

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

19 MAY 2009

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.15 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen G Mullan, J Rankin and G Robinson. Councillors P Butcher, M Carten, (chair), M Coyle, L Cubitt, B Douglas, 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:

Councillors A Brolly, B Chivers and M Donaghy.

CONSARC – CIVIC CENTRE QUARTERLY REPORT:

The Chair welcomed Mrs Sarah Villiers, Consarc to the meeting.

Mrs Villiers presented the first quarterly report to Council since Heron Brothers commenced work on the Multi Purpose Civic Centre. She outlined that initial activities included site set up; agreeing the layout for the site compound whilst taking particular cognisance of the agreement with Fold. She said that the foundations for the new centre were formed in April 2009 and work got underway to provide a safe footpath for access to Roe Fold. She added that ground beams and pile caps had been installed behind the façade and that the form of the building started to take shape when the steel frame for the walls and roof areas were installed.

Mrs Villiers stated that work on the underground drainage system was ongoing and that the precast floor slabs were due on site at the beginning of June. She said that the Design Team would have regular communication with Council through reports made by the Clerk of Works and team meetings.

Members welcomed that positive feedback had been received from the public on commencement of the project and to the fact that the project was progressing above schedule. It was suggested that the clock on the façade be retained and that the Danny Boy sculpture be located in an elevated position on the site.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 21 April 2009 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

MATTERS ARISING: - None.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – MAY 2009:

Building Control Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Building Control Report which detailed applications approved and issued in April 2009; Entertainment Licences Issues; applications for Entertainment Licences and Facilities Management & Energy Management Report. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt subject to the following:

Street Naming & Property Numbering Policy: The Director Environmental Services explained that following discussion at the April 2009 Environmental Services meeting on application to rename the former Ministry of Defence dwellings at Walworth Drive & Wood Road and subsequent meeting between officers and the selling agent, a letter had been received from the agent requesting that the application be withdrawn and the fees refunded. He read the contents of the letter which outlined that no offence was intended in submitting the application nor was it intended that the site be used as a political football by elected representatives. Comments were noted.

Tendering for Electricity Supply: Council approved the installation of half hourly metering into Council Offices, Benone Tourist Complex and Roe Valley Leisure Centre at a cost of £309 per building. This will enable a profile of electricity usage to be compiled which was required to tender for electrical suppliers and will also show savings in usage that may be available.

Environmental Health Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report which detailed information relating to Health & Safety, Licensing & Regulatory; Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 and Pollution Control. The report and recommendations were accepted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

- It was confirmed that the Public Health Agency were taking the lead on information relating to the Swine Flu and that this included providing advice to schools.
- It was clarified that the Courts decided if a dog should be humanely destroyed following attack.
- It was suggested that elected representatives shadow the litter pickers to observe first hand the problem they faced in tackling littering. It was also suggested that if anyone observed an incident of littering to note the details and report it to Council.

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 Rankin subject to the following:

Dernaflaw Play Area: It was agreed to terminate the contract with Street Play as the company had failed to submit a programme of works and adhere to the start date given for provision of play area at Dernaflaw. It was also agreed that officers would investigate the possibility of retendering or having the work completed in house.

Public Toilets Ballykelly: It was agreed that elected members would be advised of date and time of meeting to resolve issues relation to provision of public toilets in Ballykelly.

Computerised Risk Assessment: The Director Environmental Services outlined that it had been highlighted in a recent Health & Safety Audit that Council's risk assessments needed to be reviewed. He sought Council's permission to purchase a Computerised Risk Assessment System costing £3,000 that would identify the need for a risk assessment; log the assessment, who was involved and inform the users of review dates. Agreed.

Addendum – Contract with Glassdon Waste: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Rankin that the contract with Glassdon Waste be extended for two years up to March 2011.

PROCESS FOR NOMINATIONS AT THE AGM:

Members were reminded that the May 2009 Chief Executive's Report contained a recommendation that should Council decide to use d'Hondt to select the positions of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and committee chairs for the last two years of the Council, that the methodology used should be based upon the Assembly method, adjusted to reflect current party strength. Members were also advised that in the recent DOE consultation on the "The Establishment of Transition Committees in Statute" three methods of nomination had been suggested, including d'Hondt based on the Assembly methodology. Given the different approaches available, direction was sought from Council to enable the AGM to proceed with a clear understanding of how the remaining positions were to be filled.

Alderman Robinson proposed as a gesture of goodwill towards the Unionist community, that for the next two years Limavady Borough Council suspend the d'Hondt system and revert back to a power sharing agreement, i.e. first year Unionist Mayor, Nationalist Deputy Mayor and second year Nationalist Mayor and Unionist Deputy Mayor. He also proposed that each of the committee's should operate joint chairmanships on a monthly basis, i.e. Nationalist/Unionist or vice versa and that these be nominated at the AGM on 1 June 2009 by each of the political parties. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Cubitt and supported by Councillor Stevenson, Alderman Rankin, Councillor Douglas and Councillor Robinson.

Councillor Coyle said the proposal was a step back and in his opinion d'Hondt had worked well by giving the smaller parties the chance of a seat. Councillor Ó hOisín agreed and said each party were entitled to their democratic mandate for the next two years. Councillor Coyle put forward an amendment that for the 2009 AGM the d'Hondt method as used within the Assembly would be used adjusted to reflect current party strength to select the positions of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and committee chairs for the last two years of Council. Alderman Mullan seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put to the meeting and declared carried, 6 for, 6 against, with the chair using his casting vote in favour of the amendment. The substantive motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, 6 for, 6 against and the chair again used his casting vote in favour of the motion.

Councillor Stevenson and Alderman Rankin requested that it be noted that they strongly object to the use of d'Hondt at the AGM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Response to Consultations: It was agreed that response to the consultation documents 'Establishment of Transition Committees in Statute and 'Severance Arrangements for Councillors' would be discussed at the June 2009 Monthly meeting of Council.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 16 June 2009

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

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting