

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
13 SEPTEMBER 2011**

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 and G Robinson. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, Alderman Coyle (chair), B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, C McLaughlin, G Mullan, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - None.

PRESENTATION BY SKY WATCH:

The Chair welcomed Mr Paul Trimble, Chief Pilot, Sky Watch to the meeting.

Mr Trimble explained that Sky Watch was a charity providing air search, air observation and air to ground imagery to the emergency services and other agencies. He said that Sky Watch was run by volunteers who gave their time free of charge to provide a 100% humanitarian service in a dawn to dusk search for people or animals.

Mr Trimble gave an overview of the aircraft used by Sky Watch, equipment utilised in searches and details of searches undertaken at various locations in Northern Ireland. He said that Sky Watch searched for missing and vulnerable persons, damage assessment following environmental emergencies, priority transportation for small items of time critical freight, air to ground imagery following flooding, air support for lifeboats & mountain rescue teams, hi-bird radio relay during operations and traffic and crowd monitoring. He added that running costs for the service were £30k per year.

Points made in the discussion which followed included:

- Sky Watch was a valuable service to the community
- The aircraft used was as economical to run as a car
- The PSNI and Fire Service had donated equipment towards the service
- It was expected that the service would be used several times each week.

The Chair thanked Mr Trimble for an informative and impressive presentation.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 9 August 2011 were approved on the proposal of Councillor McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor Mullan.

MATTERS ARISING:

Dromore Lane: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Robinson that a follow up meeting regarding access to Dromore Lane would be held at 7 pm on 27 September 2011 in Council offices.

Brainstorming Session: It was agreed that a brainstorming session to discuss economic development in the Borough and the response to the consultation on rating of commercial properties would be held at 7pm on 22 September 2011 in Council offices.

Scroggy Road 3G Pitch: Members were informed that the contractor hoped to hand over Scroggy Road to Council on Monday 19 September and that the official opening was currently scheduled to take place on 26 October 2011.

Restoration of Two Paintings: The Director of Development outlined that the cost to restore two paintings currently in storage would be in the regions of £6-8k and £37.5k respectively. She said that the paintings, which had been donated to Council had no monetary value, however they were of significant local interest. She added that the paintings were safety stored with a Conservator to prevent further damage.

Following debate it was agreed that the paintings would continue to be kept in storage until funding became available towards their restoration.

Defibrillators: The Director of Development advised that Council currently had defibrillators at Roe Valley Leisure Centre, Dungiven Sports Pavilion and Benone Tourist Complex. She said that a defibrillator would also be purchased for Scroggy Road.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2011:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for September 2011 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Councillor Mullan, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

Golf Packages: It was agreed that a £5 Crazy Wednesday Day Ticket would be introduced at Benone to promote mid week use of the golf course and extend the concessionary golf ticket to include students in possession of a valid student card.

Replacement Air Blower – Roe Valley Leisure Centre: It was agreed that a replacement Air Blower would be purchased for Roe Valley Leisure Centre at a cost of £3,000 plus VAT.

Outdoor Recreation Business Development at Benone Strand: Following a satisfactory review of the land yachts pilot project, it was agreed that Council would formalise the further development of this outdoor recreation opportunity to operate at Benone Strand at a cost of £200 per annum.

To assist progress on an application to RDP for a Surf School, it was recommended that Council agree in principle to lease a small portion of land

adjacent to Benone Tourist Complex building with access to the boardwalk, that would accommodate a static office unit and store 30 ft x 10 ft. On a successful outcome of funding for the project, it was recommended that Council give approval to operate a surf school at a designated location on the strand at a cost of £200. Agreed.

Surfing Schools Project: It was agreed that Council would facilitate a schools surfing project at Benone Strand and to make available shower and changing facilities at the caravan park washrooms at Benone Tourist Complex for participants.

Good Beach Summit & Project Group: Following on from a Good Beach summit conveyed by the Minister for the Environment in June 2011, a Draft Action Plan had been drawn up which outlined the following four key areas for consideration:

1. improve water quality
2. improve beach cleanliness, facilities, management & signage
3. keep public & media better informed and
4. support the coastal economy.

It was noted that the Minister was proposing to reconvene the Good Beach Summit on 21 September 2011.

Council approved the draft Action Plan in principle and would continue to work in partnership with the Department of the Environment to further develop and deliver on appropriate actions.

Magilligan Point: Members retrospectively approved costs of £1,900 for new steps recently installed at Magilligan Point. The work which would encourage access to the beach was welcomed.

It was agreed that Council would engage Conservation Volunteers to address the board walk problems at Benone at a cost not exceeding £1,000, with maintenance costs being reallocated from the tourism budget.

Replacement of Soft Play Area – Roe Valley Leisure Centre: It was agreed that Council would replace the existing soft play area in Roe Valley Leisure Centre at a cost of £70,000 approximately.

Limvady Rotary Club Tree of Remembrance: It was agreed that the Rotary Club would use the Christmas Tree in Drumceatt Square as a Tree of Remembrance in the 2 weeks prior to Christmas to raise funds for local charities. .

Appointment of Design Consultants: The Director of Development sought approval from members to appoint consultants to undertake initial work on behalf of Council to facilitate securing external funding towards capital projects and assist in the preparation of budgets. Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Councillor Mullan.

CONSULTATIONS:

The Rating of Commercial Properties: A copy of the NILGA response to the consultation on Rating of Commercial Properties would be circulated to Councils by 20 September 2011. Following this, Council may wish to finalise its response for submission by 18 October 2011.

Proposed Enabling Legislation for National Parks: It was suggested that members provide comments to the above consultation to the Development Directorate by 20 September 2011 to be included in the corporate response for the October Development Committee.

Review of and Consultation on the Identification of Bathing Waters in Northern Ireland: Council had no objection to the consultation and supported the suggested alternative to the frequency of review to every six years. In addition Council highlighted the need for bathing water sampling to reflect the range of recreational uses of our bathing waters to include immersive sports.

CONFERENCES:

- ◆ It was agreed that the Countryside Activities Officer and Tourism Development Officer would attend the Sustainable Tourism conference being held on 26 October 2011 in the Great Hall, Galgorm Resort, Ballymena. Fee: £25 per person.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Following on from the presentation by Skywatch, Councillor McGlinchey proposed, seconded by Councillor Brolly that Council would support Skywatch Civic Air Patrol by contribution £1,000 towards the airbourne beach and sand patrols for the north coast area next year.
- Members were advised that Michael Graham, WYG Consultant would be meeting members of the Save the Green group from Shanreagh Park on 14 September at 7 pm to discuss site specific objections to the draft NAP.
- It was agreed that members would contact the Chief Executive's Department if they wished to avail of a new smart phone.
- Next Audit Committee meeting to be held on 12 October 2011.
- It was agreed that a letter of congratulations would be local boxing champions who had exceeding in their field the previous weekend.
- Councillor McGlinchey indicated that he had written to the Sports Minister regarding hosting a reception for Titans Kickboxing Club who had recently won 15 medals in the World Kickboxing Championships in Germany. Noted that the reception would be held either at Stormont or at Council Offices.
- It was agreed that a task force would be set up to brighten up several areas of Limavady, similar to the exercise which had been carried out in Dungiven.
- It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for Celine McKenna who had retired as principle of St Marys High School.

NEXT MEETING – 11 October 2011.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.25 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting