

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

27 OCTOBER 2004

Minutes of monthly meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor Coyle

Other Members: Aldermen J Dolan, Alderman Carten and G Robinson. Councillors, A. Brolly, B. Brown, B Chivers, M Donaghy, B Douglas, D Lowry, G Mullan and M McGuigan.

In Attendance: Committee Clerk, Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer, Chief Technical Services Officer and the Finance Officer.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Cubitt, Councillor Rankin, Councillor Stevenson, Chief Environmental Health Officer, Chief Finance & Administration Officer and the Town Clerk.

MINUTES – 22 SEPTEMBER 2004:

The minutes of monthly meeting dated 25 August 2004 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Lowry, seconded by Alderman Dolan.

MATTERS ARISING:

Market Street Pedestrian Zone: The Chief Technical Service Officer informed members that Roads Service had confirmed in letter dated 20 October that Market Street was strictly a pedestrian zone and the only exceptions to this were emergency vehicles, goods vehicles and vehicles used for the collection and delivery of certain goods between the hours of 18.00 and 10.30 pm. At the request of Alderman Dolan, the Chief Technical Service Officer agreed to write to the PSNI regarding vehicles blocking the pedestrian zone by parking on both sides of Market Street.

Notice of Motion on Water Charges: The Chief Technical Service Officer tabled letters of support to Council's views on the issue of water charges from Dr Ian Paisley (DUP) and Mr Mark Durkin (SDLP). Noted.

CHANGE MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Change Management Sub Committee meeting dated 5 October 2004 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Alderman Dolan subject to following:

Tourism Performance: Councillor Lowry voiced his concern that an Economic Appraisal had been sanctioned for Benone Tourist Complex without it being taken through the proper tendering procedure and the consent of Council. He said that he did not want people in Dungiven to feel like second hand citizens by closing down the pavilion and advised caution as it would be difficult to claw back services in 4 years time when super councils commenced. Councillor Mullan endorsed Councillor Lowry comments and said that he was unhappy that it was suggested that Benone Tourist Complex close during the winter months.

Councillor Brown said that as far as he was concerned, Mr Kerr had suggested the service of Mr O’Rawe as he was working under an agreed tender with Council and that the economic appraisal would cost very little. He highlighted that the Change Management Committee could not take action regarding Dungiven or Benone as any recommendation had to be approved by Council.

Members queried if the recommendation of reducing opening hours had been implemented. The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer said that with member’s approval he would present revised opening hours in his November report and that if agreed, a press release would be issued stating that this would be effective from 7 November 2004.

LEISURE SERVICES:

Fireworks Display: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reminded members that Council’s Halloween Fireworks Display would take place on Friday 29 October 2004 at 7 pm and that this would be followed by ‘It’s a Knockout Competition’ between Limavady, Coleraine and Ballymoney at Roe Valley Leisure Centre.

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2005:

The Chief Technical Service Officer highlighted the salient points of the Consultation on the Draft Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and enlarged thereon. Members welcomed the amendment to allow Council to retain receipts from fixed penalties that were levied for littering and dog-fouling. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would provide a brief on the consultation document before comments were submitted by the 10 January 2005 deadline.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

The following notice of motion was put forward by Alderman Dolan, Alderman Carten, Councillor Douglas and Councillor Cubitt that:

“It is hereby proposed that:

- a) the motion adopted by Council at its monthly meeting on 25 August 2004, requiring organisations, groups or individuals that wished to address Council to do so at a suitable time before the start of the meeting, be rescinded; and
- b) that Standing Order 11, Deputations to the Council, be amended by:

- (i) adding “such notice to exclude that day of the appropriate meeting and the day on which the notice is received” at the end of the first sentence;
- (ii) the penultimate sentence reading “The addresses shall not exceed 10 minutes” and; by the addition of the following sentence “The requirement of this paragraph shall not apply to governmental departments, agencies, bodies, trusts or boards and such be requested by Council by prior agreement.”

In proposing the motion Alderman Dolan said that this motion had been put forward in an attempt to overcome problems with lengthy presentations and to address the exclusion of government agencies as proposed in the previous motion agreed in August 2004.

In support of the motion Councillor Douglas said that it was important that Council adhered to the rules set out in standing orders and that the chair ensured that meetings ended at a reasonable time.

The motion being put to the meeting was unanimously carried. It was agreed that Standing Orders be amended accordingly.

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL:

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held 16 September 2004 were tabled and noted.

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held 29 July 2004 were tabled and noted.

FOYLE HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST:

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held 24 September 2004 were tabled and noted.

REPORT FROM BOARD OF HOUSING EXECUTIVE:

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held 29 September 2004 were tabled and noted.

WESTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD:

Minutes: Minutes of the various meetings were tabled and noted.

NILGA FULL MEMBERS MEETING AND AGM:

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held September 2004 were tabled and noted.

NILGA MEETING WITH MINISTERS:

Briefing: Briefing of meeting held 5 October 2004 was tabled and noted.

OPPOSITION TO WATER FLUORIDATION BY NATIONAL PURE WATER ASSOCIATION LTD:

The opposition letter from National Pure Water Association Ltd to fluoridation was tabled and noted.

RESOLUTIONS:

It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Brown that the following resolutions be noted:

Resolution from Lisburn City Council:

“This Council condemns the Chief Constable’s decision to reduce the complement of the Full-Time Reserve Officers to 680 and expresses no confidence in his leadership and calls on Elected Members of the District Policing Partnership and the Lisburn Community Safety Partnership to withdraw immediately from the bodies and urge Members of the other twenty-five Councils in Northern Ireland to do likewise.”

Resolution from Carrickfergus Borough Council:

“At its monthly meeting in September, Carrickfergus Borough Council resolved to advocate a strengthening of the law in Northern Ireland by having the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 extended to the Province in the hope that this would ensure that, in future, sentences for murder would better fit the crime.”

Resolution from Carrickfergus Borough Council:

“That Carrickfergus Borough Council, having committed to improve the quality of life in all citizens, is supportive of the campaign by the Charity Justice for Asbestos Victims to improve the lack of awareness and local services for sufferers of asbestos-related diseases.

In addition, this Council: (i) calls on the Minister to analyse and review all appropriate legislation that impacts on this significant health issue and (ii) seeks support of the other twenty-five Northern Ireland local authorities in this matter.”

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

Local Government Staff Commission – Effective Meetings: It was agreed that members attend LGSC 3 hour course on Effective Meetings at a date to be decided.

The National Association of Councillors – Review of Public Administration Conference: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Carten, seconded by Alderman Dolan that Alderman Robinson and Councillor Coyle attend the National Association of Councillors conference on the Review of Public Administration to be held 24 November 2004 in Seagoe Hotel, Portadown.

Confederation of European Councillors – North-South Political Relations in 21st Century: It was agreed on proposal of Councillor A Brolly, seconded by Alderman Carten that Councillor Coyle attend the Confederation of European Councillors - North-South Political Relations in 21st Century conference to be held 2 & 3 December 2004 in Killyhelvin Hotel, Enniskillen.

Green Procurement in Northern Ireland – Enabling Local Government’s Role: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Alderman Robinson that 3 officers from Council attend the seminar on Green Procurement in Northern Ireland to be held 11 November 2004 in Island Civic Centre, Lisburn.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Planning Service Workload Pressures: The Chief Technical Service Officer tabled a draft letter to the Chief Executive of the Planning Service regarding Planning Service workload pressures which had been drawn following consultation with Council by Mr M Graham, DTZ Piedad Consulting. Members voiced their support for the letter and said that it was unacceptable that residents had to wait an excessive length of time for planning applications to be processed or approvals issued.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Investing Together – Report of the Task Force on Resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector October 2004
- Spaceship Earth – The Sustainability Legislation Time Bomb
- Co-Ownership Housing – Annual Report & Accounts 2003/2004
- Co-Ownership Housing – The Strategy 2004/2007
- Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern Ireland – Annual Report 2003
- FOLD – Annual Review & Accounts 2003 – 2004
- Association for Public Service Excellence – Pursuing Excellence in Local Government/Volume 3
- Enterprise, Trade & Investment – Development a Successful Social Economy Northern Ireland Three-Year Strategic Plan 2004/07
- Foyle Health & Social Services Trust – Annual Report 2003/04
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – Annual Report 2003/04
- NILGA – Annual Report 2003/2004
- Green Park Healthcare Trust – Annual Report 2003/04
- Northern Ireland Museums Council – Annual Report and Financial Statements 2003/04
- Northern Ireland Ambulance Service – Annual Report 2003/04
- Altnagelvin Hospitals Health & Social Services Trust – Annual Report 2003/04
- Planning Appeals Commission – Chief Commissioner’s Annual Report 2003/04
- Rivers Agency – Annual Report 2003-2004
- Save the Children – Shadow Youth Council
- Inter Trade Ireland – Annual Review of Activities 2003
- Police Service of Northern Ireland – A Cross Border Organised Crime Assessment 2004
- Health, Social Services and Public Safety – An Oral Health Strategy for Northern
- The St. John Directory – Commandery of Ards 2004-2005
- Lisburn City Council Annual Report 2003-2004

NEXT MEETING:

24 November 2004

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

(The meeting ended at 9.00 pm)