

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
8 APRIL 2008**

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

**PRESENT:**

Aldermen G. Mullan, J Rankin and G. Robinson. Councillors A. Brolly, P. Butcher, M Carten, B. Chivers, M. Coyle, L. Cubitt, J F McElhinney, C. Ó hOisín, A. Robinson (in the Chair) and E. Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk and Director of Development.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors M Donaghy and B Douglas.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held 11 March 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

The Director of Development updated members regarding the following matters arising:

- a meeting would be arranged between Councillor Brolly and staff from the Development Services Directorate to identify specific issues relating to Community Development and Good Relations.
- Council were advised that the British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC) was objecting to the vesting order on behalf of the Lough Foyle Wildfowlers and had made a submission to EHS through their solicitor. In response to a query the Director of Development agreed to confirm to Council the amount of land over which the Wildfowlers had control.
- Council was advised that a list of suitable dates for meeting with the Chamber of Trade would be circulated to members and that following a recent meeting with the Chamber, the topics identified for discussion were physical infrastructure, marketing & PR, safety & security and funding opportunities. Members were asked to assist in encouraging Dungiven retailers involved in the Chamber of Trade.

**MINUTES OF DANNY BOY FESTIVAL SUB COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of the Danny Boy Festival Sub Committee dated 12 March 2008 were noted.

## **MINUTES OF COISTE NA GAELIGE:**

The minutes of the Coiste na Gaeilge (Irish Language Sub Committee) dated 26 March 2008 were noted.

## **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – APRIL 2008:**

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for April 2008 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt subject to the following:

**Sperrins Tourism – Request for Financial Contribution:** The Director of Development explained that Sperrins Tourism had requested that Council consider funding towards the core running costs of the organisation for 2008/09. She advised members of the draft budget for Sperrins tourism for 2008/09 and of the contributions made from other partners. It was agreed that Council would continue to support Sperrins Tourism in 2008/09 by way of a financial contribution of £9,000.

**Proposed Lease of Land at Hyacinth Avenue, Ballykelly to Orchard Community Playgroup:** Council was advised that confirmation had now been received from the Department of the Environment confirming its approval for Council to lease the additional area of land to the rear of Hyacinth Avenue to Orchard Community Playgroup at a peppercorn rent.

It was agreed that Council proceed with finalising lease of the land.

**Peace III Programme – Update:** The Director of Development outlined that considerable progress had been made in the development of a strategy/action plan by the North East cluster of councils for the Peace III programme and that a draft document had been submitted to SEUPB by the submission deadline of 31 March 2008. She said the key elements of the document for Councils to consider were:

- the indicative programmes to be delivered within the first three years of the programme
- the action plan
- initial project ideas brought forward during the consultation process and
- indicative budget and indicators from the Peace II programme.

Councillor Coyle referred to the hard work put into finalising the document by officers and said there was a possibility that Council may get additional funding from the PEACE II programme due to an under spend by other Councils.

**Licence Agreement with Limavady Grammar School:** Members were advised that the Management Committee of the Synthetic Pitch at Limavady Grammar School had recommended that a ball catch net be erected to minimise any potential disturbance to residents. Council was asked to consider meeting 50% of the cost. The Western Education & Library Board had indicated that this would cost in the region of £20 - £25 K.

In the discussion that followed, there was general agreement that Council should contribute towards the provision of ball catch nets but it was agreed that a decision would be made when the proposed specification had been received for the ball catch

net. It was also suggested that the licence agreement should be for 10 years and renewed thereafter.

**Community Safety:** It was agreed that under the Fixed Term Employees (Prevention of less Favourable Treatment) Regulations (NI) 2002 that the post of Community Safety Officer would be made permanent within Council.

**Approach from the Western Health & Social Services Board to Deliver a Condition Management Programme:** The Director of Development outlined that the Western Health & Social Services Board had approached Council to ascertain whether it would be interested in employing a member of staff to undertake the physical activity/element within its Condition Management Programme (CMP). She said the CMP aimed to provide opportunities for those currently unemployed to benefit from a range of options to improve their health and well being and ultimately enable them to re-enter the workplace.

It was agreed that Council would pursue the opportunity to work in partnership with the board to appoint an Active Lifestyle Officer/Co-ordinator, with the cost of employing the member of staff coming out of approximately £30,000 which would be allocated by DEL through the Western Health and Social Services Board to the Limavady Council area.

**Purchase of Kick Boards for Roe Valley Leisure Centre:** It was agreed that Kick Boards could be purchased from Vi Sport at a cost of £5,000.

**Dungiven Mini Pitch:** Members were informed that the IFA had requested that Council choose an official name by which the mini pitch in Dungiven would be known so that signs could be incorporated to acknowledge IFA as the key funding organisation for the project. It was agreed that the pitch would be known as 'Glenshane Mini-pitch'.

**Community Festivals Fund and Review of the Festivals, Events, Arts & Cultural Grant Aid Programme:** Members were advised that £8,900 had been made available to Limavady Borough Council under the Community Festival Fund and this had to be matched by Council from existing budgets. A copy of a proposed Community Festival Policy was tabled for approval and members were advised that the Community Festivals Budget was set at £32,000, with the match Council funding being vired from the Festivals, Events, Arts and Cultural programme.

Members raised concerns that some groups might be excluded from the programme and it was suggested that a better definition of social events were needed, however, the Director of Development explained that other events could be considered under the Events Small Grants programme. The policy was approved subject to the points raised being taken into consideration and the Events Small Grants programme being updated.

**Danny Boy Festival:** The Director of Development informed members that the programme and costs for the 2008 Danny Boy Festival were finalised and that projected expenditure of £30,350, less income of £17,300 left a net cost of £13,050. It was agreed that monies set aside within the 2008/09 revenue budget would be utilised towards the costs of running the 2008 festival. Members were encouraged to support the official launch of the festival on Thursday 10 April 2008.

**Award of Grants:** Approval was given to award the following grants:

- Limavady Jazz and Blues Festival – up to a maximum of £7,500
- Cullybackey Pre War Wintage Car Rally - £350
- Ballykelly Flower Festival - £100.

**Lottery Application – Limavady Cricket & Rugby Club:** The Director of Development explained that Limavady Cricket & Rugby Club had submitted an application to Sport NI’s Building Sport Programme for funding to improve existing rugby pitches, upgrade club facilities, to include improved accessibility and development of a third generation pitch. She said Council had been approached by Sport NI to ascertain if it would be interested in working in partnership with the club, specifically in the provision and management of the third generation pitch.

Members welcomed the opportunity for Council to continue to explore options with both Sport NI and Limavady Cricket & Rugby Club, especially if the pitch could be used on a cross sports basis.

**Courses/Conferences:** It was agreed that the Countryside Officer would attend the Northern Ireland Coastal & Marine Forum Conference to be held 10 & 11 April in City Hotel, Londonderry and the Water Safety Development Officers Conference to be held 23 – 25 April 2008 in Ballinaslow, Co. Galway.

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY Councillor Ó hOisín:**

Councillor Ó hOisín proposed:

‘That this Council agrees to approach NITB, Tourism Ireland, Strategic Investment Board, INI and the International Fund for Ireland as main tourism and investment bodies to ask for their participation in a Task Force to address the shortage of hotels and related tourism infrastructure along the North Coast. Council sees this as a first step in combining the related interests of these organisations which may lead to approaches to for example, Assembly Departments and the North-South Ministerial Council.’

In support of the motion he said when visitors who attended the North West 200 or the forthcoming Shackleton Motor Sport event were limited in where they could stay and suggested that a joined up approach was needed to improve hotel infrastructure. The motion was seconded by Alderman Rankin.

In the debate which followed, it was suggested that Council should capitalise on its assets to encourage visitors into the Borough, especially as this function would be transferred to Council under RPA. It was also suggested that the army camp be utilised to encourage tourism into the economy.

Councillor Ó hOisín thanked members for being supportive to the motion, which was carried.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Closure of Pitches at Scroggy Road:** The Director of Development agreed to investigate how many bookings had been cancelled for Scroggy Road pitches due to heavy rain and flooding.

**NILGA – RPA:** Reference was made to the NILGA conference on RPA and members voiced disappointment that no clear direction or guidance was forthcoming from government ministers on the RPA process.

**Faughanvale GAC:** The Director of Development advised of the Faughanvale GAC participation in the All-Ireland Celebrity Manager competition and at getting through to the semi finals, with the match between Maryland taking place on 19 April 2008 and which would be televised by RTE. Considerable work and expense would be required to ensure that the grounds met the required standards. The club had asked for Council assistance by way of pedestrian fencing, use of dug outs, bins and help to clean up after the event. The request was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt subject to banners being erected to promote the Borough and the display of tourism literature. It was also noted that RTE would be televising a show on the club and that various aspects of the Borough would feature within this.

Councillor McElhinney proposed that Council contribute £1,000 towards the event but after discussion, it was agreed that the club should follow set criteria by submitting an official application to Council for financial support.

**Ballycastle/Campbeltown Ferry:** Members were advised that consultation was on-going in relation to the feasibility of re-introducing the Ballycastle-Campbeltown Ferry. It was noted that there would be an element of on-street consultation within Limavady town. The Director of Development agreed to provide contract details if Councillors wished to contribute to the process.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** - 13 May 2008.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS  
(The meeting ended at 9.10 pm)**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair of Meeting**