

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
19 JUNE 2012**

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

PRESENT:

Aldermen M Coyle, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, B Douglas, D Nicholl, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey (Chair), C McLaughlin, G Mullan, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Development and the Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES: - None.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Chivers that Councillor McGlinchey would chair the Development Services Committee for the year 2012/13.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 8 May 2012 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor McCaul.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 1 – Peace III Partnership: Members were reminded that Limavady Borough Council still had the opportunity to nominate members to take part in the Leadership in a Shared Society Project. Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor McCaul and Councillor Beattie would take part in the project.

MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING MLA's & COUNCILLORS:

The minutes of joint meeting between MLA's & Councillors held 3 May 2012 were tabled and noted. It was suggested that a cross party deputation of councillors meet with the Minister to discuss job creation in the Borough. The Chief Executive indicated that members needed to decide which Minister to meet and specific concerns to be raised.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT – JUNE 2012:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for June 2012 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor McCaul subject to the following:

200th Anniversary Martello Tower: It was agreed that Council would work in partnership with Northern Ireland Environment Agency in celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Martello Tower from 6th to 8th July by providing musicians, hospitality for invited guests and a park and ride service for Saturday 7th July 2012.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre Sponsored Walk 21st July 2012 – Benone Strand: Council approved the request to hold a sponsored walk at Benone Strand on the 21st July 2012 subject to appropriate risk assessment and discussion with Council staff being undertaken.

Exploration of Partnership Working with Forest Service: It was recommended that Council would make a formal approach to the Chief Executive of Forest Service expressing an interest in establishing a working partnership to further develop outdoor recreation provision in the Limavady Borough and explore any available funding opportunity. Agreed and welcomed by members.

Capital Projects: The Director of Development recommended that Council take forward the following capital projects over the coming months:

- **Dungiven:** Commission a feasibility study/green book economic/options appraisal which would consider the current level of provision of community/indoor/outdoor recreation provision available for the Dungiven and surrounding area. Options would include upgrading of existing facilities, rebuild on current footprint and consideration of alternative sites which would encompass all recreation facilities within one complex.
- **Burnfoot:** Appoint architects to provide an overall plan for outdoor recreation facilities at Burnfoot taking into account the proposals identified within Burnfoot Village Regeneration Plan, draw up the specification for the new pavilion, oversee the tendering process and delivery of the project.
- **Benone Tourist Complex and Beach:** Commission a feasibility study/green book/economic appraisal which would look at the current provision of facilities at Benone Tourist Complex and provide Council with a development plan for the overall area.
- **Roe Valley Leisure Centre – Upgrading of Health Suite:** Appoint architects to take forward plans to upgrade the existing Health Suite. To include investigation of current damp problems, improvements to changing areas, drawing up the specification for refurbishment works, oversee the tendering process and delivery of the project.

It was agreed that Council would proceed with the projects in line with the guidelines set out within Council's Procurement Policy.

Roe Valley Arts & Heritage Committee: Council approved financial support to Roe Valley Arts & Heritage in the sum of £2,000 for the promotion of Arts & Heritage in the Borough and £2,000 for the small grants programme for 2012/13 financial year. It was noted that the funds had been allowed for in the annual budgets.

Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Plan 'Growing Tourism Together' and Action Plan 2012-2017: Council approved the Draft Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Plan and Action Plan for 2012-17.

Acquisition of Land at Rannyglass & Ard Na Smoll: The Director of Development explained that discussions were ongoing between the NIHE, Benbradagh Community Support and Council regarding the possibility of Council acquiring two small areas of land from the NIHE for community benefit. It was agreed that Council would progress with the acquisition of land at Rannyglass and Ard-na-Smoll in Dungiven for community use.

Rural Development - Applicant Assistance for Current Round: The Director of Development reminded members that Council receives a hosting cost from the Rural Development Programme which amounted to around £12,000 per annum. She said the programme was currently open for applications and that a successful information evening had been held on 30 May 2012, with around 50 people attending. She added that feedback had suggested a requirement for follow up assistance for those wishing to submit applications. It was recommended that £1,500 be set aside from the hosting costs provided by the programme to allow for workshops to take place, with quotes sought to achieve value for money. Agreed.

World Host Customer Service Training: Members were informed that the North West Regional College Limavady Campus was holding two days of World Host Retail Training for local businesses. She said the cost per delegate was normally £190, however, subvention from the Department for Employment & Learning meant that the fee was reduced to £25. She added that funding had been put by in this year's Economic Development budget to cover the £25 fee making it free for local businesses. It was agreed that Council would make up to £375 available from its current budget to cover delegate costs for the training expected to be delivered in June 2012.

Supporting Winners Programme: The Director of Development reminded members that Council had set aside £21,000 for a small business start programme. She said that the Supporting Winners Programme would target a minimum of 20 participants over a 9 month period and entail intensive one to one mentoring, with specialist training provided through the local college. It was agreed that Council and Roe Valley Enterprises proceed with the direction of this programme and commence roll out in June/July once a final programme and selection criteria were in place.

Economic Development Grants: It was agreed that North West Life Long Learning and Benbradagh Community Support would be allocated grants under the Economic Development programme at £1,000 and £1,500 respectively.

Community Support Programme – Grant Assistance from Advice Services: It was agreed that funding applications for advice services would be approved in the sum of £40,000 for LCDI and £15,000 for Glenshane Community Development.

Good Relations Grants: The Director of Development recommended that the five applications meeting the criteria for Good Relations Grants be approved subject to the grants being amended to reflect decreases in over-costing of refreshments and entertainment. Agreed.

Community Development – Future Provision of Advice Services: The Director of Development circulated an executive summary of a report undertaken by Williamson Consulting on future provision of advice services by the cluster councils of Coleraine, Ballymoney, Limavady and Moyle. She said that following analysis of the options considered, it was concluded that a compromise between Options 4 and 5 would provide the best possible situation at present. She added that in the long term the four councils would be working together under new RPA boundaries it that it made sense for advice services to be provided in a way which involved a reduced administrative burden for the councils. To this end the long term objective would be a single public tender which would seek to get the best possible outcome for council & advice service users. This was likely to involve more than one advice provider working collectively as a consortium or a similar structure.

Members indicated that they would like a copy of the full report and additional time to consider its contents before agreeing on a preferred option. Agreed.

Bonfire Cage Scheme: The Director of Development reminded members that in 2011 the Good Relations Officer made provision for the purchase of a bonfire cage and incentive scheme. She said that Roe Valley Residents Association had expressed an interest in making use of the scheme for this year's 11th Night Celebrations. It was agreed that Council would made the bonfire cage available to the group as a pilot project and awards the incentive based on meeting the criteria which would be monitored by the Safer Bonfire Subgroup.

In response to a member the Director of Development advised that the cage could be used throughout the year and that if other groups were interested, an additional cage could be purchased. Queries were also raised in relation to location of cage; insurance cover; liability in the event of an accident; impact on funding available to Roe Valley Residents if another bonfire was lit on ground opposite the pitch and clear up after the event. It was agreed that the Director of Development would follow up on the queries. It was suggested that concerns on tyres being burned would be raised at the Environment Services committee meeting.

Social Investment Fund: The Director of Development referred to decision by the Executive in March 2011 on the establishment of the Social Investment Fund and subsequent decision for monies totalling £80 million over a four year period to be allocated to the budget. She said that following consultation the following had been agreed:

- Limavady would form part of a cluster with Strabane, Omagh & Fermanagh
- The steering committee for each cluster area would have 14 members (4 political, 4 statutory, 4 community and voluntary and 2 from business community)
- The funding of £80 million would be 50% capital and 50% revenue grant
- No allocation has been made to each cluster and funding would be based on a resultant strategic plan for each cluster area.

It was agreed that Council officers would continue to engage with the programme where possible. It was also suggested that contact be made with relevant officers in other councils for initial discussion.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre: The Director of Development advised that following on from installation of the new showers, Roe Valley Leisure Centre continued to experience problems with hard water, heat pump, hot water pumps, absence of strainers on incoming mains water supply, valves, circulation pumps and other faults. She said it had reached a stage where investment was needed to mitigate against a critical situation arising within the Leisure Centre. It was agreed that a detailed specialist report would be commissioned which would address hard water and provide a comprehensive report and recommendation on actions & costs associated with addressing the current issues.

Notice of Application for the Transfer of a Licence: Council had no objection to the application for transfer of a licence from Geraldine Margaret Kelly for the premises at Foyleview Bar to Jennie O'Neill.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF DUP:

Councillor Robinson proposed:

‘That this Council is extremely concerned at Prison Service proposals, which if carried out regarding Magilligan Prison would mean over 400 jobs in the local economy being lost and up to £10 million per year being lost on local goods and services, and along with the previous loss of 1,000 jobs at Seagate, Council now presents a totally united front to preserve existing employment prospects while developing others to work alongside them for the future.’

Councillor Robinson stated that the prison closure would have a devastating effect on the economy of the Borough, which in recent times had lost several large employers. He said the majority of the prison staff lived in the Borough or in neighbouring Councils and if the job losses had occurred in Belfast there would have been utter outrage. He added that as the Borough was also set to lose the Courthouse & Dungiven Police Station, Council needed to let the Minister know that to sit back and do nothing would lead to local constituents becoming unemployed and making conditions difficult for businesses. He added that Council should stand united in calling for the retention of the prison as to do otherwise was lending support to the Ministers argument for the site closure.

Councillor McCorkell outlined his concerns on the long term retention of the prison and said his colleague Alderman Robinson in his capacity as MLA had led the charge when the matter was brought before Stormont in his Adjournment Debate. He said the Prison had been allowed to run down by Direct Rule Ministers, however the fact that it had continuously performed to a high standard and recognised as the best functioning establishments in the Prison Estate was testimony to the hard work and dedication of the Prison Officers who now face an uncertain future. He added that the arguments for the prison closure were short sighted and a Belfast biased view. He concluded that Minister Ford should take on board the alternative suggestion to develop Magilligan for a new purpose of holding long term sentenced prisoners who were currently in Maghaberry and seconded the proposal.

Alderman Robinson highlighted that the argument that there would be no economic impact if the prison closed could not be taken seriously and that he did not agree with the Minister Ford's comments that moving a facility from A to B would not be wiping out jobs or decimating the economy. He said that as the large site at Magilligan was owned by the Prison Service, savings could be made as there was no need to purchase a new site and the redevelopment would also create much needed construction jobs. He added that the redevelopment could go ahead while still using the current accommodation, thus saving thousands of taxpayer's money on a free and secure site.

Councillor Brolly indicated that it would be remiss of Sinn Féin not to say that the Prison Service needed to be restructured and that you only had to look at the ratio between staff & prisoners to see that reform was needed to get value for money. She said that despite this, the motion would be supported by Sinn Féin as a new prison was needed.

Alderman Coyle gave his support to the motion and said that the prisoners had added to the Borough when they had been asked to work for organisation such as USPCA. He said he would envisage a problem dismantling the prison wall which was made of reinforced concrete.

Councillor Douglas also lent his support to the motion but warned that it would be hard to change the Ministers mind on this issue.

The motion was carried unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Beacon: It was agreed that the beacon would be relit at Gortmore and that other entertainment should be provided. In addition it was agreed that an Ulster Scots themed event would be held in Drumceatt Square.

Danny Boy Festival: Concern was raised at the content of the Danny Boy Festival Programme and it was suggested that it was drifting away from the original concept. The Director of Development said she would discuss programme content with officers.

Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró: The Director of Development confirmed that costs associated with playing Danny Boy each day from the centre were being investigated. It was also suggested that additional Country & Western events should be held in the centre and if possible for the Hugo Duncan road-show to broadcast from Drumceatt Square.

Presentation to Council: It was agreed that Simply Power would present to Council at the August 2012 Planning & Services meeting on wind farm proposals.

Armed Forces Day: The Chief Executive agreed to investigate if correspondence had been received with regard to marking Armed Forces Day.

Retirement: It was suggested that a letter of appreciation would be forwarded to Christine Conway on her retirement after working for 40 years in Limavady Grammar School.

Promotion of Health & Wellbeing – Libraries: It was suggested that Council should consider using local libraries as venues for events around Health & Wellbeing.

Champion Equality & Diversity: Alderman Coyle and the Head of Human Resources were nominated as Diversity Champions to the LGSC Equality and Diversity Group.

Workshop – City of Culture: It was agreed that the Chief Executive would arrange an information workshop with elected members in August 2012 to explore opportunities for Limavady which could arise throughout 2013 City of Culture events and celebrations.

NEXT MEETING – 14 August 2012

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.15 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting