

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**

**24 APRIL 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 and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - None

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held 27 March 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

**MATTERS ARISING:** - None

**ROE VALLEY CHAMBER OF TRADE:**

The minutes of Roe Valley Chamber of Trade held 5 March 2007 were tabled and noted.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of Audit Committee meeting held 19 December 2006 were tabled and noted.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT – APRIL 2007:**

- **Lunchtime Opening** – Members welcomed that the front reception desk could be open over lunchtime for members of the public from Monday 23 April 2007 and that although not all services would be accessible, staff would take messages and help wherever possible.
- **Flexi-Time** – It was noted that the Senior Management Team were drawing up proposals to allow for flexi time to be introduced to the office in advance of single status being agreed and that this would be brought to Council through the Support Services Committee later in the year.
- **Discussion Held ‘In Committee’** – The Chief Executive advised that although standing orders did not give guidance on release of information following discussions and decisions taken ‘in committee’, Council’s legal

advisors had clarified that if Council resolved to consider matters 'in committee' a member should be entitled to bring the decision before the public but not the details of the discussion held.

In the discussion that followed a number of points were raised on disclosure of information on discussions held 'in committee'. It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Brolly that if Council voted and agreed to discuss an item in committee, that the confidentiality of the discussion would be respected.

#### **EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:**

- Northern Group Building Control Committee – 28 September 2006
- Foyle Health & Social Services Trust – 23 February 2007
- Western Group Environmental Health Committee – 13 March 2007.

#### **RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

The following resolution submitted by Ards Borough Council was noted.

“Councils External Affairs & Planning Committee resolved to support the Post Office Counter Network, and in particular to try and safeguard the Crown Network, as it believed that any further reductions in the Post Office Network would be detrimental, both economically and socially, to community well-being.

In doing so, the Committee resolved to write to the Post Office Ltd and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Alistair Darling, to express its views on the matter. It further resolved to seek the support of all other Councils in Northern Ireland.”

#### **CONSULTATIONS:**

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

- Department of the Environment – ‘Minimum Levels of Motor Insurance Cover’ *Council preferred to see option one implemented in order to reduce the impact on a further increase in premiums on drivers.*
- NIO Criminal Law Branch – ‘Tightening the Law on the Possession of Non Photographic Visual Depictions of Child Sexual Abuse’ *Council preferred option to create a new free standing offence.*

It was agreed that the consultation by the Equality Commission ‘Draft Code of Practice: Racial Equality in the Provision of Housing and Accommodation’ would be discussed at the May 2007 Monthly Council meeting.

#### **COURSES/CONFERENCES:**

- Councillor Coyle to attend the National Association of Councillors conference ‘Preparing for 2009’ to be held 25 May 2007, Glenavon House Hotel at a cost of £55.
- Councillor Ó hOisín to attend the Confederation of European Councillors conference ‘Role of Local & Regional Government in North-South Economic Co-operation’ to be held 27 April 2007, Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny at a cost of £120.

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** - None

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Closure of Roe Doc Services:** Members voiced concern at cutbacks to the out of hours service in the North West and to Roe Doc closure from 6 – 7 pm and from 11 – 12 midnight. Members requested that a representative from the Health Board meet with Council to clarify changes to primary care service.

**Blocked Sewerage in Ballykelly:** Concern was expressed at blockage in sewerage system in Ballykelly and how children had to cross a busy road or walk through raw sewage to get to school. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would write to the Water Service to query how often they inspected the sewage system and if grease traps were checked at catering establishments in the village.

**Trawl for DPP Manager:** The Chief Executive explained that following Linda McKee's acceptance of a 12 month secondment through the interchange programme; a replacement for the DPP Managers post would be internally trawled using the same specifications as when the post was initially advertised. It was suggested that if there were no expressions of interest internally that the post be advertised through the interchange programme.

**Civic Reception:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Council would host a civic reception to mark the achievements of Dr Heastlett, Fred Wakefield and Raymond Wright during their time as principals of Limavady College.

**Request for Flower Bed – Manse, Ballykelly:** It was suggested that Council plant a flower bed at the front of the Manse in Ballykelly.

**UUC Representative:** It was agreed that committees that Councillor Cubitt had been nominated to would be informed that he now represented the United Unionist Coalition party.

**Lease of Site to Drumsurn Community Association:** The Chief Executive explained it had been agreed in 2003 that Drumsurn Community Association could use site belonging to Council for temporary building at Beech Road, Drumsurn. He said the Community Association were making an application for funding to carry out refurbishment to this community resource and required a long term lease from Council to enable funds to be assessed.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Coyle to approve the requested long term lease, subject to agreement from the Department of Environment.

**Somme Association Dinner:** It was agreed that Councillor Douglas would attend the Somme Association Dinner to be held 4 June 2007 at a cost of £40.

**Danny Boy/Festival Parade:** It was suggested that members consider walking as a united body of togetherness when the floats were being paraded at the Danny Boy/Festival Parade.

**Tabled Documents:** Training Needs Audit for Councillors 2007/08 and details of Journey of Remembrance Conference to be held 14 – 17 September 2007.

**FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Dispatch – Police Service of Northern Ireland Public Affairs Bulletin
- International Fund for Ireland – Annual Report & Accounts 2006
- Review of Affordable Housing Final Report – Spring 2007
- Age Concern – Public Policy for Older People
- Northern Ireland Housing Land Availability – Summary Report 2006
- Northern Ireland – Take a Closer Look
- Law Reform Advisory Committee for Northern Ireland – Final Report 2007
- Review of Planning Processes in Northern Ireland – Executive Summary
- Victim Support Northern Ireland – Annual Report 2005/06
- Northern Ireland Housing Market Review and Perspectives 2007/10
- Policing Plan 2007/2010
- Western Education & Library Board Annual Report 2004/05
- CAWT – Annual Report 2006
- Committee on Standards in Public Life – Annual Report to the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2006

**NEXT MEETING:** - 22 May 2007

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 8.10 pm)**

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_