

GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
Mid-Monthly Meeting of the Commissioners
35 New Road, Laxey

Minutes of the Meeting

Wednesday 16th December 2020, 7.00 pm

Present:	Mrs M. Fargher (MF) (Chair), Mr N. Dobson (ND)(vice-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.
7.00 pm	Public Session - Preliminary Matters for consideration <i>The Meeting began at 7.01 pm.</i>
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>This was noted.</i>
223/20	Planning Matters
	Planning Applications
a)	20/01376/B Carrigan Head, old Laxey Hill, Laxey, Alterations and erection of an extension. PK/AJM/PB withdrew from the room during this discussion. <i>There were no objections from the Board.</i>
b)	20/01360/B 9 Dumbells Terrace, Laxey, Roofing work to rear single storey outlet. <i>The clerks' report was noted. There were no objections to this application.</i>
	Approval Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) – the following approvals were noted. No further instruction was given.
c)	20/01191/B, Erection of replacement sunroom extension, Cape Cottage South Cape Laxey – Approved 07.12.20.
d)	20/01120/B Window, wall and roofing works to existing conservatory, 31 Baldrine Park Baldrine – Approved 04.12.20.
e)	20/01086/B - Alterations and erection of extension to dwelling, to extend period of permission for a further four years. Ballacreg, Dreemskerry Hill, Dreemskerry, Maughold. <i>The consensus was that Members or Officers had not seen this application for the extension of a previous approval. The clerks were instructed to investigate why the 2020 application had not been presented to the Board.</i>
	Refusal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) - ntr
	Appeal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) -ntr
	Planning Enforcement
224/20	Approval of Minutes
a)	Approval of minutes of the meeting of the 2 nd December 2020. ND had a matter he wished to raise in the Private Minutes. The public minutes were approved as a correct record. Proposed JP . Seconded ND .
225/20	Matters Arising & Other Business
a)	To consider options for new surfacing in the Glen Road Recreation Area MUGA. <i>(Report circulated 11.12.20).</i> ND advised Members of the two recommendations from the sub-committee in regard to the types of flooring that could be installed. The two flooring types were tarmac and modular plastic matting. There followed discussion of a document that the sub-committee had circulated which outlined the positive and negative qualities of each option. The costs of each option were broadly similar being in the region of £20,000. It was noted that the modular plastic flooring had the superior 'shock' and 'abrasion' qualities and met the latest safety standards more effectively than a tarmac surface. This indicated that if installed the potential for injuries to those using the MUGA would be reduced. There was a potential maintenance cost for the modular plastic surfacing which was estimated to be around £2,500/£3,000 approximately every five years, but the consensus was that this cost was acceptable when balanced against the improved safety rating of this surface. The clerks were instructed to obtain written assurance from the supplier that the quotation

	<i>included any works to 'level' the current surface to ensure it was suitable for the modular tiles. This was agreed unanimously. Proposed TK. Seconded, JP.</i>
226/20	General correspondence
a)	DEFA - Re Laxey Bathing Water Designation Application (<i>circulated with Meeting papers issued 11.12.20</i>). <i>It was noted that the application made by the Commissioners had been rejected. The reason given being that raw sewage was being discharged into the sea. The Department advised that this decision would be reviewed when arrangements were in place to treat the sewage. Members instructed the clerks to request that water quality continued to be monitored and published as had been the case for at least several decades and would give assurance to visitors and locals on public health grounds. It was noted that in previous years the quality of the water had been recorded as good or excellent.</i>
b)	Resident – Email correspondence received in regard to the investigations into conversion of the Rose Garden Shelter into public conveniences (<i>dated 02.12.20</i>). <i>This correspondence had been circulated and was considered. It was noted that these were 'investigations' and that no decision had been made. There were several options that would be considered when a decision was eventually made. The correspondent had presented several concerns including the loss of a public 'gathering' point. The concerns expressed were noted and would be considered in discussions of the options. The clerks reported that the Commissioners had ordered parts to repair the railings on the Rose Garden steps as DoI had not responded to requests to repair them; the facility was on their land and was their installation.</i>
c)	DoI Properties – regarding disposal of government property in the vicinity of Ballure Reservoir (<i>circulated 10.12.20</i>). <i>This correspondence was noted and considered. No further instruction.</i>
d)	DoI – Information regarding the culvert works and river wall on Glen Road, Laxey (<i>circulated 10.12.20</i>). <i>The replacement of the wall in a Manx stone finish was noted. Parts of the wall would be around a foot higher. There followed discussion of the view of the new wall from the opposite river-bank as the finish appeared to be smooth concrete from that perspective. It was agreed that the Commission would submit comment when a planning application was submitted.</i>
227/20	Committees & Boards – ntr
228/20	Operational Reports - ntr
a)	Health & Safety – no incidents to report other than that the Christmas tree outside Christ Church had blown down over night. The tree had now been secured appropriately.
229/20	Any Other Business (<i>to be submitted in writing by mid-day the previous Tuesday to the date of the meeting</i>).
a)	Dog By-Laws – Clerk to update. <i>PB reported that there was a general back-log in the Attorney General's Office regarding local authority bye-laws. Some other authorities had been waiting for five years for the drafting of new regulations. The back-log appeared to have been exacerbated by the focus that had had to be placed on legislative preparations for various matters including new regulations for the changes caused by Brexit, the Covid situation, and the fundamental changes to the regulation of charities. It was noted that complaints continued to be received regarding the presence of dog fouling. It was agreed that additional signage would be installed and that additional dog bins and dog bag dispensers would be installed. The cost of enforcement through the courts if an offender were identified. Previous prosecutions by Laxey Commissioners had cost several thousands of pounds to pursue and had yielded a £50 fine through the fines imposed; the cost to the rate-payer had proven disproportionate. There followed discussion of a range of alternative approaches to reducing this problem. These included signage and DNA testing. No further instruction.</i>
	Public session closed at 7.47 pm.
230/20	Matters in Private
b)	To approve the budget for the new ECAS Site and to approve a revised constitution for the existing committee. A proposal to approve Garff's portion of the cost of the proposed new ECAS Site was unanimously approved.
c)	MF & PB gave their apologies in advance of the meeting to be held on January 6th 2021.
	The meeting was closed at 8.37 pm. Date of next meeting: 6 th January 2021

