

**GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**  
**Monthly Meeting of the Commissioners**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 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:** P. Burgess (PB) Clerk, M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk, Mrs J. Mattin (JM) Housing Manager  
 Apologies: All Present.  
 Two Members of the public attended the meeting to trial the viability of 'virtual public attendance'.

**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.

**49/21 Planning Matters**

**Planning Applications**

**a)** 21/00212/B - The Old Vicarage Lonan Church Road Laxey IM4 7JX. Creation of first floor balcony and roof canopy over rear patio.  
*There were no objections to these proposals.*

**b)** 21/00207/B - 1 Croit Rance Ballafayle Maughold IM7 1EB. Replacement of existing windows and associated dwarf wall with new sliding / folding doors as indicated on drawing P01.  
*There were no objections to these proposals.*

**c)** 21/00227/B - Deepdale Laxey Launderette Complex Glen Road Laxey IM4 7AB. Variation of condition 1 of PA 16/00805/B, Alterations and erection of extension to provide two apartments for tourist accommodation with associated parking, to extend the period of permission for a further two years.  
*There were no objections to these proposals.*

**d)** 21/00312/B - Mannin Cottage Glen Road Laxey IM4 7AP. Relocation of electricity meter box to front elevation.  
*There were no objections to these proposals.*

**e)** 21/00282/B - Thie-Ny-Mara Shore Road Laxey IM4 7D. Erection of a double garage and associated extension of the existing driveway.  
*There were no objections to these proposals. AM declared an interest.*

**f)** 21/00298/B - River Section To Rear Of Glen Road Glen Road Laxey. Construction of flood protection walls.  
*These proposals were discussed in detail. Comments from immediate residents indicating support for the development had been received and were noted. A copy of a letter to the Planning Authority dated 23.03.21 had also been circulated in regard to the flood alleviation works being undertaken in the vicinity. Concern was expressed in this correspondence that Laxey's river heritage and the conservation area's environment were being undermined. There followed discussion of how a balance needed to be achieved between ensuring that properties in the area had adequate flood resilience which had the minimal impact on the integrity of the conservation area. It was noted it was the Department's intention to stone-clad the new walls and other features in due course.  
 The consensus formed was that there should be no objection to these proposals from Members.*

**g)** 21/00300/B - River Weir Adj To Glen Road Glen Road Laxey. Alterations to substructure of existing weir and re-grading of river channel incorporating a rock ramp to control flow and stabilisation of existing river banks.  
*Comments from immediate residents indicating support for the development had been received and were noted. Correspondence from a resident dated 07.04.21 had been circulated in regard to the type of boulders that would be used, and the finishes on the proposed walls. This was noted. A discussion took place. The consensus formed was that there should be no objection to these proposals from Members.*

**h)** 21/00350/B - Leithgate Highfield Drive Baldrine Isle Of Man IM4 6EE. Alterations, erection of extension, installation of a dormer and raised patio area and amendment to an existing dormer.

	<i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
	<b>Approval Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) – the following approvals were noted. No further instruction.</b>
i)	20/01474/B -Cornaa House Ballaglass Glen Road Cornaa IM7 1EJ. Alterations to fenestration to north elevation of dwelling (retrospective).
j)	19/00944/B - April Cottage Coronay Bridge Coronay IM7 1EY. Creation of vehicular access.
k)	20/01496/B - 5 Bay View Terrace Laxey IM4 7DG. Installation of replacement windows and door.
l)	21/00041/B - Plot Adj To Instow & Dreeymlang Ballagorry Drive Glen Mona Ramsey. Erection of proposed detached dwelling and garage
	<b>Refusal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) - ntr</b>
	<b>Appeal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) - ntr</b>
	<b>Withdrawal Notices - ntr</b>
m)	<i>Planning Enforcement – A matter in relation to development that included hedge removal were referenced. Correspondence from residents expressing concern with the works had been circulated and were noted. It was noted that the Planning Authority were investigating the matter and would report in due course.</i>
<b>50/21</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>
a)	Approval of minutes of the meeting of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021. <i>These were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed <b>MF</b>. Seconded <b>ND</b>.</i>
<b>51/21</b>	<b>Matters Arising &amp; Other Business</b>
a)	To discuss the amendments bill - Local Authority General Elections 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021 and holding meetings virtually. <i>PB advised that the Bill was due to be presented at April Tynwald. This would mean it was in place to enable the local government general election set for July 22<sup>nd</sup> and for decisions made virtually to be made binding. This was noted.</i>
b)	To discuss implementation of the following policies (Previously circulated by email 11 <sup>th</sup> February & 24 <sup>th</sup> February): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vexatious Communications</li> <li>• Members Allowance Scheme</li> <li>• Environmental Policy</li> <li>• Media Contact Policy</li> <li>• Social Media Policy</li> </ul> <i>Draft policies, etc as above had been circulated for approval at the meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 which was truncated due to the pandemic lockdown, etc. Members unanimously approved all five documents. Clerks to make available on the website, There were no further instructions.</i>
c)	Regional Sewerage Schemes – Call for Sites. Consideration of sites. <i>The call for sites was discussed in detail. PK advised that he had proposed the 'Turbine House' site on the south bank of the river behind the Shore Hotel. He felt that MU should seriously consider this location. It was noted that whatever option was chosen that use would have to be made of the Cairns Site for pumping stations and holding tanks, etc. It was noted that details of the size and geographical location of land that MU would consider were indicated in the 'Call for Sites' notice that had been published. This was noted by Members. <b>JS</b> and <b>PK</b> expressed concern that the preference MU had had for a sewage plant on the Cairns Site still remained, advising that they felt that MU were not considering the other options with similar conviction. The consensus formed was that MU must fully investigate all solutions with an open attitude and without any pre-formed prejudice.</i>
d)	To discuss dates for community events in Garff in 2021. <i>MR briefed Members on possible events for the summer months. He expressed concern that the Covid restrictions may jeopardise the Brass Band Festival scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>. MR was instructed to liaise with the six bands in view of a postponement to May 30<sup>th</sup>. This situation would be under daily review.</i>
e)	Telephone Boxes – To discuss the decommissioning and removal by Manx Telecom of 3 telephone boxes. Boxes located on Pinfold Hill, Old Laxey Hill, and Minorca Cross Roads.

	<p>Members discussed possible uses for the phone boxes. The success of the book swap box in Port e Vullen, Maughod was referenced: this was owned by the Commissioners but operated by Maughold Social Club. The use of volunteers to operate the Laxey boxes was discussed. The clerks were instructed to approach Manx Telecom with a view to purchasing the boxes for a nominal fee. It was agreed to canvass the opinion of the public on their use once agreement for transfer of the units had been agreed. It was agreed to assess the condition of the telephone box on Pinfold Hill and arrange for its painting and refurbishment.</p>
<b>52/21</b>	<b>General correspondence</b>
a)	<p>Correspondence - Laxey Gretch Veg, unauthorised works by DOI. Circulated 23<sup>rd</sup> April. This correspondence was discussed. PB reported that he had met a senior officer from DoI who had briefed him on the works and how they would be finished. He outlined the actions that were currently being taken to widen the channels and to replace the footbridge at Gretch Veg. The amenity of the area including the picnic area would be improved. The officer had also advised that the planning authority had been consulted throughout and had sanctioned all the works. <b>PK</b> expressed concern with the effect that the development was having on the character and heritage value of the area. It was noted that the intention was to stone clad the new development in summer 2021 once the primary engineering works had been completed. There followed discussion about the channels of communication between the DoI and the Commissioners in regard to development of flood risk mitigation on Glen Road. The clerks were instructed to request more frequent and effective communication from the Department.</p>
<b>53/21</b>	<b>Committees &amp; Boards – by Exception</b>
a)	<p><b>ND</b> advised that the two civic amenity sites at Balladoole and at Middle River were now operating but that each was limiting the types of recycling that could be accepted. <b>TK</b> advised that Balladoole was operating a booking system which could be accessed via Ramsey Commissioners web site. <b>TK</b> advised that the annual fee for the Municipal Association membership would be rising to £300.00. This was noted.</p>
<b>54/21</b>	<b>Operational Reports</b>
a)	<p>Cooil Roi – <b>JM</b> reported that the Cooil Roi complex was now fully staffed. Members expressed thanks to <b>JM</b> for covering the enforced staff absence for several weeks. <b>JM</b> advised that the consensus among the residents was that visitors should not be allowed in the complex for the time being even though lockdown restrictions had been eased a little by government.</p>
b)	<p>New Road – The clerks reported that the office remained closed, but otherwise administration and other services were functioning as normal.</p>
c)	<p>Health &amp; Safety – <b>MR</b> reported that there had been no incidents in the period. He advised that the two maintenance staff had begun grass cutting operations and that they had been instructed to work in the same locations observing social distancing and using the necessary PPE.</p>
<b>55/21</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b> (to be submitted in writing by mid-day the previous Tuesday to the date of the meeting). <b>MR</b> advised that the Commissioners had been in liaison with Laxey Dog Club in relation to their sponsorship of new dog bin bag receptacles and dog bins in Laxey as well as other associated matters.</p>
<b>56/22</b>	<b>Matters in Private –</b>
a)	<p>End Café Site. Correspondence from a developer was noted.</p>
b)	<p><b>MR</b> advised that very positive feedback had been received in regard to the operation of the technology from the Members of the public who had attended. It was agreed that the Commissioners could now advise the public that they would be able to attend future virtual meetings.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 9.12 pm Date of next meeting: 21st April 2021</p>