Reference was made to job losses at the North West Independent Hospital in Ballykelly and to the fact that hip replacements operations were no longer carried out at the Hospital, which had resulted in increased waiting times for operations from 18 to 26 weeks.

NEXT MEETING: - 3 November 2009.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.35 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting

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