

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

**26 JANUARY 2005**

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

**PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Councillor Rankin

**Other Members:** Aldermen Dolan and Carten. Councillors A. Brolly, B. Brown, B. Chivers, M. Coyle, L. Cubitt, M. Donaghy, B. Douglas, D. Lowry, G. Mullan and M McGuigan.

**In Attendance:** Committee Clerk, Chief Environmental Health Officer, Acting Chief Technical Services Officer, Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer, Acting Chief Finance & Administration Officer and the Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:**

Aldermen G. Robinson and Councillor Stevenson, Chief Finance & Administration Officer and the Town Clerk.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of monthly meeting dated 15 December 2004 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Roe Fold Concerns:** The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive informed members that the Acting Chief Technical Service Officer had met with Fold management regarding concerns on access for the restoration of the former Town Hall. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lowry, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Fold residents be invited to attend a forthcoming meeting of Council where additional queries would be raised.

**Policy on Provision of Public Toilet:** The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive reported that a draft policy on the provision of public toilets would be brought to the next Environmental Services meeting.

**Multi Functional Civic Centre:** The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive informed members that following a meeting with Ilex, there were positive signs that Council's application for grant aid towards the Multi Functional Civic Centre would be approved.

**CHANGE MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE:**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Dolan that item 4, Change Management Sub Committee and item 18, Confidential Report on Actions Arising from Disciplinary Hearing and Subsequent Appeal be brought forward and held in committee.

**RATES ESTMATES:**

Councillor Lowry, joint Chair of Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee, referred to the recommendations of his Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2005 in respect of the Rates Estimates and proposed:

- (a) the adoption of the projected estimated net expenditure of £6,325,162 for 2005/2006;
- (b) the authorisation of the expenditure as set out in the estimates and
- (c) the adoption of a domestic rate of 140.70 pence and a non-domestic rate of 19.42 pence for the year 2005/2006.

Councillor Lowry stated that Council had finalised its corporate plan for the period 2004 – 2007 with the overall mission of serving the community Borough of Limavady in a way that meets its needs for service provision, economic prosperity, sustainable development and quality of life. He added that in so doing, Council was conscious of the need to maintain tight and effective budgetary control and strike a reasonable rate for the incoming year.

Councillor Lowry stressed the importance of continuing with Council's waste management plan to reduce, reuse and recycle. He explained that since Drumaduff landfill site closed in November 2003, residual waste was transported to Coleraine Borough Council landfill site. He said that the restoration and closure plans for the landfill site would be implemented over a 3 year period to meet strict environmental standards and that £567k had been set aside in this year's estimates for this work, with total cost to be in the region of £1.7 million.

Councillor Lowry pointed out that Council's household and dry recyclable wastes were collected in black and blue bins respectively and taken to a transfer station at Aghanloo before delivery to final destinations at Coleraine landfill site and Glassdon Waste. He added that under the waste management plan, 3 civic amenity sites would be upgraded and 3 new recycling points would be provided and that in addition Council would begin central composting with the introduction of brown bins.

Councillor Lowry explained that Council's recreation and open space strategy was adopted in June 2003 and £344k had been set aside for first phase of the associated action plan.

Councillor Lowry stressed that Council was continuing with the design and construction of a new Multi-Purpose Civic Centre to replace the town hall and that this facility would enable cultural and community development in the borough and at the same time regenerate Limavady town centre as a dynamic attraction for visitors and local people.

Councillor Lowry reminded members that the Lough Foyle Car Ferry continued to be a success, with revenue generated in the second year of business being £130,000, which was greater than anticipated. He said that over the next year, Council would continue to promote the Danny Boy theme by the recruitment of an Events Officer and by launching a new Danny Boy international festival.

Councillor Lowry stressed that Council was conscious of its requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act and, as part of a phased implementation, had set aside £150k in this years estimates. He added that Council would continue with the implementation of the equality and good relations duties under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 by carrying out equality impact assessments on new policies and those identified in the approved equality scheme. He further added that in accordance with the Corporate Plan, Council would continue to work towards achieving Investors In People award with a target date for completion of March 2006.

Councillor Lowry explained that the rate estimates for 2005/06 consisted of loan charges of £837k - a increase of £19k or 2.32% on the previous year. He said that this was mainly due to i) the new Multipurpose Civic Centre, ii) air-conditioning in the Roe Valley Leisure Centre and iii) a saving due to the five year loan for computer equipment being paid up.

Councillor Lowry reported that salaries and wages were projected at £3,529k, an increase of £262k or 8.01%, which was due to cost of living increases of 2.95% and an increase in employer's pension contribution rate from 4.6% to 8.5%.

Councillor Lowry explained that other expenses totalled £3,858k, an increase of £88k or 2.33%. He added that the main items of additional expenditure were i) planned increase in Economic Development expenditure, ii) insurance costs, mainly Employer and Public Liability, and iii) the Local Government Election in May 2005. He said that a reduction in contributions to voluntary bodies and a saving in the running costs of the Lough Foyle car Ferry had offset these increases.

Councillor Lowry explained that income was £1,898k, an increase of £227k or 13.56%, with the main sources of additional income coming from i) the Roe Valley Leisure Centre, ii) Building Control, iii) bank interest and iv) increased grant due to expenditure on Economic Development. This results in net expenditure of £6,325, an increase of £142k or 2.29%.

After allowing for a general grant of £1,472k, an increase of £18k or 1.25%, the amount to be raised by the rates was £4,853k which is equivalent to a domestic rate of 140.70 pence in the pound - an increase of 6.38 pence or 4.75% and a non-domestic rate of 19.42 pence in the pound - a increase of 0.88 pence or 4.75%.

Councillor Lowry reminded members that the rates estimate had been fully debated at Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting on 19 January 2005 and as there were no proposals for amendments, the full Committee now brought the rate estimate for ratification in line with Council's legislative requirement.

Alderman Dolan seconded Councillor Lowry's proposal.

Several Councillors voiced their appreciation at the effort made by Council to reduce, reuse and recycle and said this had helped to keep the rate down to a reasonable level.

After discussion the motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, 11 voting for and 1 against.

**NORTHERN IRELAND BUILDING CONTROL COMMITTEE:**

**Minutes:** Minutes of meeting held 9 September 2004 were tabled and noted.

**WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:**

**Minutes:** Minutes of meeting held 3 November 2004 were tabled and noted.

**REPORT FROM BOARD OF HOUSING EXECUTIVE:**

**Minutes:** Minutes of meetings held 24 November and 15 December 2004 were tabled and noted.

**FOYLE HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST:**

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

**WESTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD:**

**Minutes:** Minutes of various meeting of the board were tabled and noted.

**RESOLUTION FROM BELFAST CITY COUNCIL:**

Members agreed that the following resolution from Belfast City Council be noted:

“Belfast City Council notes with concern the announcement that the Department of Employment and Learning intends to scrap the Worktrack Programme and the Sure Start Scheme.

The Council regards these devices as effective tools in assisting people to beat the benefits trap, calls on the Minister with responsibility for the Department of Employment and Learning, Mr Barry Gardiner, M.P., to reverse these decisions and agrees to forward this Notice of Motion to the other Local Authorities in Northern Ireland. In addition, the Council agrees that the issue be deferred to the Economic Development Sub-Committee for consideration.”

**PETITION FROM NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

It was agreed that the following petition from North Down Borough Council be noted:

“That this Council mounts a campaign of protest against the proposed introduction of water charges by organising a petition for signature by the rate payers of North Down, the petition is to be placed in all Council buildings and a copy sent to all other Councils in Northern Ireland; and that the Chief Executive and Town Clerk investigates the possibility of organising a public meeting to inform residents of the proposed changes and the issues involved, inviting representatives from the DRD, General Consumer Council and ant-water charges campaign to be present.”

**COURSES/CONFERENCES:**

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School – European Constitution:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Alderman Dolan that

Councillor Coyle attend the above conference. It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Chivers that Councillor A Brolly attend the 16<sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School to be held at Colmcille Heritage Centre, Letterkenny on 25 – 27 February 2005 at a cost of €170 per person.

**CIWM Conference & Exhibition:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Carten that two officers of Council attend the above conference to be held at Paignton, Torbay on 14 – 17 June 2005 at a cost of £590 + VAT.

**The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management – Blue Print for Waste Management 2005:** It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Carten, seconded by Alderman Dolan, that Councillor Coyle attend the above conference to be held at City Hotel, Armagh on 6 – 7 April 2005 at a cost of £198.

**Economic & Social Research Council:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Carten that the Acting Economic Development Officer attend the above conference to be held Friday 4 February 2005.

**Pobal – Language Awareness Course:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Mullan that Councillor A Brolly attend this half day course to be held in Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, Belfast on Wednesday 16 February 2005 at a cost of £50.

**National Association of Councillors – Review of Public Administration:** Members agreed that Councillor Cubitt, Councillor Coyle and Councillor Chivers attend the above conference to be held Wednesday 9 February 2005 in Seagoe Hotel, Portadown.

#### **INDEPENDENT HEALTH CARE – REGISTRATIONS & INSPECTION STANDARDS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:**

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would respond to this consultation document on behalf of Council.

#### **OFCOM – REVIEW OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Dolan that the Corporate Policy Officer would respond on Council's behalf to this consultation document.

#### **ALTMOVER GLEN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (ASSI):**

Members had no comment or objection on the statement put forward by Environment and Heritage Service's on their views about the management of Altmore Glen Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).

It was agreed that the Chief Environmental Health Officer would investigate reports of illegal dumping at this ASSI site.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Sale of Sara Lee Factory Site:** The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive agreed to investigate reports that the Sara Lee factory had been sold to a local housing developer.

**Parking at Ballykeen Cottages:** At the request of Alderman Carten, the Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive agreed to explore ways of resolving parking problems for residents and service vehicles at Ballykeen Cottages.

**Fundraising by Roe Valley Baptist Church:** The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer said that Roe Valley Baptist Church had requested the use of Roe Valley Leisure Centre for fundraising towards the Tsunami Appeal. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor A Brolly, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that the fee be waived for the use of the centre on this occasion.

**Limavady District Policing Partnership:** It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Councillor Cubitt be appointed chair of the Limavady District Policing Partnership. It was also agreed on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Councillor Rankin be appointed as vice chair. Agreed.

**Drug Awareness Film - Magilligan Community Association:** The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer informed members that Magilligan Community Association had invited Councillors to attend the launch of “Wee Bro”, a drugs awareness film dedicated to the memory of Jason Brolly, who had tragically lost his life through drugs on 3 February 2003. It was agreed a letter of apology would be sent to the Association as the launch coincided with Council’s Planning & Development Committee meeting to be held on the same night.

**FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Shaping our Future....together – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report – Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025
- Home Energy Conservation Report 2004
- Labour Relations Agency Annual Report & Accounts 2003 – 2004
- Community Relations Council – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report 2003/2004
- Enterprise Ulster Annual Report 2003/2004
- The Electoral Commission’s Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2003.2004
- The Electoral Commission Monitoring Report No 14 – A Profile of the Northern Ireland Workforce
- NILGOSC Annual Report 2003/2004
- The Government’s Response to The Electoral Commission’s Report: Delivering Democracy? The Future of Postal Voting
- The Government’s Response to The Electoral Commission’s Report: Voting for Change – An Electoral Law Modernisation Programme
- Perspective – The Royal Society of Ulster Architects
- Roads Service Annual Report & Accounts 2003/2004
- Home Accident Prevention – Strategy & Action Plan 2004-2009
- Belfast Healthy Cities Annual Report 2003-2004

**NEXT MEETING:**

23 February 2005

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**

**(The meeting ended at 9.05 pm)**