

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

8 SEPTEMBER 2004

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen M Carten, J Dolan and G Robinson. Councillors A Brolly (chair), B Brown, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, D Lowry, G Mullan, M McGuigan, J Rankin and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer and the Town Clerk.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 11 August 2004 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Carten, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

MATTERS ARISING:

Refurbishment of Fitness Facility - Roe Valley Leisure Centre: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer said that Council had received the revised contract from Competition Line for the refurbishment of the fitness suite. However, after scrutiny by the Project Sub Committee the document had been returned to Competition Line for amendment.

Where do we see Ourselves: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that the one day conference addressing the travelling community at Radisson SAS Poe Park Hotel on Monday 11 October 2004 had been postponed.

Bullocks Lane / Roeville Terrace: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer confirmed to Councillor Cubitt that Council had received a letter of complaint from a resident of Bullocks Lane regarding a car blocking the lane and a sign which had been erected thereon during the International Cricket Match to redirect traffic. He added that the resident had requested speed ramps be installed on the lane in an attempt to slow traffic.

The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer indicated that the matter was between Limavady Cricket & Rugby Club and residents of the Bullocks Lane. It was agreed to note the complaint.

Parking - Roe Valley Country Park: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that the additional car park at Roe Valley Country Park was to be utilised by the Environment Heritage Service.

CHIEF RECREATION/TOURIST OFFICER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2004 (see appendix)

The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer presented his report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Rankin subject to the following:

Disabled Jetty: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer said that Environment & Heritage Service had informed Council that resources had been set aside for improvements to the disabled fishing jetty at Roe Valley Country Park. He added that the Department was hesitant in carrying out substantive work until they identify a means of ensuring that the provision was for disabled people only. Councillor Coyle referred to the legislation on service provision for the disabled and said that it was a matter of urgency that the Environment & Heritage Service complied with this.

In response to Alderman Robinson, the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer said he would contract the Rivers Agency regarding cutting the grass at the jetty at Swan's bridge.

Roemill Road Recreation Grounds – All Weather Pitch: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that Council had received a request from Mr Glenn Reilly, Headmaster Limavady Secondary School for the use of the all weather pitch at Roemill Recreation Grounds for the 12 month period when the school pitch was being refurbished.

The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer recommenced approval to the request as there was no conflict in the time the school and public would use the pitch, plus the maintenance work would be undertaken by the Education & Library Board at no extra cost to Council. Agreed.

Backburn Park to Scroggy Road Public Path Order: Councillor Cubitt referred to the submission given by Mr Richard Gillen, Countryside Access Officer at the recent public path order and said Mr Gillen had done an excellent job on behalf of Council.

Limavady/Vigneux Town Twinning – French Festival Weekend 7 – 10 October 2004: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer confirmed that Council had received confirmation that the Mayor of Vigneux, Monsieur Serge Poinot and a delegation of business men would attend the French Festival weekend in Limavady from 7 – 10 October 2004. It was agreed that Council would provide hospitality for the delegation during the visit.

Tourism Development Strategy: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reported that a draft brief for a Tourism Development Strategy had been prepared and invited members to comment on the content to enable the project to be progressed.

Members noted the background; study area; terms of reference; scope of the work and expected outcomes and instructed the Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer to obtain quotation for the study from the Government Purchasing Agency.

L.A.T.C.H: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer highlighted that LATCH had been invited to a reception in Dublin and had asked if Council would provide financial support. He added that whilst Council would not provide assistance with travel costs, a financial contribution of £100 could be provided for preliminary inter-culture workshop prior to the Dublin Group's reciprocal visit early next year. Agreed.

Lands at Benone Strand: It was proposed by Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Dolan that Council go into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE - The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer informed members that Council's solicitor had received correspondence from Brown McConnell Clark McKee, acting for The Crown Estate Commissioners and they had confirming that the area of the foreshore which Council proposed to lease in 1994 was available to lease subject to an existing licence to the Ulster Gliding Club.

The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer said that Brown McConnell Clark McKee had suggested a 15 year lease and rent of £600 per annum reviewed every 5 years, with the Council being responsible for all legal costs, including those incurred during the lease negotiations of 1994/95, which did not progress.

The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer highlighted that taking on the lease of the foreshore would allow Council greater control of the foreshore by enabling it to enforce its bye-laws fully and ensure the beach was a safe and enjoyable visitor attraction. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Robinson that Council confirm its interest in leasing the foreshore and instruct Council's solicitor to proceed on its behalf.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Coyle that Council prosecute those who had illegally traded on Benone beach. - **OUT OF COMMITTEE**

Consultation on the Statutory Regulation of Tourist Accommodation in Northern Ireland: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reported that Council had received a letter from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment stating that it proposed to update and modernise the legal framework on the regulation of tourist accommodation in Northern Ireland in order to enhance the quality and competitiveness of tourism product.

Members noted that the document contained background information on the current arrangements and the detail of proposals intended to amend the existing Tourism Order and its related regulations. The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer said that comments on the consultation document was to be forwarded to the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment by 19 November 2004.

DISCUSSION PAPER – GMS OUT OF HOURS SERVICES:

The Town Clerk reminded members that the WHSSB had sought Council's views on the proposed GMS Out of Hours Service and that a response was to be submitted by 10 September 2004.

Members voiced their concern at the possibility of the Roedoc service being reduced and the following comments were noted:

- residents of the borough were strongly opposed to any reduction in service and Council strongly rejected the proposed limit to the opening times of Out of Hours service in Limavady;
- residents want localised service for the local people;
- financial restriction put forward for the closing of Roedoc service were challenged;
- parents with young children and babies feel the presence of GP in the area provides great source of comfort;
- money would be better spend training nurses;
- Limavady was a growing community with large rural area, and any change of service would mean some residents having to travel a great distance for GP service;
- vulnerable and disadvantaged (older people or families with low income and no car) would be at a disadvantage if the service was centralised;
- accountability and responsiveness should be added as a characteristic for an effective Out of Hours Service;
- members welcomed the commitment to having a Minor Injury Unit located in Limavady as part of emergency services plan – and suggest that this should be combined and located at current Roedoc Out of Hours service;
- welcome the additional range of other health and social care professionals to complement the services undertaking by medical practitioners.

After further debate, it was agreed that the Town Clerk issue a response by the given deadline.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Russian Tragedy: It was agreed that the Mayor write to the Mayor of Beslam and to the Russian Embassy expressing sympathy to the residents following the recent attack on Beslam school.

Councillors M Donaghy, M McGuigan and J Rankin left the meeting at 9 pm.

Pond – Railway Track: Councillor Brown requested that Council look into the possibility of constructing a pond within the Blackburn Park. The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer said that the issue of a pond had been considered and deferred in the past but he would raise this possibility again.

Security, Magilligan/Greencastle Ferry: The Town Clerk reported that Council had written to Mr Gregory Campbell MP seeking derogation from the security requirements of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 be raised in Westminster.

He said that further to Mr Campbell's intervention, Council had received a response from the Department of Transport in London clarifying that representatives from their office would visit both the Donegal and Magilligan site and when a definitive decision on security was reached they would contact Council.

World Ploughing Competition: Councillor Lowry requested that the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer write to Mr James Barr congratulating him on the success of the World Ploughing Competition.

Civic Reception - FIM World Motorcross Grand Prix of Ireland: Members agreed that a Civic Reception for the World Motorcross Championship would be held Friday 10 September 2004 in Gorteen House Hotel.

Causeway Coast & Glens Masterplan: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer tabled a letter from Department of Trade and Investment regarding training recommendations within the Tourism Masterplan.

Following discussions with representatives from Moyle, Coleraine and Limavady Councils and Tourist Training Trust it had been agreed that a series of courses for tourist providers be held in the autumn within each Council area. Members noted that DETI would match funding by 50% total and it was envisaged that the total for Council would not exceed £2,000.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Lowry to contribute £2,000 – 50% total cost towards the series of courses.

NEXT MEETING:

7 October 2004

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

(The meeting ended at 9.45 pm)