

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

**FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**16 FEBRUARY 2005**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

Aldermen J Dolan (in the chair) and M Carten, Councillors A Brolly, B Douglas, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, D Lowry, G. Mullan, M McGuigan, J. Rankin and E. Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer, Acting Chief Technical Service Officer, Acting Economic Development Officer, Interim Human Resource Officer and Acting Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:**

Aldermen G Robinson, Councillors B Brown, B Chivers and M Coyle, Acting Chief Finance & Administration Officer and the Town Clerk.

**MINUTES:**

Minutes of meeting dated 19 January 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Lowry, seconded by Councillor Rankin.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**District Rates 2005/2006:** The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive informed members that all 26 district councils in Northern Ireland had struck their district rate for the 2005/06 financial year. He said that the Limavady rate had increased by 4.75% compared with the 2004/05 figures and that this placed Council 18<sup>th</sup> out of 26 councils, meaning that only 8 councils had a lower rate. Councillor Lowry voiced his approval at the prudent rate and said that he looked forward to the publication of the rates league table.

**Town Centre Improvements:** Councillor Cubitt queried the cost to Council for the environmental improvement scheme at Connell Street car park. The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive explained that the Department of Social Development were proceeding with the improvement scheme and that Council would not be contributing to this.

**PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF LIMAVADY TOWN HALL:**

The Chair welcomed Fold Residents and Management, Colin Maxwell, Project Director and Ms Sarah Villiers, Project Architect, Consarc to the meeting.

Ms Anna Nicholl, secretary of the Fold Residents thanked Council for inviting residents and Management to the meeting. She said that Council was aware of concerns in relation to the demolition and construction of the new civic centre and to the proposed use of Fold driveway for deliveries after work on the centre had been completed. She added that the access road to homes in Roe Fold was private property and for use by those at risk due to poor eyesight, impaired hearing and decreased mobility and that those who currently use the drive, including carers, relatives of residents, medical and support services were aware of the at risk users and exercised caution. She added further that Fold residents were vulnerable and that road access for emergency vehicles must be maintained at all times.

Ms Nicholl clarified that the residents had no objection to the construction of the Civic Centre and had decided that given the assurances expressed at the meeting of 14 February 2005 regarding safety during the demolition of the gable wall, that residents would agree to the driveway being used for the minimum time required to complete the demolition, provided that all lorries access from the Town Hall site.

Ms Nicholl advised that after considering the proposals put forward by Council and benefits offered in return for use of the driveway as access to the Civic Centre after completion, the residents had agreed not to surrender the safety, security and privacy already established. She said that residents had also agreed that on completion of the work, that the boundaries fencing around the Fold would have no entrances into the driveway.

Ms Nicholl concluded that Fold residents hoped that expertise from within Council would be able to resolve any issues arising from the resident's decision and wished Council every success in proceeding with the project.

Mr Maxwell welcomed Roe Fold's support for the project and offered assurance that the car park to be located at the back of the Civic Centre would be for staff use only. He said that he was disappointed that the situation regarding the car park had not been resolved and suggested that Council could enter into a legal contract to avoid misuse of the road.

Ms Doherty, Area Housing Manager, responded that comments from Council would be taken to the Fold Housing Committee and that she hoped further meetings would continue between Council and members of Roe Fold.

Members thanked the deputation for their first class presentation.

#### **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:**

Payments for the month of December 2004 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Carten.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

**Human Resource Report:** The Human Resource Report dated 16 February 2005 was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor McGuigan.

## **ACCOUNTS FOR NINE MONTH PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2004:**

The accounts for the nine months period ending 31 December 2004 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Mullan, seconded by Councillor Douglas.

## **ACCESS PRODECURES FOR CONNELL STREET:**

The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive tabled access procedures to Council's offices at Connell Street for member's approval. He said that the procedures had been designed with the primary aim of providing a mechanism whereby Health & Safety could be easily established during an evacuation procedure. Members noted that all visitors would be asked to sign in at reception and would be issued with a numbered visitor's badge which would be returned on leaving the building and noted against their signing in details.

Councillor Douglas queried who would be responsible for ensuring that those visiting the building signed in or out and if additional staff needed to be employed. The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive explained that there would be no cost attached to the process as the person at reception would have a signing in/out system. He added that it was intended that additional safety precautions would be implemented for those working at the front desk and that a panic button connected to the Technical Services department would make reception staff feel less vulnerable.

Councillor Lowry referred to the general security of the building and suggested that Council consider CCTV rather than having 2 security men on site when the building was open in the evening. The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive responded that overall security would be investigated.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Stevenson that the recommended access procedures be implemented as soon as possible.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Site Meeting - Ballykeen Cottages:** The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive advised members that further to concerns raised by Alderman Carten on parking at Ballykeen Cottages, that the Acting Chief Technical Service Officer had arranged a site meeting with the PSNI, Roads Service, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and members of Council, which would take place at 10 am on Monday 7 March 2005. Members welcomed the quick response.

**Northern Corridor Railways Group:** The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive informed members that following the recent budgetary allocation by

Government to support the retention of the Belfast/Londonderry Rail Link, Translink officials would meet with the Northern Corridor Railways Group to discuss how to proactively support the development of the rail service. It was agreed that Alderman Carten and Councillor Stevenson would attend the meeting to take place on Wednesday 2 March at 11 am in Coleraine Borough Council offices.

**World Friendship Day:** The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive highlighted that the Mayor, Councillors and their spouses had been invited to attend 'World Friendship Day' celebrations to take place on Tuesday 1 March 2005 at 7.30 pm in the Atlantic Suite, Royal Court Hotel, Portrush. Noted.

**NEXT MEETING:**

14 March 2005.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**

**(The meeting ended at 10.00 pm)**