

GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 2nd May 2018 7.00 pm

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

In Attendance: Mr P. Burgess (PB), Clerk, Mr M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk/RFO, Mrs Julie Peel (JPL) Housing Manager

Apologies: Mr S. Clague (SC)

		Action
01/18	<p>Election of Chairman <i>PB took the chair to oversee the election of a chairman for the forthcoming year. He asked for nominations. Mrs Fargher was nominated by Mrs Pinson, and seconded by Mr Quayle. Mr Dobson was nominated by Mr Miller, and seconded by Mr Kenyon. A vote took place with four votes for each candidate being the result. Various options to resolve this tie were considered using guidance from standing orders. Mrs Fargher stated that in this situation she favoured retaining the status quo. She consequently declined her nomination as chairman and withdrew from the voting process.</i> <i>A new round of nominations took place. Mrs Fargher nominated Mr Dobson, and this nomination was seconded by Mrs Pinson. There were no other nominations, and a show of hands demonstrated unanimous support for Mr Dobson to be chairman for the forthcoming year. Mr Dobson took up the chair to lead the meeting. He proposed that a discussion take place at a future meeting to consider changes to the process for electing a chair. The clerks were asked to place this matter on the agenda of a future meeting.</i></p>	clerks
02/18	<p>Election of Vice Chairman <i>Mr Dobson proposed Mrs Fargher as vice-chair, seconded by Mr Quayle. Resolved unanimously.</i></p>	
03/18	<p>Board Representation – Members were elected to serve on the various boards and committees as follows:</p>	
a)	Municipal Association – TK & JS	
b)	Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust – PK & SC	
c)	Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities – LM & TK	
d)	Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee – PK & TK	
e)	Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team Community Partnership meeting – Any Member/Officer to attend as and when required.	
f)	Regeneration Committee – No nominations. Committee effectively defunct.	
g)	Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – ND	
h)	Northern Civic Amenity Site - JQ	
i)	Northern Swimming Pool Board - JQ	
j)	Northern Area Housing steering group - MF	
k)	Northern Sheltered Housing Committee - MF	
l)	Eastern Area Housing steering group - ND	
m)	Waste Management Steering Group - ND	
n)	Waste Management Working Group – Clerks	
o)	Cool Roi Sheltered Housing Committee – MF & JPN & TK	
04/18	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p>Planning Applications</p>	
a)	PA 18/00352/B – 15 All Saints Park, Lonan – Replacement of existing conservatory roof with roof tiles.	

	<i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>	
b)	PA 18/00354/B – Harcroft, Old Laxey Hill, Laxey - Replacement of existing conservatory roof with roof tiles. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>	
c)	PA 18/00357/B - Ardbeg House Proposed Plot, Booilushag, Ballajora, Maughold – Approval in principle for the erection of a dwelling on land adjacent to Ardbeg House. <i>Concerns expressed by neighbours in regard to drainage, intensity of development of the estate, and highway issues were discussed. The Commissioners had been advised that an active covenant was in place that presumed against new dwellings without the acquiescence of the neighbours, but it was noted that this was not a material planning matter. The clerks were instructed to raise these concerns with the planning committee.</i>	
d)	PA 18/00372/B – 29 Ard Reayrt, Laxey – Erection of a rear extension. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>	
e)	PA 18/00361/B – 24 Baldrine Park, Baldrine, Lonan – Replacement of existing garden shed in rear garden with detached garage accessed from rear lane <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>	
f)	PA 18/00386/B – Hunters Moon, The Crescent, Baldrine, Lonan - Replacement of existing detached garage with a log cabin. <i>The clerks were asked to seek clarification of the intended use of the cabin.</i>	
g)	PA 18/00392/B – Old Ballachrink Farm, Breeze Hill, Laxey – Installation of a roof and enclosure adjacent to garage. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>	
h)	PA 18/00405/B - Ramillies Clay Head Road Baldrine, Lonan - Erection of extension to provide additional living accommodation. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>	
	Approval Notices (DoI Planning Committee)	
i)	PA 18/00218/B - Thie Vooinjer Veg, Croit e Quill Rd, Erection of a garden store, lower patio area and retaining wall. <i>Noted.</i>	
j)	PA 17/01137/B - Ballagorry Heights, Ballagorry Drive, Maughold, Amended plans for the conversion of garage for additional living accommodation. <i>Noted.</i>	
	Refusal Notices (DoI Planning Committee) - ntr	
	Appeal Notices (DoI Planning Committee) - ntr	
	Planning Enforcement (DoI Planning and Building Control) - ntr	
05/18	Approval of Minutes	
a)	Approval of minutes of meeting 11 th April May 2018. <i>These were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed JPN. Seconded MF. Resolved.</i>	
06/18	Matters Arising & Other Business	
	<i>MF advised that she had visited the recycling area on Glen Road in Laxey and noted that the plastic and cardboard receptacles were overflowing. PB reported that there had been issues but the contractor had been spoken to and had agreed to empty on a weekly basis as per the agreement the agreement with the Authority. Kinrades and the maintenance staff had been asked to clear any over-spilled materials on a daily basis. Members of the public using the receptacles are asked not to overfill them, to flat-pack cardboard, and not to leave material on the floor – this was effectively littering. The situation would be monitored and action taken should the situation not resolve satisfactorily.</i>	
	<i>JPN asked if any response had been received in regard to the letter from Douglas Corporation to government regarding ending of the contracting out in respect of national insurance contributions. PB reported that no response had been received.</i>	

	<i>JPN asked who had been awarded the lease to run the Pavilion. PB advised that the company was 'Ginger Events' and that initial contact had been made with the Clerks' Office. A meeting would be arranged in due course to discuss how they intended to operate the venue. Further information would be circulated as it came available.</i>	
a)	Planning Enforcement – Senior Planning Officer Abigail Morgan to meet with the Commissioners. This meeting has been rescheduled to 4th July 2018. <i>Members were advised that this meeting had been postponed until the 4th of July . This was noted.</i>	
b)	MUA Regional Sewerage schemes Laxey and Garwick catchments – <i>Meeting with MUA 7pm on 16th May 2018. This was noted. The meeting will form part of the public session.</i>	
c)	Health and Safety – To consider the Garff Commissioners Health and Safety Document (finalised copy circulated 21.03.18) for approval and adoption as the H&S policy for the authority. The attention of Members was drawn to this document. It was anticipated that it would be accepted as policy at the meeting taking place on the 11th of April 2018. Meeting ref 21.03.18, 203/17 item b). <i>JQ proposed that this document be accepted as the Authority's Policy. Seconded, JPN. Resolved unanimously.</i>	
d)	Future of the Burial Authority for Lonan – Request from Chairman for this to be placed on this week's agenda and attach a proposal for debate. Proposed ND , Seconded TK Meeting ref 11.04.18, 206/17 item e). <i>ND read a statement he had circulated to Members which included a proposal that Garff Commissioners investigate the viability of taking control of Lonan Burial Authority. The Archdeacon had advised that he was content for the Commissioners to explore such an option. The Archdeacon also advised that he would be copying the Team Vicar into the correspondence with the Commissioners. JPN stated that the full consequences of such a transition be considered during the investigations. She outlined several potential difficulties and complications which the Board should consider, particularly in regard to the practical operation of the burial ground and the possible emotional impact on staff engaged to deal with grieving relatives. JPN suggested that the issue of who would operate and run burial authorities in the future was possibly one that needed to be dealt with centrally by government. New legislation would be required. MF stated that full public consultation must take place if any decision to go beyond the investigation stage were made, adding that although the church wardens were voluntary they exercised great expertise and experience in these matters: full and comprehensive training would have to be given to anyone new to the role. JQ felt, however, that the Commissioners should seriously investigate the proposal. TK referred to instances where 'controversial' monuments had had to be removed, such instances were potentially difficult to resolve. ND stated that if the church authorities were unable to operate the burial authorities in the future then responsibility for them was likely to fall upon the local authorities. He proposed inviting individuals with direct experience of these matters to attend a meeting to brief the Commissioners. It was agreed that the clerks would make arrangements in this regard prior to any further discussion of the proposal. JS suggested that he raise the matter at a future Municipal Association meeting. This was also agreed.</i>	Clerks JS/TK
07/18	General correspondence	
a)	Laxey and Lonan Heritage Trust – Great Laxey Duck Race, 13 th May 2018. Request to have a bouncy castle in the valley gardens. <i>This event was noted.</i> <i>PK initiated a discussion of the use of a bouncy castle at a L&L Heritage Trust Event. PB advised that he would write to the Trust requesting that they comply with the H&S regulations issued by government in relation to the use of such facilities. .</i>	PB

b)	Advisory Notices placed on Vehicles parked on the A2 – Correspondence from Department of Infrastructure. The distress caused to some residents by these actions was noted. DoI are assessing their recent approach on this issue and will liaise with the Commissioners and residents prior to any similar actions being undertaken in the future.	
c)	Tynwald Garden Party – Invitation to the Chairman and guest to attend on Sunday 1 st July 2018. <i>TK to attend.</i>	TK
d)	Duty Planner Service – Email from Planning & Building Control Directorate - Please be advised that the Development Management Team within Planning & Building Control offer a Duty Planner service for applicants and other interested parties. Details of this scheme are available on the website at: https://www.gov.im/categories/planning-and-building-control/contact-us/duty-planner/ Duty Planner Service will be available: 1pm – 5pm (Tuesday – Thursday) 1pm – 4:30pm (Friday) During these hours, a Planning Officer will be available to speak to for up to 15 minutes (without an appointment). During these times the Duty Planner will also be available to speak to by phone on 01624 685950. <i>This information was noted.</i>	
e)	Tynwald Ceremony 2018 – Invitation to Chairman to attend Thursday 5 th July 2018. <i>ND to attend.</i>	ND
f)	Borough of Douglas Civic Sunday – 10 th June 2018 at St Georges Church, Douglas, at 10.30am. Formal invitation to follow in due course. <i>This matter was noted.</i>	
08/18	Committee Reports	
a)	Municipal Association – <i>JS advised that Tim Graham, CEO of MWT, had given a presentation on several relevant issues including managing the wallaby population. The representative had outlined the dual role MWT has to take in regard to advising developers on planning applications and when opposing applications. TK advised that the 'Year of our Island' Festival arrangements had also been discussed.</i>	
b)	Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust – <i>ntr</i>	
c)	Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities – <i>ntr</i>	
d)	Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee – <i>PK, TK & MR to attend meeting on 10.05.18. Repainting Laxey DYLS to be raised as an urgent issue.</i>	
e)	Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team Community Partnership meeting – <i>ntr</i>	
f)	Regeneration Committee – <i>ntr</i>	
g)	Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee - <i>TK advised that paints could now be exchanged through a 're-use' section at the facility. There had also been discussions of the lease and operator's licence, as well as reference to the government's discussions with third parties regarding the Montreal Protocol - currently no white goods can be transported off island as the IOM government are not signatories to the agreement.</i>	
h)	Northern Civic Amenity Site – <i>AGM 15th May 2018.</i>	
i)	Northern Swimming Pool Board - <i>ntr</i>	
j)	Northern Area Housing steering group - <i>ntr</i>	
k)	Northern Sheltered Housing Committee - <i>MF advised that a pet policy was under discussion.</i>	
l)	Eastern Area Housing steering group - <i>ntr</i>	
m)	Waste Management Steering Group - <i>ntr</i>	
n)	Waste Management Working Group - <i>ntr</i>	

09/18	Officers Report	
a)	Prash Laxaa Event – Sunday 6th May at 2pm - MR briefed members on the final arrangements. The event was part of a drive to begin presenting Laxey/Garff as a destination rather than a 'travel through' location.	
b)	Finance – PB had circulated the re-valuations of the Commissioners assets which had been recently undertaken. These were noted. JS asked when the final amalgamation of the authorities bank accounts would take place. PB advised that this action was imminent.	
c)	Health and Safety - MR reported that no issues had been reported in the period since the last meeting. All authority staff had recently received first aid training.	
d)	Works and Amenities - MR had circulated a list of current and planned activities. This was noted. Glen Road toilets had been painted. It was agreed that a 'deep clean' of the Prom toilets be undertaken. MR to arrange.	
e)	Cooli Roi Sheltered Housing Complex – Pet Policy and Warden Cover, reports circulated to Commissioners meeting 11 th April 2018. JPL had circulated a report on the feasibility of allowing pets such as cats and dogs at the complex. The vast majority of units were unsuitable for pets, but there were some limited possibilities in some units which could be considered. JQ asked if JPL could draft some regulations that would identify situations in which prospective tenants with pets could be accommodated. It was anticipated that any regulations would have to allow cases to be considered flexibly on an individual basis. The units that were suitable and the criteria would have to be identified. JPL to draft regulations for consideration by Members.	
f)	Campsite - Isle of Man Tourism: Campsite Information Presentation, 26th April 2018. PB reported that he had attended the meeting with John Bate. No issues of concern had arisen at the meeting.	
10/18	Staffing Matters – ntr	
11/18	Chairman's Report - ntr	
12/18	Any Other Business	
a)	MF asked if the path from the MER down to the BMX track could be attended to as it was waterlogged.	
b)	JPN referred to the general problem of dog fouling in Laxey and asked if prosecutions could be undertaken. The difficulties and expense of such action were discussed.	
c)	JPN expressed concern with the methods used by the DoI to clear stones from the Promenade following the recent storm. A road sweeper had been used which had flung stones dangerously. The clerks advised that the Department had not used the normal tractor as it had broken down.	
d)	LM drew members attention to the recent removal of the salmon sculpture from the Rose Gardens. This was noted with disappointment. Gary Saunders from DoI was looking into the matter along with the issues caused by the recent finger post installation.	
e)	JQ referred to the proposal to reduce the height of the wall at the entrance to the tram station. This was for road safety reasons. A planning application would be submitted in due course.	
f)	JS noted that the dog bye laws in Laxey had expired. This matter would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.	
g)	JS drew members attention to the 'Tommy' figure which could be displayed to commemorate the 100 th anniversary of the end of WW1. It was agreed that the RBL should be approached with a view to obtaining their opinion on a suitable commemoration of the date in Garff.	Clerks
	Private Session	
a)	Contractual matters Relating to Staffing at Cooli Roi were discussed.	
	Meeting Closed at 10.07 pm. Date of next meeting:- Wednesday 16 th May 2018 7.00pm	