

LAXEY VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 4th February 10.00 am

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mrs R. Bate (Vice Chairman), Mr J James, Mr P Kinnish, Mr AJ Moore (Chairman)

In Attendance: Mr P. Burgess, Clerk, 2 member of public.

Apologies: Mr P Hill Deputy Clerk, Mrs J. Pinson

Action

119/14 Planning Matters

Planning Applications

a) None.

Approval Notices (DoI Planning Committee)

b) None.

Refusal Notices (DoI Planning Committee)

c) None.

Appeal Notices (DoI Planning Committee)

d) Planning Appeal Result 14/00349/B of 23.01.15 in respect of appeal against refusal for replacement of Public House with detached dwellings at New Inn, New Road, Laxey. [LVC Ref: 3671]. Refused by LVC. Appeal allowed, development approved.

Resolved to note planning appeal result 14/00349/B.

Planning Enforcement (DoI Planning and Building Control)

e) None.

Planning – Correspondence

f) None.

120/14 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of Mid Monthly Meeting held on 21st January 2015 were examined for accuracy, and it was unanimously resolved they represented a correct statement of events.

*Proposed **RB**, Seconded **JJ**.*

121/14 Matters arising out of the minutes 21st January 2015.

a) The Clerk reported the date for the official unveiling of the Miners Statue had been agreed for Saturday 23rd May 2015 at 2.30pm followed by a civic reception at the WMI. A discussion took place and it was proposed the unveiling could be tied in with Laxey Fair on 27th June 2015. It was Resolved the Clerk would take this proposal back to the fair Committee and the nominated Commissioners representative would be **JJ**.

122/14 General correspondence

a) Alan Hardinge Civil Maintenance Manager at Department of Infrastructure email on 22/01/15 at 16:01, in respect of JBA Consultants - Concept Design Report - Coastal & Harbour Flooding. The report from JBA Consultants has recently been made public - DOI are keen to receive comments from members of the public within affected areas, in order to achieve this we are trying to engage via Local Authorities and with their agreement hold a series of public meetings with residents and businesses from within affected areas in conjunction with the Local Authority and MHK's for their area.

JBA are on Island on Thursday 26 & Friday 27 February, and with your assistance DOI would like to organize a public meeting to enable JBA & DOI to discuss the report options in an open forum, JBA

currently have availability during the day (mornings) of either the 26 or 27, would you be willing to facilitate such a meeting and if so, is there a suitable venue we could use.

Clerks note – Following consultation with Steve Rodan MHK this meeting will take place on Thursday 26th February at 11am, Laxey Working Mens Institute. JBA will be delivering a presentation on options with the opportunity for questions from members of the public, and general discussions with commissioners etc.

Alan Hardinge has asked if the Commissioners could promote the event, targeting residents in the affected areas.

A discussion took place and it was Resolved the Clerk send a letter to Residents on the Promenade and Harbour areas.

b) Andy Scullard of Moddey Dhoo motor cycle club emails on 12.01.15.

Just a quick email to touch base ref this year's Laxey TT Motorcycle Show. We don't think we have any reason to change any plans from last year – so the format will be pretty much as usual. I have already put in the required paperwork to the 'events & road closing' departments and I will in due course apply for a 'music licence' – perhaps you could update the 'support' letter attached, so that its ready to add to the application. I have been in touch with our insurers, who are sorting out the application for this year's policy.

If you would like to pass on the above information to the Commissioners and we hope that we'll get their support again for this year's event which will take place on Thursday 11th June 2015.

The Clerk advised the Commissioners had in previous years paid the Public Liability insurance for the event which was £100. A discussion took place and it was Resolved the Board fully support the event and would continue with arrangements as per previous years.

c) Letter dated 23.01.15 from The Right Reverend Robert Patterson, Bishop of Sodor and Man, in respect of All Saints 'Parish Church' Lonan. Please see attached Blue Papers.

A discussion took place and with respect to the Churches reluctance to provide copies survey reports. No direction given.

d) Planning Department email dated 28.01.15, with letter attached in respect of Viewing and Commenting on Planning Applications.

As part of the Department of Infrastructure's continuing drive towards improvement to customer service whilst implementing more efficient practices and cost effectiveness, I can advise that the following procedures are being introduced.

- Where representation is received as comment on a planning application (including consultations from Government Departments and Local Authorities), the detail is to be scanned upon receipt and made available online.
- The paper/hard copy of the representation will not be placed on the working file until the decision notice is raised (Officers will refer to the scanned copy during their assessment).
- Officer reports and decision notices will be published and made available online on the working day following issue of the decision notice.

These process changes are being introduced for all planning applications submitted after January 1st 2015.

Moving forward we are also seeking to increase the use of electronic documents and email to communicate with those involved with the planning process.

- Whilst not all planning decision notices are currently being issued electronically, the process for issuing them in electronic copy, attached to an email, is now in place and being applied wherever possible. Accordingly where an email notification is sent – that notice will be the definitive copy of the decision notice. In such instance there will be no hard paper copy issued.

- Please be aware that it is accepted that in the future we will stop issuing a hard copy of planning applications to the relevant Local Authorities (and Highways), instead

directing the body to view application content by way of the electronic copy via online services.

- To that end, and for the benefit of the Agents who are included in this mailshot, I can advise that guidance notes and application forms are soon to be updated to include a request that, where possible, a planning application contains an email contact plus is supported by a copy of the planning application in electronic form. Submission of an electronic copy will not only assist toward a more efficient circulation of information to parties but also the uploading of information onto the Departments online services.

In anticipation of this request should an agent wish to make such submission now, its form should be by email, stick or disc, in pdf, readable by Adobe Acrobat (we are using version XI) and the application image should not exceed 4Mb in size. If the application exceeds this size it should be split into separate files with appropriate file names.

- Further, it is hoped to encourage appeal administration to also move toward electronic circulation. Non-email users should please note that moving toward electronic practice is imminent and inevitable.

2015 planning application images and representations made on them may be viewed by following this link <https://www.gov.im/planningapplication/services/planning/search.iom>.

May I take this opportunity to mention that due to staff shortages between early February and mid March, priority will be given to dealing with planning applications already in the system. Phone calls will be addressed by the Technical and Customer support team and where more technical detail is required the enquirer will be directed to raise contact via email at either northplannign@gov.im or southplanning@gov.im. Your patience during this period is appreciated.

If any 'body' or authority has enquiry or suggestions toward the working practices and processes for the handling of planning applications please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience

*A discussion took place and it was noted that the change to electronic copies of planning applications would cause difficulties in viewing the documents as the Commissioners photocopier would only produce A3 prints. **RB** pointed out that currently the plans are printed in a large format allowing existing and proposed elevations to be viewed together. The Clerk advised that currently members of public can attend the office to view paper copies of plans, however as there no dedicated public PC terminal this could cause problems with confidentiality etc. Resolved the Clerk to respond to the letter advising the Commissioners concerns and objections.*

123/14 **Committee Reports**

- a) **Municipal Association** – Roz Bate – **RB** reported she had attended the MA meeting on 29th January. A number of speakers had agreed to attend future meeting including Howard Quayle MHK in February, Eddie Teare MHK in March. **RB** requested if anyone one had any specific questions for either Minister to forward to RB. In April Richard Kemp from Liverpool City Council will be guest speaker and the AGM would take place in May. **RB** advised that the report on region swimming pools by Adrian Cain had been discussed. Proposals for increasing the current 2.5p/£ Regional Swimming pool rate to an all island rate of 5p/£ had been discussed. There was also a proposal to introduce a leisure rate to cover every sports facility on the island in the future, which could be as high as 60p/£. The view of the MA was that this charge would be unacceptable. There was also a proposal to bring in parity for swimming instructors pay, as the NSC employees get a higher rate of pay compared to the region pools employees. **RB** advised that the Whitley council had probably held their last meeting prior to the Civic Service Commission taking over and he unions were not happy with the revised terms and conditions being offered to new starters. **RB** advised Local Authorities would not have a

representative on the new Commission and they would have to set up the own group or agree parity with the Civil Service Commission.

- b) **Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust** – Peter Kinnish. No Report.
- c) **Cool Roi Housing Authority** – Andrew Moore Jeff James. No Report.
- d) **Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities** – Jeff James. **JJ** advised he had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the recent AGM. No Report.
- e) **Garff Joint Initiative Committee** – Roz Bate, Julie Pinson. No Report.
- f) **Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee** – Roz Bate, Peter Kinnish. No Report.
- g) **Laxey Youth Initiative** – Roz Bate, Jeff James. No Report.
- h) **Regeneration Committee** – Peter Kinnish, Julie Pinson. Next meeting 04.02.15 at 6.30pm. **PK** reported that two new Telecom boxes had been installed in the Rose Gardens and they we currently visible from the road. **AM** requested **PK** raise this at the meeting along with traffic management issues in respect of pedestrian safety. **PK** advised he had spoken to Richard Henthorn who had expressed disappointment that representatives from Laxey Commissioners had not attended the recent opening of the Working Mens Institute Extension. A brief discussion took place and apologies given.
- i) **Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee** – Andrew Moore. No Report
- j) **Works and Amenities** – Andrew Moore, Peter Kinnish. No Report.

124/14 Chairman's Report
No Report.

125/14 Reports
a) None.

126/14 Any Other Business

- a) Julie Bennion of Mental Health Promotion writes with copies of Mental Health Service Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 1, Autumn 2014. Letter seeks feedback on this new newsletter.
Copies circulated. Resolved to note.
- b) Isle of Man Federation of Women's Institutes – Clerk report – Have met with representatives from the WI at the Valley Gdns to look at a site for creating a flower bed. They only require a very small plot and suggest an area on the edge of the Heritage Garden on Mines rd.
The Clerk advised the location and size of the proposed bed, approximately 2m x 1m and it was Resolved to approve the request to provide a flower bed at the Heritage Garden.
- c) Copy of Report on the Regional Pools Working Group Meeting.
Resolved to Note.
- d) Minutes from the Northern TMLG meeting held on 20 January 2015 received.
The dates for the upcoming NTMLG meetings for 2015 are:
21 April 2015, 21 July 2015, 20 October 2015.
Resolved to Note.
- e) Initiation to attend a preview evening, Isle of Man Photographic Society Exhibition at Hodgson Loom Galley, Friday 13th February from 6pm to 8.30pm.
Resolved to Note.
- f) **Fair Ground/Boat Park Tent Road** – **AM** enquired if any of the Commissioners knew who owned the former Fair Ground on Tent Road as it was thought it may be part of the Henry Bloom Noble Land. A discussion took place and the Clerk advised he was not aware of any deeds or records that would indicate this to be the case. It was suggested the land was owned by the Harbour Authorities, ie Department of Infrastructure.
- g) **PK** reported the name plate at the end of Mines Road was missing. The Clerk advised the matter was in hand and it would be put back as soon as possible.

Meeting Closed at 12.25pm

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 18th February 2015 10.00 am

4th February 2015