

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

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

27 MAY 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 E Stevenson

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

IN ATTENDANCE: - Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Carten.

ROADS SERVICE SPRING CONSULTATION:

The chair welcomed Ms Deidre Mackle, Network Maintenance Manager and Mr John McCann, standby for Keith Craden, Section Engineer, Roads Service to the meeting. Ms Mackle presented the Northern Division Roads Service Report which detailed work completed in 2007/2008 and proposed schemes to be undertaken in 2008/2009 including resurfacing of roads and pathways, surface dressing, drainage, carriageway strengthening, minor work schemes, traffic schemes, traffic management, maintenance of structures, street lighting and strategic road improvements.

The following queries/concerns were highlighted by members in the discussion which followed:

- ◆ Excessive traffic calming measures at Roe Mill Road were disruptive.
- ◆ Request for traffic calming at Burnfoot new school
- ◆ It was queried why Road Service had lifting kerbs at Greystone Road and the length of time taken to complete the work.
- ◆ The park & ride carpark at Scriggin/Broad Road was being used to sell cars.
- ◆ Consider putting in ramps at the entrance to housing developments off Edenmore Road and to re-look at traffic calming on the road.
- ◆ Utility services should work together regarding laying pipes or cables in roads.
- ◆ It was suggested that Dungiven by-pass be a separated scheme and not be combined with the A6 dualling.
- ◆ Request for Speed limits on Ballyavelin Road and traffic calming at Ardgargin.
- ◆ Suggested that footpaths and kerbing should have been included in Finvola Park resurfacing works.
- ◆ It was suggested that Roads Service provide technical or other assistance to the Hurling Club in relation to provision of footpath along Curragh Road.
- ◆ Request that Roads Service fill in holes and resurface hard shoulder from Vale Centre to Faughanvale Church.
- ◆ Suggested that Roads Service include a loading bay for Limavady Hardware Shop in new road layout at bus station loop road.

- ◆ Disappointment was expressed that the major work scheme on A37 Londonderry to Coleraine Road (Gortcorbies) was delayed due to environmental concerns.

The chair thanked the deputation from Roads Service for attending the meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 22 APRIL 2008:

The minutes of meeting held 22 April 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Rankin:

MATTERS ARISING:

- Members were reminded to put forwarded nominations to the Chief Executives Department for carers to attend President Mary McAleese's garden party.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2008:

Civic Centre: The Chief Executive reminded members that it had been agreed that Council would explore development of the existing town hall site which would not require access across Fold's access road, including the incorporation of the façade at a cost of no more than £4 million. He said as a viable way forward Roads Service and Planning Service had been consulted on changes to the existing approved plan to enable service traffic to enter the scheme from Main Street. He added that officers had meet with Consarc and it had been established that co-operation for limited access along the Fold roadway for the period of construction was required and Fold had been approached seeking their co-operation to this. Members noted that the engineers report on the state of the Town Hall façade had indicated that it would not require immediate action but would before the incoming winter. It was also noted that if proceeding, the scheme would be placed out to tender again.

Business Continuity Plan: The Business Continuity Plan as presented was approved on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt. It was suggested that the document be numbered and signed to make sure that everyone on the distribution list had the latest version of the plan.

Communication Strategy: It was agreed that the Communication Strategy would be discussed at the June Monthly meeting.

Information Retention & Disposal Policy: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the Information Retention & Disposal Policy would be adopted.

Local Government Action on Climate Change: It was agreed that the Local Government Action on Climate Change would be discussed at the June Council meeting.

William Keown Trust: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín Council would contribute £500 to the William Keown Trust.

INTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

- Neutral Space Forum – 18 and 29 April 2008.

Members noted that the Chief Executive was in ongoing consultation with members on issue of balance and neutrality and that the Equality Commission would be attending the August monthly meeting.

EXTERNAL MINUTES – NOTED:

- Northern Group Building Control Committee – 31 January 2008
- Western Health & Social Care Trust – 6 March 2008
- NILGA – April Update.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

Submitted by Alderman Rankin:

‘That this Council condemns the Minister of Education for her shambolic handling of plans for the future of post-primary education, and given the high levels of public concern, and the Minister’s incompetence to put forward any firm and detailed proposals, calls on the Executive to create a Ministerial Sub-Committee to recommend appropriate regulations to govern post-primary transfer from 2010.’

The motion was seconded by Councillor Cubitt and was followed by a lengthy discussion. Councillor Coyle proposed an amendment which was seconded by Alderman Mullan:

‘That this Council regrets the delay in decision-making on post-primary education reform and the resulting high levels of public concern and damage to public confidence; and calls on the Minister of Education to publish forthwith her proposals on Transfer, Sustainable Schools and Area-based planning.’

The chair called for a 5 minute recess at 8.55 pm.

Alderman Rankin withdrew his original motion when the meeting resumed at 9.00 pm. The substantive motion was put to the meeting and was declared carried, with 6 voting for, 6 against, 2 abstentions, with the Mayor using his casting vote in favour of the motion.

Submitted by Councillor Brolly:

‘That this Council operate a signing in system whereby members of the public who wish to attend a meeting have to be signed in by elected members. Each Councillor may sign in two members of the public to Council meetings. No members of the public can attend a Council meeting without being signed in by a Councillor.’

The motion was seconded by Councillor Butcher and discussed at length. Councillor Coyle proposed an amendment, which was seconded by Alderman Mullan:

‘That this Council operate a signing in system, whereby members of the public who wish to attend meetings have to sign a book kept by door staff and show an appropriate form of identification.’

Councillor Douglas proposed that both motions should be withdrawn and something acceptable should be presented to Council. This was seconded by Councillor Cubitt but on being put to the meeting was declared lost, with 6 voting for and 8 against.

Councillor Coyle indicated that he would withdraw his amendment if the proposer put into her motion 'appropriate identification or by signature'. Councillor Brolly agreed that the notion would be amended to read:

'That this Council operates a system whereby members of the public who wish to attend a meeting have to be either signed in by an elected members or by signing in and providing appropriate identification.'

The amended motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, 8 for, 3 against and 3 abstentions.

CONSULTATIONS:

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

- ◆ Housing Executive – A Strategy for Houses in Multiple Occupation in Northern Ireland.
- ◆ Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – European Fisheries Fund UK Operational Programme.
- ◆ Department for Transport – Draft Marine Navigation Bill.

It was agreed that individual parties would respond to the consultation from Clerk of Standards (Committee on Standards and Privileges) on review of the Assembly's Code of Conduct together with the rules to the guide relating to the conduct of members.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Vesting of Land Catherine Street: IN COMMITTEE It was recommended that Ken Crothers would be commissioned at a cost of £8-£12k to compile a report on the necessity of acquiring land at Catherine Street and benefits to the Borough.

A recorded vote was requested and on being put to the meeting, the recommendation was declared carried, with 7, namely Councillor Coyle, Alderman Mullan, Councillor Chivers, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Brolly, Councillor Ó hOisín Councillor McElhinney voted for, and 6, Councillor Douglas, Alderman Rankin, Councillor Cubitt Councillor Robinson, Alderman Robinson and Councillor Stevenson voting against.

Councillor Cubitt, Councillor Douglas and Alderman Rankin requested that their reservations be noted.

Former Employees Solicitors Correspondence: The Chief Executive explained that two former employees of Council had requested a statement of disassociation from Council regarding comments quoted in a newspaper article in June 2007. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would liaise with the solicitors acting on Councils behalf regarding wording of the statement. It was agreed that members would be given copy of correspondence from the employees solicitors, subject to checking if this would be sub-judice. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

Arson Attack at Ballykelly Community Hall: Staff and volunteers were commended for their quick response to the fire at Ballykelly Community Hall. It was agreed that a request for financial for Ballykelly Community Association would be forwarded to the Director of Development.

Letter of Support: It was agreed that a letter in support to the Planning Appeal in respect of Oscar Harper would be submitted to PAC.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- ◆ Policing Board, Corporate Plan 2008-2011
- ◆ Age Concern – Public Policy for Older People
- ◆ Northern Ireland Housing Market – Review and Perspectives 2008/11
- ◆ Sustainable Development Commission – Sustainable Development in Government
- ◆ Environment & Heritage Service – Our Environment, Our Heritage, Our Future
- ◆ Sustrans – Annual Review 2007
- ◆ Strategic Review of Parading in Northern Ireland
- ◆ Parades Commission for NI - Annual Report and Financial Statement
- ◆ Heritage Lottery Fund – Valuing our heritage, investing in our future 2008-13
- ◆ EHS – Regulation of Water Service Discharges Report 2006

NEXT MEETING: - 24 June 2008.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 10.30 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting