

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING  
9 APRIL 2013**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.20 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Councillor C McLaughlin.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive and the Committee Clerk.

**APOLOGIES:** - None.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held 5 March 2013 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Robinson.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Magilligan Ferry & Building:** In response to a member, the Chief Executive confirmed that several attempts had been made to meet with the organiser with regard to relocation of the Aviation Museum which had previously been located at the ferry terminal building. He said that an alternative location, which would be free of charge, had been found for the museum but the organiser had not indicated if this was suitable. He confirmed that the keys to the terminal building had been returned to Council.

**MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of Audit Committee meeting held 12 December 2012 were circulated to members for information. The substantial assurance achieved in the audit of Registration and Human Resources was welcomed by members.

The Chief Executive answered a query relating to the report by the Northern Ireland Audit Office Report to those charged with Governance on internal control weaknesses. It was noted that all recommendations within the report had been or was in the process of being addressed and that the Auditor in the Annual Audit Letter for 2011-12 had reported that he was satisfied that Council had in place proper arrangements to ensure economy, effectiveness in the use of resources.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:**

The Chief Executive presented his report for April 2013, which was approved on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Coyle subject to the following:

**RPA:** The minutes of Causeway Coast and Glens Voluntary Transition Committee (VTC) meeting dated 21 February 2013 were circulated to members. The Chief Executive advised that at the March 2013 VTC meeting the Chair Councillor McIlroy reported details of his attendance at the Regional Transition Committee meeting, which had been chaired by the Minister for Environment Alex Attwood. The VTC meeting also heard a number of presentations highlighting the work of various work streams, which were now working on a range of issues aimed at ensuring smooth transition to the new Council in 2015.

The following were circulated to members for information:

- Issue 14 Local Government Reform Joint Forum Bulletin;
- Issue 8 of DoE Reform Inform communication;
- March 2013 ICE News Bulletin and
- NILGA News Bulletin dated 8 April 2013.

The Chief Executive advised that Minister Attwood had launched a consultation on proposed arrangements for Councillors' severance payments to district councils. He said the proposed scheme included a minimum eligibility period of 12 years, graduated yearly payments to ensure that those with longer periods of service were treated fairly, with a cap on individual payments of £35,000. It was agreed that the consultation would be included on the May 2013 Monthly agenda.

**Magilligan Prison Update:** It was agreed at this point in the meeting, that the deputation from Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) would present to Council.

The Chair welcomed Mr Malcolm McClenaghan and Mr Jonathan McNaught, Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) to the meeting.

Mr McNaught explained that the conditions, management and oversight of prisons in Northern Ireland were reviewed in 2011 and that a key theme from the review was the need for NIPS to work in partnership with others to produce a prison system geared towards change and desistance from crime. He said that in statements to the assembly the Justice Minister had announced key decisions in respect of the prison estate; of most relevance was his decision to retain Magilligan Prison on its current site and this decision had been influenced by consultation & engagement with the local Borough Councils and commerce representatives. He added that the Magilligan Elected Members Liaison Group and operational heads from within the Councils had visited the prison to witness the work carried out by prisoners. It was noted that the visits had led to a number of options being considered, including significant increases to the employment opportunities available, both within and outside the prison.

Mr McNaught referred to the employability strategy, which sets out the commitment of an organisation to enhance the sets of achievements and attributes that would made individuals more likely to gain successful employment at a

future date. He said that education, training and employment was one of the 9 resettlement pathways, with research showing that ex-offenders in employment being less likely to re-offend by 30-50%.

Mr McClenaghan highlighted that Foyleview was a low security semi open facility, which catered for up to 80 prisoners who worked in the community on a daily basis in a range of areas. He gave an overview of the prison workshops and said by working in partnership, the NIPS would provide a skilled workforce, help with resources and increase community confidence in that it was safe to work with the prisoners. He suggested that as part of partnership working that organisations in the North West identify rehabilitation opportunities, such as community schemes, input into council services, providing assistance to the local chamber of trade, local businesses or potential employers.

Points made in the discussion that followed included:

The following points were made:

- Council would actively work in positive way to ensure that the prisoners would be welcomed into the local community and have proper integration;
- The Chief Executive was thanked for taking a lead role in partnership working with NIPS;
- The decision on retention of Magilligan Prison was welcomed;
- It was suggested that the prisoners would be used to renovate old derelict buildings;
- DUP members agreed to contact the Housing Executive Manager with regard to working with the NIPS;
- The reform of the prisons was commended.

It was agreed that Council would support the NIPS initiative on prisoner reform and employability strategy. The deputation from the Prison Service thanked members for their positive comments.

**Dungiven Sports and Community Project:** The executive summary of the addendum to the Economic Appraisal on proposals for Sports/Community Facilities in Dungiven was circulated to members, which set out a revised shortlist of options and costings for taking forward the project. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor S McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor A Brolly that Council would adopt Option 1 as the preferred option. That is:

- A new indoor community sports complex and MUGA (70m x 30m) at Ballyquin Road
- Outdoor facilities at Curragh Road
  - 4 room changing pavilion
  - Multi-sport (1 x gaelic or 1 x rugby or 2 x soccer) 3G floodlit and fenced pitch, approximately 130m x 80m including run-off
  - Car parking and
  - Play area.

It was also agreed that Alderman G Robinson would sit on the Steering Group for Development of Sports/Community Project for the Dungiven area.

**Dungiven PSNI Station/Site:** The Chief Executive advised that he had written to the PSNI Estate Services requesting a survey on the current state of the site and buildings which might be purchased by Council. This included description of the forms of construction, materials, mechanical and electrical services; potential contamination on site; stability of the ground and any planning restrictions. He said the Estates Services had confirmed that the station was constructed by Northern Ireland Works Office who no longer exists and the PSNI do not hold a set of as build drawings. He added that Estate Services had confirmed that the building was constructed of reinforced concrete; the garage building was of standard construction and that a stage one report had been commissioned with regard to potential contamination.

The Chief Executive stated that in relation to ground conditions and planning issues, the PSNI were happy to provide access to Council consultants with the necessary access for surveys. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Alderman Coyle that Council consultants would carry out the necessary surveys on the site.

**Roads Service – Spring Consultation:** It was agreed that Roads Service would present their spring consultation report to Council at the May 2013 Planning & Services meeting.

**June 2013 Council Meetings:** In order to facilitate finalisation of the end of year accounts, it was agreed that the June 2013 meetings would be rescheduled as follows:

- Support Services/Monthly Meeting – from 4 June to 11 June 2013
- Development Committee – from 11 to 18 June 2013
- Environmental Services/Planning & Services – from 18 to 25 June 2013.

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 3 June 2013.

**NILGA Annual Plan:** It was agreed that NILGA would present their annual plan to Council at the May 2013 Monthly meeting of Council.

#### **EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:**

Western Health & Social Care Trust – 6 December 2012.

#### **CONSULTATIONS:**

Members reviewed the consultation list for April 2013. It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would draft a response on behalf of members to the following consultations:

- Translink – Derry/Londonderry Train Station: *It was pointed out that NILGA and the Northern Corridor Railway Group were in favour of the rail station being relocated near the Peace Bridge. It was agreed that Council would put pressure on Translink to provide a station at Ballykelly. Respond by 24 May 2013.*
- Department of the Environment – NI Climate Change Bill: *It was agreed that the response should reflect that climate change was included as part of the Governments Sustainable Development Strategy. Suggested that government departments should be communicating with each other. Respond by 24 May 2013.*

**COURSES/CONFERENCES:**

- It was agreed that two officers would attend the CIWM Conference & Exhibition 2013 'Beyond Resource Efficiency' being held 15 May 2013 in Armagh City Hotel at a cost of £180 per person.
- It was agreed that Alderman Coyle and an officer attend the LGSC conference on Equality & Diversity being held on 14 May 2013 in La Mon Hotel, Belfast at a cost of £40 per person.
- It was agreed that Councillor Nicholl and Councillor McCaul would attend the ICLRD seminar on Planning Reform on the Island of Ireland 'Policy to Practice' being held on 2 May 2013 in Canal Court Hotel, Newry at no cost to Council.

**FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Odyssey Trust 2012 Annual Report
- Queens University Belfast – Vice-Chancellors Annual Report
- International Fund for Ireland 2012 Annual Report & Accounts 2012
- VfM the Real Guide to VfM in Housing
- DFMDFM – Annual Report on Public Bodies 2011/12
- Consumer Council – Utility Week
- NPSCC – Connect Spring 2013

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:**

It was agreed that the Wayleave Agreement between Council and NIE would be signed and sealed to allow NIE to provide an electricity charge point at Roe Valley Leisure Centre.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Town Clock:** A member requested that the town clock be reset to the correct time.

**WiFi:** It was highlighted that Craigavon Council had successfully sought funding from DSD towards WiFi provision in several town centres in their area. It was suggested that Council express an interest in any grants/funding available to provide WiFi in Limavady town centre.

**Meeting with Translink:** Councillor Douglas thanked members for their support at a recent meeting with Translink on provision of automatic barriers along the rail line.

**NEXT MEETING:** - 7 May 2013.

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.45 PM**

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