

**GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS****Minutes of the mid-Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday 23rd January 2019 7.00 pm

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

Mr P. Burgess (PB), Clerk, Mr M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk/RFO.

**Apologies:** Mrs J. Pinson (JP), Mrs. J Mattin (Housing Manager).

<b>Chairman</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request from the Chair in reference to observance of Standing Orders.</li> <li>2. Request from the Chair that Members consider this agenda and declare any interest that they may, or may be perceived to have, in its business.</li> </ol> <p><b>ND</b> read both these statements to Members, adding that in accordance with Standing Order 20 all discussion should be through the chair.</p>
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<b>7.00 pm</b>	
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<b>11/19</b>	<b>Planning Applications – Officer’s Report Circulated (17.01.19)</b>
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<b>a)</b>	19/00020/B The Tholtan, The Lane Ballagawne Road Baldrine, Erection of a shed (retrospective). <i>There were no objections to this application.</i>
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<b>b)</b>	19/00034/B Shelter Kiosk, The Promenade, Laxey, Creation of additional access door in place of existing window. <i>This application is in the name of Garff Commissioners and was noted. No comment given.</i>
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	<b>Planning Approvals</b>
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<b>c)</b>	Spyrryd Ny Marrey Old Laxey Hill, Replacement uPVC windows to side and rear of property – Approved 10.01.19. <i>This approval was noted. No further action.</i>
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<b>d)</b>	18/01064/B The Haven, Old Laxey Hill, Erection of a detached building providing garage and workshop with ancillary living accommodation above – Approved 22.01.19. <i>This approval was noted. No further action.</i>
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	<b>Planning Refusals - ntr</b>
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	<b>Other Planning Matters</b>
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<b>c)</b>	Planning Appeal Decision – Appeal against the refusal for a new agricultural shed, The Willows, Hibernia: Refusal decision Reversed by the Inspector and the Minister. <i>This decision was noted. MR was asked to locate and circulate a link to the Planning Inspector’s Report which had not been received.</i>
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<b>12/19</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>
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<b>a)</b>	Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the 9 <sup>th</sup> of January 2019. <b>MF</b> proposed that they be accepted as a correct record. <b>Seconded, JQ. Resolved Unanimously.</b>
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<b>b)</b>	
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<b>13/19</b>	<b>Matters Arising &amp; Other Business</b>
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<b>a)</b>	<p>To discuss the future use of the Laxey Promenade Beach Huts. <i>A discussion document produced by the office had been circulated. This was noted. A discussion of 5 options took place. These options being:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lease of individual units to members of the public on an annual basis.</li> <li>2. Lease of individual units to Members of the public on an hourly/daily basis.</li> <li>3. Request for tenders to operate the facility on a commercial lease.</li> <li>4. Public open store for beach toys/equipment.</li> <li>5. Demolition.</li> </ol> <p><i>The dimensions of a single unit had been measured and were circulated for the purposes of the discussion. TK suggested that another option would be to sell them. PK stated that the building would then be out of the control of the Local Authority which might be problematic due to the sensitivity of the location. The suggestion to sell was not pursued at the meeting. There followed</i></p>
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	<p><i>detailed discussion of the range of proposals. This involved discussion of arrangements for a section of the building to continue to be used by Laxey Sailing Club.</i></p> <p><i>Members considered the range of options in detail, the consensus arrived at being that the huts should be refurbished by the Commissioners and two of the options be considered. These being:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. rental of individual beach huts to members of the public on an annual basis.</i></li> <li><i>2. lease on a commercial basis through a tender process.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>The intention being to tender for both options concurrently so that the relative benefits and merits of each can be assessed.</i></p> <p><i><b>ND</b> proposed that the refurbishment and 'twin-track' tender process be adopted by the Board. This was seconded by <b>JS</b>. A vote was put and the proposal was <b>Resolved unanimously</b>. The clerks were instructed to initiate these matters. It was noted that tenders would also have to be obtained for the refurbishment of the facility.</i></p>	
<b>b)</b>	<p>Update from PB on provision of electric vehicle public destination chargers in Garff.</p> <p><i>PB advised members that the DoI were considering installing two electric vehicle chargers in the Laxey Shore Road car park. This would involve the transfer of one parking space to the ownership of the Commissioners. <b>ND</b> proposed that Garff Commissioners give approval in principle for them to take over ownership of the parking space. This was seconded by <b>TK</b> and <b>unanimously Resolved</b>. <b>JQ</b> asked if other sites were being considered in Garff. It was noted that two electric vehicle chargers had been installed at the Laxey Fire Station on Mines Road. The clerks were instructed to contact Manx Utilities requesting that other sites be investigated.</i></p>	clerks
<b>14/19</b>	<b>General correspondence</b>	
<b>a)</b>	<p>Resident – Suggestions for improvements to Bring Bank Recycling in Laxey Village.</p> <p><i>This correspondence was read. It included a request for further recycling sites in Laxey Village, with the suggestion that the area behind the Commissioners' Office was a possible site. This matter was debated, the restricted access for the contractors' large vehicles was noted as was the restricted space and gradient of the site. The suggestion was discounted. There followed discussion of the possibility of other sites in the village. It was noted that the cardboard recycling contractor had committed to providing an extra receptacle. It was noted that this was a private contractor, He had been requested to increase the frequency of collection from once to twice a week, but the contractor had advised that the current margins on the price of cardboard would not make the service viable. The necessity to 'flat-pack' boxes before depositing was re-iterated by the Board. The clerks were instructed to re-examine the possibility of other sites being used; previously this had proved difficult due to refusal from landowners and the concerns of immediate residents at potential sited. A comparison made by the correspondent in regard to the larger number of sites in Maughold was discussed. MR advised that this historic and was a result of the sporadic nature of settlement in the Parish.</i></p>	clerks
<b>b)</b>	<p>Ambitions Recruitment Agency – Request for a room in the offices that could be used to conduct meetings.</p> <p><i>It was agreed to offer a room in 35 New Road for the sum of £10.00 per hour for meetings organised by the agency. Clerks to advise.</i></p>	clerks
<b>c)</b>	<p>Laxey School Student – Proposals from the student for improving the environment in Laxey.</p> <p><i>The varied range of environmental initiatives being generated by the students at Laxey School were discussed and welcomed. These include actions to encourage the use of 'personal water bottles in order to cut the amount of single use plastic; actions to clean up litter around the School and Laxey on a long-term basis. The students were also initiating further initiatives designed to address the blight of dog fouling across Laxey. The Board would be briefed on the ongoing progress being made with these initiatives over the next meetings. The Commission had offered logistical support and support with hardware such as litter pickers, dog and litter bins,</i></p>	

	<p><i>and stickers. These offers had been the subject of negotiation and agreement with student representatives. There followed discussion of a proposal by the students to trial the use of dog bag dispensers at a location in Laxey. Clerks to liaise with the school and identify an initial location; Members suggested that Laxey Promenade for this trial.</i></p> <p><i>The clerks were instructed to write a response to the student thanking her for her letter, and advising that the Commissioners would welcome further discussion of the matters she had raised.</i></p> <p><i>The Commissioners are also addressing a recent spate of dog fouling nuisance on the road side path between the Dhoon Church and the Dhoon School. The adequacy of provision of dog bins would be assessed as well as installation of temporary 'nudging' signage to deter the culprit/s.</i></p>	clerks
d)	<p>Cabinet Office – Regarding modernisation of the rating system and requesting representation for the Commissioners at consultation workshops.</p> <p><i>It was noted that this modernisation was limited to debating measures regarding re-evaluation of the rateable value of properties across the Island. There followed discussion, the consensus being that the current system was outdated and that a revised approach to setting the rateable value of individual properties should be investigated.</i></p> <p><i>It was agreed that <b>ND</b> and an available officer would represent the Authority.</i></p>	
<b>15/19</b>	<b>Committee Reports - ntr</b>	
<b>16/19</b>	<b>Officer Reports</b>	
a)	<b>Officers' Report (New Road Matters)</b> – no additional business to report.	
b)	<b>Officer's Report (Cooil Roi Matters)</b> - no additional business to report.	
c)	<p><b>Health and Safety Report Circulated (17.01.19)</b> - A report for the period since the last meeting had been circulated.</p> <p><i>It was noted that a Fire Evacuation Drill had taken place at the Cooil Roi Sheltered Housing Complex on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019. A report on the Drill would be submitted by JM in due course. The weekly H&amp;S meetings with maintenance staff were ongoing. MR reported that a brake pad had failed on the works van. This had been noted and dealt with prior to any incident taking place. No other matters of concern had been raised at these meetings. No further instruction was given to the clerks.</i></p>	
d)	<p><b>Works and Amenities Report Circulated (17.01.19)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quotation for Management of trees at Ballagorry Heights. It was agreed that further investigations should be undertaken in regard to the location of property boundaries in the area. In the event that ownership of the area of land that the trees were on could not be determined, it was agreed that the quotation from a contractor for reduction of height and thinning out should be accepted.</li> <li>• Environmental works in conjunction with students at Laxey School. These matters were dealt with at item 14.19.c above.</li> </ul>	
<b>17/19</b>	<b>Staffing Matters – ntr</b>	
<b>18/19</b>	<b>Chairman's Report - ntr</b>	
<b>19/19</b>	<b>Any Other Business -</b>	
a)	<p>Provision of Induction Loop hearing system.</p> <p><i>MR reported that two systems were currently being investigated. A recommendation would be brought to the Commissioners in due course.</i></p>	
b)	Matters relating to the submission of a planning application for a new block of public conveniences in Laxey Valley Gardens.	
c)	<i>The clerks reported that the name of 'Whitehouse Close' (the current name of the square in the centre of Laxey Village) was being changed to 'Tramway Close' as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.</i>	

<b>d)</b>	<i>MR advised that a meeting would be taking place to discuss signage in Laxey Village during February. It was anticipated that several business owners would attend as well as Mr Skillicorn and TK (on behalf of the re-generation sub-committee).</i>	
<b>e)</b>	<i>JQ outlined the 'Hospice Wallaby Trail' project that was being launched. He requested that the Garff schools be contacted with a view to them becoming involved.</i>	
<b>f)</b>	<i>JS reported that he had attended the recent 'Political Surgery' with TK and the two Garff MHKs. Various issues had been raised including the proposed sewage treatment plant in Laxey, road repairs in Glen Roy, etc.</i>	
<b>g)</b>	<i>JQ advised that he had been told that the Port Cornaa Road had been examined would be the subject of road surface repairs at some time in the near future. This was noted.</i>	
	<b>Engagements/Diary Dates - ntr</b>	
<b>20/19</b>	<b>Private Session – the following matters were considered.</b>	
<b>a)</b>	Resident – comments made in correspondence to the Planning Committee regarding the proposed Laxey Harbour and Promenade Sea Wall.	
<b>b)</b>	To consider the advice received from the Commissioners' advocate in regard to the appropriation of the title "Garff Commissioners" in the branding on web/social media sites.	
	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	