

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

SPECIAL MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

31 JANUARY 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 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, C Ó hOisín and A Robinson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Environmental Services and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: Councillor McElhinney

CIVIC CENTRE OPTIONS REVIVEW:

The Chief Executive reminded members that it had been agreed in November 2007 that consideration would be given to all other options for development of a Civic Centre. He said that following a brainstorming session by officers 7 options were offered as a starting point for discussion, although members would put forward additional options for consideration.

The Chief Executive outlined that it was assumed that Council had a desire to provide a Civic Centre and an outdoor piazza or arena which could be used for outdoor events; that the previously defined use of the facility had not changed; Council would not want to spend in excess of £4 million on the development and that Council would consider some element of public consultation.

At this point Councillor Cubitt declared an interest as a potential developer and left the chamber at 7.20 pm.

The following options were debated:

- 1 – do nothing*
- 2 – explore a smaller development on the existing site which would not require access across the Fold's access road*
- 3 – dispose of the existing site on the open market without a development brief and use proceeds to develop a Civic Centre on an alternative site*
- 4 – look for a partnership approach in developing a facility*
- 5 – public private partnership*
- 6 – dispose of the existing site but with a development brief*
- 7 – consider if there are opportunities for land swap.*

Members put forward their views in relations to the options and after consideration it was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Brolly that ‘Council would run with option 2, to include the incorporation of the façade at a cost of no more than £4 million and without any input from Fold Housing in relation to access.’ He said there was a degree of flexibility in the proposal and recommended that officers proceed as soon as possible in continuing the work that Council had already allowed them to do. He also suggested that if there were any land left over at the site, that this be sold to offset costs.

The Chief Executive indicated that officers would report back to Council on progress on access with Planning Service and Road Service and further proposals within option 2.

Councillor Cubitt returned to the chamber at 7.40 pm.

REVISED CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:

Public Art, Main Street & Chapel Road, Dungiven: The Chief Executive explained that Glenshane Community Development has secured funding for erection of two sculptures titled ‘Mythology for Prosperity’ (Finvola & O’Cahan hound and boat of dreams) to be located at entrance of Main Street and Chapel Road, Dungiven. Council agreed to adopt the sculptures and assume maintenance and insurance of same, subject to confirmation on design features in the boat of dreams.

NILGA Framework of Engagement with Constituent Councils: It was agreed that members of NILGA would attend the February 2008 Monthly meeting to discuss the operation of the Framework for Engagement with Constituent Councils as the basis for joint working in the future.

Date of Monthly Council Meeting in March: It was agreed that the March Monthly meeting which be held directly after the Environmental Services meeting on Tuesday 18 March 2008.

Northern Ireland Sex Offender Strategic Management Committee: It was agreed that the above group would present to Council in April 2008 on the subject of assessment and management of the risk posed by sex offenders.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) Annual Presentation: It was agreed the NIHE would present their annual report at the June 2008 Planning & Services meeting.

Dungiven Civic Amenity Site: It was agreed that a meeting would take place on Tuesday 12 February 2008 at 6 pm with members to update them on the current position and gauge their support for pursuing the current approved Civic Amenity site in Dungiven and to discuss the possibility of meeting with local residents.

MINUTES OF WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST:

The minutes of Western Health & Social Care Trust dated 8 November 2007 were noted.

CONSULTATIONS:

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

- The Planning Service – ‘Environmental Impact Assessment of reserved Matters Applications’
- NI Commissioner for Children and Young People – ‘Your Voice Consultation’
- Department of Finance and Personnel – ‘Lone Pensioner Allowance – Rating Policy’
- The Consumer Council – ‘Draft Corporate Plan 2008-11’
- Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure – ‘Salmon and Inland Fisheries Stakeholder Forum Consultation’
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service – ‘Draft Road Safety Strategy’
- Department of Social Development – ‘Review of Monetary Limits for Certain Gaming Machine Stakes and Prizes and Associated Social Responsibility issues.’

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

It was agreed that the following members/officers would attend the conferences listed:

- Chief Executive to attend the NILGA Annual Conference – The Challenge of Change to be held 7 & 8 February 2008 in Millennium Forum, Derry/Londonderry at a cost of £225+VAT.
- Chief Executive and one officer to attend the Northern Ireland Governance Conference to be held 12 March 2008 in Central Belfast at a cost of £445+VAT.
- Councillor Butcher and Councillor Cubitt to attend EPLANI Conference – Reforming PPS14 – Is Kinship a solution? To be held 28 February 2008 in Stormont Hotel, Belfast at a cost of £75.
- Two officers to attend the Rural Development Council Conference – Accessing IFI Community Based Economic & Social Regeneration Programme and the launch of the New Integrated Communities Programme to be held 19 February 2008 in Armagh City Hotel – no fee.
- Alderman Robinson, Councillor Chivers and Councillor Donaghy to attend the NAC Conference – Tackling Disorder & Anti Social Behaviour to be held 29 – 2 March 2008 in Carlton Hotel, Blackpool at a cost of £295+VAT.

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

The legal document between Council and James Armstrong regarding sale of lands to the rear of 66 Edenvale was signed and sealed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The following was discussed:

- The request from Billy Robinson, GM Design to meet with Council regarding the housing development at the former Gorteen House Hotel was refused.

- It was agreed that the Conor Murphy, Minister for Regional Development would meet with Council on 3 April 2008 at 2 pm.
- The Chief Executive and Director of Environmental Services provided background details of complaint received from tenant of rented property regarding alleged public health nuisance, actions taken by Council to have this abated and subsequent complaint made by the tenant to the Ombudsman. Members noted that the Commissioner had concluded that there were a number of examples of maladministration on the part of Council in failing to ensure that the nuisance which the complainant had complained about in November 2001 were not abated speedily and that the Commissioner had recommended that the complaint receive by way of redress a letter of apology together with a conciliatory payment of £500. Agreed.
- The Chief Executive explained that Tom Elliott, MLA, Fermanagh & South Tyrone had written in relation to FET case brought against Sperrins Tourism Limited. The letter queried if Council was taking further action regarding the findings. It was agreed that that members would be given a copy of the correspondence from the MLA and that the Chief Executive would respond to this.
- Following the disturbance at the previous Monthly meeting, it was suggested that additional lighting was needed at the front and back of the building and that CCTV should be installed.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Ulster Sports Trust – Annual Report 2006-07
- Community Relations Council – 17th Annual Report 2006/07
- Advisory Council on Infrastructure Investment – Review of Year 3: 2006/07
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service – Annual Report 2006/07
- Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – Monitoring Report No 17 A profile of the Northern Ireland Workforce
- Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Annual Report and Accounts for 2006/07
- Big Lottery Fund – Answering Big Questions: Impacts and lessons learned from our evaluation and research

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.45 pm)

Signed: _____
 Chair of Meeting