

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
1 OCTOBER 2013**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.58 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor G Mullan.

Aldermen M Coyle, J Rankin and G Robinson. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey, C McLaughlin, D Nicholl, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive and the Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES: - None

PRESENTATION BY ROADS SERVICE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT – LINENHALL STREET:

The Chair welcomed Mr Martin Quigg, North West Development Office, Mr Austin Montgomery, NI Roads Service and Mr Peter O’Kane, Whitemountain Contractors to the meeting.

Mr Quigg thanked Council for giving them the opportunity to come along to the meeting, he informed members that works on Catherine Street and Market Street had now been completed at a cost of £0.5m and the improvement works on Linenhall Street would cost approximately £250,000 and would involve installation of lighting, paving and resurfacing. Mr Quigg reported the works may cause some disruption and pointed out communication was a key priority and businesses were informed.

Mr Montgomery advised members he was involved with the in house design and liaising with Whitemountain Contractors, he raised the issue of the narrow street and the implications it would have on traffic due to works taking place but assured members the work would be carried out during the working day progressing up the street section by section to minimise disruption and the resurfacing work would be fulfilled in the New Year outside peak hours. Mr Montgomery informed members the works excluding resurfacing would commence on Monday 7 October 2013 with the hope of completion by Christmas. Mr Montgomery confirmed the paving would be similar to Catherine Street with a slightly different pattern and new seats erected near Newtowne Square Car Park.

Mr O’Kane informed members the scheme and work carried out was cosmetic and an estimated timeframe of 8 weeks allocated for completion. Mr O’Kane advised members the work was straightforward, approximately 150m long and contractors

would work one path at a time to ensure businesses were accessible, he ensured communication between contractors and local businesses would be a priority.

In the discussion that followed members praised the work carried out but raised concerns regarding the traffic disruption when resurfacing works commence.

The chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and Messrs Quinn, Montgomery and O’Kane left the meeting at 7.20pm.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 3 September 2013 were approved on the proposal of Councillor S McGlinchey, seconded by Alderman M Coyle.

MATTERS ARISING:- None

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:

The Chief Executive presented his report for October 2013 as follows:

Local Government Reform:

Reform Bill: The Chief Executive updated members the Local Government Reform Bill was introduced to the NI Assembly on 23 September 2013 for the first stage of passage to legislation. The second stage debate of the Bill was scheduled for 1 October 2013. The Bill provides the legislative framework within which the 11 new councils would operate. The policies contained within the Bill were developed in partnership with local government. It introduces new responsibilities for the councils, this includes how decisions are made, how positions of responsibility are shared across political parties, how improvements in the delivery of council functions can be achieved to reflect the needs of local communities, and how effectively and efficiently council services are delivered to people. It will provide for strong, modern, statutory governance in Councils and will introduce a new ethical standards framework which will include a mandatory code of conduct for councillors.

Causeway Coast & Glens Statutory Transition Committee (STC): The agenda and draft minutes of the Statutory Transition Committee meeting on 8 August 2013 were noted.

Leisure and Community Facilities in Dungiven: The Chief Executive updated members on the process for the appointment of consultants, he explained the Pre-Qualification Questionnaires had now been assessed and a shortlist of companies would be invited to tender for final selection and appointment, he notified members the next stage of the process would see the selection of consultants for the project by December 2013.

Dromore/Highlands, Limavady Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrade – Acquisition of Land for NI Water Ltd: Members agreed the price of £1,000 received from Land and Property Services for NI Water Ltd to acquire the plot at Dromore/Highlands.

Dungiven Castle: The Chief Executive advised members a date for a court hearing in October had been set on matters relating to the right of way dispute

between the proprietors of Dungiven Castle and Dungiven Market Yard. The Chief Executive also informed members that notification of an application for planning permission from Dungiven Castle for the erection of a licensed marquee had been received on 23 September 2013 and advised members that wished to make representations on the application do so within 14 days of the above date. The Chief Executive informed members that officers had made arrangements to meet with the proprietor in due course.

Establishment of DVA Working Group: The Chief Executive updated members on the newly established DVA Working Group to implement decisions and develop a strategy to influence the Transport Minister around the future of Vehicle Licensing and Registration in Northern Ireland. It was proposed Mayor, Councillor G Mullan sit on the DVA Working Group. Agreed.

Proposed Cuts to Criminal and Civil Legal Aid: It was agreed the Chief Executive write a letter to the Department of Justice, Minister David Ford confirming Limavady Borough Council's support of the Limavady Solicitors Association campaign on the proposed cuts to Criminal and Civil Legal Aid.

Memorandum of Understanding between LPS & Councils: The Chief Executive informed members a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been issued in May 2013 with a view to agreeing an MOU for each Council, he informed members the draft MOU seeks to clearly set out the arrangements for cross-organisational support and information sharing and stated it was an advantage to help clarify working arrangements between LPS and Council. Agreed.

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL:

St Mary's High School & Limavady High School Footbridge Project: *Aldermen J Rankin and M Coyle declared an interest.*

Agreed that St Mary's High School and Limavady High School attend the Development Committee meeting on 8 October 2013.

Drive Safe Programme: Agreed that Denise McAuley update Council on the Drive Safe Programme at the Development Committee meeting on 12 November 2013.

Roads Service Autumn Consultation: Members agreed that representatives update Council on the project at the Planning and Services Council meeting on 19 November 2013.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

- Western Group Environmental Health Committee – 4 June 2013
- Western Health and Social Care Trust – 1 August 2013

CONSULTATIONS: -

Members reviewed the consultation list for October 2013. It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would draft a response on behalf of members to the following consultation:

- Regional Day Opportunities Model for Adults with a Learning Disability. *Agreed to respond to this consultation voicing Council's concern for the people in Limavady Borough, a prepared response would be taken to Development meeting on 8 October 2013 for approval.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES: -

- Northern Ireland Environment Forum – Looking to the future, 9 October 2013, Crumlin Road, Gaol, Belfast – agreed that Councillor Nicholl would attend at a cost of £125.
- NILGA – Shaping Future Local Communities and Economies, 24 October 2013, Craigavon Civic Centre – agreed that Councillor Nicholl would attend at no cost to Council.
- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Changing Environments, 7 and 8 November 2013, Derry/Londonderry - agreed that 2 officers and Councillor Nicholl would attend at a cost of £85 day delegate / £230 full conference.
- Association of Irish Festival Event's Annual Conference, Ballinasloe, Co.Galway, 7 and 8 November 2013 – agreed 1 officer would attend at a cost of €140.
- Building Control Convention, 14 and 15 November 2013, The Lough Erne Resort Hotel, Enniskillen – agreed 1 officer would attend at a cost of £265.
- Severe Weather Seminar, 4 November 2013, Moyle at no cost to Council. Members were advised to contact the Chief Executive's department if they wished to attend.
- It was agreed that the Chief Executive would attend the CCMA/SOLACE Seminar, 21 November 2013 at no cost to Council.

Alderman G Robinson joined the meeting at 8.40pm

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report & Statement of Accounts 2012/13

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS: - None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: -

Woodlands Language Unit: Councillor Beattie recapped the notice of motion submitted in March 2012 'That this Council noted the excellent Language and Communications service provided by the Woodland Language Unit and calls on the Minister of Education to intervene and secure the Centre of Excellence on the integrated Belmont House Campus' she stated she was heartened that the motion was unanimously agreed by Limavady Borough Council and disappointed that the Minister for Education had announced the closure of the unit to be replaced with 3 special language classes. Councillor Beattie emphasised the large cost involved and expressed her concern that not all of the pupils would be accommodated in the move and could be forced into mainstream schools as a result, she stated children were the important factor. It was agreed a letter be written to the Department of Education, Minister O'Dowd to pursue reasons for closure and encourage Minister to reconsider decision. A member stated misinformation had been provided and agreed this was a very emotional argument but facts were needed from all subjects.

Bradley Site at Dungiven Castle - IN COMMITTEE: The Chief Executive informed members of the available site at Dungiven Castle stating the site would be a useful piece of land for development of the Leisure and Community Facilities in Dungiven, a figure of £200,000 had been proposed. The Chief Executive sought approval to proceed to purchase the land, approved on the proposal of Alderman M Coyle, seconded by Councillor Brolly. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

Local Government Reform Bill: Alderman G Robinson confirmed the second stage of the Local Government Reform Bill passed through Assembly.

NEXT MEETING: - 5 November 2013.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.08 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting