

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

**26 AUGUST 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, G Mullan and G. Robinson. Councillors P. Butcher, M Carten, M. Coyle, L Cubitt, M. Donaghy, B Douglas, J. F. McElhinney, E Stevenson and A. Robinson.

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

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Ó hOisín and Councillor Brolly.

**PRESENTATION BY N.I. EQUALITY COMMISSION:**

The chair welcomed Ms Evelyn Collins, Chief Executive and Ms Jackie McKee, Head of Employment Development, Northern Ireland Equality Commission to the meeting.

Ms Collins stated that the Equality Commission was an independent public body established under the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and its role was to advance equality, promote equality of opportunity, encourage good relations and challenge discrimination through promotion, advice and enforcement. She added that the Commission was now responsible for promoting awareness and enforcing anti-discrimination law on the grounds of age, disability, race, sexual orientation, religious belief and political opinion.

Ms Collins outlined that the general duties of the Commission were:

- ◆ working towards the elimination of discrimination
- ◆ promotion equality of opportunity and encouraging good practice
- ◆ promoting affirmative positive action
- ◆ promoting good relations between people of different racial groups
- ◆ overseeing the implementation and effectiveness of the statutory duty on public authorities and
- ◆ keeping the relevant legislation under review.

In the question and answer session which followed, the work of the Commission was applauded on one hand, but on the other the lack of faith in the organisation was voiced, specifically in relation to emblems and flying of the union flag. The need to respect each other was highlighted and some members indicated that there

appeared to be a level of discrimination within Council at present or discrimination had taken place in the past.

Ms Collins responded that she welcomed the range of views expressed. She wished members well in working together and said the Commission would be willing to advise Council in the future.

**MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 24 JUNE 2008:**

The minutes of meeting held 24 June 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor McElhinney.

**MATTERS ARISING:** - None.

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING DATED 1 JULY 2008:**

The minutes of special meeting dated 1 July 2008 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten.

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING DATED 10 JULY 2008:**

The minutes of special meeting dated 10 July 2008 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

Several members queried why the minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> July which had been included on the agenda had not been discussed at the meeting on 10 July 2008. Members were advised that the order of the meeting had been changed on other occasions. It was suggested that a training event was needed on chairing of Council meeting and application of Standing Orders. Councillor Coyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Butcher that Standing Orders be reviewed on a regular basis, i.e. annually or biannually to tease out grey areas.

Councillor Douglas stated that he wished to withdraw remarks he had made at the meeting of 10 July 2008 regarding the Director of Support Services.

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING DATED 22 JULY 2008:**

The minutes of special meeting dated 22 July 2008 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

**IN COMMITTEE.** A member highlighted issues in relation to DARD granting extension to another cluster group and to drawing down of funds. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – AUGUST 2008:**

**Civic Centre Update:** Members welcomed that agreement was anticipated with Fold Housing Association over temporary access and use of their roadway alongside the Civic Centre site. It was agreed that Council would progress to the next stage in the process and seek Planning Service approval for amendments to the entrance to the Civic Centre from Main Street and for consultants to commence preparation for re-tendering.

**Former Employees – Solicitors Correspondence: IN COMMITTEE.** It was agreed that decision on the correspondence received from the solicitors of two former employees would be deferred until the September 2008 Monthly meeting of Council. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

**Forum for Rail Links to Donegal:** It was agreed that members of the Northern Corridor Railway Task Force and the Chief Executive would attend the forum for rail links to Donegal to be held 16 October 2008 in Donegal County Council.

**Appointment of Community Wardens:** The Chief Executive outlined that in some areas of Northern Ireland an interagency approach has been taken to appoint Community Wardens to work closely with the PSNI within specific neighbourhoods where anti-social behaviour and crime were evident. He said it was proposed to recruit, train and deploy two part-time Community Wardens within Limavady Town, working 20 hours per week, with Council being the employing authority for a one year period.

Members noted that the costs associated with the posts were £36,000, however funding of £9,000 had been confirmed through the Policing Community Fund; £9,000 from the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme and confirmation was awaited from the NI Housing Executive of £9,000. It was also noted that the Community Safety Partnership were supportive of the proposed initiative and a financial contribution towards the costs of the posts was currently being explored.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor McElhinney that Council would support the project for a 12 months period and commit £9,000 towards the cost of supporting the posts.

**Review of Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust:** Alderman Mullan was nominated to the steering group to review the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust.

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

- Western Health & Social Services Trust – 1 May 2008
- Northern Ireland Housing Council – 7 May 2008
- Western Health & Social Services Board – 22 May 2008
- Western Group Environmental Health Committee – 10 June 2008
- NILGA – June & July 2008 Update.

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CUBITT:**

Councillor Cubitt proposed:

*‘That this Council recognise the contribution and commitment made by the RIR and TA in their tours of duty in Iraq & Afghanistan and that Council hold a civic reception in their honour.’*

In support of the motion he said that the soldiers were brave, served with distinction and were a credit to their families. Alderman Robinson seconded the proposal to host a civic reception in the soldier’s honour.

In the debate which followed, a number of views were expressed to the wars in both Afghanistan and Iraq, including the sense of duty of the soldier's who fought on behalf of their country and that this should be honoured. Other members pointed out that over 600,000 innocent people had been killed in both wars which they argued was illegal. It was pointed out that to support the motion would be to signal agreement with the wars themselves. Members in favour of the motion argued that it was not a reflection on the legitimacy of the war but to honour those who had risked their lives in the line of duty. After further debate, the proposal was put to the meeting and declared lost, with 6 voting for and 7 against.

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR COYLE:**

Councillor Coyle proposed:

*'That this Council has no confidence in the chair of the Development Services and calls on him to consider his future position as chair of this committee.'*

Before the motion would be debated, the Chief Executive informed members that Councillor Robinson had tendered his resignation as chair of the Development Services committee. In light of this Councillor Coyle withdrew the notice of motion.

A number of members indicated that Councillor Robinson had been hounded into making this decision and that those responsible should hang their heads in shame.

#### **RESOLUTIONS NOTED:**

- ◆ Belfast City Council – Planning Appeals Commission's Report on Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan.
- ◆ Ards Borough Council – Belfast Telegraph changes to home delivery service.
- ◆ West Lothian Council – fuel duty and vat revenues.

#### **CONSULTATIONS:**

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would respond to the 13 consultation documents as presented on member's behalf.

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

**National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region – AGM and Conference:** It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor Carten that Councillor Coyle would attend the above conference to be held 12 – 13 September 2008, in Canal Court Hotel, Newry at a cost of £190.

**SOLACE – Annual Conference 2008:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Coyle that the Chief Executive would attend the SOLACE Annual conference to be held 7 – 9 October, in Waterfront, Belfast at a cost of £665.

**CIH Northern Ireland Seminar:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten that Alderman Mullan would attend the CIH Northern Ireland Seminar to be held Tuesday 23 September 2008 in Great Hall, Queens University, Belfast.

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:**

**Deed of Transfer and Easement:** It was agreed that the septic tank easement and boundary adjustment between Council and Mr & Mrs D B O’Kane would be signed and sealed.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Dungiven Household Recycling Centre:** Alderman Mullan proposed, seconded by Councillor Coyle that the tender submitted from RPS Consulting for design stage costs for submission of a new planning application for Dungiven Household Recycling Centre in the sum of £8,100 would be accepted. Several members voiced their reluctance to this given the history associated with the site. The proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, with 7 voting for and 5 against.

**Council Car Park:** In response to a query, the Chief Executive agreed to investigate if Council car park could be used to accommodate Saturday trading.

**FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- ◆ Accessible Transport Strategy – Action Plan 2007-09
- ◆ Big Lottery Fund Research – Fair Share: findings from the second evaluation
- ◆ Queen’s University Belfast – Celebrating 100 years as a leading University
- ◆ Trauma, Health and Conflict in Northern Ireland – A study of the epidemiology of trauma related disorders and qualitative investigation of the impact of trauma on the individual
- ◆ Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland 2007
- ◆ Department of Regional Development – Shaping our Future – Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2025 – First 5 year review
- ◆ Department of Regional Development – Shaping our Future – Adjustments to the Regional Development Strategy 2025
- ◆ PSNI – Chief Constable’s Annual Report 2007/08
- ◆ Northern Ireland Ombudsman – Annual Report 2007/08
- ◆ Northern Ireland Big Times Magazine
- ◆ Invest Northern Ireland – Corporate Plan 2008-2011
- ◆ Invest Northern Ireland – Results of an Equality Impact Assessment on Invest Northern Ireland’s Corporate Plan
- ◆ BBC Making Connections – Annual Review 2007/08
- ◆ The Energy Saving Trust’s work in NI 2007-08 – Our work in NI & Emission Impossible – A vision for a low-carbon lifestyle by 2050
- ◆ Imagine – remember reflect react – Holocaust Memorial Day
- ◆ Sustainable Northern Ireland – Annual Report 2007-08
- ◆ APSE – Annual Report 2008
- ◆ Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Summary of HPSS Expenditure in Northern Ireland 2006/07
- ◆ Rural Homes and People – Annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the Housing Executive Rural Action Plan
- ◆ International Fund for Ireland Experience – Effective Peace Building
- ◆ Translink – 2007/08 Review
- ◆ The Housing Executive Corporate Plan 2008-09 to 2010-11

**NEXT MEETING: - 23 September 2008.**

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.45 P.M.**

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