

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

9 DECEMBER 2010

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.45 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor Carten

Aldermen M Coyle, J Rankin and G Robinson. Councillors P Butcher, A Brolly, B Chivers, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, G Mullan, C Ó hOisín, J F McElhinney and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Support Services and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor A Robinson.

MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 2 NOVEMBER 2010:

The minutes of meeting held 2 November 2010 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor McElhinney.

MATTERS ARISING:

Local Democracy Week: Members were informed that the event to mark Local Democracy Week had been postponed.

Illegal Drugs in the Borough: A report was tabled on activities to curb illegal drugs within Limavady Borough. It was noted that the Community Safety Partnership had funded a series of local awareness sessions in respect of the dangers of mephedrone. The partnership had also funded the 'Off the Street' youth diversionary programme which was delivered to 200 young people on Friday nights from 9 pm – 1 am in Limavady, Dungiven, Greysteel and Drumsum. It was also noted that the Neighbourhood Renewal Officer had organised training sessions in respect of legal highs and the District Policing Partnership were organising drug awareness training across the Borough.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2010:

The Chief Executive presented his report for December 2010. The items for information were noted and the report adopted on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Coyle subject to the following:

RPA Update: Members were informed that a workshop and meeting of the Causeway Coast & Glens Transition Committee was held on 25 November 2010 to investigate future collaboration towards efficiencies. At the meeting Minister Edwin Poots outlined options for RPA to be discussed by the Executive

Committee of the Assembly. It was noted that the preferred option by the Minister was for shadow Council elections to take place in 2014, with RPA being in place by 2015 but with a gradual transfer of functions in advance of this date. The Chief Executive circulated a copy of DOE consultation document on Local Government Reform and it was agreed that the document would be discussed at a special meeting would be held on 22 February 2011.

RES: The Chief Executive reminded members that RES had put forward proposals to commence a new Community Fund for the lifetime of the extension to Altahullion Windfarm. He said the fund of £55k per annum would be made available up to 2040, £29k of which would be going to existing groups who received funding from RES and £26k to other groups/projects on application. He added that RES had proposed that Council administer the fund.

It was agreed that officers from the Development Directorate would administer the new Community Fund of £26k per annum, which included an administration fees of up to £5k per annum.

Request from Divert: Council approved the request from Divert to display a banner on the railings of the Council car park.

Meetings in January: It was agreed that the January 2011 Council meetings would be put back by one week. It was also agreed that a workshop to discuss the rates estimates would be held on 21 December 2010 at 6 pm and that a special Council meeting would be held on 13 January 2011 to strike the rate.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CUBITT:

Councillor Cubitt withdrew his motion to reduce pay and allowances by 10% for elected members and for those earning over £35k. Welcomed.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

- Western Group Environmental Health Committee – 14 September 2010
- Western Health & Social Care Trust – 2 September 2010

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY ARD BOROUGH COUNCIL:

The following resolution submitted by Ards Borough Council was noted.

‘At a recent meeting of the Council’s External Affairs & Planning Committee, members considered the current financial and workload related challenges facing the Citizens’ Advice Bureau (CAB) generally and the new Newtownards office in particular.

It was highlighted that the demand for the high quality advice and advocacy services provided by CAB had never been higher and was likely to increase further given the current economic climate in Northern Ireland. Members acknowledged that the CAB’s well trained, knowledgeable and dedicated staff, many of whom were voluntary, were equipped to deal with a wide range of issues and that every effort was made to use resources as creatively and effectively as possible.

The Committee resolved to write to the Minister for Social Development asking him to review and increase his Department's contribution to the Citizens' Advice Bureau in light of the present socio-economic climate and the Bureau's continually increasing workload.

It was further resolved to draw this resolution to the attention of all other Councils in Northern Ireland and to ask them also to write to the Minister in support of it.'

CONSULTATIONS:

Members reviewed the consultation list for December 2010 and the following responses were noted.

- Northern Ireland Office – Police (NI) Act 2000 – Review of Temporary Recruitment Provisions: *Several members were of the view that the 50/50 rule should be abolished and that members should be recruited on merit. The opposing view was that the 50/50 rule should remain until the PSNI achieved a broad representation from all sides of the community. It was noted that individual parties were responding to the consultation.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

- It was agreed that Alderman Coyle, Councillor Cubitt, Councillor Chivers and the Chief Executive would attend the NILGA Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held in La Mon Hotel & Country Club, Belfast on 10/11 February 2011 at a cost of £195 + VAT for both days.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS: - None.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Enterprise Northern Ireland 09/10 Annual Report and the Case for Enterprise
- Enterprise Northern Ireland – People Powered Enterprise 2009/10
- Investin – The Corporate Magazine of Invest NI, Atlantic Links US investment success
- Consumer Focus Post – 'Sorry you were out ...' A research briefing on Royal Mail's Enquiry Offices and delivery practices in Northern Ireland
- Staff Commission Annual Report and Accounts 2009/2010
- Save the Children Conference Report
- Northern Ireland Housing Council Members' Report to Local Councils
- Equality Commission – Your Equality Commission DVD
- The Consumer Council – The Consumer Council research report into the attitudes and concerns of a Northern Ireland consumer in 2010
- TV Licensing – Annual Review 2009/10
- The Northern Ireland 12th Environmental Benchmarking Survey
- Roads Service Annual Report and Accounts 2009/10

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Clearing of Ice and Snow from Pavements: Members were circulated with a recent press release from NILGA regarding Councils' position in general on the treatment of footpaths during periods of ice and snow. The advise received with regard to any legal liability which might be attached to shopkeepers clearing

pathways in the front of their premises is that this has not been tested in the courts as yet and therefore, no definitive position can be advised.

Councillor Butcher proposed, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that Council approve the proposal for partnership arrangements with DRD Roads Service for removal/treatment of snow and ice from town centre footways and pedestrian areas. It was stipulated that work would only be carried out at the request of Roads Service; areas to be covered should be specified; cover would not be provided for any third party organisations and that any work would depend on availability of resources within Council.

Technical Service staff were congratulated on their response to the gritting of pavements.

Threat to Resources Element and De-rating Grant: The Chief Executive advised that he had written on behalf of Council to local MLA's calling for their support to protect the resources and de-rating element of the general grant and to endorse the NILGA/SOLACE calls for the grants to be ring fenced for the future. He said that NILGA and SOLACE have produced a template letter to be signed by each Council Chair as well as the chairs of SOLACE and president of NILGA. He recommended that Council agree to jointly sign this letter also. Agreed.

Event in a Nightclub: It was stressed that if the nightclub proceeded with plans to hold an event involving nudity, it would need a specific licence. The Building Control Manager was congratulated on investigating the matter.

European LED Funding Engagement Event: It was agreed that Alderman Coyle would attend the European LED Funding Engagement event to be held 13 December 2010 in Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown.

Royal British Legion 90th Anniversary Celebration Event: It was agreed that members from the British Legion would attend a meeting to outline details of 90th Anniversary Celebration Event.

Seasons Greetings: The Mayor Councillor Carten wished members and staff a happy Christmas & a prosperous new year.

NEXT MEETING: - 11 January 2011.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.10 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting