

# GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

## Monthly Meeting of the Commissioners

Conducted remotely via Zoom

### Minutes of the Meeting

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 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:

This virtual meeting was chaired by Mr Dobson. Meeting began 19.02 pm.

<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Public Session - Preliminary Matters for consideration</b>
<b>a)</b>	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.
<b>41/21</b>	<b>Planning Matters</b>
	<b>Planning Applications</b>
<b>a)</b>	21/00133/B Erection of two semi-detached dwellings and creation of new vehicle entrance Land To Rear Of Glenlea Highfield Drive Baldrine. <i>A discussion took place in regard to the size of the site and whether it was large enough for two semi-detached dwellings. Several Members felt the plot was not big enough to sustain two new dwellings and the associated parking that would be required whilst some Members felt that the site was adequate for the dwellings proposed. One Member questioned whether the proposals would take too much land from the current dwelling at the eastern end of the site making it cramped within a much smaller boundary. The Chair asked each of the seven Members present for their view. There were four who had no objection and three who wished to raise concerns with potential 'overuse' of the site. The clerks were instructed to record no objection but to also record that several Members requested that the planners assess the concerns that the plans provided adequate space for parking and external garden space.</i>
<b>b)</b>	21/00166/B 57 All Saints Park Lonan Laxey, Erection of a first-floor extension over the existing garage and installation of replacement garage doors. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
<b>c)</b>	21/00210/B La Mona Lisa Restaurant Deepdale Glen Road Laxey, Installation of a replacement front door and removal of a chimney stack. <i>The location in the Conservation Area was noted. There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
<b>d)</b>	21/00186/B Plot North Of Ballagorry Heights And Adjacent To Instow Ballagorry Drive Glen Mona Maughold, Erection of proposed detached dwelling with integral garage on vacant plot. <i>There were no objections to the design or siting of the proposed dwelling. Members requested that potential drainage issues be considered by the planners due to the location of the application site on a steep slope. The clerks were asked to recommend that the Flood Risk Management Team at DoI were consulted by the Planning Officer.</i>
	<b>Approval Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)</b>
<b>e)</b>	20/01509/B Alterations and erection of an extension to rear elevation, Pine Lodge Baldoon Road Laxey – Approved 05.03.21. <i>This approval was noted. No further instruction.</i>
	<b>Refusal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)</b>
<b>f)</b>	19/00695/B Erection of bottling plant shed and water storage tanks, Site Near To Glen Callam House Dhoon Loop Road Dhoon, Maughold – Refused 02.03.21. <i>This refusal was noted. No further instruction.</i>
	<b>Appeal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)</b>
	<b>Withdrawal Notices</b>
	<b>Planning Enforcement</b>
<b>42/21</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>
<b>a)</b>	Approval of minutes of the meeting of the 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

	<p>The amended minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 which had been circulated were unanimously approved. Proposed, <b>TK</b>, Seconded, <b>MF</b>.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2021 were unanimously approved. Proposed, <b>MF</b>, Seconded, <b>JS</b>.</p>
<b>43/21</b>	<b>Matters Arising &amp; Other Business</b>
<b>a)</b>	<p>To discuss the postponement of the Local Authority General Elections to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. <i>PB advised that the Local Elections and Meetings (Local Authorities) Bill 2021 would be going through Tynwald at the next sitting. If approved this would permit a postponement of the Local Authority General Elections set for April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 to July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021. The Bill also gave provision to extend the tenure of currently sitting Members and Chairmen for the extended period. This was noted.</i></p>
<b>b)</b>	<p>To discuss implementation of the following policies (Previously circulated by email 11<sup>th</sup> February &amp; 24<sup>th</sup> February). The following policies had been circulated and considered by Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vexatious Communications Policy</b> <i>This policy was unanimously approved. Proposed <b>MF</b>. Seconded, <b>ND</b>.</i></li> <li>• <b>Members Allowance Scheme</b> <i>This policy was unanimously approved. Proposed <b>JP</b>. Seconded, <b>MF</b>.</i></li> <li>• <b>Environmental Policy</b> <i>This policy was unanimously approved. Proposed <b>LM</b>. Seconded, <b>TK</b>.</i></li> <li>• <b>Media Contact Policy</b> <i>This policy was unanimously approved. Proposed <b>ND</b>. Seconded, <b>MF</b>.</i></li> <li>• <b>Social Media Policy</b> <i>Members requested an amendment to Section 10.1 of this policy to clarify that no comment made by a Member or officer on social media should identify an individual Member or officer directly by name or by reasonable deduction or circumstance, etc. Clerks to amend, circulate prior to approval of the policy at the April 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 Meeting.</i></li> </ul>
<b>c)</b>	<p>Further discussion of dog fouling issues in Laxey following on from the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (item 229.20.a).</p> <p><i><b>JP</b> requested that the Authority take a more 'pro-active' stance against dog fouling. She proposed that more visible posters be erected. She also proposed that volunteer dog wardens be considered; adding that Laxey Dog Club had told her that they would be willing to provide volunteer dog wardens. <b>PK</b> advised that dog-fouling was a problem, adding that Laxey had previously employed a part-time warden which had proved problematic when offenders were taken to court as costs were not re-couped – in one case the £50 fine had been awarded but the costs to the Authority had been in excess of £1,000.</i></p> <p><i>It was noted that following the discussion in December that additional signage had been erected in parts of Laxey that were particularly affected. It was also noted that in the last eighteen months around six additional dog bins had been erected in the wider Laxey area and that two bag-dispensers had been trialled on Laxey Promenade. This had been done in co-ordination with the Laxey Dog Club and an additional three new bag dispensers and our new bins had been obtained which would be erected post-lockdown. <b>ND</b> suggested additional publicity on the subject. <b>JP</b> proposed a social media release including a video which she would have produced to be released on the Authority's web and media sites to encourage dog owners to behave responsibly. <b>TK</b> requested that an additional dog-bin be placed at Ballacannell. <b>TK</b> to advise the clerks of the location for this.</i></p>
<b>d)</b>	<p>To discuss dates for community events in Garff in 2021.</p> <p><i>It was agreed that the Authority should continue to plan for the Brass Band Festival on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and for other events organised by the Authority and for events led by other organisations such as the Laxey Fair Committee and the L&amp;LHT, etc. It was suggested that a 'socially-distanced' event could be considered if restrictions were part lifted. Members felt that this could be problematic and it was agreed to monitor the situation on an on-going basis. It was noted that the Laxey Fair Committee would be meeting in the coming weeks to plan the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of Laxey Fair. This and other potential events were briefly discussed. <b>JP</b> suggested that Laxey Fair be elevated to a two-day event which she felt would provide further opportunity to market the camp-site. It was noted that all the events being planned for 2021 would be subject to the circumstances caused by the</i></p>

	<i>pandemic and that the situation would likely change during the course of the year meaning that planning for events would have to include flexibility on dates to allow postponements etc.</i>
<b>e)</b>	<p>To discuss actions following the publication of the Internal Audit Report for YE 2021. <b>ND</b> referred to the recommendation in the report that the current management structure of Cooil Roi be reviewed. <b>JM</b>, <b>ND</b>, <b>MF</b>, <b>PB</b>, &amp; <b>MR</b> had attended a meeting at Ramsey to consider how the structure worked in another authority. <b>MF</b> advised Members that several changes were already being considered including bringing the Housing Manager's Report to the Board to the beginning of each mid-monthly meeting and monthly scheduled meeting of the Housing Manager and Lead Member. This would entail the Housing Manager reporting directly to the Board and liaising regularly with the Lead Member. It was noted that <b>JM</b> was drafting revised Terms of Reference for the management of the Authority's sheltered housing.</p> <p>There were two other areas of the Authority's operations that had been reviewed. These were Contingency planning and malicious communications. The clerks advised that the recommendations relating to these two areas were currently being implemented. There were no further instructions. <b>PB</b> advised that the Internal Audit Report Management Comments would now be drafted for approval at the meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> and prior to submission to Moore Stephens, the internal auditors.</p>
<b>f)</b>	<p>Feedback on the response from MNH on the operation and maintenance of the Laxey Wheel. The Commissioners had written to MNH requesting an update on the situation in regard to the major renovations of the Laxey Wheel that were required. Correspondence to MNH had also been issued by L&amp;LHT and copied to the Commissioners. Concern had been expressed that Tynwald had failed to approve the necessary monies for the repairs. The response from MNH had advised that negotiations for funding the necessary works were underway with Treasury and that a public announcement would be made imminently. It was agreed that the Commissioners should investigate having the Wheel designated as a Registered Building. <b>PB</b> advised that he would contact government in this regard. Further liaison would take place with L&amp;LHT and the situation would be monitored.</p>
<b>e)</b>	<p>To discuss actions in the Glen Road Recreational Area Parking Zones. The clerks advised that signage would be erected in the Glen Road Recreational Area car parks indicating that only those using the facilities were able to use the car parks. These would be erected post-lockdown.</p>
<b>44/21</b>	<b>General correspondence</b>
<b>a)</b>	<p>To discuss correspondence from a resident in regard to beach management, proposed toilet facilities in Laxey, &amp; public attendance at virtual meetings (circulated 12.03.21). <b>MR</b> advised that information from DoI Harbours in regard to beach management had now been forwarded to the resident.</p> <p>It was noted that planning permission had been approved for a new toilet facility in the Valley Gardens and that the Board had approved investigation of an alternative project to convert the current shelter in the Rose Gardens into public conveniences. <b>MR</b> advised that plans for the latter were being finalised and that costs for the conversion would then be estimated. <b>JP</b> asked if the Board still wished to continue investigating the Rose Garden conversion option. The consensus was that this investigation should continue. <b>ND</b> advised that once the two proposals were on the table a decision would be made.</p> <p>It was agreed that the possibility of public attendance at virtual meetings be investigated.</p>
<b>45/21</b>	<b>Committees &amp; Boards – by Exception</b>
<b>a)</b>	<p><b>ECAS – ND</b> reported that the viability of reopening of the Civic Amenity sites was being investigated. He requested the opinion of Members. The consensus was that this should be considered during lock-down as long as safe control measures were implemented at the sites to protect staff and the public. Members felt that the public should be encouraged to use the sites if only absolutely necessary to ensure that non-essential journeys were minimal, etc. Pre-booked slots could be considered as had been implemented at Ramsey under a previous lock-down. <b>ND</b> advised that he would report back to the ECAS committee.</p>
<b>46/21</b>	<b>Operational Reports</b>

<b>a)</b>	Cooil Roi – <i>JM advised that the effects on residents and staff of the current lock-down were being monitored day-by-day. She was liaising with officers from DHSC with particular regard to interventions that could be made to improve well-being and emotional health, etc.</i>
	<i>JM left the meeting at 8.42pm.</i>
<b>b)</b>	Health & Safety – <i>MR advised that a Quarterly Meeting with the retained H&amp;S specialist had taken place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. A range of matters in regard to Covid precautions had been considered including further actions to improve the safety of maintenance staff when lone working. These matters were noted.</i>
<b>47/21</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b> <i>(to be submitted in writing by mid-day the previous Tuesday to the date of the meeting).</i>
	<i>MF referred to works being undertaken in fields beside the Agneash Road. The clerks advised that they had been advised that the Planning Authority was monitoring the situation and the necessity for planning permissions, etc.</i>
<b>48/21</b>	<b>Matters in Private</b>
	To discuss a proposal from a resident for the creation of additional parking facilities in Laxey. The issue of parking provision in Laxey was discussed.
	The Meeting closed at 9.35pm Date of next meeting: 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2021