

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
27 NOVEMBER 2007**

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, M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín and A Robinson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - None.

CONDOLENCE:

The Mayor – Councillor Stevenson referred to the tragic death of 17 year old Wendy McAteer and said her family had been left devastated after her body was found in the pathway leading to Blackburn Park. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

NORTHERN IRELAND WATER:

The chair welcomed Paul Davidson, Martin Gillen, Peter Ferguson and Christine McKenna, Northern Ireland Water to the meeting.

Mr Davidson explained that due to anticipated population growth up to 2022, Limavady had been identified as one of seven areas requiring investment and Northern Ireland Water had committed £5.33 million to upgrade the current wastewater treatment works by 2009. He said the proposed development would see the provision of new extended aeration wastewater treatment works at the existing site and that this would provide immediate improvements to the quality of treated sewage.

He outlined benefits that the new upgraded works would bring to the local population & economy of the Borough and said Northern Ireland Water intended to update stakeholders regularly on the progress of the project.

Mr Davidson informed members that Northern Ireland Water were also investing 6.8 million in the Benone/Magilligan area due to a number of issues on sewage treatment. He said the residents' views on preferred site had been taken on board and it looked like negotiations with MOD regarding a suitable site would be satisfactory. Members welcomed progress on both developments and the chair thanked the deputation from Northern Ireland Water for their presentation.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 23 October were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING:

- **Land Owned by Council:** The Chief Executive informed members that a list of land owned by Council was being compiled by Councils solicitors and it was hoped this would be complete in 4 – 6 weeks time.
- **Regional Waste Management:** Alderman Rankin voiced disappointment at lack of response from members to the presentation the previous month on regional waste management.
- **Fly Posting:** The Chief Executive reported that stronger and more effective legislative powers to deal with fly-posting were being considered by the Department to enable District Councils to deal more effectively with wide range of environmental problems.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT – NOVEMBER 2007:

Integrated Business Plan – Progress Report: The integrated business plan progress report was tabled and noted.

District Policing Partnership Reconstitution: The Chief Executive reminded members that Council had decided to increase DPP membership to 17 (9 political and 8 independent) and that the Policing Board had advised that as far as practicable, political nominations should reflect the balance of parties prevailing in Council at 4 September 2007. Councillor Coyle proposed that the d'Hondt system be used to select the 9 political members. A number of objections were voiced to the use of d'Hondt but the proposal was seconded by Alderman Mullan and declared carried.

The 9 members nominated following the d'Hondt principle were Councillors B Chivers, M Donaghy, C Ó hOisín and P Butcher SF; Alderman G Mullan and Councillor M Coyle SDLP; Councillor A Robinson DUP; Councillor E Stevenson UUP and Councillor B Douglas UUC.

Nominations were sought for the position of chair of the DPP to be rotated amongst the 5 parties on a yearly basis. Councillor Ó hOisín was nominated on the proposal of Councillor Butcher seconded by Councillor Brolly and Councillor Coyle was nominated by Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor Carten. The nominations were put to the meeting and Councillor Coyle was declared chair by 7 votes to 6.

Members were advised that an induction session for newly appointed members would take place on 29 November in Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown. It was agreed that Councillor Coyle, Councillor Chivers and Councillor Douglas would assist with shortlisting and interview for appointment of Independent Members in conjunction with PriceWaterhouseCoopers and that Councillor Stevenson would act as standby.

Appreciation was voiced to the chairs and outgoing members of the DPP for their hard work and commitment when the DPP was initially established.

Residents Satisfaction Survey: The Chief Executive informed members that tenders had been sought for a Residents Satisfaction Survey to be carried out on a sample group of less than 300 residents from within the Borough.

Councillor Coyle proposed, seconded by Alderman Mullan that Council engage Market Research NI to carry out the survey at a cost of £6,000. Councillor Ó hOisín put forward an amendment that officers look at options of having the survey conducted in house. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Cubitt and on being put to the meeting was declared carried, with 8 voting for and none against. The substantive motion was put to the meeting and declared carried.

NILGA Issues: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Council would endorse the NILGA response to the Draft Programme for Government.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Councillor Cubitt would sit on the NILGA Executive Committee meetings as an observer.

The North West Region Cross Border Group: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Butcher that Council would endorse the following motion:

‘The NWRCBG is the catalyst in terms of developing and delivering Cross Border Strategy for the Region.’

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

- Western Health & Social Care Trust – 6 September 2007
- Western Group Environmental Health Committee – 11 September 2007
- Limavady Road Safety Committee – 19 September 2007

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY Councillor Ó hOisín:

Councillor Ó hOisín proposed that:

‘This Council expresses grave concern that, after two extensive consultative processes and based on guarantees within the St Andrews Agreement, the Assembly has given no legislative provision for the protection of Irish speakers.’

He suggested that Council write to the Minister Poots and to the Assembly to express grave concern that after widespread consultation where the vast majority of responses were in favour of enactment of the proposed Irish Language Act that the legislation had not yet been implemented and should do so as a matter of urgency. The motion was seconded by Councillor Butcher.

Alderman Robinson proposed the following pre prepared amendment:

‘that this discussion end now and that this divisive topic should not be raised in this chamber again unless there is a change in legislation regarding the Irish Language from the Assembly, and that Council concentrate its efforts on attracting employment to the Borough by a united front – as agreed in the

Assembly – and members stop creating a negative picture of the Borough which will certainly not aid in replacing the jobs lost over the past.’

He went on to say that the motion was offensive and that the Assembly budget should not be expected to cover expenditure on a minority language.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Cubitt and on being put to the meeting was declared lost, with 5 voting for and 9 against. The original motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, with 9 voting for and 5 against.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL:

The following resolution submitted by Ballymena Borough Council was noted:

“This Council supports the Royal British Legion in calling on Government to honour its life-long duty of care to those making a unique commitment to their country, serving in the Armed Forces.

This Council believes –

1. there should be a just compensation scheme which recognised the commitment and sacrifices made when serving the Nation.
2. there should be a greater commitment to support the physical and mental health of Service people and their families.
3. there should be more support for bereaved Service families.

This Council also supports all Service personnel throughout the World, especially the Royal Irish Regiment full-time and part-time personnel, as they prepare for deployment to Afghanistan, in the coming year.”

CONSULTATIONS:

Members were informed that a consultation list had been posted the previous week but it appeared that some members still had not received this information. It was agreed that members would respond individually to the consultations listed.

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar: It was agreed that Councillor Brolly would attend the above seminar to be held 15 & 16 February 2008 in Trim Castle Hotel at a cost of €200.00.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS: - None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Pathway leading to Blackburn Park: Reference was made to the pathway leading to Blackburn Park in Irish Green Street and it was queried if this could be closed off to limit antisocial behaviour and criminality. It was also suggested that both this pathway and the path at LCDI were poorly lit and the public had a fear of using them. Alderman Robinson proposed, seconded by Alderman Rankin that officers look at legalities of closing the pathway.

Environmental Improvement Scheme: Members endorsed the proposed environmental improvement scheme by DSD at bus station loop road alongside Tesco.

Greysteel Play Area: It was agreed that the tender submitted by Street, Play Leisure in the sum of £70,000.00 for play area at Greysteel would be accepted.

Appointment of Irish Cardinal: It was agreed that letter of congratulations would be forwarded to Dr Sean Brady on his appointment as Cardinal of Ireland.

Civic Reception: It was agreed that a civic reception would be held for the owners and staff of Tommy Chip Shop and Gregory's Meat, Ballykelly on their recent business awards.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Extra Care Annual Report - Giving older people and dependent adults the choice to live at home with dignity
- NILGOSC Annual Report – Northern Ireland Local government Officers Superannuation Committee
- Northern Irelands Museums Council Annual Report and Financial Statements 2006/07
- Roads Service Annual Report and Accounts 2006/07
- Dealing with Debt – Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Report 2006/07 and Working Together Annual Report 2006/07
- Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations – Perspective on Social Housing, Issue 7
- Sustainable Northern Ireland Annual Report 2006/07
- Big Lottery Fund – Answering Big Questions ‘Impact and lessons learned from our evaluation and research’
- Belfast City Council Corporate Plan 2007/08
- The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council Strategic Framework 2007-2013
- Staff Commission Annual Report and Accounts 2006/07
- Workers Educational Association – Annual Report 2006/07
- Invest Northern Ireland Annual Report and Accounts 2006/07
- Northern Ireland Policing Board – Monitoring the Compliance of the PSNI with the Human Rights Act 1998 – Annual Report 2007
- Audit Committee Institute Northern Ireland – Issue 4 September 2007
- Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland – Enforcement of the Department of the Environment October 2007
- NILGA – Annual Report 2006/07
- Housing Executive – 36 Annual Report 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007
- Business Community - CR Matters Autumn/Winter 2007

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 18 December 2007

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.05 pm)

Signed: _____
 Chair of Meeting