

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
14 AUGUST 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, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, L Cubitt, C Ó hOisín, M Donaghy, J F McElhinney, A Robinson (chair) and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors A Brolly and B Douglas.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held on 12 June 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Butcher subject to amendment on page 5, paragraph 6, line 1, change name 'Daniel' to 'Denis'.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

The following items were raised under matters arising:

- **Rescue Watercraft at Benone** – it was noted that a jet ski had now been purchased and staff were being trained on use of safety equipment.
- **Northern Ireland Milk Cup** – congratulations was extended to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors for supporting the 2007 Milk Cup Tournament and to staff within the Development Directorate and Technical Service for their hard work during the event.
- **Limavady United Manager/Council Employee** – it was noted that the times at which the Council Employee would be required in fulfilment of his duties as Manager of Limavady United should not conflict with his role in Council. Mechanisms would also be put in place to ensure that any conflict of interest would be minimised.
- **Study to Identify the Economic uses of Land at Shackleton Barracks** – comments made at the previous Development meeting that the relatively low level of funding available under the Economic Development Strategy had been taken into consideration and the proposed study had not been progressed. Council had been unable to utilise the funds to another project which would meet the criteria set by DETI in the short timescale.
- **Queries with EHS** – it was noted that the various queries raised in relation to EHS, including disabled fishing stands at Roe Valley Country Park were ongoing.
- **Benone Beach** – concern was raised to anti-social behaviour and letters missing from the sign at the entrance to Benone Beach.

- **Reduction in Pitches - Impact on Football at Scroggy Road & Alternative Facilities** - Council was advised that in an effort to offset the reduction in football pitches at Scroggy Road, initial discussions had been held with Limavady Recreation Club about the possibility of using their football pitch on a short to medium term basis. Members noted that changing accommodation would be required and it was suggested that as the pitch at Ardgarvan was used on an infrequent basis, it might be possible to relocate the changing unit on a temporary basis to Killane Road. It was also noted that another sports club was interested in relocating/renting the changing unit.

In the discussion which followed reference was made to impact the weather had on use of facilities, the lack of investment in sporting facilities over the years and the need for adequate resources to be set aside for maintenance. After consideration the following was agreed:

1. that the option for Killane Road would be pursued;
2. that an audit of outdoor facilities be undertaken – to include Council & non Council facilities;
3. assess and cost level of work required to upgrade existing Council owned facilities to an acceptable standard;
4. identify the gaps in provision of facilities and
5. try and negotiate with the football league secretary regarding fixtures.

#### **MINUTES OF COISTE NA GAEILGE:**

The minutes of Coiste na Gaeilge meeting held 19 June 2007 were tabled and noted.

#### **MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB-COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee meeting held 25 June and 6 August 2007 were tabled and noted.

#### **MINUTES OF CIVIC CENTRE STEERING GROUP:**

It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Coyle that discussion on matters relating to the Civic Centre would be held **IN COMMITTEE**.

The Chief Executive updated members on efforts made to reach agreement with Fold Housing Association on the proposed Multi Purpose Civic Centre. He explained that a meeting with Roads Service earlier in the day on adoption of the road at the site had been positive and said if agreed by the Association, would give both parties a window of opportunity to be relieved of maintenance, illegal parking, lighting, traffic calming and yellow lines on the road. He drew members' attention to additional stipulations set by the Association, specifically that of 'right of way at all times and for all purposes' which would allow Fold to develop lands at rear of the site and he suggested ways on how these should be responded too.

A discussion ensued on the stipulations and there was overall agreement that these were unacceptable. Following further debate, it was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that the Chief Executive would enter into further discussions with the Association regarding adoption of the road and

developments from this and other options available to Council would be brought to the August 2007 Monthly meeting.

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – AUGUST 2007:**

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

**Scoping Study for Water Based Tourism Business:** It was agreed that Council would support the scoping study to look at Banagher Glen, the sea shore, the Lough Foyle shoreline and rivers falling within Limavady Borough Councils and the Loughs Agency's catchment area by allowing £4,000 from Economic Development budget to match funding applied for from the Loughs Agency.

**Extension of the Post of Community Business Development Officer until March 2008:** It was noted Council had previously agreed to extend the post of Community Business Development Officer until October 2007, however from that date the Officer would be providing maternity cover for the District Policing Partnership Manager. It was agreed that the remained funding would be used to continue the valuable work of the Community Business Development Officer and that a trawl would be undertaken for a part time replacement officer until March 2008.

**Limavady/Westport Twinning Association:** It was agreed that a grant of £2,600 be approved for the Limavady/Westport Twinning Association for 2007/08 Programme.

**Denis O'Hampsey – 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration:** Members welcomed that Council would commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the death of Denis O'Hampsey by holding a harp workshop and an evening event at a cost of approximately £1,200.

**Photographic Commissions and Images Library:** The Director of Development explained that in order to set up a library resource of new fresh and unique images of the Borough for use in publications/website, an online photographic competition was being published through Council website and this featured a number of categories which would be judged on a quarterly basis with Council retaining the right to use the images in the future. She said the 10 quotations submitted for the 12 month Photographic Commission had been assessed on experience, material submitted & cost and recommended that Council appoint Norman Thorpe at a cost of £2,800. Agreed.

**ERNI Review of the Phasing out of Industrial De-Rating (and Freight Transport):** The Director of Development outlined that the Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland (ERNI) had been commissioned to undertake a formal review of the policy to phase out industrial derating, including an assessment of Freight/Transport derating. She requested that members advise the Chief Executive of comments for response in a form of written submission by Friday 31 August 2007. Agreed.

**Update on Shackleton Barracks:** The Director of Development informed members that following the recent visit to army barracks at Ballykelly, both Defence Estates and Land & Property Services would like to have some formal indication from

Council as to whether or not Council was interested in acquiring some of the land at Shackleton Barracks. Councillor Cubitt proposed and Alderman Robinson seconded that Council submit an expression of interest for the lands. Councillor Coyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that all Councillors attend a meeting to discuss what should go into the submission and any other pertinent issues which needed to be raised. It was suggested that recent statements from the Prime Minister Gordon Brown regarding disposal of defence estate properties should be checked.

**Transfer of Land to Community Groups- Orchard Community Playgroup and Drumsurn Community Association:** *Councillor Chivers declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.* Members considered recommendation made by the Director of Development that Council enter into a 25 year lease with Orchard Community Playgroup in respect of derelict land at Hyacinth Avenue at a rental value of £100 per annum, which would be reviewed on a five year basis, pending approval from the Department under section 96 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972. Members also considered recommendation that land on which the community portacabin was located at Beech Road, Drumsurn be leased to Drumsurn Community Association at a rental value of £300 per annum, reviewed on a five year basis, again pending approval from the Department under section 96 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor Butcher stated that the community groups could not afford the suggested rent and proposed that the lands be leased at a peppercorn rent of £1 per year. He said that this could be justified by the work of the groups and proposed that the Department be approached regarding relevant approval. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

Caution was voiced by several members, however when the proposal was put to the meeting it was declared carried, with 7 voting for, 2 against and 4 abstentions.

**Submission to EHS for Funding Towards the Development of a Binevenagh AONB Management Plan:** The Director of Development recommended that Council support the application by Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust for submission to EHS in a bid to secure funding towards the development of a Management Plan for Binevenagh AONB at a cost of £1,500, to be included in the draft budgets for 2008/09. Agreed, however Councillor Ó hOisín questioned the value in supporting the application and said Council needed to reassess its membership of Causeway Coast & Glens Regional Tourism Partnership.

**Discount for Leisure Centre Clubs:** It was agreed that 15% discount would be offered to Leisure Centre based club such as the gymnastics and archery club.

**Peace III Programme:** Council was advised that progress was being made amongst Councils within the North East and that it had been agreed that a scoping study would be undertaken to pull together information on good relations plans, community support plans and also include themes highlighted under Measure 1:1 of the Peace III Programme. Members noted that the second phase would look at collecting information on a Council by Council basis on potential individual projects for partnerships and that this could be rolled out to other Council such as Strabane or Derry City Council.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Council would contribute its share of the suggested cost of £6,000 with the other Councils involved for the scoping study.

## **COURSES/CONFERENCES:**

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

- *Officer attendance at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Ireland Economic Development Conference on Wednesday 3 October 2007 in Culloden Hotel, - £255+VAT.*
- *Councillor McElhinney and 1 officer to attend the Leisure Industry Week Conference to be held 25 – 27 September 2007 in NEC Birmingham – No Fee.*
- *Councillor Chivers and 1 officer to attend Community Involvement in Countryside Management on 23 & 24 October 2007 in Glendalough Hotel, County Wicklow - €150.*
- *Officer from Environmental Health Department to undertake CMI Certificate in Management at North West Regional College.*

## ***Queries Outside Report:***

**Foyle Ferry:** Concern was voiced at the 45% raise in fares by the ferry operator and how this was not in the spirit of what had been initially agreed by both Donegal and Limavady Councils. The Director of Development said the company had indicated that the raise was necessary as both Councils no longer contributing to the ferry running costs.

In response to a query, the Director of Development said that based on the current budget, the estimated figure for ferry cost, excluding Council contribution was £179,602. She also outlined that when the ferry terminal was being constructed there was no funding to provide a public slipway.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Condolence:** Tribute was paid to the work of Mary Mailey, Limavady Town Twinning Committee who had suddenly died the previous week and it was agreed that a letter of condolence would be forwarded to her family.

**Dog Leap Rally:** It was agreed that a letter of congratulations would be forwarded to Maiden City Motor Club for their hard work in organisation the Dog Leap Rally.

**Request from Glenshane Community Development Ltd:** Councillor Butcher detailed to Director of Development that Glenshane Community Development Ltd had requested that Council reopen discussions to lease lands adjacent to Dungiven Castle to the group for sporting purposes. Agreed.

**September 2007 Meeting:** The Director of Development agreed to update members at the September 2007 Development Services meeting on proposals for use of 8 acres of land at Benone and on progress regarding sale of strip of land at Curragh Road.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 11 September 2007**

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

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