

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
10 AUGUST 2010**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor Robinson.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ALAN ROBINSON:

It was agreed that the notice of motion submitted by Councillor Robinson would be debated at this point of the meeting.

Alderman Robinson indicated that he was proposing the following notice of motion as Councillor Robinson was absent from the meeting through ill health:

‘Conscious that Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a widely occurring condition, engendering lifelong and serious difficulties faced by those who suffer it, that this Council therefore supports legislation to assist carers and those with ASD’

He said that ASD was recognised as a lifelong condition, therefore, any legislation introduced must recognise the need for Departments to work together to ensure sufferers had appropriate help in relation to health, education, finance and justice. He added that there was a need for a system to establish the exact number of citizens with ASD as it was estimated that 1% of the population was affected but this was open to interpretation. The motion was seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

In summing up Alderman Robinson stated that ASD was a fact in social exclusion due to communication difficulties and that there was a need to recognise the valuable contribution of the voluntary sector, whose skills would be used in a public awareness campaign. Bearing these points in mind, he asked that Council give it support to the introduction of new legislation and that Limavady Borough Council notify its decision in writing to all Executive Ministers.

Members unanimously voiced their support for the notice of motion.

On behalf of Councillor Robinson, Alderman Robinson thanked members for their support and said it was good to see Council standing together on common issues.

PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Sperrins Tourism:

The Chair welcomed Elaine Donaghy & Deirdre McKee, Acting Joint Managers and Nuala McReynolds, Chair of Sperrins Tourism Ltd to the meeting.

The deputation gave an overview of Sperrins Tourism Ltd membership, its product offering, its partnership working; Sperrins marketing activities in 2009/10 and current & future benefits for Limavady Borough Council in 2010/11, which included the opportunity to attend trade/consumer shows for a nominal fee, the opportunity to provide offers to coincide with NITB's seasonal campaign; to ensure that Limavady Borough Council was promoted by NITB's campaigns via advertorials, billboard and on television; promotion through trips, walking routes and via Supervalu Loyalty Programme. Reference was also made to the development of a Destination Management Plan for the Sperrins.

In the discussion which followed, it was confirmed that Sperrins Tourism was supportive and would encourage new accommodation providers into the region. It was also confirmed that Sperrins Tourism was willing to work in partnership with groups within the Causeway Coast area to encourage tourism into the region.

The Chair thanked the deputation from Sperrins Tourism for attending the meeting.

(b) Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust:

The Chair welcomed Helen Noble, Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CC&GHT) to the meeting.

Ms Noble outlined the role of CC&GHT; the wide geographical area it covered, its aims, income and work that the Trust was involved with. At a local level, she said the Trust raised awareness of Binevenagh AONB through newsletters, engagement with young people and by a walking festival held in September. She added that awareness of Binevenagh AONB had also been enhanced during the official launch of the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan which took place in association with Translink.

Ms Noble highlighted that plans for the future included review of the Management Plan and to continue to work in partnership with other bodies. In conclusion Ms Noble said that Limavady Borough Council played an essential role in funding and to the operational activities of the CC&GHT.

In response to member's queries, Ms Noble confirmed that CC&GHT worked with community groups on sustainability projects, the Ulster Farmers Union and other key stakeholders on agricultural issues, landfill sites and on wind farms. She also advised Council that projects to the approximate value of £2 million were in the pipeline.

The Chair thanked Ms Noble for attending the meeting.

Following both presentations, a member commented that for future presentations that a microphone should be used as it was difficult to hear what was being said.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 8 June 2010 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING:

GP – Out of Hours: Alderman Robinson reported that he had attended a community group meeting in St Columbs Park House where he had spoken on behalf of Council on change to the GP out of hours service. He said that whilst most in attendance were in favour of what the Health Board were doing, the Board confirmed that they were still looking at the out of hours service and any proposed changes would not be implemented until 30 September 2010.

It was suggested that Alderman Robinson put to the Board that if the service was to be reduced, that the proposed 3 Doctors would be distributed fairly in the area that was to be covered.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

The minutes of special Development Committee meeting held 29 June 2010 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten subject to the following:

Page 2 – External Signage for Name of Building: Councillor Cubitt outlined that he had not seconded the proposal on signage for Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró as he had been one out of six members who had voted against it. Noted.

Page 3 – Room Names: Councillor Ó hOisín disagreed with the wording of the minutes and said he had made a proposal that the rooms be named bilingually and that in his opinion, this had been seconded. Members and Officers disagreed with Councillor Ó hOisín's recollection of the debate. His disagreement to the wording of the minute was noted.

MATTERS ARISING FROM SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT MEETING:

Page 3 – Room Names: Councillor Ó hOisín proposed that all the internal rooms within Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró be named bilingually to reflect the cultural diversity of the wider community. This was seconded by Councillor Butcher.

A discussion followed in which it was queried if a proposal could be made during matters arising, or if the proposal would be better dealt with through a Notice of Motion. The Director of Development reminded members that she had impressed on members at the June 2010 meeting that there was an urgency on moving forward with the internal signage plan as soon as possible but on hearing of problems with the draft minute, this element of work had been postponed.

After further debate the Chair ruled the proposal to be valid. Councillor Cubitt proposed an amendment that Ulster Scots be included in any signage and that an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) be carried out. This was seconded by Councillor Stevenson.

Members deliberated further on the proposals and the impact of carrying out an EQIA in terms of delaying further progress on internal signage.

Councillor Ó hOisín indicated that he was disappointed but not surprised at some members' reaction to his proposal. He said the Irish language was non political and that he would rise above those who were narrow minded and those who attacked anything Gaelic by withdrawing his proposal for now. Councillor Cubitt withdrew his amendment at this juncture.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Committee meeting held 17 June 2010 was tabled and noted.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – AUGUST 2010:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for August 2010 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt subject to the following:

Request for Funding – Commonwealth Games Committee: It was agreed that Council would made a small contribution of £250 towards the cost of the NI Commonwealth Games team's participation in the Commonwealth Games in India.

Lease between Limavady Borough Council & Banagher Parish Church (Feeny Community Centre): It was agreed that any decision would be deferred until Technical Services had completed a survey of work required & estimated costs and until discussions had been concluded with the Community Association.

Lease between Limavady Borough Council & Magilligan Community Playgroup: It was agreed that Council would seek approval from the DoE to dispose of the above area of land to Magilligan Community Playgroup by means of a 87 year lease and at a peppercorn rent.

Irish Language Officer: Following confirmation of funding from Foras na Gaeilge and commitment from Magherafelt District Council to fund the post of Irish Language Officer for a 3 year period, it was agreed that Council would extend the post of Irish Language Officer until June 2013.

Request for Financial Assistance – Sperrins Tourism: It was recommended that Limavady Borough Council continue as a member of Sperrins Tourism and approve a contribution of £9,000 for the financial year 2010/11. Agreed.

Request for Funding – Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust: It was recommended that Limavady Borough Council continue as a member of

Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust and approve a contribution of £11,000 for the financial year 2010/11. Agreed.

Interreg IVA – Collaborative Projects, Healthy Living: Approval was given to use land at Magilligan as a pilot scheme for use as community gardens, which would include provision for allotments under the Interreg IVA programme. Members were advised that a more suitable location had been identified in Oughtymoyle.

Update on the Development of the 3G Pitch at Scroggy Road: The Director of Development tabled a copy of the revised plans for the proposed 3G pitch at Scroggy Road. She said that local residents had been invited to view the plans and that Officers & members of the Design would be available to address concerns at a meeting to be held in Roe Valley Leisure Centre at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 11 August 2010.

Community Advice Service: It was agreed that a grant of £40,000 would be allocated to LCDI towards the costs associated with the provision of an Advice Service during the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

Benone Tourist Complex online Caravan Site Booking System: It was agreed that the quotation submitted from Engage Sitebook in the sum of £2,525.00 for a two year period to design, install and manage an online booking and management system at Benone Caravan Sites, with option to extend if satisfactory would be accepted.

Magilligan Ferry Terminal Hoist and Pontoon: Authorisation was given for Londonderry Port and Harbour Authorities to dismantle and relocate the hoist and pontoon at its own expense to an alternative location more suitable for the embarkation and disembarkation of international cruiseline visitors and in so doing remove all responsibilities and liabilities for this service from Limavady Borough Council.

Councillor Cubitt indicated that he was unhappy with the term ‘domestic route’ used within the Director of Development’s Report to describe the service between Magilligan and Greencastle. Noted.

Eddie Butcher Music & Song Festival: It was recommended that Council approve the hire of the hall at Benone at the normal rate for the Eddie Butcher Festival, subject to the necessary liquor licensing and event security being in place. The organisers to adhere to the terms of the existing Entertainment Licence and to have due consideration for patrons staying on the site. Agreed.

Irish Power Kite & Sandyachting Association: Approval was given for the Irish Power & Sandyachting Association to hold the following events on Benone Strand subject to provision of appropriate insurance cover and risk assessment by IPKSA:

- 16 & 17 October 2010 – training kite buggying
- 29 & 30 January 2011 – round of winter race series
- 28 & 29 May 2011 – Celtic Challenge (Irish Leg).

Causeway Coast Arts: It was agreed a financial contribution of £800 would be allocated to Causeway Coast Arts for 2010/2011.

Gaelic Games Development Officer: The Director of Development reported that correspondence had been received from County Derry GAA seeking an extension to the current arrangement with Council on funding for the post of Gaelic Games Development Officer on a 50:50 basis. A report was circulated outlining the work undertaken by the Gaelic Games Development Officer from August 2009 to June 2010. Members were also informed that Council had funding within its current budget to extend the post to 31 March 2011.

It was recommended that as an interim measure that the post of Gaelic Games Development Officer be extended until 31 March 2011. This would allow Council the opportunity to consider a longer term arrangement when considering the budgets for 2011/2012. Agreed.

Comments/Queries outside the Report:

- It was agreed that thanks from Council would be forwarded to staff who worked on the flower beds and pitches during the Milk Cup.
- A member requested that consideration be given for additional monies to be devoted towards the Community Warden Initiative.
- The quality of the report was noted.

Courses Conferences:

- Councillor Brolly agreed to confirm her availability to attend the National Tourism Conference – Achieving World Class Tourism to be held 25 to 27 November 2010 in Ennistymon, Co. Clare:

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Field Trip Incident: A member requested a report on an incident whereby a child was left behind while on a field trip.

Teenage Deaths - Castlerock: It was agreed that a letter of condolence would be forwarded to the families of 18 year old Aaron Davidson and Neil McFerran, who had tragically died from carbon monoxide poisoning while on holiday at an apartment in Castlerock.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 14 September 2010.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.45 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting