

GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 19th September 2018 7.00 pm

Present: Mr N. Dobson (ND) (Chairman), Mrs M. Fargher MF) (Vice Chairman), Mr S.Clague (SC), 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 Mattin (JM), Housing Manager.

Apologies: Mr T. Kenyon (TK).

Chairman	To open the meeting and request that Members consider this agenda and declare any interest that they may, or may be perceived to have, in its business. <i>This request was noted.</i>
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7.00 pm	Presentation by Dr. Richard Hubbard and Mrs Val Kinrade in regard to a proposal to create a museum of mining in Laxey. ND welcomed Dr Hubbard and Mrs Kinrade. Dr. Hubbard outlined his family connections with Laxey and his own relevant experience. He made a presentation which referred to a proposal for a 'mining museum' made by Andrew Scarffe in one of his book. He advised that the Reverend Jo Dudley had proposed that Christ Church could be utilised as the base for the museum. Dr. Hubbard envisaged the creation of a 'living museum' and visitor centre which although a 'standalone attraction' could be integrated as part of a tour of other mining heritage sites such as the Laxey Wheel and Washing Floors, etc. The museum would make use of local mining artefacts, audio visual displays, and character based live presentations, etc. Dr. Hubbard advised that he would be approaching other potential stakeholders and partners in the project such as MNH and the Laxey and Lonan Heritage Trust. Mrs Kinrade indicated that a Project Team would be established and that it was anticipated that funding would be arranged through a variety of sources such as lottery support, sponsorship, etc. These proposals were received very positively by Members. ND thanked Dr. Hubbard and Mrs Kinrade for an excellent presentation and advised that the Commissioners would discuss the proposal and revert to them in due course.
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80/18	Planning Matters
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	Planning Applications
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a)	18/00932/B Spyryd ny Marrey, Old Laxey Hill, Replacement of UPVC windows to side and rear of property. <i>There were no objections to this application.</i>
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b)	18/00939/B Green Hills, Pinfold Hill, Laxey, Alterations and erection of a two storey extension to dwelling (amendments to PA 16/00897/B). <i>There were no objections to this application.</i>
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c)	18/00405/B Ramillies, Clay Head Road, Erection of extension to provide additional living accommodation and inclusion of the adjacent wooded area to the east of the site within the residential curtilage of the site (Amended description). <i>There were no objections to the inclusion of this wooded area into the residential curtilage.</i>
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d)	18/00951/B Canny Hill House, Main Road, Baldrine, construction of a first floor extension, alterations, conversion of a garage and removal of chimney. <i>There were no objections to this application.</i>
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e)	18/00966/B 15 Reayrt ny Glionney Drive, Widening of vehicular access and driveway. <i>There were no objections to this application.</i>
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f)	18/00957/B Former Princes Motors Ltd Repair Shop, Glen Road, Laxey, Demolition of former repair shop and site clearance (in association with registered building application 18/00958/CON). <i>There were no objections to this application.</i>
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	Planning Approvals	
g)	18/00773/CON Laxey WMI, Registered Building consent for the installation of replacement flooring to upper hall – Approved 13.09.18. <i>This matter was noted. No further instruction.</i>	
h)	18/00571/B The Orchard, Ballacollister Road, Installation of obscured glass window in side elevation of existing garage in connection with part of conversion into en-suite – Approved 11.09.18. <i>This matter was noted. No further instruction.</i>	
i)	Planning Approval: 18/00506/B Camellia House, Minorca Hill, Laxey, Erection of single storey extension with balcony over, including the removal of two existing single storey extensions and balconies – Approved 14.09.18. <i>This matter was noted. No further instruction.</i>	
	Planning Enforcement (DoI Planning and Building Control) - ntr	
	Planning Appeals - ntr	
81/18	Approval of Minutes	
a)	Approval of minutes of the meeting of the 5 th of September 2018. <i>These had been circulated and were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed, JP. Seconded, MF. Resolved.</i>	
82/18	Matters Arising & Other Business	
	ND referred to the decision to take over administration and operation of the Lonan Burial Authority. This action had been resolved at the meeting on the 18 th of July. For clarification, a copy of the motion was circulated: <i>Notice of Motion</i> <i>That, subject to Tynwald's agreement, responsibility for the administration of the Lonan Burial Authority be transferred from the Church of England to Garff Commissioners.</i> <i>Proposed, Nigel Dobson. Seconded, Tim Kenyon.</i> <i>In addition, it was noted and minuted at that meeting that the "the transfer of responsibility for the burial authority should be subject to a process of due diligence at each stage."</i>	
a)	To discuss options for development of leisure/recreation facilities in Glen Road Laxey following on from the presentation given by the Chairman at the meeting on 05.09.18. <i>The presentation given by ND at the meeting on September the 5th was noted. JP proposed that a survey be initiated throughout Garff seeking the views of the public on the future use of the Glen Road Recreation Area. This would involve the placement of survey boxes in public areas (locations to be identified), and the use of social media and an online 'survey monkey' questionnaire, etc. This proposal was seconded by LM and Resolved. The clerks were instructed to draft wording for the survey including the question/s asked and submit them in a report at the meeting on October the 3rd. It was agreed that an indication of age be sought through the survey process.</i>	clerks
b)	To discuss suitable locations in each ward for the three 'Remembrance' benches sourced from the Royal British Legion. JM advised that the benches were due to arrive during w/c 24.09.18. Locations for the three benches in Lonan, Parish, Maughold Parish and Laxey Village were discussed. The clerks were instructed to make arrangements to have them located as follows: <i>Lonan: beside the bus shelter at the junction of the A2 and Church Road. It was noted that permissions would have to be obtained from the landowner and that groundworks would need to be undertaken. As a short term measure, it was agreed to site the bench beside the clock tower at Baldrine Park if installation at Church Road could not be arranged before November 2018.</i> <i>Maughold: MR was instructed to contact the Church Warden to request permission to site a bench close to the war memorial at Kirk Maughold. JQ suggested that the bench could</i>	

	<p><i>be sited beside the stone bus shelter in the village should the former option not prove possible.</i></p> <p><i>Laxey: the Laxey bench to be sited on the approach to Christchurch in a suitable position on the verge beyond the telephone box/defibrillator.</i></p>	clerks
83/18	General correspondence	
a)	<p>Neal Mellon, IOM Food Bank – Apologies for inability to attend the meeting on September the 5th. Clerks to liaise with a view to rescheduling to attend a meeting in November.</p> <p>MR advised that Mr Mellon had indicated that he could attend the meeting on the 7th of November. This was noted.</p> <p>At 9.03 pm, ND proposed that Standing Orders be suspended</p>	
b)	<p>Chris Littler Web Design – proposal to enhance the Garff Website (document previously circulated).</p> <p><i>This proposal was noted. It was agreed that JS would meet with PB & MR during w/c 24.09.18 to discuss this matter further. Clerks to respond to Mr Litter accordingly following this meeting.</i></p>	JS & clerks
c)	<p>Resident – correspondence thanking the Commissioners for permitting use of the Valley Gardens for the purposes of a wedding.</p> <p><i>This correspondence was noted.</i></p>	
d)	<p>Resident – in regard to skate park facilities in Garff.</p> <p><i>This was noted. Further reference to the correspondence was made during the discussion of the future use of Glen Road recreation area at item 82/18.a. MR was instructed to advise the correspondent that the matter was under consideration.</i></p>	
84/18	Committee Reports	
	<p>Regeneration Committee –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM advised that the flagpole for the war memorial had been delivered to Cooil Roi. MR to arrange contractor to install during September/early October. The Committee had requested that the 'River Beach' area be included on the maintenance schedule. MR advised that it already was included for weeding, etc, however, its future may be a matter for discussion by the Board. JM advised that she had contacted the MER regarding setting up a scheme to encourage local residents to 'adopt' a tram stop: they were keen to support the Commissioners in this in principle. She would bring forward a detailed proposal in due course. JM advised that the owners of the former Princes Motors site had been approached with a view to the Commissioners engaging an artist to improve the visual aspect of the building. She had received a reply indicating that a new tenant was due to move into the building. The owners indicated that they would consider such refurbishment if the building were empty for an extended period. JP had proposed that venues in Laxey be written to and encouraged to register to hold weddings. This was felt to be a good idea and agreed. 	<p>MR</p> <p>JM</p> <p>JM</p>
	PK advised that Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust	
85/18	Officers Reports	
a)	<p>Health and Safety –</p> <p><i>There were no incidents or outstanding matters to report this period. A meeting with Pegasus had been arranged in October at which updates and improvements to recording systems would be considered and, where necessary, implemented.</i></p>	
b)	<p>Works and Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PB advised that a drawing had been received which specified a design for a new footbridge at the west end of the Valley Gardens. This would be sent to MACS for distribution to appropriate registered contractors to express an interest in constructing the bridge. 	clerks
c)	Cooil Roi Sheltered Housing Complex –	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Housing sub-committee had met recently to consider a request from the Department for the Board's view on rent increases for Year 2019/2020. There followed a discussion of the impact on residents of rises in recent years which had been above inflation. The sub-committee had recommended a 1% rise. JP proposed that the Board recommend a rise of this order to the Department. This was seconded by MF and Resolved. The Department had also asked if local authorities would support a process in which future rent rises were decided in advance for a five year period. JP proposed that the Board advise the Department that they supported such an arrangement. This was seconded by MF and Resolved. JM advised that a need for more sheltered housing in Laxey had been accepted by the government. This would be progressed by the Department in conjunction with Treasury. 	JM
86/18	Staffing Matters – ntr in public	
87/18	Chairman's Report - ntr	
88/18	Any Other Business -	
a)	<p>To discuss maintenance of 'garden' areas in the Sheading (generated by the employment sub-committee 12.09.18).</p> <p>JP asked if the employment of a part-time gardener could be discussed by the Commissioners. It was noted that if this was agreed for the forthcoming financial year it would have to be included in the budget which would be drawn up in November/December 2018. There followed an initial discussion of this suggestion. JP stated that if a gardener were employed this would free up the maintenance employees for other duties.</p> <p>MR advised that, as part of their current duties, the maintenance employees had taken increased ownership of the planting regime in areas such as the Rose Gardens. These efforts had resulted in praise including from some Members, including SC who had asked for their gardening efforts to be congratulated at a previous meeting. PK stated that in his opinion the Maintenance Team were working very well, and had made significant improvements not only in Laxey Village, but also throughout Garff. PK felt that if a further part-time member of staff were taken on that it would be more useful to employ on a general basis rather than limit a new position to a specific role. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed again at the meeting on the 21st of November 2018. Clerks to place the item on agenda.</p>	clerks
b)	<p>To discuss maintenance and utilisation of the 'Little Beach' area on Glen Road, Laxey (generated by JP in email dated 18.09.18)</p> <p>This was dealt with at item 84/18 above.</p>	
c)	<p>To discuss proposals from JP to enhance Christmas decorations in Garff.</p> <p>JP advised that she had been working in conjunction with MR to enhance decorations and a report would be presented at the meeting on October the 3rd. It was anticipated that the enhancement of decorations would be an ongoing process. This year a start would be made to improve the decorations in the Rose gardens in Laxey. As an example, JP advised, amongst other ideas, 'halo' lights could be purchased to decorate street lighting posts.</p> <p>PB outlined a proposal from the maintenance team to increase the number of small Christmas Trees mounted on buildings along New Road. These would be equipped with battery powered LED lights which were trialled last year and last the full festival period without failing or battery changes. He advised that this would cost in the region of £600. ND proposed that as an initial move the clerks be given authority to spend up to £1,000 on these and other suitable Christmas decorations in Garff. This was seconded by PK and agreed. MR reported that Christmas trees were due to be ordered for Maughold and Lonan.</p>	JP/MR PB/MR MR
d)	<p>ND referred to the presentation made earlier regarding the proposal from Dr. Hubbard to open a mining museum in Laxey. He proposed that the Board should write to Dr. Hubbard stating their support for the project. This proposal was seconded by LM and unanimously Resolved.</p>	clerks
	<p>MF requested that in the light of the government's newly implemented Waste Management Strategy that the approach of Garff Commissioners to waste management and recycling be discussed at the next meeting on the 3rd of October. This was agreed.</p>	clerks

	<i>JP advised that on a recent visit to Douglas Corporation's operations facility there was discussion of Garff making use of their recycling facilities including cardboard. JP asked if this possibility could be considered at the same time. MR to produce a report for the meeting on the 3^d of October. This was agreed.</i>	
	<i>PK referred to the future maintenance of the building at 35 New Road. ND proposed that the clerks should obtain three quotations for structural surveys and report back to the Board once received.</i>	clerks
89/18	Private Session	
a)	Staffing Matters: A staffing matter was discussed.	
	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3 rd October 2018	