

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

16 MAY 2006

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

PRESENT:

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

In Attendance: Committee Clerk, Building Control Manager, Environmental Health Manager and Technical Services Manager.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Coyle and the Director of Environmental Services.

MINUTES SILENCE FOR MICHAEL McILWEEN:

Members stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect for Michael McIlween, the 15 year old boy from Ballymena who had been murdered the previous week.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 20 April 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

MATTERS ARISING:

Noise Levels – Clooney Road: The Environment Health Manager reported that Roads Service had confirmed in letter dated 21 April 2006 that the contractor would reset manhole frames and covers on the A2 Clooney Road, Greysteel to alleviate noise levels.

Re-Location of Council Depot and Civic Amenity Site: The Technical Services Manager clarified that Council was awaiting confirmation from the 3 potential site owners at Aghanloo to see if the land was still available for relocation of the Council Depot and Civic Amenity site.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – MAY 2006:

Building Control Department:

The Building Control report which detailed applications approved, acknowledged and issued between 12 April and 9 May 2006; transfer of licence, Entertainment and Occasional Licences issued under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 and Facilities Management & Energy Management

Report was approved on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Mullan subject to the following:

Benone Tourist Complex Tennis Courts: In response to Alderman Rankin, the Building Control Manager explained that due to budgetary constraints the tennis courts at Benone had not been resurfaced earlier in the season, however work had now commenced and the courts would be ready for use by the end of May 2006.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre Fire Alarm: The Building Control Manager reported that an order had been placed with BPS to install the flashing beacon alarm system for Roe Valley Leisure Centre and at Councils request the quote had been revised from £9,665 to £8,960.

Dungiven Sports Centre: Retrospective approval was agreed for Precision Cleaning to clean out two oil tanks and clear an oil spillage at Dungiven Sports Centre. Members suggested that the quotation was excessive.

Environmental Health Department:

The Environmental Health Manager presented the Environmental Health Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

National Food Safety Week 2006: Members noted that National Food Safety Week would take place from 12 – 16 June 2006 and that the focus would be on how easily germs could spread and safe use of the fridge. It was also noted that primary schools within the Borough had been invited to attend an Information Day at Roe Valley Leisure Centre on 12 June, where there would be a display on food safety issues, the Calamity kitchen and informal talks by Environmental Health Officers and that all those who attended the event would have the opportunity to participate in a nationwide food safety competition.

Health Promoting Schools Award: The Environmental Health Manager explained that the annual presentation of Health Promoting Schools Awards would take place in the Gorteen House Hotel on 24 May 2006. She said that 44 schools had entered the award scheme in 2005/06 and that 26 had obtained the Gold award, 13 Silver and 5 Bronze.

Members noted that entries for 2005/06 included Drumachose Primary School, Limavady High School, Limavady Central Primary School, St Mary's High school and Gortnaghey Primary School.

Alderman Rankin congratulated staff within the Environmental Health Department on both this scheme and National Food Safety Week 2006.

The Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994: The Environmental Health Manager outlined that a fixed penalty remained unpaid from a member of public who had been identified dropping litter from a vehicle at Drumsum Road and recommended that the matter be referred to Council's solicitor with the view to instigating legal proceedings for contravention of the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994. Agreed.

The Environmental Health Manager explained that following complaints, an investigation had taken place regarding accumulation of waste at the rear of a shop premises in Limavady. She said that the shop owner had been requested verbally and in writing to remove the waste material, however, an Officer observed that the waste was still present on 14 April 2006 and a fixed penalty had been served. She said that although the waste had since been removed, the fixed penalty remained unpaid and recommended that the matter be referred to Council's solicitor with the view to instigating legal proceedings for contravention of the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994. Agreed.

During the discussion members referred to newspaper reports/complaints regarding irresponsible littering and dog fouling in the Borough. A number of suggestions were made on how to highlight or alleviate the problem as follows:

- higher fines for those caught littering (Councillor Cubitt)
- proactive approach by elected representatives – start a campaign and patrol the streets with placards in an attempt to highlight the problem of littering and possibly to minimise future offences of dog foul (Councillor Brolly)
- general public play their part in reporting offenders (Alderman Robinson)
- staff on the beach be empowered to reprimand offenders (Alderman Mullan) and
- highlight to the electorate that valuable time and ratepayers money was spent collecting the rubbish thrown from cars (Councillor Carten).

The Environmental Health Manager confirmed that current fixed penalty fines were set at £50 and that the Dog Warden had a programme set up to cover areas where dog fouling were prevalent. She said Council had to think of costs if additional bins were to be supplied and suggested that if the general public witnessed and identified persons causing littering offences, to report these to the Environmental Health Department.

Technical Services Department:

The Technical Services Manager presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Butcher subject to the following:

Knife Amnesty: The Technical Service Manager clarified that the PSNI had providing a container to facilitate the knife amnesty in the Borough. He also clarified that this was a community led project and that Council had not been asked to publicise it or to empty the container.

Bus Shelter – Sheskin Park: The Technical Service Manager reported that a resident of Sheskin Park, Greysteel had complained of anti-social behaviour opposite her property and requested that the bus shelter be removed as it was no longer used by Translink or by the school bus. Members queried if there was criteria for supply of bus shelters and it was agreed that a survey would take place before any decision by Council on whether to remove the shelter.

Bus Shelter Surveys: The Technical Service Manager explained that surveys of bus shelters at Legavallon/Gelvin Road junction and Fincairn showed low usage

and recommended that Council no longer provide shelters at these locations. Members questioned if Council had a policy on usage numbers and suggested that the Technical Service Manager re-look at shelter usage in both locations. Agreed.

Swanns Bridge: It was agreed that Council would accept the quotation received from Master Thatchers for repair of the Swann's Bridge picnic area roof at a cost of £1,490+VAT. Members suggested that wire be used to deter birds from using the thatch for nesting.

Waste Management: The Technical Service Manager advised that City Industrial Waste were increasing costs from £38.00 per tonne to £51.40 per tonne and that this increase was due to the closure of Culmore Landfill Site and disposal of the residual waste to Craighahullier Landfill Site in Coleraine, plus an increase of £1.20 Landfill Tax.

There was a general consensus that the increase was excessive and members queried if Council had a tendering process for the contract. The Technical Service Manager explained that City Industrial Waste were one of a limited number of contractors who provided such a service and that Council had an informal arrangement with them.

Alderman Robinson said this was diabolical and suggested that Council investigate alternative options. Councillor Broly suggested that elected members and officers visit Maherfelt Recycling Yard as this would give insight into how waste would be sorted at Council's proposed new recycling yard. Agreed.

It was also agreed that Council would be provided with a breakdown of figures for City Industrial Waste's proposed cost increase.

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

Health & Safety Conference – Together We'll Make it Better: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Carten that 2 officers from the Environmental Health Department would attend the above conference to be held Stormont Hotel, Belfast on 24 May 2006 at a cost of £100 per person.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Presentation to Council: The chair informed members that Roads Service would present their Spring Consultation Report to Council at the next Monthly meeting.

Letter of Sympathy: It was agreed that a letter of condolence would be forwarded to the family of Sammy Allen, an ex employee of Council who had died the previous week.

Tesco Expansion: Councillor Cubitt congratulated the contractor involved in the Tesco expansion and said the work had been completed without any major hold up to the roads.

Request for Review of Dangerous Dogs Legislation: The Environmental Health Manager tabled letter from Miss Anne Moorhead in which she requested that Council write to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to seek a

urgent review of the Dangerous Dogs legislation in Northern Ireland, with the intention of severely curtailing or stopping the vile and cruel sport of dog fighting in the Province. Agreed.

Spring Clean Up: Councillor Carten congratulated staff on the spring clean campaign and Alderman Robinson said a number of residents in Ballykelly had complained about not being notified of the service. Noted.

Brown Bin - Compositing: Councillor Ó hOisín referred to the uptake in brown compositing bins and said that Donegal Council were selling their compositing bins at a price that was much lower than the £22 charged by Council. He suggested that the tendering process be reviewed.

NEXT MEETING: -20 June 2006.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.30 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting