

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
11 SEPTEMBER 2007**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and Director of Development.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor McElhinney

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held on 14 August 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

MATTERS ARISING: None.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2007:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for September 2007 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

Limavady Grammar School – Synthetic Pitch: The Director of Development informed members that as yet no formal feedback had been received from Limavady Grammar School or the WELB on the draft management agreement submitted for the synthetic pitch at Limavady Grammar School. She said that in the interim, officers were looking at policies and procedures for managing the facility outside the school hours. A proposed pricing structure was presented to cover the periods when the pitch was managed by Council.

A number of comments were made in relation to the management of the pitch and it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Brolly that a decision on charges would be deferred until expected costs were known and the management agreement at a more advanced stage.

Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: It was agreed that Environment & Heritage Service would be invited to make a presentation on the process and issues relating to Sperrin AONB designation at the October 2007 Development Services meeting.

Dungiven Priory: The report outlined the potential value on the proposal upgrade of pathway at Dungiven Priory and how an Permissive Path Agreement would present an opportunity to seek funding through the Natural Heritage Grant Programme managed by EHS. The proposal was welcomed subject to the Director of Development checking if either Northern Ireland Water or Rivers Agency had a responsibility for the bridge at the priory:

It was agreed that:

1. Council would approach the landowner to discuss the possible use of a Permissive Path agreement to formalise access from Bleach Green to Dungiven Priory.
2. Council to carry out assessment of appropriate works required to bring the path to suitable standard.
3. Council to carry out repair works to sides of the footbridge and develop an additional walking trail linking to Banagher Dam via Teeavan Road and Crebarkey Road and
4. Council to make application to Natural Heritage Grant to meet the cost of some of these works.

Approval to Purchase Equipment – Roe Valley Leisure Centre: It was agreed that capital equipment totalling £12,053 would be purchased for Roe Valley Leisure Centre as set out within Councils Capital Budget.

Requests for Lease of Council Land: The Director of Development reminded members that a number of requests to lease Council land had been received over the past year but to date Council had no formal policy in place to assist either options or for elected members to made informed decisions. Reference was also made to the request made by elected members at the August Development Services meeting to undertake an audit of sporting facilities, their current status, work& costs required to bring them up to a suitable standard and to identify gaps in provision. She suggested that this audit be completed, calling on the assistance of independent expertise where required and that a disposal policy be developed and adopted by Council prior to further disposal of land either through lease agreement or by sale. It was noted that an audit was currently being undertaken through the Audit Committee and that work should not be duplicated. It was suggested that the Director of Development liaise with the Chair of the Audit Committee. Agreed.

Members noted that since the August Development Services meeting requests had been received from Glenshane Community Development Ltd to lease land adjacent to Dungiven Castle and from Newtowne Football Club to lease land at Roemill.

In the discussion which followed, it was suggested that the Director of Development follow up on an earlier decision to lease the land at Dungiven Castle to Dungiven Sports Forum.

Good Relations: Members noted that 12 applications had been received and after assessment against the criteria agreed by Council, 9 were recommended for allocation of funding totalling £15,413.60 under the Good Relations Programme for external projects.

Development of Council Land at Benone: The Director of Development explained that the KPMG report commissioned on behalf of Donegal County Council and Limavady Borough Council highlighted the fact that Limavady Borough Council owned an area of land at Benone which offered development potential. She tabled a preliminary report which looked in detail at the total 17 acres of land in Council ownership and the development options identified by KPMG for member's consideration.

Members highlighted that problems needed to be addressed in relation to the proposed sewage works and the ASSI designation on part of the lands. Councillor Coyle proposed and Councillor Brolly seconded that development of the land would be discussed at the next Audit Committee meeting.

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

It was agreed that the following members/officers would attend the conferences/courses listed:

- *Councillor Ó hOisín and one officer to attend the Playboard & Skills Active 2007 Play conference on 25 October 2007 in Omagh College, Omagh – fee £90 non member*
- *Councillor Brolly and one officer to attend Tourism for Changing Lifestyles conference on 23 & 24 November 2007 in Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare - £170.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Vigneux sur Seine Visit: Members were advised that a deputation from the Vigneux Twinning Association would be visiting the Borough on 28 – 30 September 2007 and that a member of the Vigneux Council would also be in attendance. It was agreed that Limavady Borough Council would pay the costs of accommodation and hospitality for the Council member.

Additional BSP Money: It was agreed that the £5,000 additional slippage money, matched by £5,000 from the Economic Development budget would be used to promote the Borough via television advertisements of 26 - 28 ten or twenty second slots.

Bio Diversity Officer: Councillor Ó hOisín requested an update on employment of Bio Diversity Officer.

Civic Reception: It was agreed that a civic reception would be held to celebrate the success of Derry Junior Camogie Team in winning the All Ireland Junior Camogie championship title.

Civic Centre: Councillor Cubitt requested that the Chief Executive provide a complete breakdown of costs of the Civic Centre, including comprehensive breakdown of loan charges over the period of the loan for the Monthly meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 9 October 2007

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.15 PM.

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting