

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
12 JUNE 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 P Butcher, L Cubitt, B Douglas, C Ó hOisín, M Donaghy, J F McElhinney, A Robinson (chair) and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors M Carten, A Brolly, M Coyle and B Chivers.

CONDOLANCE:

It was agreed that a letter of condolence would be forwarded to the family of Eamon Colman on the death of the former County Derry GAA Manager.

APPOINTMENT OF DUP CHAIR:

The Mayor took the chair and sought nomination for the appointment of chair for the year 2007/08.

Councillor Robinson on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Douglas.

Councillor Robinson took the chair and thanked members for the nomination.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PLAN:

The chair welcomed Mr Peter Osbourne, Rubicon Consulting to the meeting. He also welcomed Steven, Rachel and PJ, pupils from Limavady High School who were seated in the viewing gallery.

Mr Osbourne presented a summary of the Community Support Plan, which included a range of activities for Council's consideration before the next rates period. Members noted that following a period of extensive consultation, the plan included actions which had been identified by and for the local community and specific actions for both rural and urban areas, and for the first time activities aimed specifically at the youth of the Borough had been integrated into the plan.

Members indicated that it was important that the views of young people be heard and suggested that the launch of the civic endeavour awards would encourage people to become active in community work. The increase in grant funding for community groups was welcomed but concern was voiced that activities involving the Community Forum was being overemphasised.

The content of the Community Support Plan was approved in principle and it was agreed that the financial implications would be considered in more details at the August Development meeting.

The chair thanked Mr Osbourne for the informative presentation.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held on 8 May 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

MATTERS ARISING:

Provision of Facilities for Rugby/Gaelic Sports: Members were informed that Scroggy Road pitches would be adopted so that soccer, rugby and gaelic could be played by local football and rugby clubs. Concern was voiced at impact of converting two pitches could have on soccer matches.

It was suggested that the high area at Scroggy Road by utilized for a small kickabout area or fenced off for a play area.

Roe Valley Country Park: The Director of Development outlined that she intended to discuss with EHS clearing of the pond at Roe Valley Country Park. It was suggested that disabled fishing access at Carrick Mills and clearing of Dungiven priory should also be discussed.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – JUNE 2007:

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

Requests for Financial Assistance under the Arts, Cultural Events and Festivals Programme: The Director of Development outlined that a number of requests for financial assistance had been received by Council under the Grant Aid programme for Arts, Cultural, Events and Festivals. Members approved of the following grant applications which had been assessed in accordance with the policy recommendations:

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| Blathanna | £600 |
| Portsewart Sea Angling Club | £100 |
| Londonderry and Limavady Agricultural Show | £650 |
| Derry & District Youth Football Association | £1,250 |

Request for Funding from Sperrins Tourism: It was agreed that Limavady Borough Council would continue to support Sperrins Tourism by contributing the

same £7,000 level of funding as in 2006/07, which had been allowed for within the current budget.

Request from Limavady United for Financial Support: The Director of Development reported that a letter had been received from Limavady United football club advising that they needed to spend £1,995 (ext VAT) on maintenance work to bring the pitch up to a suitable standard for playing high level matches in the forthcoming season, including the 25th Anniversary NI Milk Cup matches.

In the discussion that followed, appreciation was expressed at the contribution the Milk Cup made to raising the profile of the area but concern was also voiced that if Council agreed to contribute towards the maintenance costs, this could open the floodgates to similar requests.

Following debate, it was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that Council would provide £1,995 to help the club undertake the maintenance work outlined.

Request from Limavady Borough Veterans for use of Council Dias – Sunday 24 June 2007: Members were informed that Limavady Borough Veterans Committee were holding an Interdenominational Parade on Sunday 24 June 2007 and had requested use of the Council's Dias from which the Lord Lieutenant, local veterans and other dignitaries could watch the parade. Members were also informed that the service would take place at the War Memorial, however, the walk past and salute would be held outside Council Offices but not on Council property. Normal practice would be for the Union flag to be flown and the committee proposed using a mobile flag pole, again, not located on Council property but Council staff would be required on the day to position and retrieve the Dias. Members noted that as part of the celebrations, the committee had organised an arts competition with local primary schools and had requested permission from Council to display the winning posters in Council Offices for one week.

Alderman Robinson proposed and Alderman Rankin seconded that Council grant permission for the Veterans Committee to use Council Dias and that any staff cost would be absorbed by Council, with the winning posters being displayed in Council Offices.

There was no objection to the proposal but disquiet was expressed that flying the union flag would not help bridge the division between nationalists and unionists, especially when Council had a 'No Flags Policy' and was working towards a neutral environment policy. The alternative opinion that this was a very narrow view and that the flag of the country should be flown. Noted.

Study to Identify the Economic uses of Land at Shackleton Barracks: The Director of Development informed members that the remaining funding under the 2000-2006 Economic Development Strategy could be utilised to undertake quantitative and qualitative work for future projects. She said that funding of £4,000 must be spent by June 2007 and recommended that the money be used for a study on the potential economic uses of Shackleton Barracks in Ballykelly.

It was suggested that the funding from DETI would not cover the costs of a base line study for the site and that the money would be better spent on improving facilities at

Benone. There followed a discussion on the potential uses for the site, included social housing and an airport base. It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Douglas that Council would take advantage of the funding opportunity but the Director of Development would investigate if the money could be used elsewhere.

Valuation of Lands at Garvagh Road: The Director of Development reported that correspondence had been received from Land & Property Services – Rating and Valuation in respect of the lands at Garvagh Road, which Council had agreed to lease to St Canices GAC. She said the current market rent for the facility was estimated at £6,500 based on 3.5 acres of land on a 99 year lease, which would include a restrictive clause for recreational use only and that the rent would be reviewed on a periodic basis.

In arriving at a suitable rent, Council was advised to take into consideration that St Canices GAC were proposing to develop the grounds further and would be seeking funding through the Sport Lottery; cost savings to Council in terms of labour costs and maintenance; improved site management of the asset and that fact that the lease would include a clause to stipulate that time should be set aside for other community groups to access the facility for recreational purposes.

Councillor Ó hOisín proposed, seconded by Councillor Butcher that Council lease the land to St Canices GAC for 99 years at a peppercorn rent. Councillor Douglas and Councillor Stevenson voiced their opposition to the proposal and it was suggested that Council should obtain the best possible rent for the lands. A vote was taken on the opposing view, with 5 voting for and 5 against. The chair using his casting vote in favour of not leasing the lands at a peppercorn rent.

Councillor Cubitt entered the chamber at 8.50 pm.

Addendum to Director of Development Report – June 2007:

Purchase of Rescue Watercraft: It was agreed that Council would source a rescue water craft and associated safety equipment from Jet Products, Sion Mills at an estimated cost of £6,324.30 and that appropriate beach management staff would receive the necessary training on use of equipment through Waveriders Training School. It was also agreed that Council would register the craft in accordance with recommendations set down for jet ski use at Benone.

Blue Flag 2007: As Benone Strand had been awarded the Blue Flag for 2007, it was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Council would commit £2,000 towards the future delivery of the blue flag programme.

Requests for Funding Under the Events and Festivals, Arts & Cultural Programmes: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson that under the above programme that £10,000 would be contributed to the 2007 Northern Ireland Milk Cup and £1,000 towards Burnfoot Community Development Association annual fun day.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Forum for Local Government & Arts: Members were informed that although it had been agreed at the AGM that 2 members would sit on the above committee, Council should have elected 1 members being representative of Council and it would be up to the Forum to elect the Arts Activist. Noted.

Drinks Reception – Hands that Talk: It was agreed that Council would host a drinks reception for Hands that Talk Awards Ceremony to the value of £200.

Ice Cream Permit: It was agreed that each ice cream permit holder could only use the permit for one vehicle at any one time.

Beach Wardens – Benone: It was suggested that given the exceptionally good weather, that Council ensure Beach Wardens were on the beach earlier in the season.

Limavady United Manager: It was agreed that members would be updated regarding the new manager of Limavady United Football Club who was also reported to be an employee of Council.

Bicentenary – Daniel O’Hampsey: It was agreed that the Director of Development would report at the next Development meeting on what celebrations were taking place to commemorate bicentenary of Daniel O’Hampsey.

Civic Reception – Limavady Youths: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Alderman Robinson that a Civic Reception would be hosted for Limavady Youths football team.

Garden Party Query: Concern was voiced on why the Mayor or the Chief Executive had been noticeably absent from the garden party when the Queen had visited Coleraine the previous week. It was queried if this was a slight to Council or a deliberate boycott by Sinn Féin.

Council – New Website: It was agreed that members would be given an overview of Councils new website on 19 June 2007 at 6.30 pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

14 August 2007

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.20 pm)**

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting