

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**17 NOVEMBER 2009**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.50 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Environmental Services, Operations Manager, Waste Services Manager and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - None.

**CONSARC – CIVIC CENTRE QUARTERLY REPORT:**

The Chair welcomed Sarah Villiers, Consarc to the meeting.

Ms Villiers explained that the form of the Civic Centre building was now taking shape both externally & internally and that external work included pavement works at the entrance into the Town Square; removal/storage of the water trough and putting in place an NIE substation to facilitate the new electrical supply for the building. She said that the stonework on the façade had been cleaned and the scaffolding would be removed once the stone restoration work had been completed.

Ms Villiers outlined that the Town Hall Clock would be partially restored, works to close in the building form had been progressed over the last three months and the contractor was now close to completing the roof finishes. She said that the external windows were being installed and the retractable seating was being reviewed from original specification. She added that the next month would see the building drying out before final floor finishes could be applied, including doors and associated joinery work and the scaffolding would start to come down as works were completed to certain areas of the building.

Ms Villiers confirmed that the drinking trough had not been damaged when it had been put into storage and that a place had been reserved in the Town Square for the Danny Boy Sculpture.

Members welcomed that pupils from local post primary schools were visiting the building and that the name Alexander Memorial Hall would be retained beside the clock. Ms Villiers agreed to make contact with the Youth Council and to take on board members comments on the retractable seating.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 20 October 2009 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

**MATTERS ARISING:** - None.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – NOVEMBER 2009:*****Building Control Department:***

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Building Control Report which detailed applications approved and issued between 1 and 31 October 2009; Entertainment Licences Issued; Licence for Petroleum Spirit Storage Installations; Street Naming; Issue of Property Certificates and Facilities Management & Energy Management Report. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Butcher subject to the following:

**Building Regulation Charges for Energy Efficiency Improvements:** The Director Environmental Services explained that the work of installing over-ceiling insulation was subject to control under the Building Regulations and a Building Regulation Fee of £60 was chargeable. He said that the Energy Saving Trust NI had expressed concern that the requirement to pay a Building Regulation fee may act as a disincentive for householders to take up financial assistance available to install or upgrade cavity wall and loft insulation.

Legal advice obtained by both Derry and Belfast City Councils concluded that it was legally possible for a Council in the exercise of its statutory discretion in administration of the Building Regulations 1997, to exempt works on roof space insulation from fees if done in a reasonable and consistent way. In light of this it was agreed that Council would resolve to exempt the work of upgrading loft insulation from Building Regulation fees until May 2011 when the matter would be reviewed.

**Property Inspections:** The Director Environmental Services reported that Land & Property Services had asked whether Council would be willing and able to carry out vacancy inspections on non-domestic properties for maximum early impact, but unlike the previous exercise carried out by Council; Land & Property Services would not be in a position to fund the inspections. He said in reviewing the request, Building Control were willing to commit to the project in principle, however, further discussions needed to take place to ensure that there were sufficient resources available to carry out the work to the satisfaction of Land & Property Services. Agreed.

***Environmental Health Department:***

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report which detailed information relating to Food Control, Licensing & Regulatory, Street Trading and Pollution Control. The recommendations were accepted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

**Emergency Financial Flood Assistance:** The Director Environmental Services reminded members that Article 26 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 makes provision for a Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance to district councils. He said following heavy rain in August 2009, Minister Potts had announced that the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance be re-activated. It was noted that during September and November 2009, officers had carried out two assessments of a dwellings under the scheme, which had flooded due to a partially collapsed sewer close to the dwelling and assistance had been approved. Members acknowledged the help and assistance given to the occupants during the flooding by Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, and officers and staff from Environmental Health & Technical Services Departments.

**Service of Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice:** It was agreed that offences witnessed by officers on 3 November at the Old Polish Bakery would be referred to Council's solicitor with a view to legal proceedings being taken against the business owner. The hard work of staff from both Environmental Health & Technical Services when the food had been removed from the premises was acknowledged.

***Technical Services Department:***

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The items for information were noted and the report and recommendations were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

**Backburn Park:** Members were informed that £30k had been spent on repair work associated with vandalism at Backburn Playpark. In the discussion which followed members debated if the park was situated in the right location and if the type of equipment used in play parks could be reviewed to possibly include less expensive wooden items. It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Robinson that officers would look at the possibility of higher fencing or to locking up the park after hours during the winter months and at weekends.

**Bus Shelter – Station Road:** The Director Environmental Services sought direction from Council on whether or not to proceed with provision of a bus shelter at Station Road, Dungiven. It was pointed out that a bus stop had been in Station Road for over 40 years and that a number of children who used the stop were from Ard-na-Smoll. It was agreed that the Director Environmental Services would contact Translink regarding the possibility of providing a bus stop at Ard-na-Smoll and to revisiting the original site.

**Enagh Cemetery:** The Director Environmental Services sought guidance from Council on finding a resolution to the problem of numerous floral displays and other items being placed on graves in the cemetery, which was contrary to Councils Cemetery Rules. Members were of the opinion that the rules were overly strict and it was suggested that these be changed to allow two items on each grave. It was also suggested that a letter would be forwarded to the grave owners to remind them of the cemetery rules. Agreed.

**Mini Pillars – Main Street, Dungiven:** Members were informed that DRD Roads Service had stipulated that mini pillars would have to be provided to the base of each tree in Main Street Dungiven in which Christmas lights were erected. He said that the cost of the works was estimated at £13,190.60 and that the work would be carried out by a Roads Service contractor within the next few weeks. Expenditure approved.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- ◆ It was suggested that Standing Orders be revised to state that meetings should not go on longer than 3 hours and that two presentations should not be allowed on back to back meetings.

**NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 15 December 2009

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 10.20 pm)**

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