

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

**SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**6 NOVEMBER 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), M Donaghy, B Douglas, C Ó hOisín A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Human Resource Manager, Finance Manager and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor McElhinney

**ROADS SERVICE AUTUMN CONSULTATION:**

The Chair welcomed Mrs Deidre Mackle, Network Maintenance Manager and Mr Keith Cradden, Section Engineer, Roads Service to the meeting.

Mrs Mackle outlined that Roads Service continued to give high priority to maintenance of existing network and although funding for maintenance activities had increased over the last year, there remained a large backlog of work and Roads Service were unable to carry out as much resurfacing and maintenance work as was required in accordance with good practice standards.

Mrs Mackle presented the progress report on the current year's capital and maintenance programmes and answered question put to her by members and the main comments were noted as follows:

*1. Network Maintenance:*

Members noted resurfacing and drainage work completed in 2006/07 and schemes proposed for 2007/08. Disappointment was expressed that carriageway strengthening proposed for Baranailt Road had been omitted due to financial pressures and other priorities.

*2. Network Development:*

Mrs Mackle provided an overview of minor works schemes planned for 2007/08 at Ballyquin Road (Scriggan), Plantation/Sistrakeel Road, Carnamuff/Nedd Road, Burnfoot, Rossaire Road, Ballyavelin Road junction, Drumacarney Bridge and Edenmore Road. She also informed members of traffic calming, traffic

management and collision remedial schemes proposed at 12 different locations in the Borough and of highway structures proposed for 2007/08.

### 3. *Strategic Road Improvements:*

Mrs Mackle explained that Roads Service hoped to announce the preferred route for the proposed bypass and dual carriageway at Dungiven in the spring of 2009. She said consultants had been commissioned to assist with detail planning of dualling at Clooney Road between City of Derry Airport and existing dual carriageway at Maydown and that schemes within the preparation pool included Skeoge Link dual carriageway, Crescent Link dualling and widening of the Buncrana Road from Pennyburn Roundabout to the border. She added that the proposed climbing lane at Gortcorbies was at the advanced design stage but construction could not start until environmental concerns regarding the disposal of substantial volume of surplus material had been resolved.

Roads Service agreed to respond to the following requests/suggestions from members.

- Councillor Douglas - consider extending the speed limit at Burnfoot to take account of the new primary school.
- Alderman Rankin - additional gritting on Edenmore Road up to the Orange Hall.
- Alderman Robinson – provision of signs/road markers for cycle track on Ballyquin Road, near the Gorteen.
- Alderman Robinson – progress on closure of Whitehill Park emergency access route.
- Councillor Stevenson – contractual work on Windyhill Road and the route not being returned to satisfactory standard. Queried why Ballarena school had not been included in traffic calming scheme for schools.
- Councillor Carten – congratulated Roads Service on work at Baranailt Road, Plantation Road and Carnamuff Road. He reaffirmed his request for a footpath from Ballykelly to St. Finloughs church.
- Councillor Chivers – consider reducing speed limit at Ardgarnan, salting of Kilhoyle Road, drainage problem Carnabane Road and restrictive parking at the Northern Bank in Catherine Street.
- Councillor Brolly – NO<sup>2</sup> emissions Main Street, Dungiven and possibility of traffic diversion.
- Councillor Ó hOisín – maintenance of road at Finvola Park and if traffic calming measures could be extended to Roe View Park.
- Councillor Cubitt – traffic build up at Central Primary School and at Ballykelly, 30 mph speed limit at Greystone Road, traffic calming measures at Crossnadenell Park, Newton Park and to consider reducing speed limit on Seacoast Road.
- Alderman Mullan – adoption of road at Roeville Terrace and introducing a 2 & 1 road at the Central Primary School.
- Councillor Coyle - temporary traffic management at Main Street, Dungiven and details of the last three surveys on traffic volume in the town.

In response to a query about difficulty in contacting Roads Service, Mrs Mackle encouraged members to contact County Hall in Coleraine on day to day queries. The Chair thanked representatives from Roads Service for presenting to Council.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 4 September 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Scoping Exercise of Environmental Directive:** The Human Resource Manager informed members that a report from the scoping exercise of the Environmental Directive would be presented to Council at the December 2007 Support Services meeting.

**PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:**

The payment of accounts for the months of September 2007 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Carten.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

The Human Resource Report dated 6 November 2007 was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Mullan subject to the following:

**Greenhouse Attendant:** The Human Resource Manager outlined that the Greenhouse Attendants position had been made redundant due to the closure of the nursery facility and proposed that Council offer alternative employment as a Yard/Store person within Ballyquin Road Depot. Agreed.

**Number of Council Employees:** The Human Resource Manager agreed to provide a breakdown of casual (agency) and full time employees of Council at the next Support Services meeting.

**Flexible Working Hours Scheme:** The Human Resource Manager reminded members that in June 2007 it had been agreed in principle to introduce Flexible Working within Council offices. She said a Flexible Working Hours Scheme had been developed for those employees who did not work a shift & rota basis and where it did not have an impact on the delivery of Council services and operational requirements.

Members noted that the Office Cleaner and Caretaker/Porter hours of work had been reviewed to facilitate the introduction of Flexible Working in January 2008 and it was proposed that the Office Cleaners hours remain unchanged but would commence from 8 am until 12 noon and that the Caretaker/Porter's hours of work would be increased from 27½ to 37 hours per week, commencing at 11.45 pm until 7.45 pm. Agreed.

**Movement from 35 – 37 Hours:** Members agreed that those employees contracted to work 35 hours per week would be offered a one off buy out payment of £1,300 gross, directly following by the employees concerned being required to work a full 37 hour week. It was noted that the total cost to Council would be £47,905.00 and that this would be recouped within one year.

**Child Protection Policy:** The Human Resource Manager reported that the current Child Protection policy had been reviewed and updated in accordance with legislative and best practice requirements. She said external bodies, clubs and organisations would be made aware of the changes and in the absence of specific guidance developed by their own organisation, would be obliged to follow the policy as a condition of using Council facilities. Agreed.

**Leisurewatch:** It was noted that Council was working to achieve Leisurewatch accreditation at Roe Valley Leisure Centre by December 2007 at a cost of £1,500.

**NJR CIRCULAR 4/07 – PAYSCALE ALLOWANCES 2007/08:**

The NJR Circular on 2007/08 Payscale & Allowances was tabled and noted.

**ACCOUNTS FOR 6 MONTHS ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2007:**

The accounts for the six months period ending 30 September 2007 were tabled and noted.

**NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR P. BUTCHER:**

*Councillor Donaghy declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.*

Councillor Butcher proposed:

‘That this Council actively and relentlessly pursues all options available for the workforce at Seagate and for the continued use of the site for the provision of employment in this Borough.’

He explained that members needed to be proactive rather than making synthetic statements via the media and that Council should take steps to do something before the Borough turning into a jobless wasteland. He suggested that economic resources be deployed; members lobby Minister Dodds to ensure funds that might be clawed back from government grants would be ring fenced for the Borough and capacity building in terms of bricks and mortar would encourage seedling firms to grow, otherwise Limavady would end up a commuter town. Councillor Ó hOisín seconded the motion and suggested that priority be given to adequate redundancy packages and retention of the Seagate site.

Alderman Robinson proposed the following amendment:

‘That this Council has a moral duty to pursue every avenue to gain alternative employment within the Borough after the imminent loss by the largest employer, namely Seagate. That this Council insist that the second largest employer Magilligan Prison be rebuilt on the present site to enhance and retain the present workforce and that efforts be made to urgently and strenuously attract the planned new policing college on the MOD site at Shackleton Barracks, which will attract much needed alternative employment to the Borough.’ The amendment was seconded by Councillor Robinson but on being put to the meeting was declared lost with 5 voting for, 6 against and 3 abstentions.

Councillor Cubitt proposed the following amendment to Councillor Butcher’s proposal:

‘That this Council immediately contact Seagate, Invest Northern Ireland and Minister Dodds to request that Seagate donate all or part of its facilities at Aghanloo to Limavady Borough Council so that suitable facilities would be in place to promote and maintain local and regional businesses.’ He said that this gesture would be a thank you to the workers of the Borough and would help set up indigenous firms. The amendment was seconded by Alderman Rankin.

Councillors P Butcher agreed to revise his initial notice of motion to include Councillor Cubitt’s proposal and on being put to the meeting was declared carried.

Councillor Stevenson proposed that in light of the Seagate closure that Council invite the owner of the market yard to present details on how the site was to be developed and if this was considered suitable, that Council would give the developer its full support. Agreed. It was also agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson that the Development Services Manager would investigate how the former Daintyfit factory was to be redeveloped.

**COURSES/CONFERENCES:**

It was agreed that the Human Resource Manager would attend the All Ireland Local Government HR Conference on Wednesday 21-23 November in the Slieve Donard Resort – Fee £495.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Seal Legal Document:** The legal document between Greysteel Community Enterprises and Council was signed and sealed.

**Dog Control Training Course:** The request for the Enforcement Officer to attend a two day Dog Control Training Course was approved.

**Noise Nuisance:** Members highlighted that a number of complaints had been received about noise nuisance emanating from vicinity of Gorteen Hotel. It was agreed that this would be raised at the Environmental Services meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** - 4 December 2007.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS  
(The meeting ended at 9.25 pm)**

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_