

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

24 JUNE 2008

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

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor B Chivers

Aldermen J. Rankin and G. Robinson. Councillors A. Brolly, P. Butcher, M Carten, M. Coyle, M. Donaghy, J. F. McElhinney, C.Ó hOisín, E Stevenson and A. Robinson.

IN ATTENDANCE: - Committee Clerk, Director of Support Services, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES:

Alderman Mullan, Councillor Cubitt and Councillor Douglas.

MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 27 MAY 2008:

The minutes of meeting held 27 May 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Robinson subject to the following:

Page 4, paragraph 2, line 3, change notion to **motion**.

Page 4, paragraph 3, line 3 to read 'by signing **themselves** in...'

MATTERS ARISING:

Civic Centre: The Chief Executive explained that a meeting had been held with Fold and Council was awaiting written confirmation of Fold's co-operation regarding access requirements to construct and maintain the Multi-Purpose Civic Centre that encroach upon the roadway and footpath located within lands owned by Fold Housing Association.

Land at Catherine Street: Members were informed that Council was still waiting for the report from Ken Crothers on necessity of acquiring land at Catherine Street and the benefits to the Borough.

DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08:

The District Policing Partnership Manager presented the DPP Annual Report for 2007/08. She referred to events over the past year including re-constitution of DPP, resulting in increase in membership to 17, with 5 new political and 5 independent members coming on board. She said a Disability Action Plan had been developed and adopted during the year; a successful car project had been run and £26,000 was raised for charity; 76% attendance at 17 meeting held throughout the year and spend was £140,455.

The DPP Manager outlined that offences against the person and criminal damage were top crimes during the year; vehicle tampering up by 106%; fraud and forgery down by 68%; staffing levels within PSNI still major cause of concern and DPP trying to get groups together regarding working in partnership against over recent arson crimes. She said although a drug gang had been dismantled, sadly there had been a drug death. She added that two campaigns had been held in response to ongoing alcohol abuse and underage drinking.

Comments were made in relation to PSNI staffing levels, budget cuts and perception of PSNI on the ground. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The minutes of Annual General Meeting dated 3 June 2008 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Audit Committee meeting held 10 April 2008 were noted. The Director of Support Services was congratulated for his hard work in way Audit Committee work was carried out. He agreed to inform the Local Government Auditor that Council was unhappy with level of audit assurance given by Helm Corporation.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008:

Director of Support Services presented unaudited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2008 which had been approved by the Audit Committee at a meeting held 12 June 2008. He explained that the Financial Statements had to be passed by a resolution of Council by 31 June 2008.

The Chief Executive presented details of the Annual Governance Statement for 2007/08, which included:

- ◆ how Council identifying and communicating its vision and intended outcomes for citizens and service users;
- ◆ how Council reviewed its vision and its implications for the Council's governance arrangements;
- ◆ how the quality of services for users were measured to ensure they were delivered in accordance with Council's objectives and to ensure that they represent the best use of resources;
- ◆ how roles and responsibilities of the executive, non executive, scrutiny and officer function were defined and documented, delegation arrangements and protocols for effective communication;
- ◆ how Council developing, communicating and embedding codes of conduct, defining the standards of behaviour for members and staff;
- ◆ reviewing and updating standing orders, standing financial instructions, a scheme of delegation and supporting procedure notes/manuals, which clearly define how decisions are taken and the processes and controls required to manage risks;

- ◆ understanding the core functions of the audit committee, as identified in CIPFA's Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities;
- ◆ how Council ensured compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and ensuring that lawful expenditure;
- ◆ whistle-blowing and how Council investigated complaints from the public;
- ◆ how Council identified and developed needs of members and senior officers in relation to their strategic roles, supported by appropriate training and
- ◆ the establishment of clear channels of communication with all sections of the community and other stakeholders, ensuring accountability and encouraging open consultation.

The unaudited accounts were approved on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

REPORT BY THE CHIEF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR – THE EXERCISE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITORS OF THEIR FUNCTIONS:

The Director of Support Services provided an overview of report by Mr John Buchanan, Chief Local Government Auditor on exercise by local government auditors on their functions. He pointed out that the report was to provide the key messages from audits performed for the year ended 31 March 2008 in the 26 Councils.

He drew members' attention to the salient points and said that in implementing the recommendations, Council would demonstrate that it was trying to improve economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of its services. Members welcomed that none of the issues highlighted within the report referred to Limavady Borough Council. The report was adopted accordingly.

PRESENTATION BY WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST:

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mrs Elaine Way, Chief Executive, Mr Alan Corry Finn, Director of Primary Care & Older People's Services/Nursing, Trevor Millar, Director of Adult Mental Health & Disability Services, John Doherty, Director of Women's & Children's Services/Executive Director of Social Work and Oliver Kelly, Head of Communications for Western Health & Social Care Trust.

Mrs Way outlined that £37 million cutback had to be made in the Western Trust over the next three years and as part of a comprehensive spending review the trust had to make saving of £10.3 million this year, £12 million next year and £14.4 million by year 2010. She said £6.3 million would be saved through the review of public administration but this could result in loss of 132 posts. She added that although the trust was receiving £36.2 million investment over the next three years, the money was ringfenced for specific services currently being provided.

The deputation from the Western Health & Social Care Trust gave an overview of proposed efficiency saving, which included:

- ◆ change in policy on admission to hospital whereby patients were admitted on morning of operation rather than night before.

- ◆ implementation of one stop dispensing system where the hospital would use patients own medication brought into hospital by keeping their medicine in a locked cabinet by their bed.
- ◆ Review of pathology services, moving some procedures to day and outpatient cases and implementation of new models of emergency care and medication.
- ◆ Efficiency savings in primary care and older peoples service, including reform of residential care, domiciliary care and geriatric medicine with the aim of reducing long term dependency and maintaining people in the community.
- ◆ Maximise independence and maintain people with mental health and disabilities in the community. This includes redesign of existing services at Gransha, Tyrone and Fermanagh with two smaller units and a relocation of adult respite services from Dungiven Road to Lakeview.
- ◆ Move away from the reliance on residential and impatient care in women and children's directorate.

The following concerns were voiced by members and responses noted as follows:

- closure of continuing care beds in Roe Unit – *Western Board made it clear that it would not provide continuing care beds in hospital facility.*
- additional pressure being put in carers in community – *additional resources will be directed into community.*
- waiting lists for orthodontic treatment – *Mrs Way indicated that waiting lists were not long and that the service had been transformed.*
- cleanliness in hospitals – *a head nurse had been appointed to deal with infection control and significant improvements were being made.*
- level of violence at Accident & Emergency Department at weekends – *zero tolerance on aggression & abuse by the public. CCTV used to capture culprits and a separate port-a-cabin was available for children and the vulnerable.*

It was suggested that the members of the Trust present in-depth details of cutbacks at a special meeting of Council.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE – ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Licence Agreement with WELB – Synthetic Pitch at Limavady Grammar School: The Director of Development updated members regarding agreement with WELB with regard to synthetic pitch at Limavady Grammar School and issues to be resolved on insurance and sharing of costs.

It was suggested in the discussion which followed that opening hours for community use be extended at the weekend. It was agreed that the Director of Development would look at original criteria and use that as benchmark for filling in the gaps on getting agreement with WELB. The Director of Development agreed to bring back report for Councils approval at the special meeting on 22 July 2008.

PEACE III: Council approved the process for the selection panel of 3 Councillors plus an independent observer to select the social partners within the PEACE III programme. It was agreed that Alderman Rankin and Councillor Butcher would sit on both the Joint Committee and the Peace III Shadow Partnership.

Allocation of Grants: The Director of Development outlined that an open call had been made for applications under the categories of Community Festival Fund, Large Grants and Small Grants. She said application received by the deadline of 31 May 2008 had been assessed using the essential criteria and those which met this criteria were further assessed on specific criteria for the various categories mentioned above. She recommended that Council approve and award grants to those applications which met the criteria. Agreed.

Aghanloo Agriculture Show Tickets: Members were informed that complimentary tickets were available for the Agriculture Show in Aghanloo on Saturday 28 June 2008.

Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Tourism/Causeway Heritage Trust: Councillor Butcher proposed that payments to Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Tourism and Causeway Heritage Trust be frozen until Council reviewed the effectiveness of the groups and received a cost benefit analysis of the partnership to Limavady. Councillor Broily seconded the proposal and said it appeared a number of other Councils had also withdrawn their support for the groups.

The Director of Development reminded members that it had been agreed at the June 2008 Development Committee meeting that both groups would present details of their work to Council. She also pointed out that 50% payment had already been made to the organisations.

Footpath at Curragh Road: Councillor Ó hOisín requested an update on provision of footpath at Curragh Road.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JUNE 2008:

Communications Strategy: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Butcher that the revised Communications Strategy would be approved.

Local Government Action on Climate Change: The views of Council were sought on request by NILGA for Council to consider the document working of the draft Climate Change Declaration for Northern Ireland. It was agreed that Council would participate in the Achieving Sustainable Councils project which aimed to assess and reduce the carbon footprints of 26 Councils in Northern Ireland and reduce the climate change impacts of communities living within respective council areas.

Emergency Plan: The updated Emergency Plan was approved on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten.

Danny Boy Festival Sub Committee: It was agreed that Councillor Coyle would replace Councillor Robinson on the Danny Boy Festival Sub Committee.

Safeguarding Children & Young People and Vulnerable Adults Training: It was agreed that Council would avail of the proposed level 2 and level 3 training by NSPCC on Child Protection at a cost of £1,540, with associated mileage costs.

EXTERNAL MINUTES - NOTED:

- Western Group Environmental Health Committee – 11 March 2008
- NILGA – May 2008 Update

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY DERRY CITY COUNCIL:

The following resolution submitted by Derry City Council was noted.

‘That this Council noted the growing number of people who use Google Earth when choosing a place to visit, when obtaining travel directions and when choosing a place to live.

This Council further noted that unfortunately Google Earth coverage of this Council area is greatly reduced when compared to other parts of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

This Council therefore write to Google encouraging them to upgrade their coverage of the Northwest of this island as soon as possible.

And this Council will copy this motion to both the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland administrations and all of the Councils in the Northwest urging them to do the same’

CONSULTATIONS:

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would respond to the following consultation documents and include additional comments made by members:

- ◆ Department of the Environment – Proposed Regulations to Prohibit the use of Lead Shot over Wetlands.
- ◆ Northern Ireland Office – Draft Guidance on New Public Protection Arrangements.
- ◆ Northern Ireland Court Service – Widening the Jury Pool.
- ◆ Department for Employment and Learning – Proposals to Amend the Legislation Governing Employment Agencies/Businesses.
- ◆ Driving Standards Agency – Learning to Drive.
- ◆ The Planning Service – Control of Advertisements Regulations.
- ◆ Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Allocating Resources to Health & Social Care Commissioners: Proposed Change to the Weighted Capitation Formula.
- ◆ OFM/DFM – Review of the Civic Forum

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

21st Douglas Hyde Conference 2008: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that Councillor Brolly would attend the above conference to be held 17 - 19 October in Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon at a cost of €250, plus accommodation.

13th Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference 2008: It was agreed the Councillor Butcher and the Chief Executive would attend the 13th Annual

Northern Ireland Economic Conference to be held Culloden Hotel, Belfast on 1 October 2008 at a cost of £255 + VAT per person.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

Orchard Community Playgroup: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Carten that the legal document between Council and Orchard Community Playgroup for lease of lands at Hyacinth Avenue would be sealed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- ◆ Members were reminded that a timetable had been distributed for members to attend the Disability Awareness Training.
- ◆ It was agreed that a special meeting would be held on 1 July 2008 with the organisers and objectors to the proposed open air music festival to be held 15 – 17 August 2008 on fields adjoining 61 Ballyavelin Road and to discuss the organisers' application for an Entertainment Licence.
- ◆ It was proposed that the Chief Executive look at effective management of Council meetings with a view to streamlining them so that all 15 members did not have to attend Councils standing committees. The proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, 6 votes to 5.
- ◆ The Chief Executive agreed to investigate if Council could help with the paperwork for the Sports Council meetings.
- ◆ It was agreed that Councils congratulations would be forwarded to Limavady Grammar School on winning the under 13 football School Cup and the under 15 team winning the North Coast Premier League.
- ◆ Council was advised that the licence for running Dungiven Community Hall would be terminated from the end of June 2008. It was agreed that refurbishment and re-staffing of the hall would be considered.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- ◆ Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – Statement on Key Inequalities in Northern Ireland
- ◆ The Rivers Agency – Business Plan 2008-09
- ◆ Committee on Standards in Public Life – Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2007-08
- ◆ Western Education & Library Board – Annual Report 2006-07
- ◆ QPA Northern Ireland – Our Nature with Aggregates
- ◆ The Electoral Commission – Corporate Plan 2008-09 to 2012-13
- ◆ CEDAW Report – United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Woman – March 2008.

NEXT MEETING: - 26 August 2008.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 10:05 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting