

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

**28 NOVEMBER 2006**

Minutes of monthly meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady, which commenced at 7.00 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Councillor McElhinney

**Other Members:** Aldermen G Mullan, J Rankin and G Robinson. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** - Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - None

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING:**

The minutes of meeting dated 24 October 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Alderman Mullan.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Draft Order in Council – The Taxi (NI) Order 2006:** Members noted that following consultation with the Taxi Association, the Corporate Policy Officer had responded to the above consultation by the agreed deadline.

**Multi-Cultural Civic Centre:** Members noted that the Chief Executive and Director of Environmental Services had a positive meeting with Fold Management representatives and a further meeting would take place with Roe Fold residents in December 2006 to confirm details of the project and its management designed to alleviate residents concerns.

**Emblems Working Group:** The Chief Executive explained that all minutes of the Emblems Working Group had been forwarded to members as requested and suggested these be considered for adoption. Councillor Cubitt said the minutes should be discussed and items explained by the servicing officer. Councillor Douglas agreed. Alderman Robinson proposed and Councillor Robinson seconded that the minutes be discussed when the Corporate Policy Officer returned from annual leave. The proposal was put to the meeting and declared lost, with 6 voting for and 8 against.

The minutes of the Working Group were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

Councillor Stevenson objected to this decision and asked the Chief Executive needed to give direction on whether the minutes should be discussed or not. The Chief Executive said questions should be allowed. He clarified that he had attended two of the Emblems Working Group meetings and would be happy to clarify any point in question. Councillor Brolly pointed out that the no matter what advice the Chief Executive gave, the final decision on adoption of minutes

was for Council to decide. The Mayor declared the debate closed as the minutes were already adopted.

#### **MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD 2 NOVEMBER 2006:**

The minutes of special meeting held 2 November 2006 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

#### **MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD 16 NOVEMBER 2006:**

The minutes of special meeting held 16 November 2006 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Alderman Mullan.

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT – NOVEMBER 2006:**

**Integrated Business Plan:** The Chief Executive updated members on progress to Council's Integrated Business Plan. He explained the definition of key performance indicators (KPI's) and non quantifiable outcomes for member's information. Members commented on the value of a Good Relations Audit and suggested that relations needed to be improved within Council. Noted.

**North West Gateway Initiative:** The Chief Executive informed members that the initial statement of the Joint Governmental Secretariat clearly related to the Derry, Donegal, Limavady and Strabane Gateway. The point was made that more than one gateway existed in the region for consideration, for example Strabane – Lifford. He said similarly it was important to reiterate that Limavady had another important gateway through the Magilligan – Greencastle ferry.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Douglas that the secretariat's key officers be invited to address Council to outline the work of the initiative and to hear how important it was to embrace the Limavady gateway when initiatives were being considered.

**Coastal and Marine Forum Inaugural Meeting:** The Chief Executive explained that he had been nominated through SOLACE to represent NILGA on the recently formed Coastal and Marine Forum. He said the role of the forum would be to bring together representatives from the key sectors of local & central government, environmentalist and business interests to drive the implementation of the recently developed Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy and that this was intended to set out long term objectives for achieving sustainable coastal management through improvements in existing management systems. Noted.

**Corporate Plan Process:** The Chief Executive requested that members choose from two separate options for Council's 'Mission Statement' which would be included in the Corporate Plan 2007-09. It was agreed that option 1 would be the preferred choice for new Mission Statement detailed as follows:

“To deliver quality services that meet peoples needs, making the best use of resources while managing the transition to new council structures in a way that best promotes the interests of the area underpinned by unified civic leadership, making the most of our central location, regionally, transnationally and in a European Context.”

**Loan Sanction Approval:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Carten that loan sanction approval of £85k be sought from the Department of Environment for repairs to the play area, tennis courts and pool area at Benone and £36k for upgrade of air conditioning at Roe Valley Leisure Centre. Members noted that the expenditure had been included when the 2006/07 estimates had been agreed.

**EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:**

- Foyle Health & Social Services Trust – 27 October 2006

**NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CARTEN:**

Councillor Carten proposed:

“That Council is mindful of the sharp rises in fuel prices over the past number of years and the problem of fuel poverty in the Borough, particularly facing older people. With 41% of the Borough’s population affected by fuel poverty, it is the 4<sup>th</sup> worst affected Council area in Northern Ireland. While oil prices continue to be uncertain, electricity and gas prices have increased dramatically this year. Council requests the Minister of the Department of Social Development, David Hanson, to urgently review and increase the levels of winter fuel payments to be made available this year to assist the most vulnerable in our society.”

In support of the motion he said most people were out working and only turned the heating on a few hours in the day but many retired people had to go to bed in the afternoon to stay warm and save fuel.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Cubitt, who said not only had oil and gas increased, but there were higher levels of rates, proposed water charges and increase in cost of coal, logs and sticks. Alderman Robinson and Councillor Chivers voiced their support for the motion and said increase in the level of winter fuel payments was long overdue.

In summing up, Councillor Carten said Tony Blair had failed to deliver on his election manifesto regarding helping pensioners and called for all members to support the motion.

The motion was supported unanimously.

**CONSULTATIONS:**

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would include members’ comments in response to the following consultation documents:

- DVLNI – Proposals to Revise the Fees for Road Freight and Passenger Operator Licences (response due 10 January 2007);
- DARD - Farm Income Statistical Indicators, Proposals for Change (response due 8 January 2007) and
- DRD - Residents Parking Schemes (response due 9 February 2007).

**DRAFT RESPONSE TO DDA 1995 – DRAFT GUIDE FOR PUBLIC AUTHORITIES CONSULTATION ‘PROMOTING POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS DISABLED PEOPLE & ENCOURAGING THE PARTICIPATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LIFE:**

The Chief Executive tabled draft response to the above consultation document for member’s consideration. Members noted that the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires public authorities, when carrying out their functions to have due regard to the need to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

The draft response as presented was approved.

**COURSES & CONFERENCES:**

**Closing the Gap Conferences – Anti Poverty Group:** It was agreed that Councillor Carten would attend the Closing the Gap Conference in Association by Anti Poverty Group to be held Wednesday 29 November 2006 in Radisson SAS Roe Park Hotel.

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** - None

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**2007 Diary:** Councillor Coyle said he was not impressed by the lack of map for Northern Ireland within the 2007 diary. Noted.

**Privatisation of Water Service:** Councillor Coyle requested that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State to express grave concern at plans to privatise the Water Service and to state that the public should be made aware that this would be allowed to be introduced without any consultation. Agreed.

**Civic Reception:** Councillor Donaghy proposed, the Councillor Coyle seconded that Council host a Civic Reception for the County Derry under 16 Camogie Team.

Councillor Stevenson referred to the large number of Civic Receptions hosted and requested costing on how much these were costing the ratepayer.

**Restricted Parking:** Alderman Rankin suggested that since restricted parking was introduced, people were getting confused and needed direction on where they could park in the town. It was agreed that the Town Centre Manager would distribute maps to businesses in the town and for the information to be uploaded to Council website, as well as issuing an appropriate press release.

**Letter from the Mayor to Community Groups:** Councillor Stevenson referred to the letter distributed by the Mayor to Community Groups in the Borough regarding restoration of the political institutions. He said this was blatant politics and misuse of the Mayors office. He suggested the letter be withdrawn as it was clearly a follow on from the Sinn Féin party line. The Mayor relayed contents of

the letter to members and said in his opinion it was non political. Members of Sinn Féin said the letter was constructive and to be commended. Noted.

**FORMAL CORRESPONDANCE:**

- Central Appointments Unit – Annual Report Volume 1 & 2
- Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland – An Inspection of Community Safety Partnerships
- Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland 2005/06
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service – Annual Report & Statement of Accounts 2005/06
- Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual Report 2005/06
- Big Lottery Fund – Summary Report on screening of policies
- Housing Executive – 35 Years of Housing Photographs
- Invest Northern Ireland – Performance Report 2002/03 – 2004/05
- The Disposal of Heritage Assets by Public Bodies – A Report by Green Balance for the National Trust
- Belfast City Council – Corporate Plan Year 4 Review and Update 2006/07
- Report on the Implementation of the Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Duties by Public Authorities Based on Public Authority Annual Progress Reports

**NEXT MEETING:**

19 December 2006 - directly following the Environmental Services meeting.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**

**(The meeting ended at 8.15 pm)**

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