

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

25 APRIL 2006

Minutes of monthly meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady, which commenced at 7.00 pm on the above date.

In the Chair: Councillor Coyle

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

In Attendance: Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor McElhinney

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING:

The minutes of meeting dated 28 March 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor Robinson subject to amendment on page 6, paragraph 6, line 1, ... 'Alderman Mullan referred to anti-social behaviour.'

MATTERS ARISING:

Nominations to Limavady Small Business Agency: The Chief Executive explained that when nominations had been made at the AGM to Limavady Small Business Agency, members had used the spirit of D'Hondt (2 nationalists, 1 unionist). He said that whilst Alderman Rankin had been nominated at the last meeting to replace Councillor Brolly, it was up to members to decide who filled the remaining seat.

In the debate that followed Councillor McElhinney was nominated on the committee on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Chivers and on being put to the vote was declared carried with 7 voting for and 6 against.

Easter Rising Celebrations: Members outlined that concern had been expressed by staff and the general public that Council had agreed to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Easter Rising and that some people had felt intimidated by the display of Easter lilies and the 1916 Proclamation.

In response to the suggestion that senior officers had ill-advised those proposing the commemoration, the Chief Executive explained that after taking advice from the Equality Commission, the Proclamation had been moved from the lobby to the Mayors Parlour, along with a bouquet of 20 flowers, of which 3 were Easter lilies and that those staff working during the Civic Reception had been happy to do so. Comments noted.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – APRIL 2006:

The Chief Executive presented his Report for April 2006 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Cubitt, subject to the following:

Whistleblowing Policy: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Council would adopt the draft Whistleblowing Policy and engage the service of the 'Public Concern at Work' helpline as an independent external source of contact the advice at a cost of £250 per annum.

Council Newsletter: Members welcomed the various inputs and articles to be included in Council's first newsletter to be issued by June 2006. It was agreed that this would be used as a forum to congratulate residents on recycling and for suggestions on how to improve services.

Risk Management Update: The Chief Executive informed members that the Senior Managers Team and Service Managers Group had an initial session with MARSH Risk Consultancy who were now in the process of drawing up a high level risk register for Council and that this would be reported on via the Audit Committee.

Chamber of Trade Meetings: The Chief Executive outlined that the Chamber of Trade and Council representatives had not met since 2005. He said Chamber of Trade members had suggested that meetings reconvene quarterly, with the Chief Executive and Directors attending as necessary and that Councillors would be invited to attend annually.

Alderman Robinson objected to the suggestion and proposed that the committee be revised; treated as a formal committee of Council and be open to all Councillors within the Borough. Alderman Rankin seconded the proposal. The Chief Executive agreed to pass on members comments to the Chamber of Trade.

MINUTES FROM EXTERNAL BODIES:

The following minutes were tabled and noted.

- Western Health & Social Services Board – 2 February 2006
- Altnagelvin Hospitals Health & Social Services Trust – 5 January, 2 February and 2 March 2006
- Foyle Health & Social Services Trust – 31 March 2006

RESOLUTIONS:

The following resolutions were noted by members:

- (a) Submitted by Newry & Mourne District Council

“This Council calls for support for the Autism Northern Ireland campaign calling for an Autism Programme of Care, A Northern Ireland Strategy for Autism and A Northern Ireland Autism Act.”

- (b) Submitted by North Down Borough Council

“This council steps up its campaign of opposition to the introduction of Water Charges and the 19% Regional Rates Rise by starting a letter writing campaign to the Secretary of State.”

- (c) Submitted by Newry & Mourne District Council

“This Council asks that your organisation give consideration to joining the All Ireland Nuclear Free Forum.”

- (d) Submitted by Derry City Council

“That in the light of the announcement on Draft Planning Policy Statement 14 – Sustainable Development in the Countryside and this Council’s grave concerns about the implications of this document for farming families, rural communities and the rural economy:-

- (1) This Council engages specialist planning opinion to formulate a response to the document.
- (2) This Council engages specialist legal opinion to scrutinise the document and the implications for the people of our district.

That this course of action be undertaken in co-operation with other Councils in similarly based rural areas and in co-operation with NILGA.”

CONSULTATIONS:

The Chief Executive tabled the following consultations documents and it was agreed that those members who wished to respond would contact the Corporate Policy Officer two weeks before the consultation deadline.

- a) Industry Consultation on New European Fisheries Fund – Draft Northern Ireland Strategic Plan (response due 19 May 2006)
- b) The Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability (Northern Ireland) – Forensic Services Working Committee consultation report (response due 26 May 2006)
- c) Public Consultation – Draft Police & Criminal Evidence (Amendment) (NI) Order 2006 and associated Codes of Practice (response due 14 June 2006)
- d) Public Consultation – Work and Families (comment on draft regulations relating to maternity, adoption leave and flexible working) (response due 30 June 2006)
- e) Consultation – New Nutritional Standards for School Meals and Other Food in Schools (response due 30 June 2006)

FIVE YEAR REPORT ON COUNCILS' EQUALITY SCHEME:

The Corporate Policy Officer provided a summary of five year report on the twelve key elements of Councils equality scheme. She outlined approved schemes to promote equality of opportunity and good relations in policy making over the five year period and the key lessons learned in terms of effectively implementing the approved equality scheme.

Councillor Cubitt congratulated the Corporate Policy Officer on the comprehensive report but suggested that the £70,000 spent over the 5 years had not improved community relations in the Borough. Noted.

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

Confederation of European Councillors: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Chivers that Councillor Ó hOisín would attend the above conference to be held 12 May 2006 in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny at a cost of €190. It was also agreed that Alderman Mullan would attend on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

Northern Ireland Audit Office: It was agreed that members of the Audit Committee and Mr Tony Jackson would attend the 'Improving Governance in Public Sector Bodies' seminar to be held 25 May 2006 in Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick.

Countryside Access & Activities Network: It was agreed that the Countryside Recreation Officer would attend the Countryside Access & Activities Network study trip to Northumberland National Park on 4 – 7 September 2006 at a cost of £500.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

The legal agreement between Glassdon Waste and Councils within the NWRWMG was signed and sealed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Domiciliary Care – Travel Expenses: There was unanimous agreement that the Chief Executive would write to Minister Shaun Woodward, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to urge the Government to allocate funding to Foyle Trust to implement Agenda for Change for all staff, and specifically provide funding so the Trust could provide Business Rates for travel by Domiciliary Care Workers.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Local Government Staff Commission – Corporate Plan 2006-2009 & Business Plan 2006-2007
- SERCO – Shared Services as a Long-term Solution for Local Government: Delivering on the Gershon Report
- The Consumer Council – In Control? An investigation into the patterns of use and level of self-disconnection by gas and electricity Pay As You Go meter users in Northern Ireland

- CAWT – Co-operation and Working Together - Annual Report 2005
- Housing Executive – Co-Ownership The Experience of the Customer
- Housing Executive – Northern Ireland Housing Market Review and Perspectives 2006-2009
- Investing for Health – Fit Futures, Focus on Food, Activity and Young People
- International Fund for Ireland – Annual Report & Accounts 2005
- Ofcom – Removing Public Call Boxes – a guide to the rules
- Criminal Justice System Northern Ireland – delivering a criminal justice system which serves the people of Northern Ireland and in which the whole community can have confidence
- Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission – Delivering Access to Justice Through Publicity Funded Legal Services
- The Electoral Commission – Corporate Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11

TABLED DOCUMENTS:

The following documents were tabled for information:

- Minutes of Civic Centre Committee meeting held 20 April 2006

NEXT MEETING:

23 May 2006

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.45 pm)