

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
7 AUGUST 2012**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.40 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor C McLaughlin.

Aldermen M Coyle, J Rankin, G Robinson. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, B Douglas, T McCaul, S McGlinchey, G Mullan, and A Robinson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors E Stevenson, J McCorkell and D Nicholl.

CONDOLENCES:

It was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to the family of the late Mr Raymond Brady, a former Councillor in Limavady Borough Council. Members stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect for Mr Brady.

NORTHERN IRELAND VETERANS ADVISORY AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE (AFC SUB-GROUP):

The Chair welcomed Mr Iain Creswell and Ms Carolyn Arnold from the Northern Ireland Veterans Advisory and Pensions (AFC Sub-group) to the meeting.

Mr Creswell thanked Council for giving him the opportunity to make his presentation to Council and explained that the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee (VA&PC) was a regional network of 13 VA&PCs made up of volunteers appointed by the Secretary of Defence who helped veterans and their families access vital welfare support. He added that all ranks, services, ex-regular, reserve and merchant navy personnel of all ages were able to access the services of health, social care and legal professionals and veterans' groups.

He gave a detailed presentation on the main role of the VA&PC and provided statistics for Northern Ireland on pensions, war widow/widowers, armed forces compensation payments and the number of veterans being treated by the charity, Combat Stress.

Mr Creswell explained that the VA&PC would like an Armed Forces Community Advocate appointed for each of the Council areas in Northern Ireland. Members noted that five Armed Forces Community Advocates had been appointed in Northern Ireland to date and that, while not all Councils had received the presentation yet, no Council had refused to appoint an Advocate.

He outlined the role and the responsibilities of such an appointment and requested that Council agree to appoint an Armed Forces Community Advocate.

Following a discussion on the time commitment required to undertake this position, Council agreed to bring this back to the September Council meeting for consideration when there would be a full complement of Councillors in attendance.

The chair thanked Mr Creswell and Ms Arnold for answering members' questions and for their presentation.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 12 June 2012 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor B Chivers, seconded by Alderman M Coyle.

MATTERS ARISING: - None.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7 JUNE 2012:

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 5 June 2012 were approved on the proposal of Councillor T McCaul, seconded by Alderman G Robinson subject to the following:

Page 5 – Appointment or Nomination of Representatives to Limavady Twinning Committee (Vigneux & Westport): Alderman Coyle queried how he had been left off the Limavady Twinning Committee. The Chief Executive agreed to check this matter before he could respond.

Page 6 PCSP(9) – Should read *Councillor Robinson* instead of Alderman Robinson.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13 MARCH 2012:

The minutes of the Audit Committee held on the 13 March 2012 were noted.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:

The Chief Executive presented his report for August 2012 as follows:

RPA Programme: The Chief Executive informed members that Minister Attwood's bid for financial assistance for funding of the Voluntary Transition Committees (VTCs) through the June Monitoring Round was unsuccessful and that a further proposal seeking Executive agreement for funding went to DFP in July. It was noted that until the outcome was known, Councils must bear the cost of funding the VTCs themselves and the Chief Executive confirmed that Limavady Borough Council had made provision for the VTCs in its budget. He added that the Minister had also signalled his desire to bring forward proposals for the early establishment of Statutory Transition Committees in replacement of voluntary ones by the end of the year.

The Chief Executive confirmed that Council was still awaiting details of Minister Attwood's independent panel which was being set up to conduct a review of councillors' remuneration and the system and level of allowances that would be appropriate for new councils.

A map showing the new Local Government Districts and Wards and a further map showing the Causeway Coast & Glens wards was displayed in the Council Chamber for members to view.

Dungiven Public Arts Committee – Proposed Sculpture: Councillor Brolly declared an interest in this item as a member of the Dungiven Public Arts Committee. After discussion, Council agreed to the recommendation "In Principle" to take ownership of, maintain and insure the piece of public art (statue of "Finvola") in the event of the Dungiven Public Arts Committee dissolving.

2013 UK City of Culture year – Workshop Proposal: It was agreed that a workshop for Councillors on the UK City of Culture year be arranged for Monday 13th August 2012 at 6.30 in the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre/Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Gleann na Ró.

Section 75 Annual Progress Report: The report was noted and approved.

Corporate Risk Register 2011/12 – Quarterly Update June 2012: The Chief Executive presented the Corporate Risk Register for 2011/12 Quarterly Update (June 2012) which had been taken to the Audit Committee in June 2012. Noted

Annual Internal Audit Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2012: The Chief Executive advised that Council had received a "substantial" assurance rating in relation to its system of internal control in the Annual Internal Audit report for the Year Ended 31 March 2012. Noted

The Chief Executive's report was approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Brolly.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

- Northern Group Building Control Committee – 7 March 2012.

CONSULTATIONS:

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

- Department for Social Development – Proposed Changes to the Law Regulating the Sale and Supply of Alcohol in Northern Ireland. Response to be submitted by the deadline of 12 November 2012 following agreement that it would be held over to the September meeting to allow more time for consideration by members.
- Department of the Environment – A Review of the Local Government Staff Commission. Members agreed that a meeting be arranged to discuss the consultation before formulating a response to be brought back to Council at the September meeting for consideration.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL:

The following resolution submitted by Newtownabbey Borough Council was noted:

“The Council at its meeting on 28 May 2012 agreed that support be sought from NILGA and the other 25 Councils for the campaign for a medal of recognition for the Veterans of the Arctic Convoys during World War II”.

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the Chief Executive would attend the Northern Ireland Annual Economic Conference on Wednesday 19th September 2012 at Titanic, Belfast at a cost of £150.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mullan, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey that Alderman Coyle would attend the National Association of Councillors AGM on Friday 21 September 2012 at the Clandeboye Lodge Hotel at a cost of £30.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Northern Ireland Ombudsman Annual Report for 2011/12
- Sustrans: So Simple Annual Review for 2011
- Translink Annual Review 2011/12
- Invest Northern Ireland 2011-2015 Corporate Plan
- Moy Park Corporate Responsibility Report 2011/12
- Irish Football Association Activity Report 2011-12
- Northern Ireland Housing Council Summary Report – January – May 2012
- Public Health Agency Annual Report 2011
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency Study of the Economic Value of Northern Ireland’s Historic Environment
- Rural Review – Report & Case Studies on the Implementation of the Housing Executive Rural Action Plan
- Heritage Lottery Fund Strategic Framework 2013-2018

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

The legal document between Limavady Borough Council and Burnfoot Community Association for the transfer of the former Burnfoot School was signed and sealed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Milk Cup Tournament: The Mayor, Councillor McLaughlin expressed his thanks to Aldermen Rankin and Robinson for their help and assistance during the recent Milk Cup tournament. A member expressed his concern that the new Council facilities at Scroggy Road would be used exclusively at the expense of Limavady United’s grounds for any future Milk Cup tournaments. The Chief Executive agreed to pass his concern onto the Director of Development.

Removal of Flags within Limavady: Councillor Douglas proposed, seconded by Alderman Rankin that the Council cherry picker and staff be used to facilitate the removal of flags in Limavady. The Chief Executive advised that Council would not get involved in the erection and removal of sectional or political flags unless directed so by Council members. A discussion ensued on the proposal and on the suggestion that permanent flagpoles might be placed in the Irish Green Street/Ballyquin Road area to fly the Irish Tricolour on designated days within the Borough. Members expressed views both for and against both issues and on the proposal being put to the meeting it was declared lost, 4 for, 7 against.

Playing of “Danny Boy” at Drumceatt Square, Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre/Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Gleann na Ró: It was agreed that an update on this proposal be requested at the Tourism Workshop to be held on Monday 13th August 2012 at Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre/Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Gleann na Ró.

Civic Reception: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Brolly that a Civic Reception would be held for the Roe Valley Friends of Marie Curie Cancer Care to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

NEXT MEETING: - 4 September 2012.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.10 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting