

GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**Monthly Meeting**Wednesday 6th March 2019 7.00 pm**Minutes of the Meeting**

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

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

Apologies: Mrs J. Mattin (JM), Housing Manager.

Chairman

1. Request from the Chair in reference to observance of Standing Orders.
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.

The above was noted by Members. No notifications of any interest raised.
ND had given apologies for the meeting on the 20th of February, and took the opportunity to welcome **AM** following his recent election on to the Garff Board.

7.00 pm

41/19 Planning Applications – Officer’s Report Circulated (04.03.19)

a) 19/00146/B 22 Mines Road, Laxey, Installation of replacement roof tiles.

There were no Objections to these proposals.

b) 19/00157.B Sea Dawn, Ballaragh Road, Laxey, Creation of a doorway to a detached outbuilding.

There were no Objections to these proposals.

c) 19/00183/B 3 Cooil Ushtey, Port Lewaigue, Erection of extension to provide garage with terrace above.

There were no Objections to these proposals.

d) 19/00177/B Ballagorrey Beg Bungalow, Replacement of existing conservatory with sun lounge and insulated roof.

There were no Objections to these proposals.

e) 19/00187/B Thallo Queen Cottage, Glen Mona Loop Road, Alterations and erection of rear extension.

There were no Objections to these proposals.

Planning Approvals

f) 19/00037/B Struie, Highfield Drive, Baldrine, Alterations including creation of rear patio door and reduction in size of existing window – Approved 20.02.19.

This decision was noted. No further instruction.

g) 19/00034/B Shelter Kiosk The Promenade Laxey, Creation of second means of access – Approved 20.02.19.

This decision was noted. No further instruction.

Planning Refusals – 18.00802/B Field 622432 Adjacent to Dhoon Loop Road, Erection of an agricultural building – Refused 21.02.19. *This decision was noted and discussed. The reasons for Refusal were read to the Board and noted. JQ questioned this decision in the light of approval decisions made elsewhere in the Sheading in recent months. The level of consistency in these decisions was discussed. No further instructions were given.*

Other Planning Matters -ntr

e)

42/19 Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the 20th of March 2019.

These were unanimously agreed to be a correct record of decisions made at the meeting. Proposed, JP. Seconded JQ.

43/19	Matters Arising & Other Business	
	<i>ND referred to the suggestion made by JP at item 39/19.j of the meeting on the 20th of February that a review be undertaken to evaluate the success of the Garff amalgamation. JP had suggested that this could take place prior to the next election. ND stated that he felt it would be more useful to undertake such an evaluation following the April 2020 elections. There followed discussion of various options from changes to the Ward structure to reducing the number of Members on the Board. No motions were put. No further instruction given.</i>	
44/19	General correspondence	
a)	<i>Cabinet Office – Invitation to to a workshop on the Modernisation of domestic and non-domestic rates. Dates/times to be selected (circulated 04.03.19). Request to complete the current government consultation on these matters following attendance at the workshop. Three dates and times had been identified for the workshops at the Methodist Hall in St John’s. These being March 26th 3.00 – 5.00 pm, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm and 27th March 6.00 – 8.00 pm. It was agreed that Members should contact the clerks with their preferred dates and times. There followed discussion of the various options that had been put forward for determining and collecting rates, as well as the issue of how commercial rates were apportioned across the Island.</i>	All Members
b)	<i>Resident regarding Standing Orders and other procedures. (circulated 04.03.19). This correspondence was noted. The resident was particularly concerned that Resolutions to suspend Standing Orders to allow the mid monthly meeting to continue beyond 9.00 pm were taken too frequently. The clerks advised that they had met with the resident to discuss this matter. Members noted this and agreed to ensure that, wherever possible, mid-monthly meetings were concluded by 9.00 pm.</i>	
c)	<i>Resident – Update regarding community project to fund a defibrillator unit in Agneash Village. It was noted that a local electrical contracting company had committed in principle to carrying out installation of the defibrillator and its cabinet. This was noted and welcomed. The clerks were instructed to liaise with the resident in terms of the fundraising that they had initiated and offer further financial assistance from the Commissioners. Craig’s Heartstrong Foundation had committed to supplying the defibrillator unit itself. It was noted that three defibrillators had recently been installed on a ‘partnership’ basis between local organisations and the Commissioners.</i>	clerks
d)	<i>Resident of Cooil Roi – Regarding withdrawal of 24 ‘on-site’ warden cover (countersigned by 25 residents. circulated 04.03.19). These letters were noted and had been circulated to Members. It was agreed discussion would be premature without the presence of Mrs Mattin. In consequence it was agreed to reserve further discussion of the matter until the meeting on the 20th of March 2019.</i>	
e)	<i>Resident – regarding speed of vehicles and ‘dangerous’ driving on Minorca Hill and Old Laxey Hill. PK stated that this was a continuing problem. He advised Members that he had asked for passage along the two roads to be restricted to residents and those visiting Old Laxey to ensure that the route was not used as a ‘short-cut’ by drivers passing through to Ramsey and Douglas. MR confirmed that Highways had previously refused to do this as the road was a public highway. MR advised that a location for a flashing speed sign had been installed on Old Laxey Hill and a sign had been recently deployed. The Commissioners had also installed two red triangle ‘pedestrian’ warning signs in the last twelve months. The following actions were agreed:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. MR to download speeds from the sign on OLH and forward to the RPU to demonstrate times/days where speed limits are being exceeded.</i> <i>2. Clerks to seek advice from Highways Officers at the next NTMLG meeting.</i> <i>3. Clerks to request the presence of RPU officers to police the roads during the forthcoming period when the Mountain Road is closed for repairs.</i> <i>4. MR to investigate a possible location for an SID sign on Minorca Hill.</i> 	clerks

45/19	Committee Reports	
a)	NNPT – Next meeting Tuesday 13 th March, Ramsey Town Hall, 9.30 am. <i>This was noted. MR to attend. Concerns re. driving behaviour on Minorca Hill/OLH to be raised. Concerns over the regular imposition of restricted parking on New Road to be raised. Off-peak arrangements and other mitigation will be requested.</i>	MR
b)	Municipal Association – <i>TK had circulated a report of matters discussed at the last meeting. This was received and noted. TK advised that Members attending the meeting had discussed the 'unfairness' in the current the rating system.</i>	
c)	Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust – <i>TK had circulated a report of matters discussed at the last meeting. This was received and noted. He advised that a temporary Chair was currently in position. The wide ranging contribution made by the trust through activities including the Mines Railway and the Duck Race were discussed and commended. ND re-iterated the support of the Board, and offered assistance with any matter it could if it were requested by the Trust.</i>	
d)	Garff Regeneration Committee – <i>next meeting 08.03.19.</i>	
e)	Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee - <i>ntr</i>	
f)	Northern Civic Amenity Site – <i>ntr</i>	
g)	Northern Swimming Pool Board - <i>ntr</i>	
h)	Northern Area Housing steering group -	
i)	Northern Sheltered Housing Committee - <i>ntr</i>	
j)	Cooil Roi Sub-Committee – <i>discussion reserved until JM present at meeting on 20.03.19. Next meeting of sub-committee 08.03.19.</i>	
k)	Employment Sub-Committee - <i>ntr</i>	
l)	Glen Road Sub-Committee -	
46/19	Officer Reports – <i>Report had been circulated and was noted. No further instruction given.</i>	
a)	Officers' Report (New Road Matters) - <i>a report by JM had been circulated and was noted. No further instruction given.</i>	
b)	Officer's Report (Cooil Roi Matters) - <i>A report concerning Cooil Roi matters, including the provision of Warden services had been circulated and was noted. It was agreed to reserve discussion of this until Members had had opportunity to consider the document for discussion at the meeting on the 20th of March 2019 for the reasons outlined at item 46.19.a above.</i>	
c)	Health and Safety Report Circulated (04.03.19) - <i>a report had been circulated and was noted. ND to attend Quarterly H&S meeting chaired by the Commissioners' H&S advisor, Ian Alder. MR, PB, JM, SP, SQ are also to attend. No further instruction given.</i>	
d)	Works and Amenities Report Circulated (04.03.19) - <i>a report had been circulated and was noted. No further instruction given.</i>	
e)	Financial Matters – <i>ntr. Report to be issued prior to the meeting on the 20th of March 2019.</i>	clerks
47/19	Staffing Matters – <i>ntr</i>	
48/19	Chairman's Report – <i>De-brief on the Lonan Election – ND advised that the role of Returning Officer was separate from his role as a Commissioner, and as such he was not required to report the Board. ND advised Members that he had attended along with TK, MF, SP, SQ and MR to judge the daffodils grown by the students of Laxey School Infants. ND advised that judging of the daffodils grown by the students at Dhoon School would take place from mid-day on the 14th of March. MF, JS, ND, MR to attend.</i>	
49/19	Any Other Business -	
a)	<i>TK advised Members of the progress of the 'Visit Laxey Valley' Project which aimed to advertise the attractions of Laxey Valley, particularly the mining heritage, etc. It was anticipated that this would commence during 2019 with a 'Welcome Centre' operating at Christ Church. The Commissioners expressed unanimous support for the project. It was noted that</i>	

	<i>there had already been significant engagement between the project organisers, TK, JS and the Commissioners staff. Further details to be announced in due course.</i>	
b)	<i>Correspondence from 'Durdy Events' – This triathlon event will be based around Laxey Promenade and Bay. The organiser requested a meeting with the Commissioners w/c 11.03.19. PB, TK & JP to attend. PB to circulate date and time in due course.</i>	PB
c)	<i>To discuss arrangements for the 2019 Flower Festival. Commissioners to arrange displays at Cooil Roi and at Christ Church. JM to co-ordinate. A further request for assistance with a display at Agneash was read and discussed. The theme of this year's festival is 'working together'. JM had circulated a report in which she outlined that in light of this theme Laxey and Lonan and Maughold would be referenced in the displays. A further display would be created on an MER tram. Members noted that the Festival attracts many visitors and received wide coverage. It was agreed that the sum of £100.00 should be provided for each display.</i>	JM
d)	<i>Correspondence from a Resident regarding the future use of the 'Beach Huts' on Laxey Promenade. ND advised that the Resolutions passed at the meeting on the 23rd of January were that the Commissioners should refurbish the Beach Huts. Preparations and planning for this were being initiated currently. In addition, the Commissioners had resolved to investigate two options. These being to make the huts available to individual residents, or to rent them commercially. A decision on these options and how to proceed would be made in due course. MR was instructed to write to the resident outlining these matters.</i>	MR
e)	<i>Itinerary for the visit of the Lieutenant Governor to the Sheading on the 5th of April 2019 – MR advised that a draft itinerary was being prepared. This included visits to St Adaman's, Laxey Flour Mills, Cooil Roi, and farm in Maughold. LM confirmed that a tram would be available to transport the Governor for part of the day. MR to arrange a mini-bus for the visit. LM to assist in this matter. MR to finalise arrangements and circulate a full itinerary once approved by Government House.</i>	MR LM
f)	<i>JP advised that she had attended the political surgery held on the 2nd of March by the Garff MHKs. Various matters had been raised including the provision of Broadband in Maughold, the future use of the Laxey Beach Huts, and the current Education Bill. JP suggested that the Board respond to the consultation on the latter. The consensus was that this was an issue that Members could respond to personally rather than as a local authority body. The clerks were asked to post a link to the consultation on the Commissioners' Facebook page.</i>	clerks
g)	<i>Street Lighting Maintenance Contract for YE 2020. Some changes in the charging procedures were outlined by the clerks. The result was that there would be a very small increase in the annual charge. This was noted. It was agreed that the contract should be accepted and signed by the Chairman as per the terms outlined. Proposed AM. Seconded, JP. Resolved unanimously.</i>	
40/19	Private Session	
	<i>Structural Report on 35 New Road Facility – This report was discussed.</i>	
a)	<i>Lonan Grass Cutting Tenders -To open and consider the Lonan Grass Cutting tenders received. Contractor to be appointed following discussion and consideration of the submissions. A contractor was selected to undertake grass cutting in Lonan.</i>	
	<i>Update on play area installation Church Close, Lonan. Contractual matters were discussed.</i>	
	Meeting closed at 9.56 pm.	
	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20 th March 2019	