

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
11 MAY 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 (chair) and G Robinson. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, G Mullan, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor McElhinney.

PRESENTATION BY THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION (RNLI):

The Chair welcomed Mr Lee Fisher and Mr Gareth Morrison, RNLI to the meeting.

Mr Morrison explained that there were 43 lifeguard stations situated across the coast of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic and that these had been launched 976 times and saved over 1,000 lives.

Mr Fisher outlined that Limavady had consistently provided a lifeguard service at Benone Beach from the early 1980's. He said that Benone was the first NI beach to be awarded the European Blue Flag in 1990 and that Council would know in a few weeks time if it was to receive its 20th Blue Flag for Benone Beach.

Mr Fisher indicated that the RNLI had been giving guidance and assistance to Council with regard to a lifeguarding service and that it had been talking to neighbouring councils with regard to providing a Lifeguarding Support Service from 2011. He said that the support service included providing equipment, training on equipment, management training, radio licensing and other dedicated training. He added that the advantages of employing RNLI included the group's history & reputation; its management structure; its flexible approach; providing a gold standard service; increased level of responsibility from other service providers; beach safety packages; opportunities for local people & local businesses; club development; beach award applications, PR & media and lifeboats & sea safety.

It was noted that RNLI service included 1 senior and 3 additional lifeguards to operate on the beach from 25 June to 4 September based on similar hours to Council's existing lifeguard programme at a cost of £19K. This figure included uniforms, event cover, equipment and insurance.

In the discussion which followed, it was suggested that the service would need to be extended from Easter to October as the beach was often busy when the weather was good.

The Chair thanked the representatives from RNLI for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 13 April 2010 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 2 – Draft Tourism Strategy: A draft response to the Tourism Strategy from NILGA was circulated for noting. A draft response from Limavady Borough Council was also circulated and members were requested to feedback comments by Tuesday 18 May 2010.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee meeting held 21 April 2010 were tabled and noted.

Officers to be congratulated for their input into the Danny Boy Festival held the previous weekend and it was stated that the 2010 festival was one of the best since its conception. It was pointed out that whilst more floats were needed for the Mayor's Parade, they had been unable to get into Council car park.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MAY 2010:

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

Benone Beach - Lifeguarding Services: Following on from presentation by RNLI at the start of the meeting, the Director of Development recommended that Council follow up on the opportunity to standardise lifesaving services over the next five years commencing 2011. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Alderman Coyle that a letter of intent would be sent to the RNLI. It was also agreed that consideration should be given for the service to include covering bank holidays and weekends from April to the end of September. In response to a query over point of contact between RNLI and Council, it was suggested that this should be established at an early stage in the agreement.

Benone Beach – Illegal Trading: The Director of Development outlined that illegal trading on-going at Benone Beach was a contravention of Council's Bye-Laws. She said that it was intended to introduce an additional seasonal post to assist with enforcement issues. It was agreed that a seasonal member of staff would be appointed and that legal action would be taken for contravention of the bye-laws.

Closure of Old Dromore Road: It was agreed that Council would investigate through its normal policy by contacting the land owner to find out why Old Dromore Road had been closed. A member referred to a similar situation in Foreglen which she thought had previously been resolved. She agreed to forward details of how this was resolved to Council. The Director of Development agreed to provide written confirmation to a member when the matter had been resolved. Agreed.

Good Relations: The Good Relations Workplan for 2010/11 was approved.

Financial Assistance – St Mary’s Pipe Band: Members were informed that St Mary’s Pipe Band had requested £1,000 financial support towards travel costs for participating in the Pipefest Global Challenge in Edinburgh on 7 August 2010. In the discussion which followed it was stressed that Council should not support the request as this would open the floodgates to similar requests.

After in depth debate, Councillor Chivers proposed, seconded by Councillor Butcher that Council should support the request as it had supported the group five years previously. The proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, 9 for and 5 against. It was also agreed that a policy would be drawn up as soon as possible to facilitate any future requests and to look at the possibility of passing requests such as this to the Arts & Culture Committee.

Requests for Financial Assistance – Sperrins Tourism and Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism: It was agreed that the request for £9,000 financial assistance from Sperrins Tourism and £24,822 from Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism would be deferred until after they presented to Council. It was also agreed that Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust would be asked to make a presentation to Council.

Economic Development Plan: The Economic Development Workplan for 2010/11 was approved by Council. Reference was made to the appearance of Main Street, Dungiven and it was suggested that Council set up a Forum comprising developers and shop owners to have a brain storming session on this as soon as possible.

Request from Magilligan Community Group - Extension to the Land Currently Leased to the Group: The Director of Development reported that a request had been received from Magilligan Community Playgroup for an extension to the land already leased to the Playgroup. She said that area involved was 31.5m x 16m and that the group intended to secure funding to provide an additional building and external play area to deliver an out of schools service for the area. Council gave approval to proceed with discussions and make contact with Land & Property Services. It was suggested that the lease should be for 99 years on the same terms as current arrangement, with a peppercorn rent.

Roe Mill Recreation Grounds: Council was updated on a meeting which had been held with a local resident with regard to anti social behaviour at Roe Mill Recreation Grounds. It was agreed that the gates at Roe Mill Recreation grounds would be replaced to curtail anti-social behaviour. It was also agreed that the best options for protecting Council’s assets and addressing anti-social behaviour would be discussed when the grounds were to be upgraded.

Town Centre Masterplan: The Director of Development advised that RPS had been appointed as consultants and had commenced work on a Masterplan covering a 10-15 year period. She said that elected members would be consulted on the plan and that the plan would be presented to Council once completed.

Development of a 3G Pitch at Scroggy Road: Members were advised that discussions were ongoing with Sport NI and the Central Procurement Division of the DOE on progression of the Site Survey and appointment of a Design Team. She said the DOE had confirmed that they were happy with the Economic Appraisal but they would not issue a letter outlining Loan Sanction Approval until statutory approvals from Planning Service and Building Controls were in place.

A time line was circulated to members which outlined the tight time scale that Council would have to work to in achieving the end of March 2011 completion date for the funding element of the project.

Several members voiced concern that the timescale was unrealistic and this would end up costing Council money. After discussion the following was agreed:

1. To proceed with the project and the appointment of a Design Team. Council confirmed that it would cover the financial risk associated with the appointment which was estimated to be £140K.
2. The revised Project Management requirement to be signed off and returned to Sport NI by 14 May 2010.
3. Council approved entering into a legal charge or Deed of Dedication with Sport NI after seeking advice from Council's solicitor.

Councillor Cubitt requested that it be noted that he was totally against the project.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Out of Hours Service: Alderman Robinson proposed, seconded by Councillor Carten that the Western Health & Social Care Trust attend a meeting to explain proposals to cutback the GP out of hours service. Agreed.

Twinning Committee: A member highlighted that the last two Twinning Committee meeting had to be cancelled as there was not enough members for a quorum and that attendance by Councillors was pure.

Ballykelly Play Area: It was suggested that the proposed play area in Ballykelly be progressed as soon as possible.

Whitehill Development: Reference was made to the mound of clay at the Whitehill development and how antisocial behaviour was occurring and causing a nuisance to residents. It was stressed that it was the responsibility of the developer to make the site secure.

Bovally Play Area; In response to a query, the Director of Development clarified the plans for provision of play area at Bovally had been taken out of the capital works programme a few years ago as no suitable site had been identified. There might be an opportunity to look again for a suitable site.

Civic Receptions: It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for the following:

- a) For those involved in TV programme Banríon an Cheoil who had recently covered the Life and Times of O'Hampsey and the Downhill Harp.
- b) The Co. Derry under 16 Camogie Team who were Ulster and All Ireland Champions.
- c) Glen Reilly and Wilson Manning, Principles who had recently retired.

It was suggested that a criteria should be set for hosting Civic Receptions.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 8 June 2010.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.40 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting