

GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
Statutory Meeting: Thursday 6th July 2017, 7.00 pm

Minutes of the Meeting

Present: Mr N. Dobson (ND Chairman), Mr S.Clague (SC) , Mrs M. Fargher (MF),
 Mr T Kenyon (TK), Mr P. Kinnish (PK), Mr L. Miller (LM), Mrs J. Pinson (JP),
 Mr. J. Quayle (JQ).

In Attendance: Mr P. Burgess, Clerk, Mr M.Royle, Deputy Clerk/RFO, Mrs Julie Peel
 Housing Manager,

Apologies: Mr R. Moughtin (RM).

7.00 pm	<p>Presentation by L&L Sports and Community Facilities of an initial proposal for the development of sports and Leisure Facilities in Glen Road, Laxey. <i>Mr Renard and Mr Butt were welcomed to the meeting by ND. Mr Renard presented a drawing of an initial proposal for a sports hall on the recreation area on Glen Road opposite the football club. This would involve relocation of the Multi Use Games Area. A tennis court would also be retained as well as the parking/recycling facilities. The initial proposal involved a sports hall that would be large enough for a wide range of sporting activity including basketball, 5/6 a-side football, etc. It was stated that the visible elevations of the facility could be cedar clad to soften the impact of the building. Toilet/changing facilities would be included. JPN asked about the adequacy of parking facilities in the proposal. It was noted that the car park at the football club could also be utilised. There was also the possibility to integrate further facilities such as a skateboard park into the area. Mr Renard advised that other matters needed to be resolved including improvements to the river bank to mitigate against the threat of flooding. Mr Butt advised that some funds could be raised through sporting agencies such as the Football Association and Sports Council, etc. MF asked who it was envisaged would operate the facility. Mr Renard advised that it was anticipated that the Commissioners would own and operate the facility. Income would be generated through hiring the facility to local sports groups such as Laxey Football Club. TK asked when it was anticipated that a facility could be built, commissioned and in operation. Mr Renard suggested that once a plan had been through the planning process and approved, the project could be completed within twelve months. ND asked the clerks to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Commissioners.</i> Resolved.</p>	
30/17	Planning Matters	
	Planning Applications	
a)	17/00616/B Hillcrest Cottage, Old Laxey Hill , New roof over existing rear annex. <i>PB declared an interest. There were no objections to these proposals.</i>	
b)	17/00683/B Thie my Chree (formerly 'Rivers'), Dreemskerry Road, Alterations and erection of extension. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>	
bi)	17/00692/B – Filling Station, New Road, Laxey , Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signage. <i>The general changes to the Filling Station were noted and accepted, but concerns were expressed in regard to the illuminated sign on the side of the filling station building which would overlook the Rose Gardens and Tram Station and would not be in keeping with the conversation</i>	

	<i>area. Members resolved that the nature of this sign would not be in keeping with the surroundings and object to the proposal for its siting on the gable.</i>	
	Approval Notices (DoI Planning Committee)	
c)	17/00497/B Land adj. to Burnside, Glen Road, Laxey, Erection of a shed (retrospective) – Approved 23.06.17. Noted.	
d)	17/00381/B La Mona Lisa Restaurant , Glen Road, Laxey, Installation of 1.8 m high inward opening close boarded timber gates to vehicular access. – Approved 23.06.17. Noted.	
e)	17/00522/B 20 Ard Reayrt , Laxey, Replacement roof to annex – Approved 20.06.17. Noted.	
f)	17/00525/B 27 Baldrine Park , Installation of flue from wood burner – Approved 23.06.17. Noted.	
g)	17/00471/B Weir Adjacent to Laxey Woollen Mills , Reconstruction of weir –Approved 28.06.17. Noted.	
	Refusal Notices (DoI Planning Committee)	
h)	None.	
	Appeal Notices (DoI Planning Committee)	
i)	17/00007/B The Anchorage, Port e Vullen , Appeal against refusal for erection of an extension upheld by the Planning Inspector. This recommendation has been accepted by the Minister. Noted.	
Additional item	There followed discussion of comments from a senior planning officer in regard to decisions on retrospective applications. It was agreed that the Commissioners would invite the planning officer to attend a meeting to discuss the planning authorities approach to such applications.	clerks
31/17	Approval of Minutes	
a)	Approval of minutes of the meeting of 14 th June 2017. These were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed TK , Seconded JQ . Resolved.	
32/17	Matters Arising & Other Business	
	<i>MF asked if there was any communication from the Church Authorities in regard to the future of the Dhoon Field. MR reported that two emails had been sent to the Vicar over the last month, but no acknowledgement or communication had been returned. Clerks were instructed to re-contact the Archdeacon and send further communication to the Vicar.</i>	
	<i>PK advised that he had made enquiries regarding a permanent memorial to Raymond Clague at a local stone masons. He would communicate with the family regarding a dedication on the stone and report back to the Commissioners with further details at the next meeting.</i>	
	<i>PK referred to the proposal for a cover over the stage in the Valley Gardens. SC proposed that a permanent covering structure be built over the stage to provide year round cover. JPN agreed and seconded the proposal. The clerks were instructed to request that the architect provide a sketch of a structure with a 30 degree slate roof that would complement the proposed stone clad toilet block.</i>	
a)	The Future of Groudle Glen – Feedback from the Clerk following meeting with stakeholders in Groudle Glen. Northern bank of the glen is within Garff Sheading. PB and JPN reported on a recent meeting that took place in Onchan with stakeholders involved in the Glen. The water wheel, which is in Onchan, was discussed in detail at the meeting but no	

	<p><i>costs relating to the refurbishment of this structure would fall on Garff ratepayers. It was noted that the Laxey Mines Research Group have been requested to carry out a feasibility study of the wheel house on behalf of Onchan Commissioners. A sewerage tank that is on the northern bank in Garff was discussed, but the MUA confirmed that works had taken place and the unit was functioning effectively. No further action needed at this stage. PB requested that any suggestions for future development of the Glen be forwarded to the Clerks' Office and these would be raised at future meetings. SC asked about responsibility for maintenance of the footpaths on the northern bank. PB confirmed that the responsibility was with the landowner, not the Commissioners. In response to a question from SC about the reasons for attending the meeting, PB advised that Garff Commissioners had been invited to the meeting because part of the area was within the Garff Local Authority District. Further meetings would take place in due course.</i></p>	
b)	<p>Effect of Parking Restrictions Laxey Village TT & MGP on local businesses and residents – meeting with DOI, RPU and local stakeholders to be scheduled. <i>MR confirmed that a meeting would take place on the 18th of July at 10.00 am in the Commissioners' Office. Senior representatives of the DOI and RPU would attend, along with JPN, PK and TK. SC suggested that Mr Skillicorn and other representatives of local businesses be invited.</i> <i>PK asked for the views of the Commissioners on the restrictions. There followed a discussion of the effects on pedestrians and businesses in Laxey at these times. SC proposed that the Commissioners should maintain a 'no-compromise' attitude to the restrictions if they were not in the interests of locals. This was seconded by JPN. JQ suggested that if the restrictions had to be in place adequate mitigation in terms of alternative parking and signage, etc should be provided. Members attending would report back to the Board on the 19th of July.</i></p>	Clerks JPN, PK, TK
c)	<p>Land at Minorca Crossroads – Feedback from Bus Vannin and DOI following further representation by the Commissioners about the safety of the current Ramsey bound bus stop. Meeting date TBA. <i>The clerks advised Members that a meeting was scheduled for the 14th of July involving the Commissioners, Bus Vannin and DOI. MF provided further contact details for the landowner. The extent and boundaries of the land would need to be fully established. Clerks to attend meeting and report back on the outcome to the meeting on the 19th of July. SC suggested that, if cleared, the area could be improved with benches etc, for general public use. This suggestion was supported by PK. ND stated that the purpose of the site meeting was to establish whether the bus stop could be moved; any other considerations concerning the future use of the land would be reserved until this had been established.</i></p>	
d)	<p>DHA – Consultation documents on proposals to Contract-Out Certain Police Functions. Responses requested by 5th September 2017 (<i>Documents previously circulated</i>). <i>The proposals in this document were briefly discussed; these included matters such as outsourcing external staff/contractors to operate the custody suite at Police HQ, for example. Members were asked to give the consultation further individual consideration and forward any comments to the clerks prior to the 5th of September for submission.</i></p>	
e)	<p>To discuss publication of draft Minutes – item raised by JPN in email to office 20.06.17. <i>JPN referred to a previous discussion and how here comments had reported. PB advised that the minute was correct. JPN requested that it be made clear that audio recording was taking place at Commissioners' meetings. These recordings are used solely for the production of the minutes and not made available in any other circumstance. They were deleted once the minutes were approved. It was resolved that when audio recordings were being undertaken it would be made clear through an announcement by the Chairman and signage in the Boardroom.</i> <i>JPN asked why minutes were released prior to their approval at the following meeting. MR advised that this was to ensure that Commissioners' business was available to the public in a</i></p>	Clerks

	<i>timely fashion; a rider was included advising that they were subject to amendment and were 'draft until approved'. MR reported that in the last twelve months the draft minutes had only had to be amended on two occasions to correct minor errors such as typos. No significant amendments had been made in that time at the request of a commissioner. Nevertheless, it was agreed that draft minutes should be circulated to Members by email and then published to the public after 24 hours had elapsed: this would permit the clerks to be alerted to any changes that were deemed necessary.</i>	Clerks
f)	Alternative proposal for new public conveniences in the Valley Gardens – preliminary sketches from architect and feedback from Senior planning officer for consideration. <i>These were noted and discussed. It was agreed that MR should revert to the architect and request that the sketches be amended to outline a fully stone-clad building with a 30 degree, manx-slate, pitch roof.</i>	Clerks
G)	Garff Chain of Office – Initial feedback on design from G. H. Corlett. <i>MR reported that G.H Corlett had confirmed that they could produce the chain as outlined with a repeated pattern of the Maughold celtic wreath and Laxey Salmon circle. The pendant would reflect the Lonan pendant and perhaps include a design including the cross in Old Lonan Churchyard. Corlett's had been briefed to provide costings for a new chain in silver, one with a full sequence of detail, one with part 'necklace-type' chain behind the shoulders.</i>	
33/17	General correspondence	
a)	Resident of Ramsey – Regarding accessibility issues for wheelchairs over the tracks at Laxey Station. <i>MR reported that this matter had been reported to IOM Transport and Public Estates.</i>	
b)	Request for a rate refund , Laxey and Lonan Heritage Trust – <i>PB reported that he was in consultation with Treasury to ascertain whether the Trust was eligible for a refund under the terms of the relevant legislation.</i>	
34/17	Committee Reports	
a)	Municipal Association – ntr	
b)	Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust – ntr	
c)	Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities – Form to complete ND, LM . This was duly signed by both Members and passed to Messrs Renard and Butt.	
d)	Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee – no meeting had taken place.	
e)	Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team Community Partnership meeting – meeting 11.07.17, MR to attend.	
f)	Regeneration Committee – ntr	
g)	Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee - ntr	
h)	Northern Civic Amenity Site – <i>MR reported that the operating committee was now officially running and advised that interviews had taken place in Ramsey that afternoon.</i>	
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)	Waste Management Steering Group – meeting Monday 17.07.17, 18.30 DOI Boardroom, Sea terminal. <i>ND to attend.</i>	ND

35/17	Officers Report	
a)	<p>Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JPL to report on completed railing refurbishment and key holder training for 'on-call' staff. • Feedback on Quartetly H&S meeting with refuse contractor. <p>SC asked if a risk assessment had been completed on the raft in Laxey Bay. PB confirmed that there was one in the file. A vote took place, which was split 4/3 in favour of requesting that the Commissioners' external H&S advisor assess the adequacy of the current risk assessment. The clerks were also asked to investigate other raft options that were currently available.</p> <p>MR advised that a quarterly H&S meeting had taken place with the refuse contractor. A range of areas had been covered and operational procedures revisited and clarified. No significant operational changes were identified as being necessary. The contractor was asked to ensure that all accidents/near-misses were recorded and reported and that the vehicle maintenance records were appropriately detailed.</p> <p>Further training had been identified to further develop the organisations H&S culture. This would take place in the autumn and would involve the refuse contractor and all the authority's staff.</p>	Ian Alder Pegasus Clerks
b)	<p>Works and Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maughold Village toilets commissioned 23.06.17. Noted. - Camp Site Showerblock minor fault rectification by contractor. Noted. 	
c)	<p>Cooil Roi Housing Complex – JPL to report.</p> <p>JPL reported that the works on the internal railings had been completed. A copy of the minutes of the last Cooil Roi Committee meeting was circulated.</p> <p>JPN raised a potential issue with the cooker hood extractors in individual private flats. JPL advised that cooker hood fans were the sole responsibility of the tenant. JPL also confirmed that all internal doors were fire doors, and a door had been tampered with; the correct operation of all doors was being checked.</p> <p>MF referred to the new arrangement to outsource emergency cover at the complex. An 'on-call' system would be trialled in the coming months.</p> <p>A celebration to mark the 50th Anniversary of Cooil Roi would take place at the facility on Saturday 29th of July from 2.00 pm.</p>	
36/17	Staffing Matters - ntr	
37/17	Chairman's Report - ntr	
38/17	Any Other Business	
a)	<p>DEFA Consultation on the Designation of Inshore Fishing Areas.</p> <p>This document was noted. Included are proposals to re-designate the Laxey Fisheries Restricted Area as a 'Marine Nature Reserve'. This would give a range of protections, including the banning of mobile fishing gear in order to conserve the sensitive features of the seascape. The area would cover Garwick Bay where there are eelgrass beds. In addition minor changes are planned for the current Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve due to the discovery of further eelgrass beds, etc.</p>	
b)	<p>Request to use Valley Gardens - Resident emails requesting permission to use the Valley Gardens for a Children's party with bouncy castle one Saturday afternoon.</p> <p><i>The matter was discussed. It was agreed that permission should be granted subject to H&S and insurance being put in place. PB to liaise with the resident.</i></p>	PB

c)	<p>Goat Protection at Dhoon Arboretum – <i>Options for individual protection were discussed. The Laxey blacksmith had proposed a design and it was agreed to purchase one unit so that its effectiveness could be gauged. This would cost in the region of £150.00.</i></p>	clerk
d)	<p>Valley Gardens path – From Captains Hill to Lower Bridge. <i>The clerks advised that surface dressing would take place in the autumn. A new drainage channel would be dug to divert storm-water from running down the path itself.</i></p>	
e)	<p>Kirk Michael Chippy - Email from owner of Laxey Diner requesting that the same agreement is applied whereby Kirk Michael chippy does not trade close to Rate paying businesses that sell similar products. Correspondence attached. <i>This matter was discussed in detail. PB was asked to obtain further information regarding the intended opening periods and times.</i></p>	PB
f)	<p>Municipal Association – Extract from draft Minutes of meeting - "In particular, Mr Boot asked for Local Authority feedback on a proposal of his to have an elected local representative from each authority as part of the Planning Committee. He also advised that he was very much an advocate of putting local community plans in place and wished to encourage Local Authorities to prepare them. Again views would be welcomed.' <i>These suggestions were noted. The suggestion for a representative from each authority was not felt to be practicable due to the size of committee it would entail. Various other options were considered but none of the suggestions were taken forward. The consensus was that other planning reforms were more necessary, such as first stage planning being devolved to local authorities.</i> <i>In regard to the proposed 'community plans' Members wondered how these would fit in amongst the various other plans such as area plans and the Strategic Plan.</i></p>	
g)	<p>PK raised the issue of signage. MR advised that in the Laxey Conservation Area no sign should be erected without 'express permission' which is gained from the Planning Authority. In other areas, outside of the conservation area, the landowner's permission is the only requirement. In Laxey there are several businesses with signage on DOI property, but it would appear that, although they have power to remove signage on their property they generally focus on a sign from one business. It was felt that if they are to remove this sign, then all signs on their properties should be removed. The inconsistency was fuelling resentment amongst businesses. The situation would be monitored in the coming weeks.</p>	
h)	<p>Laxey Station Telephone Box Installation of Defibrillator – MR to update. <i>The Live at Home Scheme were in the process of approaching local businesses seeking funding to assist with the installation of the defibrillator. The Commissioners agreed, where possible, to assist with the installation of this facility. The funding by the community was also discussed, the clerks were given instruction in this matter which would assist the project to begin. SC asked if training in the use of defibrillators could be arranged at an appropriate time. This was agreed.</i></p>	clerks
i)	<p>MF advised members of Parish Day which would take place on Saturday 15th of July at 2.00 pm on Maughold Village Green. The day would begin with events and entertainments followed by children's sports, refreshments and sports in the evening from 7.00 pm.</p> <p>MF also advised that a project to install tiles in the new toilet block in the village had been suggested. It was anticipated that the children of the Dhoon School would design and paint tiles for this project in the Autumn term.</p>	

	<p>JPN referred to the weeds on the A2 through Laxey, particularly at Pinfold Hill. The clerks reported that these were the responsibility of DOI to clear. A request had been made, but, no action had been taken. The clerks were asked to reiterate the request that the weeds be removed.</p> <p>SC referred to the poor condition of the railings beside the MER and A2 at Baldrine. This matter had been reported on several occasions during the previous twelve months. It was agreed that the MHKs should be contacted to assist in gaining a response from Estates Shared Services at DOI.</p> <p>PK asked if the arches could be erected in the Valley Gardens, and referred to several areas on Laxey Promenade where weeds needed to be removed.</p> <p>JPL referred to a resident of Cooil Roi who had written to the Commissioners regarding a memorial plaque. The resident would be contacted in due course.</p>	clerks
39/17	Private Session	
a)	<i>Matters relating to the future use of All Saints Church were discussed.</i>	
	Date of next meeting:- Wednesday 19 th July 2017 7.00pm	