

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
11 JUNE 2013**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.25 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, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Committee Clerk and Administration Officer.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor D Nicholl.

PRESENTATION - GLENSHANE CARE CENTRE:

The Chair welcomed Ms Betty Murphy and Ms Carol Hunter, Glenshane Care Centre to the meeting.

Ms Murphy explained that Glenshane Care Centre opened in 1997 as a unit within Glenshane Business Park, a specifically designed facility to provide day-care for those with physical and mental disabilities. She said the centre currently has 20 clients who attended up to 3 times a week and that this provided a vital lifeline for the clients families.

Ms Murphy outlined that the Western Trust provides 65% funding towards the centres operational costs, with other funding sources being difficult to access in the current climate. She said that over the past year discussions had taken place with the Trust following the launch of the 'Northern Ireland Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy & Action Plan' which pointed to providing opportunities and alternatives to day-care provision to make clients more independent (Day Opportunities), however in her opinion, this is not applicable to the clients who attended Glenshane Care Centre as there was nothing available in the area for people with disabilities. She went on to say that she feared that plans to change day-care provision by the Trust was a cost cutting exercise and this had led to uncertainty & worry to day-care staff, clients and their families.

Ms Hunter indicated that those who used Glenshane Care Centre spoke highly about the quality of service provided; the ease of access to the rural community; shared safe space for clients and to how the facility provided a holistic approach in terms of health, education and social inclusion.

Ms Murphy stressed that direction was needed from the Trust on what exactly was expected from the care centre in terms of a model of care to encourage clients to be independent and feel empowered.

In the discussion which followed, it was highlighted that Council was limited in what it could do to help except by lobbying the Assembly. Councillor A Brolly proposed, seconded by Councillor J McCorkell that clarity be sought from the Western Health Trust on the Day Opportunities programme and that Glenshane Care Centre be placed on the agenda when the Minister of Health met with Council to discuss review of residential care.

The Mayor – Councillor G Mullan said he would like to help in some way to fundraise for the group. The deputation from Glenshane Care Centre thanked the Mayor for offering to fundraise and members for listening to their presentation.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 7 May 2013 were approved on the proposal of Councillor J McCorkell, seconded by Councillor A Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING: - None.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING:

The minutes of a special meeting held on 7 May 2013 to discuss residential care provision was approved by members.

The Chief Executive advised that Fionnuala McAndrews, Director of Social Care & Children had written to confirm that the Health & Social Care Board were currently agreeing the terms of reference on residential care home review with the DHSSPS and developing a plan for taking the review forward. He said that an engagement strategy with key stakeholders had been included as part of the workplan and that Ms McAndrews had agreed to meet with Councillors once the plan was finalised.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:

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

RPA Update: The Chief Executive reported that the Regional Transition Committee had met on 22 May 2013 and that the following had been discussed:

- Legislation – the Local Government Bill was expected to be passed by the Assembly in June 2013.
- Statutory Transition Committees (STC's) – the Northern Ireland Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2013 regulations would enable the establishment of the STCs and this was expected to be passed by the Assembly by June 2013.
- Payment for Statutory Transition Committee members - the Department would make the necessary changes to Special Responsibility Allowance to enable councils to pay members.
- Elections – these would be held on the same date as the European Elections.
- Report from the DoE Working Group – summary tabled.

Magilligan Prison Update: The Chief Executive advised that a meeting of the Magilligan Prison Elected Members Liaison Group had been held in Council Chamber earlier in the day and that officers from the 4 member councils would continue to liaise with prison officials to build on opportunities for work placements.

LGSC Diversity and Equality Framework: The Local Government Staff Commission Equality and Diversity Framework document was endorsed by Council.

Diversity and Equality Working Group: Alderman M Coyle, Alderman J Rankin, Councillor B Chivers and Councillor J McCorkell were nominated to sit on the Diversity and Equality Working Group.

Road Closures Legislation: Members were advised that the Minister for Regional Development had stated that Roads Closure Legislation would not be progressed at this time and would be reviewed in a year's time.

Armed Forces Day – Demonstration of Support: It was agreed elected members would contact the British Legion and bring back a recommendation that might be agreed on how to mark Armed forces Day.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

Western Health & Social Care Trust – 4 April 2013.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR A BROLLY:

Councillor A Brolly proposed:

‘That this Council recognises the concerns of the older population in meeting their weekly grocery bills; acknowledges that older people spend a higher proportion on food than any other age group; and supports Age Sector Platform’s call to food retailers to introduce a pensioner ‘Discount Day’ to help older shoppers cope with the rising cost of living and enable them to maintain a balanced and healthy diet.’

The motion was seconded by Councillor C McLaughlin and declared carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

The following resolutions were noted:

(a) submitted by Down District Council:

‘That Down district Council asks our Government to allow citizens of the Irish Republic who perceive themselves to be British to obtain a British passport’

(b) submitted by Newtownabbey Borough Council:

‘Newtownabbey Borough Council believes that local issues, where practical, are best dealt with at a local level. Under the original extra powers that were being proposed under the Review of Administration, there were two substantial new powers that could have made a tangible improvement to the service received by local ratepayers. The Transfer of Planning Powers are now proceeding but regrettably the plans to devolve local roads have not materialised.

Newtownabbey Borough Council believes that the original idea to devolve responsibility for local roads to local government under RPA, with the requisite transfer of people and budget, should be re-examined as a matter of priority by the Departments involved and the Stormont Executive in general'

CONSULTATIONS:

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

- ✓ DRD Roads Service – Blue Badge Scheme: *Council supported the scheme but it was highlighted that there should be better enforcement.*
- ✓ Department of the Environment – Single Tier Taxi Licensing: *Council supported proposals that all taxis would become Public Hire and thus be permitted to stand or ply for hire anywhere in NI.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES: - None.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Serco Issue 3 – A New Generation of Support
- RSPB – Conservation Planner Spring 2013 Issue 38
- Patient and Client Council – Care When I need it. A report on urgent care services, March 2013
- Agri-Food, Going from Growth – Investing in Success. A strategic action plan in support of the NI Agri-Food Industry
- Patient and Client Council – Transport Issues in Accessing Health and Social Care Services
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2011/12
- Housing Executive – Rural Matters May 2013
- DRD – Draft Roads Noise Action Plan, Second Round Mapping and Candidate Noise Management Areas
- Northern Ireland Law Commission – final report on apartments
www.nilawcommission.gov.uk
- Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland – A Report on the Socio-Economic Impact of the Traditional Protestant Parading Sector in Northern Ireland May 2013
- Public Health Agency – Director of Public Health Annual Report

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS: - None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: - None.

Invitation to Film Premiere: On behalf of Drumsurn Community Association, Councillor B Chivers invited members, staff and the public to a film premiere funded by PCSP on Friday 14 June at 7 pm in Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre. Theme dress to impress.

Danny Boy: Alderman M Coyle congratulated St Marys Choir for their rendition of Danny Boy performed in Drumceatt Square on 11 June 2013 and said they really had bought into the Limavady 400.

Attendance by the Mayoress: The Mayor – Councillor Mullan sought approval for the Mayoress to accompany him on an appointment to Dublin. Approved.

Artwork: It was agreed that Council would purchase 2 pieces of artwork at approximately £50 each from Hugh McElwee, who was donating all proceeds to the NI Cancer Fund for Children.

Camp Cormack: It was agreed that Council would support the Camp Cormack event being held in Owenbeg in July by contributing £500 towards the groups transportation and other costs.

Dungiven Sports and Community Project - IN COMMITTEE: Due to complications around the Ballyquin Road site, it was agreed that decision to progress with the development of the site for the above project would be rescinded and that Council would now look at options for the development of the Sports Pavilion site in partnership with the Health Centre, plus look at the possibility of acquiring the site between the Sports Pavilion and the Castle for provision of Sports/Health facilities.

Council also reaffirmed a previous decision agreed in principle to develop the Curragh Road site as this was a standalone project, unaffected by the decision not to proceed with the development of the Ballyquin Road site in Dungiven. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

NEXT MEETING: - 6 August 2013.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.05 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting