

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 FEBRUARY 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 Stevenson

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - Councillor Donaghy.

**NILGA PRESENTATION ON DRAFT FRAMEWORK OF ENGAGEMENT:**

The Chair welcomed Ms Heather Moorhead, Chief Executive and Ms Máire Killoran, Director of Communications and Engagement, NILGA to the meeting.

Ms Moorhead outlined that the objective of NILGA was to articulate a collective voice, provide a capacity for council to work collectively and to provide an interface to engage with central government. She said that the key successes of NILGA was a £200m waste infrastructure; £1m general grant; £500k emergency management funding; DOE; EU; Arts projects; a strong lobbying campaign and a single point of contract.

Ms Moorhead gave an overview of membership of NILGA, the role of the Chief Executive, 5 Vice Presidents; role and responsibilities of those nominated to the Executive and Full Member groups. She said the 152 Full Members met every two months to consider issues of generic importance; contribute to policy debate and consider recommendations of the NILGA Executive and that Working Groups supported the development of NILGA policy positions and ongoing work.

Ms Killoran explained that an effective two way communication systems was essential and that members would be kept informed on work of NILGA via yearly visits to Council, minutes, monthly updates, consultations, the website and by Council appointed Liaison Officer.

The deputation from NILGA answered a number of queries relating to increased co-operation with local authorities; waste management & MOU between Councils; attendance at NILGA meetings and subscription to NILGA. The Chair thanked the deputation for attending the meeting.

**MINUTES – 22 JANUARY 2008:**

The minutes of meeting held 22 January 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Douglas subject to the following amendments:

- page 3, add to point 6 *‘that the recommendations of the Equality Commission to flying the union flag had been ignored’*
- page 3 add to the list of points *‘that there had never been any complaints regarding the list of emblems’*.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Adjournment of Meeting:** It was queried who had asked for the meeting to be adjourned at 9.15 pm. It was suggested that on page 4 under ‘Any Other Business’ that the assault was alleged and unproven by the PSNI. It was pointed out that the reason for adjournments or who had requested these was not always recorded in the minutes.

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING DATED 31 JANUARY 2008:**

The minutes of special meeting held 31 December 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

Members noted that on page 3, Alderman Robinson would not be attending the National Association Councillors conference.

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING DATED 5 FEBRUARY 2008:**

The minutes of special meeting dated 5 February 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2008:**

**Community Support Partnership – Night Time Economy:** The Chief Executive reported that the Community Safety Partnership had written to Council to ask members to use their influence in encourage stakeholders of the night time economy to engage with the Partnership regarding community safety at night in the Borough. Agreed.

**Buddy Bear Trust:** It was agreed that a letter of support would be submitted to the Office of First and Deputy First Minister at the campaign to save and develop the Buddy Bear School and develop the school to provide an Outreach Facility to assist children who were severely challenged to be assisted locally.

**Security at Council Offices:** A discussion took place regarding security at Council Offices. Members considered installation of CCTV, additional lighting, visitors signing their name/address when entering the building, photographic identity and visitors being sponsorship by elected members. It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Brolly that decision would be deferred to the March Monthly meeting and for a Notice of Motion to be submitted.

**RPA – Community Planning:** It was agreed that Peter Osborne from Rubicon would present the findings of the survey on RPA Community Planning at the March 2008 Development Committee meeting.

**Proposed Residential Development at Whitehill – Adoption of Open Space:** The Chief Executive explained that correspondence had been received from McCloskey & O’Kane requesting that Council consider adopting approximately 6 acres of open space contained within development at Whitehill. He said that Planning Service were of opinion to approve the application for 163 units of housing, subject to ownership and responsibility of the area of open space being handed over by legal agreement to Council, a registered charitable trust or a residents association.

A number of objections were put forward to the development, including changing the tranquil setting of the nearby cemetery; residents’ viewpoint; the need to keep the area open space; impact on sewerage and the cost to the ratepayer to look after the 6 acre site.

In the discussion which followed it was unanimously agreed that Council would not take over ownership of the 6 acre open site at Whitehill nor would Council meet with the developer or his architect with regard to the development.

**Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013:** The Chief Executive informed members that a meeting had taken place with the Chief Executives and officers from the cluster group of the Rural Development Programme and it had been agreed that in the interests of continuity, that that Joint Committee should comprise 4 members from each Council, the same 4 members nominated to the new Local Action Group (LAG) on a cross party basis.

In the discussion that followed it was agreed that Councillor Carten, Councillor Cubitt, Councillor Butcher and Alderman Rankin would sit on the new LAG and Joint Committee and that Councillor Ó hOisín would act as substitute.

**Report to Recognise Adverse Occupation of Land at Magheramore Road:** The Chief Executive stated that in March 2007 Council approved a request to grant easement to Mr D O’Kane to carry discharge from a septic tank to a point joining the Old Mill Race on Council land. He said subsequent to this, Mr O’Kane’s Solicitors had written to point out that the land marked on the map was within his garden boundary but had not been drawn in the Land Registry map.

On the advice of Council Solicitors that it was likely that an application for Adverse Possession of Land would be successful, it was agreed that the boundary would be amended.

**EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:**

- Northern Ireland Building Control Group – 14 December 2007
- Western Health & Social Care Trust – 6 December 2007
- Western Health & Social Services Board – 29 November 2007.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY BALLYMENTA BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

The following resolution submitted by Ballymena Borough Council was noted:

‘That Ballymena Borough Council unequivocally opposed the suggestion, attributed to the Consultative Group on the Past, that amnesty may be considered for members of paramilitaries responsible for the vilest atrocities. In even contemplating this action, the Consultative Group displays gross insensitivity towards the Victims, violates the legal system and legitimised terrorism.

**CONSULTATIONS:**

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would respond to the following consultation documents:

- NILGA (Draft Terms of Reference sent ‘In Confidence) - ‘Development of an Information Systems Strategy for Local Government’
- Department of Education – ‘Every School a Good School Consultation’
- Department of Finance and Personnel – ‘Missing Persons – A Consultation on the Draft Presumption of Death’.

It was agreed that the PSNI consultation on the ‘Draft Equality Impact Assessment - Proposals to Introduce Taser’ would be responded to by individual political parties.

**LEGAL DOCUMENTS SEALED:**

- Wayleave for water supply pipe at Seacoast Road and
- Lease with EHS for Green Lane Museum.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The following issues were raised by members:

1. Councillor Cubitt referred to correspondence received from the solicitors acting on behalf of two former officers of Council. He said comments made regarding the officers at the Environmental Services meeting on 19 June 2007 would not be retracted nor would an apology be given.
2. Councillor Douglas apologised for non attendance at the Binevenagh AONB Management Forum meeting which took place earlier in the day and said this was due to a late postal service.
3. It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for Les Irvine who had been nominated as 1 of 4 referees at the next World Cup.
4. It was agreed that a letter of condemnation at the robbery of Dromore Post Office would be sent to the Post Mistress Madge McCartney.
5. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations would be forwarded to Niall O’Conner on getting onto the panel of the Irish Rugby Team.
6. The Chief Executive agreed to send out notification of a suitable date/time for members/officers to visit Greysteel Glen disused play area.
7. It was agreed that the 4 current members of the North West Region Cross Border Group would meet to discuss nomination of members and availability to attend committee meetings themed on Enterprise, Tourism and Collaboration.

**FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The Consumer Council – Getting through to Government, December 2007
- CEA – BEST of FEST 2007 – Education for Employability
- Police Service of Northern Ireland – Code of Ethics 2008
- Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency – NI Health & Personal Social Services Health and Social Care
- Business in the Community – Strategic Vision for Corporate Responsibility towards 2011
- Cabinet Office – Emergency Planning College Prospectus – April 08 – March 09
- Northern Ireland Museums Council – Mapping Trends in Northern Ireland's Museums
- DSD – Tackling Fuel Poverty – A Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Independent Water Review Panel – Strand Two Report, Management, Governance and Delivery
- DHSSPS – Strategic Resources Framework 2007/08

**NEXT MEETING:**

18 March 2008.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.20 pm)**

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