

GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 12th July 2018 7.00 pm

Present: Mr S.Clague (SC), Mr N. Dobson (ND) (Chairman), Mrs M. Fargher MF) (Vice Chairman), Mr T Kenyon (TK), Mr P. Kinnish (PK), Mrs J. Pinson (JPn), Mr. J. Quayle (JQ), Mr J Smith (JS).
Mr P. Burgess (PB), Clerk, Mr M.Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk/RFO, Mrs Julie Peel (JP), Housing Manager.
Andy Spiers, Aidan McCusker (Manx Utilities)

Apologies: Mr L. Miller (LM),

51/18 Laxey Sea Wall Consultation - Attendance of Department of Infrastructure officers to present proposals for Sea and Harbour Wall flood defences.

ND introduced Mr Spiers and Mr McCusker to the Board. Mr Spiers outlined the reasons for bringing forward the proposals to install a higher sea wall along the Promenade in Laxey.

He referred to the national strategy on sea defences, flooding and coastal erosion which was based on the reports and recommendations brought forward by JBA Consulting. The proposals were intended to provide protection for Laxey seafront for the next 100 years.

The consultants had proposed two options for Laxey, both of which entailed the installation of a 1.2 m high wall with a 'wave return' profile. The first option proposed siting the new wall on the current low sea wall along the Promenade from the harbour along to the End Cafe at the south end of the Promenade. Mr Spiers advised that a further option was to have a shorter run of this wall run to the slipway; the feeling being that the wave over-topping was more severe towards the harbour end of the Promenade.

The second option was for a 1.0 m wall set several metres behind the current wall. This would create a 'walkway' along the Promenade. Mr Spiers and Mr McCusker advised that it would be more difficult to maintain and clear this area following a storm as machinery would have to have means of access through the 1.0 m wall, and any drain clearance would be more problematic than with the first option.

There followed discussion of the proposals, particularly the impact of the higher wall on the amenity and enjoyment of Laxey Promenade and Beach. The consensus was that the higher wall would have a great impact on this amenity.

Mr Spiers pointed out that the proposals were designed to protect the Promenade area for the next 100 years, and some kind of action would be necessary in the future due to the widely predicted rise in sea levels.

Members asked about the possibility of siting a wall much further back, approximately along the line of the Promenade Green. Mr Spiers advised that this had been investigated several years ago, but had been discounted by the Department, largely because the option offered no protection to the highway or the Promenade pavement.

There followed discussion of the effects and consequences of the wave over-topping on residential properties, particularly in the Tent Road area.

It was noted that the wave over-topping caused the large amounts of stone to be deposited on the road, and that significant resource had to be deployed to clear the stones in the aftermath.

It was also noted that once over the wall, the water ran north down the Promenade and followed the road around into the dip in lower parts of Tent Road. This put many several houses in danger of flooding.

Members asked if an option could be considered in which Tent Road could be 'sealed-off' with a mechanical or electrically operated barrier. Mr McCusker advised that all suggestions would be considered.

The consensus amongst Members was that all options should be considered to ensure that an effective solution was obtained. One which balanced the needs of protecting the Promenade and the properties behind it, but also maintained the amenity and character of the area.

It was agreed to hold an 'open consultation' on the afternoon of Thursday the 19th of July at which members of the public could 'drop-in' to discuss the options and make suggestions to engineers from the Department. Mr Spiers to arrange in conjunction with the clerks.

It was also agreed that Members would make a joint visit to view the new sea wall defences at Port St Mary and the new defences in Castletown. JPN, SC, TK, confirmed their attendance. Other members to confirm with the clerks in due course.

ND thanked Mr Spiers and Mr McCusker for their attendance.

Meeting Closed at 8.22 pm
Date of next meeting: 18th July 2018

