

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 MARCH 2006

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen G Mullan, J Rankin & G Robinson. Councillors P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers (Chair), M Coyle, M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors A Brolly and L Cubitt.

PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL – BALLYSPALLEN CRICKET CLUB:

Member noted that Ballyspallen Cricket Club had written to advise that the club were redressing their future development and growth through different aspects of financial help and that a presentation to Council at a later date would be more relevant.

MINUTES:

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 14 February 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Alderman Mullan.

MATTERS ARISING:

Families Acting for Innocent Relatives: It was agreed that Families Acting for Innocent Relatives would defer presentation to Council until the May 2006 Development Committee meeting.

Westport/Limavady Joint Calendar: The Director of Development clarified that members' comments had been passed to Westport Council and that the joint calendar between Westport and Limavady was being reprinted.

Cross Border Achievement Award: Members welcomed that the Atlantic Drift Marketing Programme had received a major award as one of the top 6 projects out of 50 nominations for the Cross Border Achievement Award and that this was due to the successful partnership between Limavady Borough Council, Donegal, North West Tourism, Lough Foyle Car Ferry Company and the Udaras na Gaeltachta region of West Donegal.

Quay Vipers Snake Bite Rally: The Director of Development explained that although she had considered the possibility of lowering the levy charge, the recommendation to Council was that a levy of £350 be charged to Quay Vipers Motorbike club for use of the caravan park at Benone during the Snake Bite Rally. Agreed.

MINUTES - IRISH LANGUAGE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The minutes of Irish Language Sub Committee meetings held on 14 February and 2 March 2006 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

It was agreed that Councillor Coyle would replace Alderman Mullan on the committee.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee meeting held 20 February 2006 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten.

The Director of Development tabled letter dated 14 March 2006 from Brian Brown, Chairman of the Danny Boy Sub Committee, in which he requested that Council consider funding of £30,000 for the 2006 festival as this had been extended from 3 days to 7 days. Members noted that Council had agreed to set funding at £25,000 It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Carten that Council would defer decision on funding until predicted Income & Expenditure figures for the 2006 festival were analysed.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MARCH 2006:

The Director of Development presented the Development report and enlarged thereon. The recommendations were agreed and the report adopted on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Councillor Donaghy subject to the following:

Official Opening Lifestyle Fitness Suite – Roe Valley Leisure Centre: Members agreed that if possible Shelley Rudman, 2006 Winter Olympic Silver Medallist, would officially open the Lifestyle Fitness Suite on Friday 7th July 2006.

Proposed Holiday Closures for Roe Valley Leisure Centre April 2006 – March 2007: The recommended holiday closures for Roe Valley Leisure Centre as outlined within the report was agreed and members noted that this would generate savings of over £6,000.

Limavady Grammar School – Big Lottery Application: Members welcomed that Limavady Grammar School had received confirmation that funding would be available from the ‘PE and Sport in Schools’ funding programme towards the development of a synthetic pitch in Limavady. Members noted that the pitch would be available for use by the general public after 4 pm and it was agreed that discussions would be now progressed with Limavady Grammar School to identify the future role and commitment of Council towards the project.

Department of Social Development 10 Year Advice and Information Strategy – Consultation Sessions: It was agreed that Alderman Rankin, Councillor Cubitt and the Community Development Officer would attend the above consultation session scheduled for Wednesday 29 March 2006 in the Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre, Cookstown.

Northern Ireland Knife Disposal Scheme: Members welcomed the proposed ‘Knife Disposal Scheme’ by the Community Safety Unit and it was agreed that Council would support this initiative and look at ways in which it could provide facilities for the disposal of knives.

Special Olympics Ulster: The Director of Development reported that a recommendation on funding towards the Special Olympics Ireland Games had been made at the February Development meeting and further to this Council had been advised that four members of Team Ulster would be representing Limavady and that the cost per participant to compete would be approximately £500.

It was agreed that Council donate £400 towards hosting the event and that funding towards the costs of the four local participants be considered by Limavady Sports Council. It was also agreed that the Mayor would host a civic reception for the four participants, their friends, family and trainers and that this would take place after the event.

Proposal from Ulster Scots Agency to Promote a Cross Border Project: The Director of Development outlined that the Ulster Scots Agency had advised Council that it had submitted an application to the Special European Unit Programme Body (SEUPB) to promote cross border projects aimed at increasing awareness of Ulster-Scots community events; developing knowledge and awareness of Ulster Scots in educational system throughout the border counties; and developing relationships with Museums and Libraries to utilise facilities to promote awareness and inclusion. She said at this stage no financial assistance was sought, however, it was recommended that Council support the project application.

In the debate that followed Councillor Coyle stated that he knew very little about the agency except for what had been printed in local newspapers and that although a certain section of the community would be happy to go along with the recommendation, he proposed that the agency to present to Council before he could give it his support. Councillor Ó hOisín seconded this and said the group had been established after the Good Friday Agreement and that after receiving millions in funding, there was the issue of accountability on how the money was spent. He added he would not hesitate to give his support if there was proper inclusiveness.

Alderman Robinson pointed out that the reason to support the project was self explanatory and that Council should not be selective as it had supported the Irish Language. Councillor Stevenson queried what effect non support would have on the SEUPB application and said that members were putting forward feeble excuses not to support the cross border project. Councillor Douglas agreed and said Council should be endorsing this.

Alderman Rankin proposed an amendment that Council support the project application. This was seconded by Councillor Robinson and on being put to the

meeting was declared lost with 5 voting for and 8 against. Councillor Coyle's proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, with 8 voting for and 5 against.

Issues Relating to the Magilligan/Greencastle Ferry: The Director of Development informed members that negotiations were on-going between Donegal County Council, the Ferry Company and Limavady borough Council regarding financial arrangements and the possibility of an extension to the current Ferry contract. She said that legal advice had confirmed that the existing contract could be extended for the period from 13 June 2007 to 14 June 2009, however, changes would have to be incorporated within a supplemental agreement between the parties which would outline the amendments to the original contract terms. She recommended the following:

1. *The level of subvention payable by Council for period 13 June 05 – 14 June 2006 and 2007 be £50,000 per annum.*
2. *The profit share arrangement ceases to apply from 13 June 05, with all revenues being retained by the Foyle Ferry Company.*
3. *The existing contract be extended from 13 June 07 until 14 June 2009, with no subvention payable by Council*
4. *The Ferry service would be subject to a full open tender, effective from 13 June 2009 for a non-subventive service.*

She also explained that the Ferry Company had forwarded proposals for fare increases, which would be effective from May 2006 and recommended from June 2007 that the Ferry Service would have the right to increase fares in line with the published Consumer Price Index increases.

Members referred to security costs and suggested the Ferry Company be responsible for these as Council would no longer be sharing any profit from the arrangement. Concern was also raised at fare increases and it was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin that the ferry operator review proposed fare increases for 2006

Use of Personal Water Craft at Benone Beach: The Director of Development sought clarification from members on a number of issues relating to report presented at the February Development meeting regarding proposals to introduce a system on managing the use of jet skis at Benone Beach. She reminded members that a recent RoSPA risk assessment for Benone Beach had put forward recommendations to assist Council to manage the beach and water based activities in a safer manner and that Council must consider a plan for the improved management and safety of non swimming activities, including the use of jet skis.

The Director of Development recommended that Council adopt the proposed code of conduct and that the instructor be charged an annual fee of £200 to be allowed to deliver training courses, subject to annual review and production of necessary insurance and appropriate qualifications.

Members suggested that the proposed code of conduct was a step in the right direction but raised concern at the risk of fatalities, corporate manslaughter, enforcement and how the beach would be policed. The Director of Development agreed to investigate beach management and use of jet skis in mainland UK before bring a further recommendation to Council.

Request for Financial Assistance from Roe Valley Women's Network: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Stevenson that Council not to the Roe Valley Women's Network until the group presented to Council.

Green Lane Museum – Roe Valley Country Park: Members welcomed that the Green Lane Museum would open again over the Easter Weekend and that it was proposed to open the facility at weekends and other times by request in April, May and June, with seven days open in July and August.

CONFERENCES:

The challenge of Change – A convention promoting civic awareness of the challenges of diversity in Northern Ireland: It was agreed that one officer of Council would attend the above conference to be held 5 – 7 June 2006 in Canal Court Hotel, Newry.

ILAM 2006 National Conference and Show: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Butcher that the Leisure Services Manager would attend the ILAM National Conference and Show to be held 27 – 29 June 2006 in Bournemouth International Centre, Bournemouth at a cost of £340+VAT.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Request for Financial Assistance – Roe Valley Archery Club: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Council would contribute £250 to the Roe Valley Archery Club who were hosting the Northern Ireland Field Archery Championships at Gortnamoyagh Forest on 23 April 2006.

Limavady Community Forum: The Director of Development reported that the Community Forum had been successful in their application for a Community Business Development Manager on a one year pilot project, accessing around £45,000 from the Area Partnership. She said Council had been approached to implement a service level agreement to house this officer within Development Services and to allow open access to all areas of community groups. Agreed.

Access to Network: Councillor Donaghy voiced disappointed that those members who had broadband installed on their laptops for home use would not be able to access the network due to security concerns. Noted.

Provision of Play Areas: Councillor McElhinney suggested that the Director of Development meet with Greysteel Community Association regarding a suitable location for play area in Greysteel. Agreed.

It was also agreed an audit report on play areas in the Borough would be brought to Council as soon as possible.

Award – Limavady High School: Alderman Rankin referred to the recent government announcement that Limavady High School had been named as one of the first 12 specialist schools in Northern Ireland to be awarded Special School

Status in performing and visual arts and suggested that the Director of Development forward a letter of congratulations on Councils behalf to Mr Glenn Reilly, Headmaster of the school. Agreed

Festivals – Programme of Events: Councillor Ó hOisín referred to the launch of the Celtic Festival of the Sea and said the programme of events provided by Limavady Borough Council was disappointing. Councillor Butcher agreed and said this was billed as the best festival in Europe for 2006 and Council would lose out if Scotland came on board as a festival sponsor. Councillor Coyle suggested that this was a wake up call for Council to improve festivals programmes generally and now was the time to look at strengths/weaknesses and take a course of action to improve festivals overall. Noted.

NEXT MEETING:

11 April 2006

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.00 pm)

Signed: -----
Chair of Meeting