

GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Statutory Meeting

Wednesday 14th June 2017, 7.00 pm

Minutes of the Meeting

Present: Mr N. Dobson (ND), Mrs M. Fargher (MF), Mr T Kenyon (TK), Mr P. Kinnish (PK), Mr L. Miller (LM), Mr R. Moughtin (RM), Mrs J. Pinson (JPN), Mr. J. Quayle (JQ).

In Attendance: Mr P. Burgess (PB), Clerk, Mr M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk/RFO.
Hon. Martyn Perkins MHK.

Apologies: Mr S. Clague, Mrs J. Peel (JPL) Housing Manager.

The meeting was declared open by the Chairman at 7.03 pm. **ND** introduced Members of the Commission for the benefit of members of the public in attendance.

Representatives of Laxey and Lonan Heritage Trust, Mr Wild (Director and Company Secretary) and Mr Campbell (Chairman) had requested a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss the installation of a 'play train' near the Glen Mooar terminus of the Mines Railway. Mr Wild presented information regarding the proposal and circulated Images that illustrated the location, type and colour of the proposed facility. The train would be supplied in green by the manufacturer which would be sympathetic to the landscape. Written correspondence from the planning authority to the Trust was also circulated which indicated that planning permission would not be required for the installation. The current train would be removed and the proposed train would sit on a bed of wood bark and would be installed by charity based working parties. Funding had been obtained from the Lockington-Marshall Trust. Mr Wild rounded off his presentation by asking for the Commissioners support and permission for sighting the facility in this location. JPN asked if more picnic benches could be provided. PB suggested that this be reviewed once the train was in place.

***TK** proposed that the Commissioners support the installation of the play train. This motion was seconded by **LM** and approved unanimously. Mr Wild and Mr Campbell were asked to proceed with the necessary arrangements. **ND** wished them well with the project.*

Item 21/17.b. on the agenda was brought forward for discussion at this point.

Effect of Parking Restrictions Laxey Village TT & MGP on local businesses and residents – generated by **JPN** via email 07.06.17.

*Several matters of correspondence from interested parties had been circulated. Hard copies of these were also circulated at the meeting. **ND** identified that the restrictions were in place to permit free flow of traffic through Laxey Village but other issues resulted such as pedestrian safety and the effect on local businesses due to the reduction in parking. He invited the clerks to provide further background. **MR** advised that when in operation the traffic flowed at higher speed and complaints had been received that it was very difficult for pedestrians to cross the road. It was noted that in some circumstances parked cars acted to calm traffic. **PB** stated that a particular complaint had been made in regard to the difficulties encountered by schoolchildren from both SNHS and RGS as they attempted to cross the road to board school buses. This had been reported as a particular problem at Rencell Hill and Minorca.*

It was noted that an arrangement to have the restrictions in place at peak week-day times only had been agreed with the Department but that this arrangement had been withdrawn by the Department on the first Monday of the fortnight as traffic jams had been reported in the village which had impeded the passage of emergency vehicles. The consequent reduction in parking

	<p><i>was an issue that needed to be addressed for the businesses. In response to the imposition of the parking restrictions, the clerks had obtained agreement from DEFA and the Children's Centre for Laxey Pavilion Car Park. The Commissioners had then erected temporary signage to advertise this facility.</i></p> <p><i>JPN advised that she had been approached by the owners of several businesses who were concerned that their trade was being affected, and by other businesses who were in support of the clearway. She had also spoken to traffic police officers who felt that the restrictions were necessary from their point of view to keep traffic flowing. In order to ease the problems for pedestrians, JPN suggested that 'volunteer lollipop people' be sought to assist people with crossing the road at busy periods. The consensus was that this proposal could be put to DOI/DHA with a view to gaining their support for this proposal. It was felt that government would need to provide training to such volunteers.</i></p> <p><i>ND proposed a meeting of interested parties to meet with a sub-committee of the Commissioners to discuss this proposal and the other matters relating to the consequences of the parking restrictions. This was seconded by JPN and resolved unanimously. There followed discussion of the provision of additional parking that was convenient. ND advised that the correspondence received on this matter contained some constructive suggestions for such provision which could be brought to a meeting of interested parties. These interested parties would include the DOI, DEFA, the Police, IOM Transport, the Church, Local Businesses, The Children's Centre, etc. ND proposed the arrangement of such a meeting. This was seconded by JQ and Resolved.</i></p> <p><i>JPN proposed some further creative solutions including additional parking provision around the church and MER station. She also asked if a 'park and ride' scheme could be considered as part of the discussions.</i></p> <p><i>PK asked if the time limit restrictions on New Road still applied. The clerks reported that this matter needed to be established with the Department.</i></p> <p><i>ND invited comment from those members of the public present. One member proposed that motorcycles could be encouraged to park in the Village Square. Signage could be deployed to indicate this. The suggestions contained in the correspondence received on this matter would also be considered.</i></p> <p><i>There followed discussion of possible signage and road layout improvements in Laxey. The Board gave the clerks approval, prior to MGP, to investigate the provision of temporary signage to encourage parking in Laxey in an attempt to retain business in Laxey. Clerks to liaise with local businesses/residents in this regard.</i></p>	<p>Clerks</p> <p>clerks</p>
22/17	Planning Matters	
	Planning Applications	
a)	<p>16/00960/B Land Adjacent to Ellan Vannin, Laxey Road, Baldrine, Erection of a new dwelling. Amended plan submitted.</p> <p><i>Highways amendments were noted, as was the fact that an approval certificate had already been issued. No objections were raised, however.</i></p>	
b)	<p>17/00241/B Thie Voinjer Veg, Croit E Quill Road, Erection of an extension and creation of an extended dormer. Amended Plan submitted.</p> <p><i>JPN declared an interest and withdrew from the discussion. No objections were raised by Members.</i></p>	
c)	<p>17/00381/B La Mona Lisa Restaurant, Glen Road, Laxey, Installation of 1.8 m gate. Amended plan submitted.</p> <p><i>Information submitted by a neighbour was noted which referred to access difficulties that may result. JPN registered an objection on road safety grounds, but the Board resolved not to submit any objections. It was noted that Highways would consider access and road safety issues.</i></p>	

d)	17/00539/B Ballacoar Farm , Ballagawne Road, Baldrine, Erection of agricultural building. <i>No objections were raised by Members.</i>	
e)	17/00543/B Purt ny Shee , Ballacollister Heights, Laxey, Alterations and erection of an extension. <i>No objections were raised by members.</i>	
f)	17/00589/B Deepdale Complex, Glen Road, Laxey, Replacement of existing windows and doors with new dark colour UPVC units. <i>It was noted that the Conservation Officer would be involved with determination of this application. No objections were raised by Members.</i>	
g)	17/00593/B Trafalgar , Rencell Hill, Infilling of balcony over garage to provide sheltered accommodation. <i>LM declared an interest and withdrew from the discussion. No objections were raised by Members.</i>	
	Approval Notices (DoI Planning Committee)	
h)	16/01389/B Land adjacent to Booilushag House , Ballajora, variation of condition to extend approval for erection of a dwelling – application withdrawn. <i>This matter was noted. No further actions requested.</i>	
i)	17/00465/B Dreemskerry Farm , erection of replacement tractor/mower shed – Approved 01.06.17. <i>This matter was noted. No further actions requested.</i>	
j)	16/00960/B – Land at Ellen Vannin , Laxey Road, Baldrine, Proposed new dwelling adjacent to Ellen Vannin. <i>This matter was noted. No further actions requested.</i>	
k)	17/00486/B Sperryd ny Marrey, Old Laxey Hill, Installation of two replacement windows and door. <i>This matter was noted. No further actions requested.</i>	
	Refusal Notices (DoI Planning Committee)	
l)	17/00306/B Hillcrest Cottage, Old Laxey Hill , Alterations including lean to roof, windows and roof lights. <i>This matter was noted. No further actions requested.</i>	
	Appeal Notices (DoI Planning Committee)	
m)	16/00797/B Berberis Cottage, Pinfold Hill, Laxey, erection of replacement dwelling. Initial Approval by Planning Committee overturned by Planning Inspector and Refused . This decision subsequently reversed by the Minister's Advisor – Application consequently Approved . <i>Mr Perkins outlined how Mrs Caine had questioned the Minister's decision on this application in Tynwald earlier in the week. RM questioned the point of bringing in a planning Inspector from the UK only for the Minister to overrule his decision. Mr Perkins advised that Mrs Caine had asked a question about the cost of this in Tynwald which had been around £800.00. He also advised that the appeal process was being reviewed with a view to introducing changes in the future. However, in the case of the Berberis application the only option would be for a petition of doliance. Mr Perkins referred to the condition restricting use of the first floor area as a store only, and requested that all parties ensure that this condition is enforced in the future.</i>	
	Planning Enforcement (DoI Planning and Building Control)	
n)	Update on unauthorised development at Ain Chea, Coronry Bridge.	

	<i>MR reported that a letter had been sent to the DEFA Minister requesting that this matter be given the full attention of the various divisions of the Department, including Health and Safety, Planning and Agriculture. A letter had also been forwarded to the Chief Minister and Mr Baker, the Chair of the Planning Committee. MF asked if any further relevant information had been forthcoming from government. The clerks reported that no communications had been received since the last meeting on the 17th May 2017. JQ asked if the helicopters were being operated by a private company in which case the flights could be regarded as commercial and may attract further legislation.</i>	
14/17	Approval of Minutes	
a)	Approval of minutes of Annual General Meeting 17 th May 2017.	
15/17	Matters Arising & Other Business	
a)	PK to lead discussion a fitting memorial to Mr Raymond Clague of Lonan who served the local community for many years. <i>LM suggested a stone plaque on the pebble wall that Raymond built on Laxey Promenade. PK to investigate and liaise with clerks and Mr Clague's family on this proposal and wording for an inscription.</i>	PK clerks
b)	ND to attend Tynwald Ceremony 05.07.17 & TK to attend Tynwald Garden Party 02.07.17. See clerks for confirmation. <i>ND cannot attend. It was agreed that MF should attend as vice-chairman. Clerks to advise Cabinet Office.</i>	
c)	JPN asked if the Cooil Roi sub-committee could be included in the 'Committees' List. PB advised that this would be added from the next meeting.	
d)	ND advised that he had been asked by a Member to stand down from the sub-committee concerning the future of Lonan Church in order that PK be able to join. It was agreed that PK should join the committee as a fourth Member along with ND, SC and TK .	
e)	PK asked if any progress had been made with a permanent cover for events in the Valley Gardens. PB advised that the matter was still being investigated by Mr Smith.	
f)	MF asked if communication had been made with the Vicar in Ramsey in regard to the future of the Dhoon Field. MR reported that correspondence had been sent to Rev. Lowdon but no response had been received to date. ND asked the clerks to email the Archdeacon requesting an update of the situation.	clerks
16/17	General correspondence	
a)	Local business – query on trader's licence issued to Kirk Michael Chippy. <i>This matter was discussed in detail in terms of the nature and customer base of the two businesses and the other food outlets in the immediate vicinity. The proprietor of the Kirk Michael Chippy had recently advised the Commissioners that he would no longer operate during TT fortnight and the MGP festival. This was noted. The clerks were instructed to investigate the matter further and report back to the July meeting.</i>	
b)	Manx Utilities – response to Commissioners' query regarding the amount of stone/debris in the Laxey River advising that works will be undertaken in July/August. <i>This matter was noted.</i>	
17/17	Committee Reports	
a)	Municipal Association – <i>The AGM had taken place hosted by Garff Commissioners in Laxey. The guest speaker, Michael Cowin (Pullyman) had been very entertaining and the event was agreed to have been a great success.</i>	

b)	<p>Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust – TK had attended the recent meeting and asked if the Trust could have some space in the Commissioners’ newsletter. MR advised that the draft had already been forwarded to the publishers but the possibility of an additional brief inclusion of L&LHT news would be investigated. Clerks to contact the Trust if an opportunity was available.</p> <p>There followed discussion of the inclusion of information on Maughold at the visitor centre on Mines Road, Laxey. This was agreed to be an action that could be investigated, but the consensus was that any further integration would present practical operational difficulties at this stage. It was a matter that could be considered in the future, but the Trust’s resources were finite and any future changes would need to be carefully considered in terms of their viability and would probably require input from new/additional volunteers. This was primarily an issue for the Trust to consider and lead on. Discussion took place of how the Commissioners could facilitate the production of further visitor guides to Lonan and Maughold. This would need additional volunteers to come forward, probably from the respective areas and would probably be complementary guides to the current guide to Laxey Village.</p>	clerks
c)	Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities – ntr	
d)	Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee – ntr	
e)	Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team Community Partnership meeting – ntr	
f)	Regeneration Committee – ntr	
g)	Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee - ntr	
h)	<p>Northern Civic Amenity Site – RM outlined the latest developments. The site was now being operated by the local authorities and the necessary paperwork was now in place to facilitate the new arrangement. MF asked about the recent advertisement for staff at the site. RM advised that the staffing arrangements had all been costed and agreed by the Committee. Further operational details would be clarified at the next meeting of the NCAS committee.</p>	
i)	Northern Swimming Pool Board - ntr	
j)	Northern Area Housing steering group - ntr	
k)	Northern Sheltered Housing Committee - ntr	
l)	Eastern Area Housing steering group - ntr	
m)	<p>Waste Management Steering Group – meeting Monday 17.07.17, 18.30 DOI Boardroom, Sea terminal.</p> <p><i>This matter was noted. ND to attend.</i></p>	ND
18/17	Officers Report	
a)	<p>Health and Safety – MR advised members that there had been no incidents to report across the full range of the authorities operations, including contractors. TT had passed with no reports of incidents or near misses. A scheduled quarterly meeting was taking place on Tuesday 20th June with the H&S consultant. Methods of recording would be the focus of the meeting. A tree had been undermined at the Corony Play Area and had been made safe earlier in the day. A lighting bollard in Maughold Village car park had also fallen and been made safe immediately by a professional electrician.</p>	
b)	<p>Works and Amenities – The A15 would be closed for five days from the 19th of June to facilitate the sewage connection for the new toilets in Maughold Village.</p> <p>Clay Head Close and Highfield Drive were also a particular focus for road sweeping and cleaning operations. This was ongoing work and it was hoped the focus would improve these areas during the course of the year.</p> <p>MR also advised that a meeting had taken place with the planning authority in regard to the provision of play equipment in Lonan in accordance with the Laxey and Lonan Plan. The plans were now being drawn up by Penketh Millar architects.</p>	
c)	Cooil Roi Housing Complex – date for next committee meeting to be confirmed.	

	<i>A meeting was taking place at 10.00 am on Friday 30th of June. MF, JPN, TK, JPN, PB, MR to attend. JPN reminded Members of the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the complex. The Commissioners agreed to consider ways of marking this milestone. RM suggested planting a tree. JPN suggested a plaque. The sub-committee agreed to liaise with JPL at the meeting on the 30th of June.</i>	JPN TK MF
19/17	Staffing Matters - ntr	
20/17	Chairman's Report - ntr	
21/17	Any Other Business	
a)	The Future of Groule Glen – generated on 07.06.17 by Michael Morrison, Chief Executive, Onchan Commissioners during meeting with Garff Officers. Northern bank of the glen is within Garff Sheading. <i>It was agreed that the section of the Glen north of the river is within Garff. Onchan Commissioners wished to discuss the future of the Glen, including its facilities and access to them.</i> PB and JPN to attend a meeting with other stakeholders interested in the Glen at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 28 th June at Onchan Commissioners' Offices.	
b)	Effect of Parking Restrictions Laxey Village TT & MGP on local businesses and residents – generated by JPN via email 07.06.17. <i>This matter had been discussed at the start of the meeting see page 1 of this document).</i>	
c)	Proposal to investigate deployment of SID radar signs to calm traffic on the A2 Coast Road in Laxey and Baldrine under the control of the Commissioners. <i>The benefits of the deployment of these kinds of signs was discussed in detail. The success and popularity in the community of the signs deployed in Glen Mona was also noted. MR advised that they cost in the region of around £2,500 each. It was agreed that two units should be purchased for use by rotation on the A2 Coast Road at the Ard Reayrt Junction, on the approach to the Ballacannell area and on Main Road, Baldrine.</i> RM proposed that prior to these purchases, the Commissioners should approach DOI to see if there were two units that could be provided to the Commissioners on long term loan. This was agreed. ND proposed that if these were not available then two new units be purchased directly by the Commissioners. This was seconded by TK and resolved unanimously. <i>DOI had indicated they would provide guidance and assistance with any new mounting poles that would be required.</i>	
d)	Land at Minorca Crossroads – the owner has enquired if the Commissioners would be interested in purchasing land. PB demonstrated the location of this land to Members. MF suggested that the land could be used to provide a bus shelter/stop to replace the current bus stop further down the road which was directly on the highway and was a matter of concern, particularly as it was frequently used by schoolchildren. PB advised that Bus Vannin had looked at the proposed site previously and discounted it as a bus stop location as buses would 'overhang' the junction when stationary – it was not deemed a safe location. Notwithstanding this, MF felt that the proposed location was a safer option than the current bus stop. PB added that a new streetlight had been installed across the road from the current bus stop to aid visibility at dusk and in the dark. <i>A vote was taken. There was insufficient support for purchasing the land. No further action.</i>	
e)	Laxey Cubs - request to use large prom green for end of term BBQ, Wednesday 19 th July 7pm to 8.30pm. <i>This request was unanimously approved. PB to advise.</i>	PB

f)	NCAS – Email from Department of Infrastructure dated 13.06.17 with letter attached confirming the Department approval to the joint committee running the site and requesting a signed copy of the agreement is forwarded to the Department for their records. <i>This matter was noted.</i>	
g)	Laxey Fair – Saturday 1 st July, procession commences at 1.30pm. VIP tram will leave Fairy Cottage at 1.10pm. Volunteers required to assist with manning the gates. TK to attend meeting at Laxey School at 5.00 pm on Thursday 15 th June.	
h)	Maughold Parish day – Saturday 15 th July at 2pm. <i>Noted. Normal arrangements in place.</i>	
i)	Governors Visit – Dates required for September or possibly delay to May 2018. <i>It was agreed that a firm date should be arranged in May 2018. PB to liaise with Government House.</i>	PB
j)	Onchan District Commissioners – Email with proposed meeting date to discuss the future of Groudle Glen. Wednesday 28 th June, 6pm, at Hawthorn Villa. <i>Noted above.</i>	
k)	Cool Roi Housing Committee meeting – Friday 30 th June, at 10am. <i>Noted above.</i>	
l)	MF – referred to the request from the Planning Authority for views on the issue of planning application files by electronic means alone. <i>It was agreed that hard paper copies of plans were still a necessity. Consequently the proposal was declined. Clerks to advise DEFA.</i>	clerks
m)	MF advised that a burglary had been attempted in Glen Mona over the TT period. This had been unsuccessful. The Police were investigating.	
n)	PK stated that there were still a lot of weeds in Laxey. <i>The clerks advised that these would be attended to in the coming weeks.</i>	
o)	JQ asked who assessed rating of properties. PB advised that this was a function of Treasury.	
	The public section of the meeting closed at 9.39 pm.	
	Private Session	
a)		
b)		
	Meeting closed at 9.57 pm. Date of next meeting:- Thursday 6 th July 2017 7.00pm	