

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
19 JUNE 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 Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas (chair), J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and Director of Environmental Services.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Carten and Councillor Chivers.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON:

The Mayor took the chair and sought nomination for the appointment of chair for the year 2007/08. Members were reminded that it had been agreed that UUC would chair this committee.

Councillor Douglas was nominated on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

Councillor Douglas took the chair and thanked members for the nomination.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 15 May 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

CONGRATULATIONS:

It was agreed that a letter of congratulations would be forwarded to Glen Reilly who had been awarded the Royal Air Force award for 'Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School.' Appreciation was expressed for his dedication and contribution to education and to his co-operation with other schools within the Borough.

MATTERS ARISING:

The following updates on matters arising were welcomed by members:

- *Magilligan Play Park – work to install play equipment would be completed in 4 – 6 weeks.*

- *Dungiven Civic Amenity Site – the additional few metres of road required to gain access to the proposed Civic Amenity Site at Hass Road had been drawn up and forwarded to the District Valuator and the land owners had also been informed.*

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – JUNE 2007:

Building Control Department:

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

Dangerous Structure – 6-8 Main Street Limavady: The Director of Environmental Services outlined that a fire had caused potential damage to the above premises on 15 May 2007 and after inspection by Building Control Officers, it was evident that the condition of the building presented potential danger to persons using the street or footpath at the front of the building. He said that under Section 30 Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907, a Dangerous Structure Notice had been served on the owner requiring him to take steps to make the building safe and to prevent danger to persons using the street or footpath, which had been complied with. He added that subsequently to this, EHS had confirmed that the building was a listed building, therefore could not be demolished and any work to be carried out would require prior approval by Planning Service/EHS.

Members noted that based on advice forwarded by EHS, the owner had been informed of a number of remedial works that may be undertaken to further improve the stability of the building and allow for re-opening of the entry between the building and the Court House. It had also been made clear to the owner that no work should be carried out until approval to proceed had been obtained from EHS.

Request to Erect Bi-Lingual Street Nameplates: Following consultation it was agreed that a bilingual street nameplates would be erected in English and in Irish at Sawel Place / Plás Samhail, Dungiven.

Approved Places for Civil Marriages Partnerships: It was agreed that Drenagh Farms Ltd would be approved as a venue for Civil Marriages/Partnerships.

Environmental Health Department:

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

Businesses Given Advice on the Supply of Safe Foods: It was noted that the ‘Don’t Change It’ guide produced by the Consumer Protection Sub-Group on supply of safe goods had been sent to all relevant businesses in the Borough and was also available from Councils Environmental Health Department.

Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: The Director of Environmental Services explained that The Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order (PTO) came into effect on 1 April 2007, which aimed to improve the conditions in private rented housing primarily by requiring pre-1945 dwellings that were re-let after 1 April to have a Fitness Certificate issued by District Councils. He outlined the main features of the new legislation and said two of Council's Environmental Health Officers had participated in initial PTO training. Welcomed.

Home Safety Update: The Director of Environmental Services reminded members since December 2006 due to reduction in funding, Limavady Borough Council Home Safety Officer had been shared with Strabane District Council on the basis of the officer working two days with each Council. He said following recent discussions, it was now proposed to increase the working days to five, again split 3 days/2 days per week with each Council.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Brolly that the increased working arrangement would be introduced from 1 July 2007 until 31 March 2008 when the arrangement would be reviewed.

Inter-Authority Monitoring Report on the Food Law Enforcement Service: Members congratulated staff within Environmental Health Department on the high standard achieved in the inter-authority audit of the Food Law Enforcement Service carried out by Western Group officers on behalf of Northern Ireland Food Liaison Group.

Pollution Control: The Director of Development outlined details of fixed penalties issued for littering, depositing of waste and dog fouling. He said that additional litter bins would be provided in Chapel Road/Curragh Road, Dungiven and Edenmore Road/Rathmore Road, Limavady.

Technical Services Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín subject to the following:

Compact Sweeper: The tender submitted by A Miller for a two year contract hire of a compact sweeper in the sum of £280 per week was approved.

Maintenance and Repair of Council Owned Vehicles: It was agreed that tender received from A Miller in the sum of £5114.01 for maintenance and repair of Council owned vehicles would be accepted.

Greysteel Community Centre - Play Area : Approval was given to locate a new play area on Council owned land at Greysteel Community Centre.

Proposed Play Area at Dernaflaw, Dungiven: The Director of Environmental reported that in February 2005 Council had sold lands at Dernaflaw to Mr Colm McNicholl for the purpose of a housing development and as part of that sale agreement Mr McNicholl was required within six months of commencement of his development to make available to Council an agreed portion of land on which Council would then install a play area and that portion of land and associated play

area would revert to Council's ownership as would all future care and maintenance. He added that in December 2003, Mr McNicholl had lodged an application with Planning Service for the erection of dwellings and as planning approval has not yet been granted, the said lands works on site by the purchaser could not commence and therefore the Council could not proceed with the provision of the play area as agreed.

In the discussion which followed, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Brolly that the Senior Management Team would review the Dernaflaw situation before bringing back a recommendation on how the matter could be progressed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Loan Sanction Approval – Civic Centre: Members welcomed that Loan Sanction Approval had been granted for the new Civic Centre and that Council's consultants could now proceed to tender.

Housing Executive Lands at Oughtymoyle: Members were informed that the Housing Executive had requested that an area of the kickabout pitch at Oughtymoyle (Bellarena) be surrendered back to them. It was agreed that the request would be discussed at the Monthly meeting but in the meantime, the Housing Executive would be asked to clarify what the land would be used for.

Requests for Litter Bins: Additional litter bins were requested for Benone Beach.

Removal of Tree – Dungiven Castle: It was suggested that a sturdy tree be planted to replace the tree which had had been to be removed from Dungiven Castle by a Tree Surgeon.

Toilets – Ballykelly: An update on provision of toilets in Ballykelly was requested for the August 2007 Environmental Services meeting.

Replacement of Seating in Council Chamber: It was suggested that the seating within the Council Chamber be repaired or replaced.

Letter of Support: It was agreed that a letter of support and sympathy would be forwarded to Rev Brian Harper who was liaising with the families of the three teenagers who had committed suicide in Co. Armagh.

Greysteel Glen: In response to Councillor McElhinney, the Director of Environmental Services explained that Council had no plans to fill in Greysteel Glen.

Drumaduff Dump – Update: The Director of Environmental Services provided historical background details on use of lands at Drumaduff Dump and decisions taken by Council in 2003 to close the dump and acquire the lands by compulsory purchase (Vesting Order). He said that over the years a number of subsequent decisions had been agreed on progressing the vesting process but having reviewed the paperwork, it was not conclusively clear what had happened to the application. He reported that he had great difficulty in obtaining information from EHS on progress and recommended that Council consider making a fresh application for compulsory purchase of the lands. He also recommended that given advances in technology that Kirk McClure & Morton review the closure plan carried out in 2004/05.

In the discussion that followed a number of comments were made expressing unhappiness with regard to the handling of the process. Concern was also expressed at the topic being raised under Any Other Business, especially at such a late hour in the meeting.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that a plan of events and decisions taken by Council be compiled for discussion at a Special Meeting of Council to take place at the earliest possible convenience.

Comments made on Local Radio: Councillor Douglas requested that the Director of Development clarify if irregular issues had been discussed at the June 2007 Development Services meeting as was recently commented on in a local radio programme.

NEXT MEETING – 21 August 2007.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.05 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting