

GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 24th January 2018, 7.00 pm

Present: Mr N. Dobson (ND), Chairman, Mrs M. Fargher (MF), Mr T Kenyon (TK), Mr P. Kinnish (PK), Mr. J. Quayle (JQ).
In Attendance: Officers: Mr P. Burgess (PB), Clerk, Mr M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk/RFO, Mrs Julie Peel (JPL) Housing Manager.
Apologies: Mr S. Clague (SC), Mr L. Miller (LM), Mrs J. Pinson (JPN).

158/17.a **Chairman's statement on the passing of Mr Robert Moughtin.**
The Chairman addressed Members in regard to the news of the sudden passing of fellow Commissioner, Mr Robert Moughtin who had been a Commissioner for over twelve years. Mr Dobson remarked on the close working relationship he had formed with Robert throughout this time, particularly in regard to the Garff Joint Initiative Committee at which at which both had made the case for the formation of a single Garff Board.
Mr Dobson added that without Robert's inspiration and influence the integration may never have happened. He added the thanks of the Board to Robert for his sterling work, his enthusiasm, and conscientiousness in all he did in the local and Island community. Robert would be greatly missed, professionally and personally.
Reference was made to the many organisations that had benefitted from Robert's participation: the Commissioners, the Maughold Social Club, the former Whitley Council and a range of other bodies such as the Northern Civic Amenity Site Committee, which Robert had chaired and steered in recent months.
Mr Dobson requested that the clerks pass on the sincere condolences of the Board to Robert's family, and offer every possible assistance at this sad time.

A minute's silence was observed in Robert's memory.

158/17.b **Planning Matters**

Planning Applications

- a)** 18/00034/B Land adjacent to Reayrt ny Glionney, All Saints Park, Lonan, erection of 13 dwellings with associated landscaping and open space.
Correspondence from a resident expressing concerns with these proposal had been circulated, was read and discussed. Reference was made to applications made previously at the site. The density of the proposals, drainage, and visual impact were also discussed. MF asked if the developer had considered the provision of an adequate footpath behind the proposed houses which could encourage pedestrians off the highway to access Croit e Quill Road and the proposed open space area. It was agreed to defer further discussion of this application until the meeting taking place on February the 7th 2018. This would allow the Commissioners opportunity to consider the above issues and to reflect on any further comments submitted by local residents.
- b)** 18/00025/C Beechwood, Fairy Cottage, Laxey, Additional use of residential property as self catering tourist accommodation.
This proposal was considered. No objections.
- c)** 17/01324/B **Maple-Bank, Ramsey Road, Laxey**, Alterations and erection of extension.
PK referred to the proposals and sought clarification of several matters. These being the adequacy of parking provision and whether the windows proposed in the extension would replicate and be in keeping with the windows in the current dwelling. It was agreed that these matters should be raised in the submission to the planning authority to ensure that they are fully considered prior to a decision being made by the Planning Committee.

d)	18/00042/B Cronk ny Killey, Dreemskerry, variation of condition on approval for the demolition of existing and erection of a replacement dwelling, to extend the period for a further four years. <i>This proposal was considered. There were no objections to the application for the time extension.</i>	
	Approval Notices - 17/01216/B The Crofts, Chapel Lane, Baldrine, Alterations and additions including demolition of existing glazed gallery, erection of single storey extension, etc. <i>This approval was noted.</i>	
	Refusal Notices - ntr	
159/17	Approval of Minutes	
a)	Approval of minutes of the meeting of 10 th January 2018. <i>These were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed TK. Seconded, JQ. Resolved.</i>	
160/17	Matters Arising & Other Business	
a)	Consideration of trading licences currently issued in Garff. MR updated Members on the four sites that were under consideration for future use by a mobile trader. The owners of three of the sites had declined the Commissioners' request. Further communication was taking place with the fourth and it was hoped the matter would be determined shortly. The licence issued to an ice cream trader was discussed. MR reported that no adverse comments or complaints had been received during the term of the current licence. This was noted.	
161/17	General correspondence	
a)	Two government consultations 1. DOI Consultation on amendments to general housing access and eligibility criteria. <i>The consultation had been circulated and considered by Members. The intention to set parameters based on income that would determine eligibility and rents set for public housing were discussed and noted. There was broad agreement for the proposals to be implemented. The clerks were instructed to submit comment.</i> 2. Vehicle Duty Consultation Exercise. <i>There followed a brief discussion of the proposals in this consultation. It was established that it was unnecessary to provide a response from the Board. The consensus was that this was a matter in which individual Members could submit a personal response if they so wished.</i>	clerks
b)	Family Library – Update and request for funding. <i>The value of the mobile library to the communities in Maughold, Laxey and Lonan was noted. It was confirmed that a sum of £1,500 had been forwarded to contribute to the provision of the service last year. It was agreed to send the same contribution for YE 19 at the start of that financial Year in April 2018.</i>	clerks
c)	DfE – Information on 'Micro Business Grant Scheme'. <i>These documents were noted.</i>	
d)	MUA – Public Lighting Maintenance Contract; pre-contract update. <i>This document indicated that the cost of the maintenance contract for street-lights in Garff for YE 19 would be held at the same level as for YE 18 (£10,518.00). Manx Utilities also advised that they would also begin undertaking regular maintenance of the new lighting in the Rose Garden regeneration area. These matters were noted. It was agreed to engage Manx utilities to undertake the public lighting contracts.</i>	MR

	<i>MR reported that Manx Utilities had also asked the Commissioners to consider replacing the outdated mercury light fittings of which there were 115 in number in the Sheading. MR was instructed to initiate discussions in regard to this matter and report back to the Board. PK made reference to the un-lit section of road from Ballacannel to Ballabeg crossing. MR was instructed to request a proposal and costings for lighting this section of the A2 from Manx Utilities.</i>	MR
162/17	Committee Reports - ntr	
163/17	Officer Reports - ntr	
a)	Finances – December accounts circulated for consideration and discussion. These were noted. No further instructions.	
b)	Health and Safety <i>MR advised that there had been no accidents, near misses reported by internal maintenance staff or contractors during the period since the last meeting. The internal maintenance staff had been briefed by JPL in regard to the necessity for vaccinations. PB and MR to be given a similar briefing in due course. Information would also be circulated to the authority's contractors.</i>	PB, MR Contr.
c)	Works and Amenities – Maintenance Activity report to be circulated separately. The above report was noted. Mr reported that a Statement of Case had been submitted to the Cabinet Office in regard to the planning application to install play equipment at Church Close, Lonan. A hearing date for the appeal to be considered would be announced in due course.	
d)	Cool Roi Sheltered Housing Complex – ntr	
164/17	Staffing Matters - ntr	
165/17	Chairman's Report <i>The Chairman sought agreement for the Commissioners to produce and circulate a newsletter. This was agreed. The clerks were instructed to prepare this for a release in early April 2018.</i> <i>The Chairman asked if the clerks could write to the Governor's office with a view to arranging an official visit to the Sheading during September 2018.</i> <i>TK was nominated to attend the Municipal Association following the loss to the Commissioners of Mr Moughtin. A new member to represent the authority at NCAS meetings would be appointed in due course.</i>	clerks clerks
166/17	Any Other Business	
a)	Resident – Regarding All Saints Church. A letter in regard to a personal legacy made to All Saints Church was noted. MR was instructed to acknowledge the letter and advise that these were matters that should be discussed with the church authorities.	
b)	To discuss the feral goat colony at Bulgham (<i>Advice from DEFA obtained by Daphne Caine MHK circulated</i>). Advice from DEFA from 2011, and a recent update provided by the Minister had been circulated and were noted. The Commissioners agreed to continue monitoring the situation.	
c)	Waste Steering Group – Next meeting Monday 26 th February 2018, 6.30 pm at Nobles Park Pavilion. <i>This was noted. ND to attend.</i>	
d)	Approval of Audited Statement of Accounts - The Audited Statements of Accounts for the Year End 31 st March 2017 to be presented to the Board for approval.	

	<p>A draft of the accounts had been circulated and presented to the Board by Ian Begley, the Commissioners' accountant at the meeting on the 1st of November 2017.</p> <p>The final statements had been given clearance by the auditors, received at the office and circulated to Members. Mr Begley advised that there were only minor changes. These were noted.</p> <p>TK proposed that the YE 2017 accounts as presented be approved and signed. This was seconded by JQ and Resolved unanimously by the Board.</p> <p>The RFO referred members to comments previously made by Mr Begley who had reported that the authority's accounting systems and processes were in very good order. The audit of the YE 2017 accounts had involved the integration of four sets of accounts from the previous four Boards (Laxey, Lonan, Maughold & Cooil Roi) and the process had been less problematic than had been anticipated. The RFO advised that he shared Mr Begley's assessment of the authorities accounting practises and had confidence in the reliability, accuracy and efficacy of the system which had been established by PB and JPL. The systems in place also offered several layers of oversight and security which acted to safeguard the integrity of the accounting procedures being employed.</p>	
e)	<p><i>TK advised that a resident was seeking the installation of a defibrillator in the promenade shelter in Laxey. The clerks advised that they had been in discussion with the resident and had offered any assistance that the authority could provide.</i></p> <p><i>TK sought clarification of who appoints Captains of the Parish. The clerks advised that this function was performed by the Governor.</i></p>	
f)	<p><i>PK asked if a date had been set for a Civic Service in 2018. ND advised that he had approached the Reverend Jo Dudley and was awaiting her suggestions for a suitable date. He would revert to the Board once this information had been received.</i></p>	
g)	<p><i>PK asked a question in regard to Laxey Pavilion and Glen Gardens. He asked if DEFA could be approached and requested to ensure that any future lease agreement entered into protected public parking opportunities in the Glen. He also requested that no restrictions on public access to the play area in the Glen be included in the lease agreement. MR advised that he had already contacted Martyn Perkins who is a Member of DEFA requesting that such matters be considered when any new tenancy agreement was being drafted.</i></p>	
167/17	<p>Private Session</p> <p>Two letters from SC received on the 24th of January 2017 were discussed in private at the request of the correspondent.</p>	
	<p>The meeting was declared closed at 9.26 pm</p> <p>Next meeting Wednesday 7th of February 2018 at 7.00 pm.</p>	