

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

11 JANUARY 2011

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.40 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, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

APOLOGIES: - None.

MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 9 DECEMBER 2010:

The minutes of meeting held 9 December 2010 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 4 - Threat to Resources Element and De-rating Grant: The Chief Executive confirmed that he had written to local MLA's calling for their support to protect the de-rating element of the general grant and that he had sought a meeting with Minister Poots.

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Audit Committee meeting held 8 September 2010 was tabled and noted.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2011:

The Chief Executive presented his report for January 2011. The items for information were noted and the report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Coyle subject to the following:

Corporate Risk Register: The Corporate Risk Register which had been presented to the Audit Committee in December 2010 was approved by members.

Planning Bill Consultation Event for Local Government: It was agreed that Alderman Coyle, Councillor Butcher and the Chief Executive would attend the NILGA Planning Bill consultation event to be held 18 January 2011 in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown.

NIE Letter – Proposed new Underground Electric Cables from Substation at Drumcatt Square: The Chief Executive informed members that NIE had indicated that they wished to lay additional underground cables from the substation at the rear of Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró in order to improve the supply to properties in Market Street. He said that whilst officers had expressed their dissatisfaction to NIE at any proposal to dig up Drumcatt Square, NIE were drawing on a clause in the lease agreement with Council to substantiate their rights to do this work.

Members voiced disappointment at the request by NIE and it was queried if NIE had conducted a risk assessment to the traders. The Chief Executive informed members that NIE were investigating if the work could be done by the use of a bore hold underneath the surface and were to get back to Council on this.

Presentations to Council: It was agreed that Eamon Molloy would present details of the Major Waste Infrastructure Procurement Project for the North West at the 25 January 2011 Environmental Services meeting.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BUTCHER:

Councillor Butcher proposed that:

“That this Council adopts a policy to assist in the winter gritting and snow clearance on footways, in accordance with the agreement reached with DRD in order to alleviate the hazards which exist for local ratepayers in this borough and given the offer by the Department for Regional Development to provide indemnity cover in addition to grit and salt”

Councillor Butcher stated that since the severe weather of December 2010, Council had in place an agreement for assisting with the removal of snow. He said the purpose of the motion was for Council to adopt this as a policy so that when the severe weather returned, Council could get to work straight way to assist with the winter gritting, which would be greatly appreciated by the residents of the Borough. The motion was seconded by Councillor Brolly.

There followed a discussion in which the following points were made:

- Roads Service should not advocate their responsibilities and the onus should not be on Council to lead on the clearing of ice/snow from footpaths. Forward planning was needed as Road Service were often slow to act in making any decision about when to clear footpaths.
- If the snow had been cleared quickly it would have prevented it becoming compacted on roads and footpaths as when it froze, it had been extremely dangerous to walk or drive on.
- In response to a member, the Chief Executive confirmed that Road Service had indemnified Council on matters arising from carrying out the works on footpaths but not if Council was negligent.

The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, 9 for and 0 against. 4 members abstained from the vote.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

- Northern Group Building Control Committee – 2 September 2010

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL:

The following resolution submitted by North Down Borough Council was noted.

‘That this Council notes with grave concern leaked proposals to close the Coastguard Co-ordination Centre at Bregenz House. We believe that such a decision will inevitably put lives at risk, as well as leading to a loss of jobs. This Council opposes this decision and calls upon HM Government to withdraw this dangerous proposal and also writes to all Councils in Northern Ireland seeking their support in our opposition to these proposals’

CONSULTATIONS:

Members reviewed the consultation list for January 2011 and the following responses were noted.

- Department of Environment – Local government Pension Scheme – Councillors’ Pensions: *Members welcomed the fact that central government were trying to do something positive for Councillors, although it would take some time before this would come into effect and the scheme was on a voluntary basis.*
- OFMDFM – Child Poverty Strategy: *It was agreed that this would be referred to relevant officer for response and comment.*
- OFMDFM – Play and Leisure Implementation Plan: *Director of Development to respond if appropriate.*
- Department for Employment and Learning – Implementation of the Agency Workers Directive in NI: *Welcomed.*
- Committee for the Environment, NI Assembly – Call for Evidence on the Planning Bill: *It was agreed that Council would wait and see what how NILGA was responding to the consultation.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES: - None.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

Partnership Arrangements for the Removal of Snow and Ice from Town Centre Footways and Pedestrian Areas: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the partnership arrangement between Council and Roads Service for the removal of snow and ice from footways would be signed and sealed.

Unit 1 – Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Coyle that the lease between Council and Urban Catering Ltd for Unit 1 at Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre would be signed and sealed.

It was suggested that it was essential that Drumcatt Square be kept as a pedestrian zone and that staff should be using the rear entrance to the car park. The Chief Executive agreed to informally enquire if Council would need agreement with Fold for a right of way to the rear entrance.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Housing Research Bulletin, Issue 10 Winter 2010
- RNIB – Lost for Words
- The Community Foundation for NI – Annual Report 2009-10
- Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – Monitoring Report No 20. A profile of the monitored NI workforce
- Shared Space – A research journal on peace, conflict and community relations in Northern Ireland
- Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI) Annual Report 2010
- Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual Report 2009/10
- Social Care Institute for Excellence – update November 2010
- Annual Report of the Registrar General 2009
- North Antrim Community Network – Annual Report 2009/10
- Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – Annual Report and Accounts 2009/10

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

North West Partnership Board: The Chief Executive reported that the Mayor Councillor Carten had been invited to sit on the recently established North West Partnership Board. Approved by Council.

DoE – Recent Changes in Operational Planning Procedures: A letter was tabled from Ian Maye, Chief Executive of the DoE on changes in operational planning procedures. The letter referred to backlog of planning applications which was partly due to applicants being unable or unwilling to provide key additional information needed to progress applications to decision. Consequentially Planning Service were progressing application to decisions through refusals based on the absence of key information.

It was agreed that a representative from the DoE would be asked to attend a meeting to clarify issues around the recent changes.

Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Review: It was agreed that Alderman Rankin and Councillor Cubitt would attend the Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Review to be held in the Ecos Centre on 19 January 2011.

NEXT MEETING: - 1 February 2011.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.45 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting