

ARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Monthly Meeting of the Commissioners

35 New Road, Laxey

Minutes of the Meeting

Wednesday 2nd December 2020, 7.00 pm

Present:	Mrs M. Fargher (MF) (Chair), Mr T. Kenyon (TK), Mr P. Kinnish (PK), Mr L. Miller (LM), Mr A. J. Moore (AJM), Mrs J. Pinson (JP), Mr J. Smith (JS).
In Attendance:	Mr P. Burgess (PB), Clerk, Mr M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk, Mrs J. Mattin, Housing Manager.
Apologies:	Mr N. Dobson (ND)(Vice-Chair).
7.00 pm	Public Session - Preliminary Matters for consideration
a)	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>There were no declarations made at this stage of the meeting.</i> MF referred to the meeting that took place on the 18 th of November 2020 and reminded Members that they should not raise matters in relation to individual staffing issues during the public section of the meeting. This was noted.
215/20	Planning Matters
	Planning Applications
a)	20/01282/B Baldromma House Maughold, Erection of front porch canopy and alterations to existing windows. <i>It was noted that the application site was within the Maughold Conservation Area. Some Members expressed concern that the proposed style of the porch was not in keeping with the vernacular of traditional Manx buildings. It was agreed to raise this aspect in the submission to be made to the Planning Authority.</i>
b)	20/01053/B Tebekwe Mount Old Laxey Hill Laxey, Installation of replacement front door. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
c)	20/01312/B Thie Gamman Beg The Crescent Baldrine, Erection of a detached garage. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
d)	20/01316/B Elgin Jacks Lane Port E Vullen Maughold, Conversion of rear extension from residential use (class 3.3) to tourist accommodation (class 3.6). <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
e)	PA 20/01358/C Ballacowle Cottage, Agneash Laxey Isle of Man IM4 7NW Additional use of accommodation within and above existing detached garage building as tourist accommodation. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
f)	PA 20/01357/B 5 Rivers Court, Glen road Laxey IM4 7AG Installation of replacement windows and doors. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
	Approval Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) – the following approvals were noted. No further instruction issued.
g)	20/00826/B, Alterations and erection of a first floor extension, decking, Highlands Pinfold Hill Approved 23.11.20.
h)	20/01078/B, Installation of replacement windows, Dhrynane House Maughold – Approved 23.11.20.
i)	20/01014/B, Alterations and erection of an extension (in association with PA20/00910/CON), Clifton Balldoon Road Laxey – Approved 18.11.20.
	Refusal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)
	Appeal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)
	Planning Enforcement
g)	To note a Planning Enforcement Notice from DEFA in regard to a property on Glen Road, Laxey. MF requested that the notification be circulated to Members.
216/20	Approval of Minutes
a)	Approval of minutes of the meeting of the 18 th November 2020. <i>These were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed, AJM. Seconded, LM. Resolved.</i>

217/20	Matters Arising & Other Business
a)	<i>MF, TK, JS, & JP reported on the meeting that had been held with Ramsey Commissioners to discuss their proposals for changes to the Ramsey/Maughold/Lezayre boundaries. The consensus was that Ramsey had been unable to justify their proposals sufficiently and that the request was premature in light of the Area Plan for the North and West process which was currently underway. Further consideration of the proposals would be undertaken if they were progressed by Ramsey Commissioners.</i>
b)	<i>MF referred to a letter that had been circulated in regard to an application for a rate reduction at a property on Mines Road, Laxey. It was noted that, although the Commissioners would be advised of any changes, this application would progress through the Rates Tribunal process.</i>
c)	<i>JP advised Members that 20 Christmas Trees had been bought for the forthcoming 'Christmas Tree Parade' in Christ Church. A 'Memory Tree' and a 'Wish Tree' had also been obtained. No additional costs had been incurred. The parade would open on Saturday 5th December and run throughout the Festive Period.</i>
218/20	General correspondence
a)	President of Tynwald – To note: Tynwald Christmas Carol Service Thursday 17 th December 2020 at 1.10 pm, St George's Church, Douglas. <i>This correspondence was noted.</i>
b)	To receive and approve the <i>Recreation and Leisure (Garff Order) 2020</i> with a view to continuing the petition to Government for the transfer of the Snaefell Wheel from the L&L Heritage Trust to the Commissioners. <i>This document had been circulated and was noted. JS proposed that the Recreation and Leisure (Garff) Order 2020 be received and that the Local Government Unit be requested to progress the and Order through the legislative process. This was seconded by TK. Resolved unanimously.</i>
219/20	Committees & Boards
a)	Municipal Association <i>TK advised that an AGM had taken place. Around 45 delegates from various local authorities had attended.</i>
b)	Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust <i>TK advised that there had been a 20% increase in tickets sold during Hop Tu Naa on the Great Laxey Mine Railway. This was noted and Members congratulated the Trust on this achievement. There followed a discussion of a date for the Laxey Duck Race in 2021. Combining the event with the Brass Band Festival was one option that was being considered. Changes to the constitution of the Trust were also being considered.</i>
c)	Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities - ntr
d)	Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee - ntr
e)	Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team Community Partnership meeting - ntr
f)	Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee - ntr
g)	Northern Civic Amenity Site -ntr
h)	Northern Swimming Pool Board - <i>MF advised that she had attended the most recent meeting. General operational matters had been discussed. Usage of the facility by the public had increased. The facility would be open between the Christmas and New Year periods.</i>
i)	Northern Sheltered Housing Committee – <i>MF advised that she had attended the most recent meeting. A new allocations policy had been discussed. MF advised that she would be consulting with JM in regard to this new policy.</i>
j)	Waste Management Steering Group - ntr
k)	Employment Sub-Committee - ntr
l)	Glen Road Recreation Area Sub-Committee – <i>the clerks were asked to arrange a meeting of this committee at the earliest opportunity.</i>
220/20	Operational Reports
a)	Health & Safety: <i>MR advised that a quarterly meeting had taken place recently with the retained H&S Consultant. General progress had been discussed. A further meeting would be arranged during January 2020 with a view to identifying further progress that could be made with development of the Authority's Health & Safety Culture. These matters were noted.</i>

<p>b)</p>	<p><i>Cooil Roi (Report circulated by email 26.11.20).</i></p> <p><i>JM advised Members that fire regulations in relation to the status of some internal doors in the corridors had changed. The H&S consultant had provided advice. These doors were very heavy and their manoeuvrability by residents was being assessed. It had been agreed that the addition of auto-closers would be considered. JM was continuing to investigate this and other options and would ensure that compliance with the revised fire regulations was achieved.</i></p> <p><i>JM referred to considerations of the point allocation for the 'sheltered' element of public shelter housing. This element covered the shared elements of cleaning, lighting, laundry & lounge facilities, administration, etc. It was noted that under the current arrangements there was a shortfall in recovery of these costs which was covered by the deficiency paid by central government. JM recommended that this element be increased in annual stages to a figure that reflected the level of shared services provided at the complex. It was agreed that JM should represent this view at the forthcoming Housing Management meeting.</i></p> <p><i>JM advised that student from IOM College would be attending the complex to sing carols and provide mince pies for the residents on Tuesday 15th December at 10.00 am.</i></p> <p><i>JM presented comparative figures on voids and rent arrears. It was noted that Cooil Roi was performing well in respect of these aspects when compared to those facilities operated by other local authorities.</i></p> <p><i>The recent passing of long-term Cooil Roi resident Mrs Dorothy Quayle was noted with great sadness by the Board. Mrs Quayle had lived at the complex for 25 years.</i></p>
<p>c)</p>	<p><i>35 New Road - To report on plans for a 9-day event across venues in Laxey from 13th – 21st February. Funding being sought via DfE's Event Fund.</i></p> <p><i>MR advised Members that meetings had taken place with representatives from the Laxey Business Network and John Shakespeare from DfE. A wide range of options for events had been discussed including a Victorian themed event, the sculpture of trees around Christ Church. The purchase of a marquee and other equipment had been discussed for events but the consensus was that the hire of such equipment was a more efficient option due to considerations such as personnel available for erection, ongoing maintenance, insurance liabilities, and storage. John Shakespeare had advised that at this stage DfE would generally look more favourably on applications for funding for events rather than for equipment to run events. Mr Shakespeare had also advised that DfE would give preference to events that were new concepts and which maximised their spend through on-island businesses. The consensus reached by the Business Network was for an event during February Half-Term that was based on the theme 'Laxey Unlocked'. Under this umbrella theme an event would be planned in the Glen Gardens and Rose Gardens based on the theme of 'Fairies and Bugganes' to 'un-lock' the myths and legends of Laxey and Garff. In addition, it was hoped that the industrial architecture of Laxey that was not normally accessible could be opened. Guided tours would be arranged, etc. Facilities such as the Glen Gardens, the Rose Gardens, the Woollen Mills, Ballacregga, the mercury arc rectifier, the tram sheds, etc would be utilised. The 'Visit Laxey Valley' organisation would be involved in tours around the Village's mining architecture. It was anticipated that a professional event co-ordinator would be appointed. Other options for the event were being considered and were discussed at the meeting. MR asked Members to submit further ideas and suggestions for consideration.</i></p>
<p>d)</p>	<p><i>Finance- consideration of budget setting process 21/22</i></p> <p><i>The clerks advised that EfW charges were set to rise. Indications from ECAS and NCAS had not been submitted as yet. MR advised that several planned schemes were referred to including possible works in Glen Mona (which it was anticipated would be progressed during 2021), works to install a skateboard park and other facilities at the Glen Road Recreation Area. The possibility of a new surface for the MUGA would also be considered and would be presented to the Board by the GRSC in due course. JP asked if the monies for the replacement maintenance van had been budgeted for YE 2021. This was confirmed by MR. There followed a discussion of the 'ring-fenced' monies and consideration of their allocation from April 2021. No further comments were made by Members. MR requested that Members submit comments and views to the office at the earliest opportunity so that any new proposals could be presented to the Board prior to the rate setting process being finalised.</i></p>

221/20	Any Other Business
a)	Correspondence from Tours IOM. <i>MF referred to a letter sent to the Commissioners by Tours IOM which thanked the Commissioners for their assistance with marshalling and welcoming the coaches into Laxey for the Christmas Markets. This was noted.</i>
b)	Storage of Prom benches. Question raised by a Member. <i>MF moved this matter to private session.</i>
c)	Christmas Market Feedback. <i>PB reported that feedback from all businesses in Laxey had been extremely positive and that early indications were that public attendance had increased significantly this year. MF stated that it had been an excellent community event that had really put Laxey on the map as a Christmas destination. MF thanked the WMI Management Committee for organising the event, and advised that she had been asked to thank the Commissioners' staff for the hard work they had put in to supporting the event organisers. JM advised that an event held at Cooil Roi during the course of the Christmas Markets' weekend had raised £600 selling hand made craft goods. These monies had been forwarded to the Anthony Nolan Trust. It was also noted that the Great Laxey Mine Railway had had a successful weekend.</i>
d)	<i>JP advised that the Laxey Dog Club had indicated that they would be willing to fund additional dog-waste bins in the Village.</i>
e)	<i>AJM asked if the DYLS on Captain's Hill could be moved to the Valley Garden's side of the road. The clerks advised that this had initially been agreed by DoI around 18 months ago but had not been implemented. The clerks were asked to re-iterate the request that the lines be moved.</i>
f)	MR advised that the traditional Manx play 'The White Boys' would be performed in Laxey Village Square on Saturday 19 th December at mid-day. Noted.
g)	<i>MR advised that a letter from a resident in regard to the proposal to convert the Rose Garden Shelter into public conveniences had been received just prior to the meeting. MF had requested that this be considered on the agenda of the meeting taking place on the 16th of December. This was noted.</i>
h)	<i>MF noted that questions in regard to the movement/removal of stones from Laxey Beach had been put to DoI. It was agreed that permission would be sought from DoI to release the responses to the public once full answers had been received by the Commissioners.</i>
	<i>Public Section of the meeting ended at 8.23 pm.</i>
222/20	Matters in Private
a)	To discuss matters in regard to the former End Café building on Laxey Promenade. <i>A discussion took place.</i>
b)	Storage of Prom benches. Question raised by a Member. <i>A discussion took place.</i>
c)	<i>A discussion in regard to a matter raised by a resident took place.</i>
d)	<i>PK asked a question about the use of a building under the Commissioners' ownership. The matter was discussed and resolved.</i>
	Meeting closed at 9.27 pm Date of next meeting: 16 th December 2020