

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

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

22 MAY 2007

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

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor J F McElhinney

Aldermen G Mullan, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, L Cubitt, M Coyle, M Donaghy, B Douglas, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Corporate Policy Officer and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - None

NORTHERN IRELAND COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (NICCY):

The chair welcomed Patricia Lewsley, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children & Young People and Marlene Kinghan, Head of Communications & Participation.

Ms Lewsley gave a verbal presentation to Council informing members of the role of NICCY in protecting and safeguarding the rights and interests of children and young people.

Ms Lewsley outlined the powers & duties of NICCY, the priorities and main function of the commission office and recent reviews completed on issues such as asperser's syndrome, school transport and bullying.

Ms Lewsley and Ms Kinghan answered members comments in relation to seatbelts on school buses, children carrying heavy school bags, the need to work with ethnic families; suicide rates within young people and the impact of technology on society and how family values appeared to be lacking.

The chair thanked Ms Lewsley and Ms Kinghan for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 24 April 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Alderman Mullan.

MATTERS ARISING:

Members noted that following matters arising.

- **Closure of Roe Doc Services** – Western Health & Social Services Board would present to Council on the future of the Roe Doc service at the June 2007 Planning & Services Committee meeting.
- **Trawl for DPP Manager** – Alish McAtamney had been appointed as temporary DPP Manager.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT – MAY 2007:

Integrated Business Plan – End of Year Report for 2006/07: The Chief Executive presented the end of year scorecard report for Councils Integrated Business Plan 2006/07. He highlighted that 90% of the business objectives had been achieved and that the remaining 10% unachieved targets would be carried over to 2007/08. He said that the first quarterly report from the Integrated Business Plan would be produced for the August Monthly meeting.

Dungiven Castle Sub-Lease Request: *Councillor Butcher declared an interest in the topic under discussion and left the chamber.* The Chief Executive explained that Noel Martin, Director of Dungiven Castle Ltd had written to request lease of the garden, which includes the fountain at the front of the Castle. He said if Council were amenable to the request, interim permission was sought for patrons of the Castle to use the area and in return the Dungiven Castle Ltd would take on maintenance of the area, carry out fresh planting and enhance the overall appearance of the property.

Given that the area had been subject to vandalism and misuse, it was agreed that a sub-lease of 20 years for the garden would be granted and that the interim permission requested be given as outlined.. *Councillor Butcher returned to the meeting at this juncture.*

Emblems Working Group: The minutes of the Emblems Working Group dated 8 May 2007 were approved.

EQIA Report on Neutral Public Space Policy: Members referred to the above report and said additional time was needed to review the document. In the debate which followed it was agreed that discussion on the policy and EQIA report would be deferred until the June 2007 Monthly Council meeting.

Civic Centre Minutes: The Chief Executive drew member's attention to the key points set out within the minutes of the Civic Centre minutes dated 15 May 2007. Members noted that Colin Maxwell, Consarc had updated the committee on progress to date and had recommended that Council approved the revised pre-tender estimate figure of £3.7 million and proceed to tender stage. It was also noted that the Civic Centre Committee had been presented with a programme for completion of the project and amended plans to ensure that a 3 m wide buffer zone was left to allow privacy for the residents of Roe Fold and that this strip of land would be transferred from Council to the Fold. This and other details of a final agreement with Fold would come back to Council for approval.

Members queried the criteria for contractors to get on to the select list of tenders and if those who were unsuccessful would be given feedback on how they missed out. It was agreed to proceed with the tender process for the Civic Centre project subject to final loan sanction approval.

Library & Council Offices Agreement Proposal: The Chief Executive informed members that the Western Education & Library Board had written to Council seeking to work through a formal agreement as to the sharing of services and responsibilities regarding the joint buildings of Council and Library Services at 7 Connell Street. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Coyle that if WELB were amenable, Council's solicitor would prepare a draft lease to be brought forward to Council at a later date.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

- Western Health & Social Services Board – 25 January 2007.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BROLLY:

Councillor Brolly proposed that 'this Council condemns the abuse of older people in Northern Ireland and supports Help the Aged's campaign to Help Stop Elder Abuse. Furthermore, we call on the government to:

- Establish a cross government taskforce to produce an action plan on elder abuse to follow through on recommendations of the Health Select Committee in Northern Ireland.
- Recognise that all government departments and agencies have a role in preventing, detecting and tackling elder abuse by developing a mechanism which would enable them to come together in seeking to achieve this objective.
- Increase access to independent advocacy for all older people and in particular those affected by abuse to enable them to speak out and secure support and redress.
- Secure better protection of older peoples equality and human rights through mechanisms such as the Bill of Human Rights and the Single Equality Bill.
- Ensure the Criminal Justice System effectively and efficiently prosecutes perpetrators of elder abuse.
- Introduce compulsory training of all health and social care workers on human rights and recognising, reporting and preventing elder abuse.
- Increase and improve the body of knowledge and research on elder abuse in Northern Ireland.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín and unanimously endorsed by all members. It was suggested that Help the Aged be invited to give a presentation to Council on the work they were doing on prevent elderly abuse.

CONSULTATIONS:

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would respond on Council's behalf to the following consultation documents:

- Department of Regional Development – 'Proposed Airports (Designation) (Power to Detain and Sell Aircraft) Order (NI) 2007' *Council had no objections to the proposed Airports Order 2007.*

- Equality Commission – ‘Draft Code of Practice: Racial Equality in the Provision of Housing and Accommodation’ *Council welcomes the development of a Code of Practice giving practical guidance on law and good practice in relation to racial equality in the provision of housing and accommodation. Regarding the proposals for unauthorised Irish Traveller Encampments, Council would consider accepting the proposal to monitor patterns of unauthorised campers and develop a strategic approach along with other agencies. The provision of services to illegal encampments should be considered carefully as this could encourage their proliferation.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

Attendance at the following courses/conferences were agreed:

- Councillor Coyle and Councillor Ó hOisín to attend the Confederation of European Councillors Conference to be held in the Killyhevelin Hotel on 29 June 2007.
- It was agreed that Alderman Robinson, Councillor Chivers and Councillor Brolly would be provisionally booked to attend the National Association of Councillors conference, to be held 29 June – 1 July 2007 in Crown Spa Hotel, Scarborough.
- The Director of Development to attend the BMF Business Service conference ‘The Changing Public Sector in Northern Ireland’ to be held in Stormont Hotel, Belfast on 20 June 2007.

-

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

The legal document between the Council with MBC Developments Ltd - proposed release and grant of new easement (right of way) at 145 Main Street Dungiven was approved to be signed and sealed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Petition – Closure of Cancer Service Altnagelvin: The Mayor, Councillor McElhinney proposed that Council start a petition list in Council reception, Health Centres within the borough and local Churches in which residents would sign and object to the closure of the cancer unit at Altnagelvin. It was suggested that Dr Hughes would be invited to present to Council on the closure of the unit.

Dungiven Priory: Members noted that a letter had been received regarding the state of disrepair of Dungiven Priory. In the discussion it was suggested that the schools get involved in a general tidy up of the site. It was also suggested that the Technical Service department liaise with EHS regarding the heritage site.

Civic Reception: It was agreed that Council would host a Civic Reception for John Donnell on his retirement from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Response to Irish Language Consultation: It was agreed that Council would re-submit second round requests for response to the Irish Language Consultation.

Ice Cream Tenders: Concern was expressed that ice cream tenders for Benone had not been finalised for the forthcoming season and it was suggested this be fast tracked as a matter of urgency.

Signage: Members requested that signage be erected for Ballykelly village and Ardgarvan hamlet. It was also suggested that signs should be erected to indicate the whereabouts of Jimmy McCurry - blind fiddlers grave.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- (a) Belfast City Council Good Relations Plan
- (b) CSR Matters – Sprint/Summer 2007
- (c) The Flight of the Earls – Document Study Pack

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 26 June 2007

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.55 pm)**

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting