

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**15 JANUARY 2008**

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

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Environmental Services, Building Control Manager, Acting Technical Services Managers and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - Alderman Rankin and the Environmental Health Manager.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 18 December 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Review of District Council Drinking in Public Bye-Laws:** Members noted that signs were in the process of being erected in additional areas designated under Councils Drinking in Public Bye-Laws.

**Civic Amenity Site in Dungiven:** Members were informed that £7,500 had been spent to date on process of acquiring a Civic Amenity Site at Dungiven.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – JANUARY 2008:**

***Building Control Department:***

The Building Control Manager presented the Building Control report which detailed applications approved, acknowledged & issued, Entertainment, Occasional and Amusement Licences issued and Facilities Management & Energy Management Report, which was approved on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Robinson subject to the following:

**Application for Extended Entertainment Licensing Hours:** The Building Control Manager explained that the Court case on application for Extended Entertainment Licensing hours by The Corner Bar and The Pub had been heard on 11 January 2008 but judgement had been reserved and there was no indication when a ruling would be given. He said Council would be updated when judgement was given.

The Building Control Manager also confirmed that the PSNI were not agreeable to the request by The Inn for an extended Entertainment Licence but were willing to meet to discuss the matter further.

***Environmental Health Department:***

The Chief Executive presented the Environmental Health Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers subject to the following:

**Air Pollution in Northern Ireland 2006:** Reference was made to report on air pollution in Northern Ireland and a discussion took place on what could be done to alleviate congestion in Dungiven. It was noted that Connor Murphy, Minister for Regional Development, had agreed to meet with Council regarding the proposed by-pass and the issue of air pollution could be discussed at this meeting. The Chief Executive agreed to make contact with the relevant Departments to urge further action on this issue.

***Technical Services Department:***

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten subject to the following:

**Illegal Dumping:** Comments were made regarding illegal dumping at Baranait Road and to the amount of litter and broken glass on the streets between the Grammar School and the town centre. It was suggested that the enforcement officer patrol the area and if anyone was observed littering, they should be reprimanded or fined. It was agreed that the problem of pupils dropping litter would be brought to the attention of the schools.

**Civic Amenity Site – Dungiven:** The Director of Environmental Services updated members regarding provision of Civic Amenity Site in Dungiven, including the fact that planning permission was valid until December 2008 on a site at the Bleech Green and that officers were looking at alternative access to this. Members were advised that as long as Council had approval for a site, it would be difficult to get an alternative site approved and that Council would need to prove that all options had been exhausted. It was suggested that the views of the residents of Bleech Green should be taken into consideration. It was agreed that officers would try and tease out issues with statutory bodies in relation to the site.

**Waste Data Flow:** It was suggested that officers investigate income that could be recouped from recycling scrap metal, wood or aluminium cans. It was agreed that the public would be made aware that Council recycled mineral oil.

**Drumsurn Play Area:** Estimated costings were tabled for provision of swings and associated works at Drumsurn multi purpose play area. The overall view from members was that the estimated costs of £17,913.39 seemed excessive. After discussion, it was agreed that tenders would be sought for the suggested work.

**Repair to Bus Shelters:** Ongoing repair to bus shelters in the Borough was welcomed. Members noted that the bus shelter opposite Bovevagh Church was no longer used and requested that it be removed.

**Christmas Lighting:** It was suggested that for Christmas 2008 that officers investigate locations for erecting permanent Christmas trees in the Borough.

**Drumaduff: IN COMMITTEE:** Members were advised of legal opinion received from Senior Counsel in relation to acquiring land at Drumaduff to progress restoration and aftercare plan in accordance with 1999 EU Directive. It was agreed that a fresh attempt would be made to negotiate with the one main land owner to acquiring the lands needed at a market value based upon the reinstated land value. It was also understood that failure to acquire the lands by agreement would lead Council to made application to vest based upon the lands identified as necessary to the Restoration and Aftercare Plan.

Members were informed that RPS had been advised to commence work on the Restoration and Aftercare plan and that the Chief Executive had asked Land & Property Services to take on role of negotiator for the lands due to issue being of public interest. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN MULLAN:**

Alderman Mullan proposed:

‘That this Council calls on the Minister of Finance, MP MLA and the Executive to ensure that the final budget and investment strategy adequate funding for social and affordable housing and further calls for a guarantee from the Minister for Finance that, where it is necessary to sell land, receipts will be ring-fenced and allocated to new-build social housing.’

He explained that since submitting the motion, the Minister of Finance & Personnel – Peter Robinson had announced that almost £50 million would be allocated to the Department of Social Development for a range of social housing initiatives, including Co-ownership, the Warm Homes scheme and the Social Housing Development Programme. He said that whilst the additional funding was to be welcomed, the budget did not have the capacity to provide affordable housing or lower the urgent housing need waiting list. Councillor Coyle seconded the motion and reminded members that there were 38,000 on the waiting list for homes in Northern Ireland, 50% of which were in housing stress.

Alderman Robinson stated that he would not support the motion in its current form as other Departments were also looking for increased levels of funding, including health, education and regional development. Councillor Ó hOisín agreed and said it would be unrealistic to think that all monies could be ring fenced for social housing and proposed that the motion be amended to:

‘That this Council calls on the Minister of Finance, MP MLA and the Executive to ensure that the final budget and investment strategy adequate funding for social and affordable housing.’

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Brolly and on being put the meeting was declared carried, with 4 voting for, 3 against and 1 abstention. The substantive motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, with 6 voting for and 2 against.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The following issues were raised by members:

- Vandalism at two local churches and damage to headstones was condemned by all members. It was agreed that the PSNI would be asked to do everything in their power in bringing the culprits to justice.
- Alderman Robinson reminded members that he had previously requested new chairs for the chamber.
- The Chief Executive informed members that Sir Reg Empey would meet with the Mayor and himself on Wednesday 23 January 08 regarding job losses in the Borough.
- It was agreed that a letter of support would be forwarded to St Mary's Parish to offer advice and help following the burning of Bethany Hall.

**NEXT MEETING** – 19 February 2008.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.30 pm)**

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