

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

PLANNING AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

6 DECEMBER 2007

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and Chief Executive. Mrs Andre McNee, Planning Service.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors A Brolly, M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F McElhinney and E Stevenson.

POST OFFICE LIMITED:

The chair welcomed Catherine Mulvena and Sheila McCann, Post Office Limited (POL) to the meeting.

Ms Mulvena referred to network losses of £2 million per week in 2005, £4 million in 2006 and said these were unsustainable. She said the Post Office had seen a dramatic decline in business conducted on behalf of government through changes in the benefit payment system and that in Northern Ireland 35% of the 540 branches had fewer than 100 customers per week, with the reasons for going to the Post Office being ebbed away.

Ms Mulvena stated that customers were accessing the services that used to be at the Post Offices core from different sources, for example car tax online, telephone banking, internet postage and town centre to retail park. She said a clear way forward was needed for POL, subpostmasters and customers and that was why a five year recovery plan had been created.

Members noted details of the recovery plan and that following consultation the government had agreed to provide funding to restructure the network, taking account of the social role of the Post Office and that this would result in 2,500 compensated closures, with 500 outreach services and a resultant network to satisfy specified access and other requirements to be conducted on a compulsory basis.

The importance of the Post Office to elderly residents and the rural community were highlighted by members. Reference was also made to vandalism of post boxes in the town and Ms McCann said that if the boxes were continually vandalised, POI would review replacing these and called on the help of local communities to preventing vandalism. It was suggested that post boxes be replaced at Irish Green Street and Bells Hills and that consideration be given to providing a post box at the shops in Edenmore Road. The Chair thanked the members of POI for attending the meeting.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS: (deferred applications – see appendix)

From the outset, Councillor Coyle objected to Planning Service taking account of PPS14 in the decision making process. He proposed that from now on, Council defer all applications refused due to PPS14 unless the applicants specifically requested otherwise. Alderman Robinson seconded the proposal.

Mrs McNee answered queries on applications listed on the deferred schedule and the recommendations were accepted subject to the following:

D1/Approval: B/2006/0558/RM – erection of one and a half storey dwelling with detached garage 130 metres south of 92 Bovevagh Road, Bovevagh, Dungiven (Mr & Mrs Campbell) Welcomed.

D2/Approval: B/2007/0016/F – change of use of part of ground floor of dwelling to shop unit and front elevational changes to provide new shop front at 42 Main Street, Limavady (Mr C Nutt) Welcomed.

D3/Refusal: B/2007/0049/F – proposed 1 ½ storey side extension to provide granny flat at 445 Tully Road, Limavady (Mr & Mrs A Sherrard) Mrs McNee agreed to defer this application for an additional month.

D4/Approval: B/2007/0065/RM – erection of traditional single storey dwelling adjacent to 15 Birren Road, Crebarkey Road, Dungiven (Mr P Murphy) Welcomed.

D5/Approval: B/2007/0111/F – replacement two-storey dwelling and detached garage/domestic store located at 10 Crocknabrock Road, Dungiven (Mr L King) Welcomed.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS: (New applications – see appendix)

Mrs McNee answered questions on the new applications listed on the schedule and the recommendations were accepted subject to the following:

B/2006/0442/F – replacement of single storey, flat roofed office/workshop with two storey, pitched roof office/workshop with flat over to the rear of 25 Church Street, Limavady (Mr John Eakin) *Agreed that application would be held for one month.*

B/2006/0598/F – construction of access to dwelling and associated gates and pillars at 19 Newline Road, Limavady (Mr & Mrs C McAuley) *Agreed that decision on application would be deferred for one month.*

B/2007/0075/F – alterations to incorporate existing internal store into restaurant area and raising roof level over same, pitched roofs over existing flat roofed porches and retention of three open terraces to front and southern area at The Coast, Public Bar and Restaurant, 144 Seacoast Road, Myroe (Mr S Quigley) *Agreed that decision on application would be deferred for one month.*

B/2007/0149/RM – erection of two storey replacement dwelling on lands adjacent to 50 Carrowclare Road, Myroe, Limavady (S.G.P. Ltd) *Agreed that decision on application would be deferred for one month.*

B/2007/0180/F – single storey extension to front of dwelling at 126 Tartnakilly Road, Glack, Limavady (Mr K McElhinney) *Agreed that the application would be held for one month.*

B/2007/0202/F – erection of one and a half storey dwelling with integrated garage/store and car port approximately 480 metres north of 30 Coolagh Road, Greysteel (Mr & Mrs D Logue) *Agreed that decision on application would be deferred for one month.*

B/2007/0233/F – retention of two-storey side extension to provide granny flat and additional 1st floor accommodation and external alterations (Mr R McFarland) *Agreed that decision on application would be deferred for one month.*

B/2007/0240/F – erection of one and a half storey dwelling & garage & associated landscaping (change of house type and amended position from that approved under B/2005/0729/RM (Mr M Murphy) *Agreed that decision on application would be deferred for one month.*

B/2007/0247/O – proposed infill site for a clachan style dwelling adjacent to 6 Drumalief, Limavady (M. B Properties (NI) Ltd) *Members noted that this application had been withdrawn.*

Office Meetings: Office meetings were arranged for Friday 11 January 2008 commencing at 9.45 am for the following applications.

B/2006/0295/F – erection of 2 detached single storey and 2 semi-detached one and a half storey holiday chalets adjacent to 71 Derryork Road, Dungiven (Mrs M McCafferty);

B/2007/0153/O – site for retirement dwelling with detached garage/store opposite ‘Eden Villa’, 60 Edenmore Road, Limavady (Mr & Mrs N Hylands);

B/2007/0165/O – site for replacement dwelling 78a Magheramore Road, Carnanbane, Dungiven (Murphy);

B/2007/0174/O – site for two storey retirement dwelling on site adjacent to 47 Aghanloo Road, Dowland, Limavady (J E Campbell & Son);

B/2007/0178/O – site for off-site replacement dwelling 60m north east of 41 Craigbrack Road, Killylane, Eglinton (Mr C Milligan);

B/2007/0190/F – erection of two storey replacement dwelling & detached double domestic garage 120m east south east of 46 Vale Road, Greysteel;

B/2007/0191/O – ‘off site’ replacement dwelling with detached garage/store 60 metres north east of 25 Rallagh Road, Dungiven (Mr M Gibson);

B/2007/0193/F – erection of two-storey dwelling with detached double garage (change of house type for that previously approved under B/2002/0351/F) 15 Brisland Road, Eglinton, Limavady (Mr & Mrs L Cooley);

B/2007/0195/O – site for retirement dwelling 54 metres north of 119 Seacoast Road, Myroe, Limavady (Mr D Moody);

B/2007/0224/F – erection of 2 storey off-site replacement dwelling and storey and a half detached garage on site 35 metres south of 68 Gortnacross Road, Drumsurn (Mr S O’Kane);

B/2007/0236/F – erection of single storey dwelling with detached garage for retiring on small field north west of 163 Altmover Road (Mr J Moore);

B/2007/0276/F – site for dwelling and garage 260 metres south of 92 Bovevagh Road, Dungiven (Mr E Jackson).

Queries/Comments outside the Schedule:

- A member queried if planning permission had been agreed for the Indian restaurant in Irish Green Street. Mrs McNee agreed to check this out.
- Mrs McNee referred to application approved but never issued in June 2007 for 12 units near Protestant Street and said decision would be issued shortly.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 1 November 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING:

Rationalisation of Social Security Agency Services: Councillor Chivers suggested that due to recent job losses in Seagate and impending losses in Hugo and to fact that the DHSS offices had recently been renovated, that Council lobby for the new Social Services centre to be located in Limavady.

ROADS:

Dungiven By-Pass: It was suggested that Connor Murphy, Minister for Regional Development be invited to attend a Council meeting regarding progress on Dungiven by-Pass.

WATER & SEWERAGE:

Sewerage System – Bovally Medical Centre: Alderman Rankin highlighted that Dr Finley had been in contact with Council regarding blocked sewers in the Bovally area and that Northern Ireland Water had identified the problem but to date no repairs to the system had been conducted. It was agreed that a letter would be forwarded to Northern Ireland Water to push for this work to be completed.

HOUSING: - None.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BUTCHER:

Councillor Butcher proposed, seconded by Councillor Chivers that:

‘This Council calls on local government councils which have failed to incorporate all-inclusive proportionality mechanisms for the purposes of filling civic positions on Council to immediately do so. We call on all political parties to ensure that discriminatory and exclusionary practices are ended as a matter of urgency to meet the expectations of the new political dispensation we are now in. We further call on the Minister of the Environment, Arlene Foster, to ensure that the new local government councils established under the RPA are statutorily obliged to abide by principles and practice of power-sharing and proportionality to ensure maximum public confidence.’

Alderman Robinson proposed the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Cubitt:

‘That this motion is deferred until the Minister has made a final decision on RPA when we would be in a better position to judge if the alleged contents of the motion would still be relevant.’

The amendment was put to the meeting and declared lost, with 4 voting for and 6 against. Councillor Butcher’s motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, with 6 for, 3 against and 1 abstention.

Councillor Butcher requested that Council write to the Minister Foster to stress that Council wanted a cast iron guarantee that proportionality would be built into the new Councils following RPA. He also requested that the motion be forwarded to the other 25 Councils. Agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: - None.

NEXT MEETING - Thursday 3 January 2008.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.40 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting