

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**18 SEPTEMBER 2007**

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

**PRESENT:**

Aldermen G Mullan, J Rankin 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, Building Control Manager, Environmental Health Manager, Technical Service Manager and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - None.

**PRESENTATION BY CHIEF BUILDING CONTROL OFFICER:**

The chair welcomed Mr Robert White, Chief Building Control Officer to the meeting.

Mr White presented his Annual Building Control Report for the year 2006/07. He paid tribute to elected members who sat on the Northern Group Building Control Committee and said this was an outstanding example of cross-Council working.

Mr White referred to high work load of the five group Councils and how this was due to the unusually large number of applications received in November 2006 to avoid compliance with revised Building Regulations which came into effect at the end of that month. He also referred to performance indicators and said whilst performance standards were good and output levels maintained, Limavady and Ballymoney Building Control Departments had suffered from staff shortages, which had reduced overall performance outputs. He added that it was becoming increasingly evident that there would be a serious shortage of qualified and trained Building Officers over the next few years and the Northern Group Committee had agreed to the appointment of one Trainee Building Control Officer to be paid out of the Group budget.

Members noted that as in previous years, the Group Committee had been represented on a visit to study building control processes, building methods and sustainability issues in Lisbon, Portugal. The chair thanked Mr White for presenting his Annual Building Control Report to Council over the last 30 years.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 21 August 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Page 1 - Dangerous Structure – 6/8 Main Street, Limavady:** The Building Control Manager clarified that whilst EHS and Planning Service had their own remit regarding demolition of the above building, issues in relation to Council had been resolved.

**Page 4 – Repair of Railing at the War Memorial:** The Chief Executive confirmed that although Council did not own the War Memorial, staff had traditionally carried out maintenance work at the site and requested that Council give direction on whether to proceed with repair to the railing at the memorial site.

Councillor Stevenson proposed, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Council progress with repair works at the site and that a list of lands which Council maintained but not necessarily own be compiled for member's information. There were no objections to the proposal.

**Page 4 – Toilet Block at Ballykelly:** Members noted that the planning application to locate toilets beside Tommy's Chipshop had been withdrawn.

**Page 4 – Members Mobile Phones:** Members welcomed that mobile phones with Bluetooth capacity would be made available to members.

**Page 4 – Provision of Bins:** Members noted that Church Halls were same as commercial property in relation to provision of large bins.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – SEPTEMBER 2007:*****Building Control Department:***

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

**Entertainment Licensing Opening Hours:** Members noted that the decision by Council to refuse two requests for extended licensing hours to 2 am was being appealed.

**Foyle Ferry Terminal Signs:** It was suggested that the press should highlight that signs were now operational to indicate whether Foyle Ferry service was running normally.

**Council Depot:** Members welcomed that CCTV was to be installed at Council depot by BL Security. The Technical Service Manager agreed to report back to Council on how the CCTV system would be monitored.

***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 Councillor Cubitt subject to the following:

**The Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 - Breach of Article 9 at Public Bar:** A report was given on a public bar which had a smoking shelter at its premises which did not meet the requirements when inspected by Environmental Health Officers on 5 May 2007. The situation had warranted a recommendation for legal action but the works required had now been carried out and no further action was recommended.

**Bye-Law Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in a Designated Place:** The Environmental Health Manager reported that an incident occurred in Main Street Limavady on 20 June 2007 when a male person was observed drinking in public. She said the incident represented a contravention of Councils' bye-laws and recommended that details of the matter be referred to Council's solicitor with a view to legal proceeding being taken against the person identified. Agreed.

The need to be consistent in enforcement of the bylaws on all occasions, for example during festivals or parades was raised by some members.

***Technical Services Department:***

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

**Drumaduff Civic Amenity Site:** The Technical Service Manager sought direction from members on options identified in relation in Drumaduff Civic Amenity Site as follows:

1. carry out all works requested by EHS and reopen the civic amenity site as soon as possible at an estimated cost of £50K
2. await the Vesting of the Lands for the restoration Plan and amend the plan to include a proper modern new amenity site at Drumaduff at a estimated cost of £200K
3. close the site formally and cease to operate a civic amenity site at Drumaduff.

The Chief Executive stated that Helm Corporation, who had been commissioned to review issues relating to Drumaduff had recently highlighted that there was a legal issue in relation to ownership of the land.

It was agreed that Council would await the outcome of the Internal Audit Report before making a decision on the future of the site.

**Ballyquin Road Depot – Transfer to Aghanloo:** The Technical Service Manager indicated that if Council wished to transfer the Ballyquin Road Depot to Aghanloo, it was advised that given the costs involved that a full economic appraisal by prepared by appropriate consultants to enable a more accurate appraisal of the proposal. He said that alternatively, a feasibility study was being compiled by officers on possible ways to enhance and develop the current site at Ballyquin Road. It was agreed that RPS would assist with the feasibility study.

**Drumaduff Landfill Site:** The Technical Service Manager explained that EHS had requested a meeting to discuss issues for the landfill restoration plan and had also advised the application to vest could not proceed until the issues within the plan were resolved. Noted.

The Technical Service Manager informed members that officers had inspected the lands adjoining Terrydremond Road and advised that it was likely that fencing could be fitted, however given the comments made earlier by the Chief Executive regarding the Internal Audit Report, it was agreed that decision would be deferred until the outcome of the report and recommendations were known.

**Waste Management Capital Grant:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Council would seek to purchase one 26 tonne vehicle for brown bin collection and that the balance of the capital grant would be used to purchase a 32 tonne rear end loader at a total cost of £142,000 to be used to service Councils existing civic amenity sites. It was confirmed that this was subject to EHS approval.

**Civic Amenity Waste Treatment:** Members were informed that Councils' contract with City Industrial Waste for delivery and sort of mixed waste had expired at the end of August 2007. It was agreed that decision on details of renewal of contract would be deferred for one month but in the meantime, the Technical Service Manager would contact the company regarding continuation of last years contract on a goodwill basis.

It was proposed that members jointly visit BricKkiln and City Industrial Waste to view the facilities. Agreed.

**Greysteel Community Centre Play Area – Tender Evaluation:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that the tender submitted by Playdale Playgrounds for play equipment at Greysteel play area at a cost of £69,948 be accepted.

***Queries/Comments made outside the Reports:***

- Councillor Ó hOisín requested that officers look at the new play area at Curragh Road which had been damaged by fire.
- Councillor Carten suggested that primary schools be targeted in an attempt to curtail underage smoking.
- A query arose if the erection of Christmas trees, lights and associated decorations had been put out to tender. The Technical Services agreed to investigate this.

**TABLED FOR INFORMATION:**

- Memorandum from Chief Executives Administration Office to advise members of time/date for Planning Service office meetings.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Special Meeting – Civic Centre:** It was agreed that a special monthly meeting would be held on Thursday 27 September 2007 to discuss the proposed Civic Centre.

**Giants Causeway Visitor Centre:** The Mayor Councillor Stevenson proposed and Alderman Rankin seconded the following as set out within his pre-prepared statement:

*'Bearing in mind that just this evening Minister Dodds has made another statement adding further confusion to the Giants Causeway saga. Chairman, this Council contributes considerably to the North Coast development (Causeway Museum Service, Causeway Coast and Glens etc) and reopening the unease within the wider community, I would like to propose that this Council is opposed to and formally asks Minister Foster why she is minded to take the proposed centre development at the Giants Causeway out of the public domain and grant it to a private developer, who is a member of her own party.'*

*Since this issue has come to the attention of the public, we have had senior members of our fledgling government trying to explain their actions but only succeeded in creating more confusion and suspicion. It is of the utmost importance that if this Assembly is to succeed, that the highest standards of probity be adhered to.*

*It has also been suggested that that if this development is taken out of the control of the National Trust and UNESCO, it could well lose its status as a world heritage site. That is a risk that no-one could afford to take.'*

Alan Robinson explained that he had been lead to believe that there would be a meeting of minds on this issue and said that neither he nor Alderman Robinson would be taking part in any discussion. Noted.

**Request for Bins:** Councillor Cubitt requested that additional bins be provided in Ballykelly.

**Vandalism of Postboxes:** Alderman Mullan requested that the Chief Executive write to the Post Office regarding repair of postboxes which had been vandalised at Irish Green Street and at the Newton Bar.

**Civic Receptions:** It was agreed that a civic reception would be held for Derry under 16 Camogie team who had won the All Ireland Under 16 Championship. It was also agreed that a civic reception would be held for soldiers who were on leave in the Borough after serving in Afghanistan.

**Public Meeting – Dungiven By-Pass:** Members were reminded that DRD Roads Service was holding a public meeting in Dungiven Sports Pavilion on Wednesday 19 September 2007 with regard to the proposed by-pass.

**NEXT MEETING** – 16 October 2007.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.40 pm)**

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