

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

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

10 DECEMBER 2003

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen M Carten, J Dolan and G Robinson. Councillors A Brolly, B Brown, M Coyle, L Cubitt, B Douglas, D Lowry, M McGuigan, G Mullan, J Rankin (in the chair) and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer and the Town Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor M Donaghy.

MINUTES:

Minutes of meeting dated 12 November 2003 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Dolan.

MATTERS ARISING:

Events Officer: Councillor Brown expressed concern at the continuing delay in appointing this officer and was advised by the Town Clerk that negotiations were ongoing with NIPSA and that it also might not be prudent to advertise this post during the Christmas period. Councillor Brown expressed his most serious concerns at the delay in implementing Council's decision to appoint this officer and requested that a report be presented to members outlining the sequence of events.

**CHIEF RECREATION/TOURIST OFFICER'S REPORT – DECEMBER
(see appendix)**

The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer presented his report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Coyle subject to the following:

Banagher Glen Project: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer reported that Feeny Community Association had expressed concern at the lack of progress on the above project. Councillor Coyle referred to discussions at the Planning & Development Services Committee when it had been suggested by Water Service representatives that Council could facilitate this project by acting as the leaseholder and, whilst he was advised by the Town Clerk that Council had no direct interest in this project, requested that Council put pressure on Water Service to move this project forward. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer informed members that he had arranged a meeting with officials of the Water Service to discuss a possible way forward.

Vigneux Sur Seine: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer reported that an invitation had been extended to the Mayor, Councillor F Brolly, Councillor Coyle and the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer to attend the New Year Ceremony in Vigneux Sur Seine on 10 January 2004 which was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Lowry. Councillors Brown and Cubitt expressed concern at the cost of such visits to the ratepayers of the Borough and questioned the benefits of the twinning relationship and proposed school exchanges.

North West Tongues, Tones & Tappin: Councillor Brown voiced his opposition to the recommendation that Council contribute £1,000 towards a cross community programme of activities for Scottish, Irish, Ulster Scots and Ethnic Minority Cultures to reduce marginalisation and enable inclusiveness on the basis that it discriminated against people who were not of an ethnic minority culture.

Northern Ireland Events Growth Fund: Members noted that it was hoped to submit an application for funding for the Danny Boy Festival from this fund.

Councillor Lowry requested that, in the interests of transparency, criteria, application forms and assessment methods be devised to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of Leisure Services funding. The Town Clerk confirmed that this was currently being actioned by officers.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Christmas Switch On Ceremonies: Councillor Douglas condemned the fact that the Christmas tree in Burnfoot had been cut down following a switch on ceremony attended by the Mayor. He added, however, that he had been disturbed that the Mayor had visited the village despite officers being forewarned that she would not be welcomed by the majority of the people and highlighted that she had not attended the switch on ceremonies in Foreglen or Drumsum. Councillor Douglas also expressed concern at the heavy police presence at the ceremony. In response, the Mayor pointed out that she had been unable to attend the switch on ceremonies in Foreglen and Drumsum because of other engagements and that arrangements had been made for Councillor F Brolly and the Deputy Mayor to attend on her behalf.

She added that Burnfoot was part of the Borough therefore she had a duty to be there and that the switch on ceremony was a family event that the children of the village should have been allowed to enjoy as opposed to being exposed to such innate sectarianism. The Mayor concluded by informing members that her party had ensured that Alderman Robinson had been welcomed by the people of Dungiven during his term as Mayor and felt that public representatives should promote inclusiveness instead of inciting sectarianism and bigotry.

Following a query by Councillor Cubitt, the Town Clerk clarified that he had requested the Police Service of Northern Ireland to be in attendance and pointed out that it would have been remiss of him not to do so, given that it was likely that protestors would be in attendance. He also referred to the unacceptable comments made to him by Councillor Douglas at the switch on.

Dungiven Civic Amenity Site: Referring to discussions at the Planning & Development Services Committee meeting on 4 December 2003 when it had agreed to instruct the contractor to defer the contract for a short period in order to facilitate a meeting to allay the concerns of local residents, the Town Clerk sought clarification on whether Council wished for a meeting with the objectors to the development to be facilitated on 18 December 2003 or for a public meeting to be arranged during the week commencing 5 January 2004. He also sought clarification on which members wished to be involved in such a meeting and recommended that the press be instructed not to film proceedings. Accordingly, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Lowry that a meeting with the objectors to the development be arranged before Christmas and that the 15 members plus the relevant officers be authorised to attend.

Open Space at Bovally: Councillor Lowry referred to previous discussions regarding the provision of open space at Bovally and suggested that, given that the majority of the lands to the south were to be developed for housing, Council consider developing the lands in the vicinity of the Territorial Army Centre on Edenmore Road.

Holocaust Memorial Book: Following a query by Councillor Brown, the Town Clerk undertook to ascertain what arrangements had been made for the Province to commemorate the Holocaust.

NEXT MEETING:

14 January 2004

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

(The meeting ended at 9.15 pm)