**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD**

**ON MONDAY 24TH MARCH 2014**

**In the Chair**: Councillor C McShane

**Members Present**: Councillors J Baird, S Blaney, D F Cunningham, W Graham, N McAllister, R D McDonnell, R A McIlroy, M A McKillop, S McKillop, P McShane, C C Thompson.

**Also Present**: Mr R G Lewis, Clerk and Chief Executive

Mrs M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services

Mr A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services

Ms J McMath, Planning Service

Ms L Mooney, Member Services/Clerical Officer

**14/06:01 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors McCambridge, Hunter and D McAllister.

Chairman’s Business

Benefits workshop

Members were reminded of the Social Security benefits advice and signposting workshop being held from 10am til 3pm on 27th March.

All Ireland Hurling Finals

Best wishes were offered to the CPC Senior Hurlers for the All Ireland final being held on 5th April.

Moyle Youth Council Co-Ordinator

Congratulations were offered to the outgoing Moyle Youth Council co-ordinator Tracy Walker and best wishes to the incoming employee Tara McHugh.

Revitalise Event

It was agreed to approve the request from the Revitalise Steering group for the provision of seating for the audiences for their event on Castle Street on Saturday 29th March.

**14/06:02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**14/06:03 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2014**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th February 2014 having been circulated, were taken as read.

 After discussion,

 Councillor Blaney proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor Graham and resolved,

“That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th February 2014 be adopted.”

**14/06:04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2014**

 There were no Matters Arising for discussion.

**14/06:05** **APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

 The Planning Schedule which had been circulated was taken as read.

E/2012/0222/F Friends of Glenariff c/o O N and F A Wheeler, 201 Garron Road, Glenariff, BT44 0RA. Location, 212 Garron Road, Ballymena. Proposed new Community Centre for Social and Recreational Purposes (Amended Scheme from the approved under E/2010/0345/F) together with Ancillary Works. (Recommended for Approval)

The above application was approved.

E/2013/0151/O Mr A Sharpe, c/o Norman Perry, Diamond Design Studio, Ballycastle. Location, 87 Middle Park Road, Cushendall. Proposed site of one-and-a-half storey dwelling with garage. (Recommended for Refusal)

E/2014/0001/O Mr & Mrs Quinn, c/o Bailey Architecture, 9 Glenview Road, Glenshesk, Ballycastle. Location, 27 Chapel Road, Cushendall. Proposed new dwelling. (Recommended for Refusal)

The above two applications were deferred for an Office Meeting for further information.

Deferred Applications

E/2013/0036/F Mr J Black, c/o Strategic Planning, 4 Pavillions Office Park, Kinnegar Drive, Holywood. Location, 527m SE of 53 Torr Road, Ballyvoy, Ballycastle. Proposed erection of 250kw Wind Turbine (32.3m hub height, 32m blades) (Recommended for Refusal)

The above application was deferred for a meeting with the MP.

E/2013/0041/F Mr D Hemphill, c/o Manor Architects, Stable Buildings, 30a High Street, Moneymore. Location, 265 North West of 92 Carrowreagh Road, Armoy, Ballymoney. Proposed site of vestas 225kw Wind Turbine, 31m Hub Height. (Recommended for Approval)

The above application was approved.

E/2013/0075/F Mr S O’Rawe, c/o D M Kearney, Design 2a, Coleraine Road, Maghera. Location, approximately 437m SE of No 53 Torr Road, Ballycastle. Proposed Wind Turbine. (Recommended for Refusal)

The above application was deferred for a meeting with the MLA (Councillor C McShane to contact applicant)

E/2013/0128/F Mr Duncan c/o Wind NI Ltd, 20 Upper Main Street, Larne. Location, approximately 884m NE of 53 Torr Road, Ballycastle. Proposed single wind turbine with a base height of 29m and a max output of 250kw.

The above application was deferred for meeting with the MLA(Councillor Baird to liaise with planners and MLA)

Office Meetings to be held on Thursday 3rd April.

**14/06:09 THE RECENT GOVERNMENT UPLIFT ON THE MINIMUM WAGE FROM £6.19 TO £6.31 HAD HAD A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON ELIGIBILITY TO CLAIM BENEFITS. IN PARTICULAR THE INCREASE HAS PUSHED MANY CARERS INCOMES OVER THE STATUTORY LIMIT (£100) FOR CLAIMING CARERS ALLOWANCE AND WORKING TAX CREDIT. THE INCOME IN MANY CASES ARE NOW £0.96 OVER THE LIMIT. IN THE PAST INCREASES IN MINIMUM WAGE HAVE BEEN LINKED TO BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY BUT NOT ON THIS OCCASION. WE AS COUNCIL SHOULD RECOGNISE THE STERLING WORK WHICH IS CARRIED OUT ON A DAILY BASIS BY THE MANY CARERS IN OUR DISTRICT, RECOGNISE THE CONTRIBUTION CARERS MAKE TO OUR ECONOMY AND GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT’S PLANS FOR TRANSFORMING YOUR CARE WRITE TO DSD AND URGE THAT URGENT ACTION IS TAKEN TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION.**

(Requested by Councillor Baird)

After discussion,

Councillor Baird proposed,

Seconded by Councillor Thompson and resolved,

“That a letter be sent to the DSD and DWP Ministers to state that; the recent Government uplift on the minimum wage from £6.19 to £6.31 has had a detrimental effect on eligibility to claim benefits. In particular the increase has pushed many carers incomes over the statutory limit (£100) for claiming Carers Allowance and Working Tax Credit. The incomes in many cases are now £0.96 over the limit. In the past increases in minimum wage have been linked to benefit eligibility but not on this occasion. That the sterling work which is carried out on a daily basis by the many carers in our District be recognised along with the contribution carers make to our economy and given the Government’s plans for Transforming Your Care urge that urgent action is taken to remedy this situation.”

**14/06:06 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT**

 The Environmental Services Report, having been circulated, was taken as read.

 Landlord Registration Scheme

 Reference was made to the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (NI) 2012 which had come into effect on 25th February 2014. The Council was now required to establish the fixed penalty for failure to provide evidence of registration in prescribed circumstances.

 After discussion,

 Councillor Thompson proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor Cunningham and resolved,

 “That that there would be a fixed penalty of £100 for failure to provide evidence of registration in prescribed circumstances.”

 Appointment of Inspectors and Delegation of Powers for Moyle District Council

 Councillors P McShane and McIlroy left the meeting.

 After discussion,

 Councillor N McAllister proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor Blaney and resolved,

 “That it be agreed in principle, subject to clarification on delegating power to group members, that the listed appointment of inspectors and delegation of powers for the Welfare and Animals Act (NI) 2011 would be approved.”

Councillor Baird left the meeting.

Delegation of Statutory Powers

After discussion,

 Councillor M A McKillop proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor Graham and resolved,

“That the delegation of statutory powers, as listed in the report, for the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 would be approved.”

Contract Award for Provision of Services to Treat Bio Waste

Councillor McIlroy returned to the meeting.

After discussion, it was agreed to award the contract for the provision of services to treat Bio Waste to Natural World Products Ltd.

Councillor Cunningham left the meeting.

Street Naming – Proposed Naming of New Development

Reference was made to an application received from Mr James Curran, proposing names for his development of 3 dwellings adjacent to 7 Straid Road, Ballycastle.

After discussion,

 Councillor Cunningham proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor P McShane,

“That the name Ramoan Cottages would be approved for the development of dwellings adjacent to 7 Straid Road, Ballycastle.”

On a vote being taken there were eight votes in favour of and one against the proposal which was carried.

New Application for Entertainments Licence

After discussion,

 Councillor Thompson proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor N McAllister and resolved,

“That the application for Entertainments Licence for Hostelling International NI for Whitepark Bay Youth Hostel, Ballintoy be approved.”

Application for the Registration of a Society

After discussion,

 Councillor Thompson proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor M A McKillop and resolved,

“That the application for the Registration of a Society received from Cushendun Building Preservation Trust be approved.”

Addendum to the Environmental Services Report

North West Region Waste Management Group – Regional Waste Infrastructure Project – Confidential – In Committee

After discussion,

 Councillor Cunningham proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor Graham and resolved,

 “That the meeting continue in committee.”

After discussion,

 Councillor Blaney proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor McDonnell and resolved,

“That Council would exercise its rights under Chapter III of the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue to abandon this procurement.”

The meeting continued out of committee.

Flowerbed and Hanging Basket quotations

After discussion, it was agreed to appoint Greenlight Gateway for the tender for supply and maintenance of flowerbed and hanging baskets for the sum of £7,941.00.

Outdoor Gym Tender

After discussion, it was agreed to appoint Hawthorn Heights for the tender for supply and installation of outdoor gym equipment in Rathlin and additional equipment in Ballycastle Seafront for the sum of £25,787 plus vat

Mosaic – Greenlight Gateway

Reference was made to a mosaic sea scene of Carrick a Rede Rope Bridge created by Greenlight Gateway and a suggestion that this might be displayed at the seafront in Ballycastle.

After discussion,

 Councillor P McShane proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor M A McKillop and resolved,

“That it be agreed in principle to approve the request from Greenlight Gateway to have their Mosaic displayed and that the DES would talk to the group to see where would be most appropriate to display the work.”

Official Opening of Ballintoy Playground

With regard to the official opening of Ballintoy Playground, it was agreed to change the time from 12 noon to 4:00pm.

After discussion,

 Councillor Graham proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor McIlroy and resolved,

 “That the Environmental Services Report and Addendum be adopted.”

**14/06:07 INTERIM REPORT FOR Development Services**

 The Interim Report for Development Services having being circulated was taken as read.

 Revision of Grant Criteria – Clarification

 Reference was made to changes which were highlighted and circulated for the Community Small Grants and Community Infrastructure Fund.

 After discussion it was agreed that the guidelines for Community Grants Scheme would be amended as indicated with red text in the report. It was also agreed that the figure in place for Technical Costs for the Community Infrastructure Find would be up to a maximum of £5000.

 Forest Projects

 Reference was made to information circulated on the night with regard to the proposed Forests projects.

 After discussion, during which the following issues were discussed, phased work over a number of years, commitment to realise the entire project, benefit to businesses, disappointment that the full projects would not be completed in the first instance, operation of the recreation facilities including the caravan park, uses for the proposed trails, making the forests more welcoming and appealing;

 Councillor Thompson proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor N McAllister and resolved,

“That the proposed phase 1 of the Forest Projects to include caravan and camping at Glenariff and trails at Ballypatrick and Ballycastle Forest would be approved.”

 Councillor McIlroy left the meeting.

After further discussion, it was agreed that Councillors N McAllister, Thompson, P McShane, C McShane, McDonnell and M A Mckillop would attend the Ministerial Visit at Laragh Lodge in Glenariff Forest Park.

After discussion,

 Councillor McIlroy proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor Graham and resolved,

 “That the Interim Report for Development Services be adopted.”

**14/06:08 INTERIM REPORT FOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

 The Interim Report for Corporate Services, having been circulated, was taken as read.

 RNLI Awareness Day in Ballycastle

 Reference was made to correspondence from RNLI requesting permission to host an awareness day on Saturday 31st May 2014 at the Harbour area and seafront Ballycastle.

 After discussion, it was agreed that the request from the RNLI for an awareness day in Ballycastle on 31st May would be approved subject to no clash with the Maritime Festival.

 Seafront Exhibition Centre

 Reference was made to an expression of interest in the Seafront Exhibition Centre following the To Let sign being placed there.

 After discussion, it was agreed that the Seafront Exhibition Centre would be leased for a period of 3 years to an interested party to be used as a café and that any works required to the premises would be carried out by the lessee at their own expense.

 Addendum to the Interim Corporate Services Report

 Councillors Home to Office Mileage Allowance

 Following discussion with regard to Councillors Home to Office Mileage Allowance, it was agreed that clarification would be sought on what home to office means but that deductions would commence as directed by HMRC from 1st April 2014.

 After discussion,

 Councillor N McAllister proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor McIlroy and resolved,

 “That the Interim Corporate Services Report and Addendum be adopted,”

**14/06:10 THAT THIS COUNCIL FACILITATES A PRESENTATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF GLENARIFF GROUP WITH A VIEW TO AN AWARD OF £249,000 TO HELP THE COUNCIL ACHIEVE ITS COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS IN THE GLENS. THAT GIVEN THE TIME CONSTRAINTS AND THE LENGTH OF THE PRESENTATION, COUNCIL FACILITATE A DEDICATED MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE A CONSIDERED DECISION ON THIS PROPOSAL**

(Requested by Councillor P McShane)

**14/06:11 that council look to fund a play park in the village of ballyvoy. that it looks at the possibility of leasing ground to overcome its shortage of suitable property in the area to achieve the same. that it places £50,000 in budgets fior the completion of the project**

 Requested by Councillor P McShane)

 Following discussion, during which the following issues were raised, the 2014/15 budget having been set, the re-direction of funds, supportive of projects but cannot promise funding at this stage, a decision for Shadow Council, other worthy projects and consultation with Statutory Transition Committee.

 It was agreed that presentations would be facilitated from the Friends of Glenariff Group and Friends of Carey Group at 5:30pm on Monday 14th April before the commencement of the Council Meeting at 7:00pm.

**14/06:12 CONFERENCES, COURSES**

 Department of the Environment, Co-Operation Ireland, Local Government Shaping the future of our Communities.

 There were no nominations for this conference.

 APSE Northern Ireland Regional Meeting to be held on Friday 28th March at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre

 There were no nominations for this conference.

 NILGA Full Meeting. To be held on 28th March 2014 at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey

 After discussion,

 Councillor Graham proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor Blaney and resolved,

 “That Councillor McIlroy be nominated to attend.”

 Councillor N McAllister proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor Graham and resolved,

 “That Councillor Blaney be nominated to attend.”

 NILGA Councillors Code of Conduct – Key Council Engagement Event. To be held on 8th April 2014 at Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown

 After discussion,

 Councillor M A Mckillop proposed

 Seconded by Councillor McIlroy and resolved,

 “That Councillor Blaney be nominated to attend.”

 Councillor P McShane left the meeting.

**14/06:13 Notices of Applications under the Licensing (NI) Order 1996 and Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order 1985**

Notice of Application for the grant of a licence authorising the sale of intoxicating liquor by retail in a hotel for the Fullerton Arms, 22 Main Street, Ballintoy.

There were no objections to the above application.

**14/06:14 Sealing of Documents**

After discussion,

 Councillor McIlroy proposed,

 Seconded by Councillor Blaney and resolved,

“That the Contract for Provision of Services to treat Bio Waste be signed and Sealed.”

**14/06:17 CorrespondencE**

1. Letter dated 7th March 2014 from the Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport in response to Council’s letter regarding the impending closure of visitor facilities at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Sanctuary on Rathlin Island and its associated effects.
2. Letter dated 10th March 2014 from Ards Borough Council in response to Council’s letter regarding Northern Ireland Housing Executive
3. Letter dated 11th March 2014 from Roads Service in response to Council’s letter regarding the integrity of the Coast Road ahead of the Giro D’ Italia
4. Letter dated 11th March 2014 from the Department of Justice regarding Public Consultation on the Revised Code of Practice on the Appointment of Independent Members to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships
5. Letters dated 14th March 2014 from Fermanagh District Council regarding changes to Vehicle Registration and Licensing Services in Northern Ireland
6. Other Correspondence/Reports circulated

Nilga Member Bulletin – Local Government Bill

The above correspondence was noted as read.

**The meeting concluded at 21:40pm**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**……………………………………………………..**

**CLERK & CHIEF EXECUTIVE**