

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
10 FEBRUARY 2009**

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 (chair). Councillors P. Butcher, M Carten, B. Chivers, M Coyle, L. Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F McElhinney, C. Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E. Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Brolly.

PRESENTATION BY GRAND ORANGE LODGE OF IRELAND:

The chair welcomed Mr David Scott, Community Education Officer, Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to the meeting.

Mr Scott outlined that his role as Education Officer was to inform the general public of the ethos of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and to dispel a number of misconceptions about the organisation. He said the literature produced by the group was helpful to Key Stage 3 pupils, the tourist industry and historians with an interest in the group.

Mr Scott explained that the Grand Orange Lodge Protestant fraternity had members throughout the world and that the group base was at Schomberg House in Belfast. He said the group planned to extend its current facilities to enable and develop a state of the art 'Interpretive Centre' which would be of benefit to members, visitors, schools and the community in general. He added that the centre would comprise of new updated museum area, a lecture theatre, an extended library & research area and a secure area for storing and preserving valuable documents or artefacts. He requested that Council provide the organisation with a letter of support for its expansion plans.

Mr Scott answered a number of questions put to him by members. Members welcomed that the Orange Order were working towards a shared future, however it suggested that the group use its influence on contentious issues. A member was of the opinion that the presentation was a start but there was a lot to be done to improve relations

Mr Scott thanked Council for agreeing to the presentation and indicated that he would be willing to work with Councils Good Relation Officer. He left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

Councillor Cubitt proposed, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Council provide the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland with a letter of support for expansion of Schomberg House. The proposal was put to the meeting and after discussion was declared lost, 6 for, 7 against and 1 abstention.

It was suggested that the line of communication with the Orange Order be kept open as Council might be of a mind to fully support the groups expansion plans in the future. Agreed.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 13 January 2009 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Donaghy.

MATTERS ARISING:

- The Chief Executive advised that the Civic Reception organised for Eoghan Quigg had to be postponed but would be rescheduled when the singer returned home after recording his first album. He also advised that a breakdown of costs for the homecoming event held in December 2008 would be brought to the Environmental Services meeting.
- The Director of Development reported that Greysteel Community Association had requested a meeting with regard to opening/closing of the new play area.
- The Director of Development indicated that Donegal County Councils had agreed that the request by Lough Foyle Ferry Company to be reimbursed for loss of earning up to June 2009 would be refused. She said that Council were looking for support for continuing the ferry service from government departments.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee meetings held 15 December and 26 January 2009 were noted.

The Director of Development advised that the Danny Boy Sub Committee had been made aware of Council's proposals to reduce funding for 2009. She said that the Committee had reviewed their programme and planned to keep within funding availability for 2010, however, the Committee requested that Council cover any deficit incurred in 2009. Agreed.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for February 2009 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved subject to the following:

Culture Arts & Tourism Grants for 2009/10: The Director of Development advised that calls for applications for 2009/10 festivals and events funding would be advertised in the press and on the website. A member referred to commitments for the Danny Boy Festival for 2009 and it was agreed that the proposals for funding would not apply to unincorporated bodies of Council.

Extention of Temporary Contract – Museums Assistant: It was agreed that the post of Museums Assistant would be extended until 31 March 2010.

University of Ulster Tourism Placement: It was agreed that the Council would offer a placement opportunity for a student for a period of one year commencing June/July 2009.

Inquiry into ‘The Funding of the Arts in Northern Ireland’: Members were informed of correspondence received from the Northern Ireland Assembly’s Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure advising of its proposed inquiry into ‘The Funding for the Arts in Northern Ireland’. The following recommendations were agreed:

- copy of the correspondence to be forwarded to Limavady Arts & Heritage Committee for comment;
- comments from elected members to be submitted to the Culture Arts and Tourism Manager on or before 20 February 2009;
- response to the document to be forwarded to the Committee for Culture, Arts & Leisure by the closing date of 27 February 2009.

It was agreed that community groups with an interest in the arts would be asked to input into the response.

Good Relations Strategy: The Director of Development recommended that Council approve the draft Good Relations Strategy and Workplan for 2009/10. In the discussion which followed a number of points were raised at the document content. Following discussion Councillor Coyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that the Good Relations Strategy and Workplan for 2009/10 be approved. The proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, 7 for, 5 against and 1 abstention.

Development of 3G Pitch in Limavady: The Director of Development updated members regarding development of 3G Pitch in Limavady. She advised that St Mary’s High School had withdrawn their request for that the pitch be located at the school. On the request of Councillor Ó hOisín, it was agreed that he would be given a few days to explore options regarding the site.

Development of a Community Response Plan to Address Suicide Clusters: Councillor Ó hOisín and Alderman Mullan were nominated as Council representatives to become involved in the development of response plan on suicide clusters.

Consultation - Draft Local Government Priorities for the Rural White Paper: It was agreed that response to the consultation would be extended until March 2009 and that any comments from individual members or parties would be incorporated into a corporate response.

Courses/Conferences:

- It was agreed that the Tourism Development Officer would attend the Visitor Servicing Conference to be held 19 & 20 March 2009 in Lough Erne Golf Resort.
- It was agreed that the Tourist Information Assistant would attend the Belfast Convention Bureau Familiarisation Tour on 10 & 11 March 2009.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

The contractual agreement between Limavady Borough Council, Donegal County Council and Lough Foyle Ferry Company for provision of ferry service up to June 2009 was signed and sealed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Assistance for Community Groups to Prepare Business Cases in Preparation for Rural Development Programme: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Robinson that £10k from the Economic Development budget would be used for an open call to Community Groups to assist in the preparation of business cases for Rural Development Programme funding. It was also agreed that an upper limit of £2k per applicant would be set for potential projects which must have an economic focus.

Transition Committee: Councillor Cubitt was nominated as the UUC representative to sit on the Transition Committee.

Planning Appeal: Members were advised that the Planning Appeals Commission has asked that Planning Service make a proper case regarding suggested dumping of stones on land in Ballykelly as the landowner had been following this practice for over 40 years.

Environmental Improvements Market Street: It was agreed that a letter would be forwarded to DSD Roads Service advising of approval for the Civic Centre and to request that environmental improvements to Market Street be undertaken at the same time.

Request to Amend Minutes: Councillor Cubitt requested that the minutes of the Support Services meeting held 5 February 2008 be amended to include the word 'apologise'. He was advised that Council had to agree to this or he could re-read the statement he made at that particular meeting and include the word apologise.

There followed a discussion in which the member clarified what and who he was referring to and as to why he had been asked to apologise. As there were a number of legalities involved, SDLP and SF members requested that it be noted that they disassociated themselves from comments made.

The Committee Clerk gave Councillor Cubitt a copy of the minute dated 5 February 2008 and he read verbatim as follows:

“Councillor Cubitt referred to a matter between an officer and himself and how a potential case in relation to both parties had been resolved, without monetary compensation payable to either party. He stated that at the Development Committee meeting on 14 December 2005, he had made reference to the officer concerned. He acknowledged that certain remarks made were based on unsubstantiated information and that he had now become aware of information which was not in his possession at that time. He retracted the particular remarks made.”

At this point Councillor Cubitt said he had been asked to insert the words ‘**and apologise for same**’

He went on to read further from the minutes as follows:

“He read a statement from the officer’s legal advisors, which indicated that the remarks and actions of Councillor Cubitt were not motivated by sectarianism. He indicated that he would provide the Human Resources Manager with a copy of the statement.”

Question to the Mayor: The Mayor refused to respond to comments made regarding an incident alleged to have taken place at the Radisson the previous weekend.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 10 March 2009.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.30 pm)**

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting