

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**20 MAY 2008**

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, L Cubitt, M. Coyle, B. Chivers, M. Donaghy, B. Douglas (in the Chair), J. F. McElhinney, C. Ó hOisín, A. Robinson and E. Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Environmental Services, Building Control Manager, Acting Technical Services Manager and the Chief Executive.

**PRESENTATION BY NORTH WEST INDEPENDENT HOSPITAL:**

The Chair welcomed Mrs Elizabeth Dallas, Director of the North West Independent Hospital and Mrs Florence Sloan, Secretary of Friends of the Roe Valley Hospital to the meeting.

Mrs Dallas explained that the Roe Unit, located within the North West Independent Hospital was a purpose build wing containing 15 beds for continuing care patients from the Roe Valley area. She said the beds had been contracted with the Western Health & Social Care Trust since the closure of the Roe Valley Hospital in 1998 but the hospital had now been informed that there would be no further admissions to the unit under continuing care and that this would have a detrimental impact to the care of older people within the Borough.

Mrs Dallas pointed out that no consultation had taken place with local GP's or with the Friends of the Roe Valley Hospital who had initially lobbied for the unit to be located within the Borough. She said the Trust proposed to re-design the current continuing care provision and commission 15 nursing home placements at the facility but the unit had not been designed for nursing care patients. Mrs Dallas and Mrs Sloan urged members to lobby for the unit to be retained for continuing care patients.

Members objected to the fact that no consultation had taken place and gave 100% backing for retention of the continuing care beds. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would write to the Western Health & Social Care Trust regarding the matter.

Councillor Stevenson entered the chamber at 7.20 pm.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 15 April 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

The following issues were discussed:

- ◆ Councillor Broly welcomed that works to clear the site for Dernaflaw playarea had taken place.
- ◆ A member indicated that Dungiven Community Hall had fallen into a poor state of repair. Council was informed that costings would be obtained for an Acoustic Consultant to assess the sound quality in the hall and this would be brought back to Council before any assessment would proceed. It was suggested that Council consult with Glenshane Community Association before any work would be carried out as this would have impact on the hall revenue.
- ◆ Concern was raised at poor sound quality in the hall at Roe Valley Leisure Centre during the Danny Boy Festival.
- ◆ Members objected to signs being ignored and to animal carcasses dumped opposite Faughanvale Bar.
- ◆ The Chief Executive informed members that a date for the Equality Commission to meet with Council was being finalised.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – APRIL 2008:*****Building Control Department:***

The Building Control Manager presented the Building Control report which detailed applications approved and issued in April; Entertainment Licences issued; application for grant of Entertainment Licence; Amusement Permit and Facilities Management & Energy Management Report which was approved subject to the following:

**Consultation – Proposed Change to Part D (Structure) and Part J (Solid Waste in Buildings):** The Building Control Manager informed members that the Department of Finance & Personnel had issued consultation documents on proposed changes to Parts D and Parts J of the Building Regulation (NI) 2000. He said he had reservations at the proposed changes for Part D - *that construction of freestanding garden walls over 1 metre in height and earth retaining walls situated on or within the boundary of a building plot should be controlled under Building Regulations*. He added that other proposed amendments to Part D related to design of buildings to prevent disproportionate collapse from a relatively minor structural failure were in line with current Codes of Practice and recommended acceptance of this part of the consultation document.

With regard to proposed changes to Part J – *space for the storage of waste containers outside buildings, provision of reasonable access from the storage area and provision of space in dwelling for household waste*, he said these were reasonable and recommended that Council support the introduction of the amended Regulation in principle. The recommendations were agreed.

**The Energy Performance of Buildings:** The Building Control Manager explained that the Department of Finance & Personnel had made a set of Regulations in relation to energy performance of buildings. He said the Building Regulations would be amended to require the builder or developer of all new buildings to provide an Energy Performance Certificate, which would remain valid for ten years and that this would mean Building Control would not be permitted to issue a Completion

Certificate for a building until a certificate was provided. He added that the Department was asking if Councils would agree to enforcement responsibilities being undertaken by Building Controls Departments in Northern Ireland.

It was agreed in principle for Building Control to undertake enforcement work in relation to the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificate and Inspections) Regulations (NI) 2008, subject to satisfactory arrangements being made with the Department of Finance and Personnel regarding payment for the work.

**Parking at Dungiven Sports Pavilion, Community Hall and Dungiven Health Centre:** To resolve the parking problems at the above shared car parking facility, it was agreed that the last user to leave the facility would lock the gates each evening/night and that the gates would be unlocked at 8 am each morning by staff from the Civic Amenity site.

The Chief Executive informed members that a meeting was being organised with the key stakeholders regarding the lack of parking spaces in Dungiven.

***Environmental Health Department:***

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report which detailed information in relation to Smoking (NI) Order 2006 Article 7 (5), Dogs (NI) Order 1983, Bye-Laws Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in a Designated Place, Street Trading Act (NI) 2001, Pollution Control and Local Government (NI) Order 1978 and Litter (NI) Order 1994. The report and recommendation were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

***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 Cubitt subject to the following:

**Drumaduff Landfill Site:** The Director of Environmental Services informed members that Council's Consultants RPS Consulting Engineers were continuing the necessary works to update and review the existing Restoration Plan for Council's former landfill site at Drumaduff. He said that initial investigations had identified the need for a Hydrogeological Risk Assessment and a Topographical Survey to be carried out at a cost of £26,987.50 + VAT. Retrospective approval was agreed for the expenditure and for the fixed fee of £24,000 for preparation of a revised Restoration Plan.

**Dungiven Civic Amenity Site:** The Chair welcomed residents from Bleach Green Lane who were seated in the viewing gallery.

The Director of Environmental Services provided overview of Council's attempts to acquire a suitable site for a Civic Amenity facility in Dungiven and the problems encountered over a 12 year period, including sites deemed unsuitable due to difficulties over access, planning considerations and ownership, which had led to Council making application for and obtaining approval for a Civic Amenity Site adjacent to Dungiven Sports Pavilion, accessed off the Bleach Green Lane. He said

that since January 2008 Council had been considering an alternative means of access to this approved site and that Roads Service had indicated that they would allow access to the site off Chapel road using the existing entrance to the Sports Pavilion/Health Centre.

The Director of Environmental Services summarised legislation regarding landfill targets and stressed the need to agree a site given EU deadlines and potential infractions to Council. He outlined 5 options for member's consideration. After considerable debate in which options 1, 2 and 3 were dismissed as being unsuitable Councillor Ó hOisín proposed, seconded by Councillor Coyle that option 5 be explored further. The Chief Executive indicated that he would be happy for officers to meet with representatives of the Bleach Green lane & other key stakeholders to discuss the issue of location of Civic Amenity Site and to look at options 4 and 5.

Members discussed the perception residents might have of smell, rodents and noise emanating from the Civic Amenity Site and it was suggested that the Bleach Green residents visit sites in Garvagh or Magherafelt to view operations there. A query arose in relation to the site being located outside the town limits and it was suggested that officers contact Coleraine Council regarding site located a mile outside Garvagh.

**Brown Bin Collection Scheme:** The Director of Environmental Services indicated that the first brown bin collection for garden waste would commence in week beginning 9 June 2008. He said that for the first time of collection Council would be mindful of contaminated waste but there after the bins must only be used for garden waste.

**Bus Shelters:** It was agreed that a survey would be carried out to establish the need for bus shelter at Main Street Ballykelly beside Texico filling station.

**Grounds Maintenance:** The problem of vandalism and over use by various groups was cited as the main reason for poor condition of Scroggy Road pitches and it was suggested that the pitches should be rested.

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN MULLAN:**

Alderman Mullan proposed:

‘That this Council formally recognises the historical, cultural and economic importance of townland names in the District.

That this Council formally initiates the process of replacing existing road signage with townland names and road names.

That this Council liaises with other councils that have already initiated this process to ensure best value for the project.’

Speaking in support for the motion, he stressed that townland names had played a vital role in the area for centuries and that entire legal documents were build around these. He said there would be costs associated with replacing the road signs and suggested that this be implemented through a phased approach. The motion was seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

Members spoke for and against adopting the motion in the discussion which followed. Councillor Robinson proposed an amendment that costings should be carried out and prices brought back to Council. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Cubitt and on being put to the meeting was declared lost, 5 voting for and 6 against.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting and a recorded vote requested. The motion was declared carried, with 7 voting for, namely Councillor Carten, Councillor Coyle, Alderman Mullan, Councillor Chivers, Councillor Donaghy, Councillor Broolly and Councillor Ó hOisín. Alderman Robinson, Councillor Robinson and Councillor Cubitt voted against and Councillor Douglas abstained from the vote.

It was agreed that officers would look at costs and sign designs in other Council areas.

**ACCIDENT REPORTING POLICY & PROCEDURES:**

The Accident Reporting Policy & Procedures were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

**CIWM 2008 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION:**

It was agreed that one officer would attend the CIWM Conference & Exhibition to be held 10 – 12 June 2008, Paignton, Devon at a cost of £735 for a full weeks attendance.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- ◆ It was agreed that a letter of sympathy would be forwarded to the family of Robert Dunlop on his untimely death.
- ◆ It was agreed that the AGM would take place on Tuesday 3 June at 7 pm, directly followed by the Support Services meeting.
- ◆ It was agreed that that Expressions of Interest would be forwarded to Local Government Staff Commission for a Director to assist with various officer work groups for RPA.

**NEXT MEETING** – 17 June 2008.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 10.00 pm)**

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