

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
12 AUGUST 2008**

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, M Donaghy, B Douglas, C. Ó hOisín, A. Robinson (chair) and E. Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk and Director of Development.

**APOLOGIES:** - Councillor McElhinney.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held 10 June 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin subject to the following amendment:

- ◆ Page 2, the last paragraph in bullet point 4 under the Director of Development Report for June 2008 should read ‘The recommendation was agreed and members requested that the group present details of their work to Council.’

**MATTERS ARISING:**

- ◆ Reference was made to the BBC programme Northern Exposure, which had been broadcast the previous week and how this had shown the Borough in a positive light through footage of Dungiven Castle, the Limetree Restaurant and the blue flag beach at Benone/Downhill.
- ◆ Councillor Cubitt referred to decision made at the June 2008 Development Committee meeting to contribute towards Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust and Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism and said consequentially, the decision made at the June 2008 Monthly meeting to delay payment to the groups had been illegal and could only be changed through a Notice of Motion. He was reminded by Councillor Butcher that Council had not stopped the payment, but it had been frozen, pending a cost benefit analysis. As the topic was being discussed within the August Development Report, no further debate took part at this stage of the meeting.

**MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of the Danny Boy Sub Committee dated 16 June 2008 were noted.

**MINUTES OF IRISH LANGUAGE SUB COMMITTEE – Coiste na Gaeilge:**

The minutes of the Irish Language Sub Committee, Coiste na Gaeilge were noted.

## **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – AUGUST 2008:**

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for June 2008 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Douglas subject to the following:

**Dungiven Community Hall & Sports Pavilion:** The Director of Development outlined that a review of staffing requirement had been undertaken now that Council had taken over the entire responsibility for running the Community Hall and Sports Pavilion. She outlined the key factors taking into account when preparing the review and recommended that 1 full time person be employed as a Senior Recreation Assistant, with 3 recreation assistants employed on a part time basis covering the 6 days of opening.

A member queried if Council would be liable for any debts accumulated by those who had previously managed the hall but was advised that the Hall Management Committee was a Limited Company by guarantee. It was also queried if audited accounts had been forwarded to Council by the company. A request was made for the Director of Support Services to report back to Council on the audited accounts of the organisation. It was agreed that the proposed staffing structure would be introduced and the job descriptions for the posts would be given a desk top evaluation.

**Neighbourhood Renewal:** It was agreed that the post of Neighbourhood Renewal Officer would be extended from part time to full time for the next 3 years, commencing 1 September 2008. Alderman Rankin and Alderman Mullan were nominated to sit on the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.

**Funding Application to the Environment Agency in Respect of the Appointment of Biodiversity Officers:** The Director of Development informed Council that officers from Coleraine, Ballymoney and Limavady Councils' had investigated the possibility of submitting an application for a Biodiversity Officer(s) for the three Council areas. She said there was merit in the three Council's working together to promote and protect biodiversity and recommended that Council support the application to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency under the Natural Heritage Grant Aid Programme for the employment of two Biodiversity Officers to work across the three Council areas. Agreed, however, a member felt this decision was short-sighted and would have preferred a Biodiversity Officer for Limavady itself.

**Funding Support towards Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism and Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust:** Members discussed the contents of report (appendix 4) in which the key objectives, work undertaken, track record, financial status and contributions made by Council to both organisations were detailed. It was recommended that due to the benefits from membership of both groups, that Limavady Borough Council continues its membership and reaffirms its support by way of financial contribution to each organisation for the current financial year.

A number of points were made for and against continuing with the membership. After a protracted and heated debate, Councillor Cubitt continued his comments from earlier in the meeting that a Notice of Motion had to be brought forward before the initial decision to support the groups could be changed. At this point Councillor

Coyle proposed that the Chief Executive be tasked with the job of looking at options available to Council and clarifying the issue for the next Monthly Council meeting.

After further debate, Alderman Robinson proposed that in principle the Council should pay the monies.

Left with two proposals, the chair Councillor Robinson made a ruling to proceed with the decision made at the June 2008 Development Services meeting and pay the monies. Councillor Coyle voiced unhappiness that his proposal had been ignored and both Sinn Féin and SDLP member left the chamber at this point.

**Re-Tendering of Magilligan/Greencastle Ferry Contract IN COMMITTEE:**

The Director of Development presented a confidential report, which outlined the key issues to be consideration when re-tendering for the ferry contract. Following discussion it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the contract for the Ferry service between Magilligan and Greencastle would be re-tendered. **OUT OF COMMITTEE**

**COURSES/CONFERENCES:**

**Newry and Mourne Tourism Conference:** It was agreed that the Culture Arts and Tourism Manager and the Tourism Development Officer would attend the Newry and Mourne Tourism Conference to be held 9 – 10 October 2008 in Canal Court Hotel, Newry at a cost of £170 plus accommodation of £60 per delegate.

**ISRM Conference & Exhibition:** It was agreed that an officer would attend the above conference & exhibition to be held 12 – 13 November 2008 in Alton Towers Resort at a cost of £334+VAT plus travel and expenses.

**Ecological Footprint Conference & Exhibition 2008 – “A Step in the Right Direction for Councils”:** It was agreed that an officer would attend the above conference to be held 16 October 2008 in Armagh City Hotel at a cost of £25.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Minutes of Irish Language Sub Committee:** It was queried why the minutes of the Irish Language Sub Committee were not shown on the agenda in English. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Alderman Robinson that items on the agenda should be in language that everyone could understand.

**Pest Control:** It was agreed that complaints received by members in relation to rabbits eating flowers in the cemetery and to pigeons roosting in the town hall and the mess they made to business property would be forwarded to Technical Service Department.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** - 9 September 2008.

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

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair of Meeting**