

# GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

## Mid Monthly Meeting of the Commissioners

Commissioners Boardroom, 35 New Road, Laxey.

### Minutes of the Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 7.00pm

<b>Present:</b>	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).
<b>In Attendance:</b>	P. Burgess (PB) Clerk, M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk. Apologies:
<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Public Session</b>
<b>89/21.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. <i>This was noted.</i>
<b>90/21</b>	<b>Planning Matters</b>
	<b>Planning Applications</b>
<b>a)</b>	21/00674/B Land At Ellan Vannin Laxey Road Baldrine, Variation of condition 1 of PA 16/00960/B to extend the period of approval by two years <i>There were no objections to this application.</i>
<b>b)</b>	21/00676/B Marrinagh Ballajora Hill Ballajora, Removal of chimney stack and replacement of first floor window with patio doors <i>There were no objections to this application.</i>
<b>c)</b>	21/00762/B Roseanne Minorca Hill Laxey, Alterations including removal of existing windows and installation of replacement window and patio doors <i>There were no objections to this application.</i>
<b>d)</b>	<b>Approval Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) - ntr</b>
<b>e)</b>	<b>Refusal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) - ntr</b>
<b>m)</b>	<b>Appeal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) - ntr</b>
<b>n)</b>	<b>Withdrawal Notices - ntr</b>
<b>o)</b>	<b>Planning Enforcement - ntr</b>
<b>91/21</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>
<b>a)</b>	Approval of minutes of the meeting of the 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2021. <i>These were agreed to be a correct record of the discussions and decisions made.</i> <b>Proposed AJM. Seconded ND. Resolved.</b>
<b>92/21</b>	<b>Matters Arising &amp; Other Business</b>
<b>a)</b>	To reconsider the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2021 <i>A document from the LGU had been circulated which outlined the range of comment that local authorities had submitted on the Bill; some of these had been implemented. It was noted that Garff Commissioners had submitted comment on the wording of new sections regarding the process for boundary changes and the proposed changes in terms of conflicts of interest/relevant interests. The Commissioners had also written to LegCo asking that they consider recommending that the proposal to allow each local authority to set its own rates for Members' attendance allowance be re-considered; it was felt by the Board that it was inappropriate for those receiving the payments to set their level. It was noted that LegCo Members had responded advising that they would consider this matter when they scrutinised the Bill in October 2021 before it was returned to Keys for a second reading. Further expressions of concern from Peel Commissioners in regard to the amount of consultation that had been permitted were noted: no further instruction.</i>
<b>b)</b>	<i>MR to update on options/costs for public convenience facilities in central areas of Laxey Village. It was noted that three options were on the table for new toilets in Laxey Village, these being: The Valley Gardens, conversion of the Rose Garden Shelter, and extension of the current café/toilet building on the tram station. AJM urged Members to make a decision, adding that this was an issue that had been ongoing for many years and needed to be brought to a resolution by this Board. JP advised that she preferred the Valley Gardens option. Several Members expressed concern as this proposal was for a two-storey building and was the most expensive option (QS</i>

	<p>approx. £120,000). <b>AJM</b> stated that the most sensible option was conversion of the Rose Garden Shelter as the basic structure already existed and the costs would be much less (QS ( approx. £60,000). Concern was expressed that the shelter facility would be lost; <b>AJM</b> noted that 'alcoves' were part of the proposed structure and that it was intended that benches would be placed into these. Concern was also expressed that a toilet building in this location would be an 'eyesore'. <b>AJM</b> directed Members to the outline drawings which he felt indicated that it would be an attractive building; he added that 'no one complains about the toilet buildings on Douglas Promenade, etc. <b>MF</b> felt that people would 'get used to' a sensitively converted building. <b>AJM</b> felt that the approach to the Rose Garden Toilets was more suitable for disabled access than the route across the tram tracks to the station. An option to extend the toilets on the tram station had been explored by Laxey Commissioners previously. The clerks had met Mr Longworth from IOM Transport in recent days and he had advised that he was in principle supportive of either a station extension or a conversion in the Rose Gardens. MR advised that the cost of extending the toilets at the station was likely to be somewhere mid-way between the costs of the two other options. <b>ND</b> suggested investigating the costs of an extension. This action was proposed by <b>TK</b> and seconded by <b>PK</b>. <b>JP</b> proposed that the Valley Gardens option be undertaken. This proposal received no seconder. <b>AJM</b> proposed that the option to convert the Rose Garden Toilets be undertaken. This was seconded by <b>JS</b>. <b>LM</b> proposed an amendment to <b>TK</b>'s proposal which was to investigate extension of the Tram Station Toilets but also approach Government and ask for a financial contribution; this to be concluded by 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021. A vote was taken on the latter proposal. The motion was carried with four Members voting for the proposal and the casting vote of the Chair. The motion put by <b>AJM</b> for conversion of the Rose Garden Toilets received the support of three Members.</p>
c)	<p>PB to feedback on preparations for the Local Authority General Elections taking place on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021.</p> <p>PB briefed Members on procedures for the forthcoming election. <b>TK</b> asked a question in regard to the process for 'absent voters'. <b>JS</b> asked if the 'draft timetable' for the election that had been issued had been confirmed. <b>PB</b> reported that it had and was now in force. <b>AJM</b> referred to a statement in election publicity issued by <b>TK</b> which on the sewage issue stated that he had voted in favour of the 'pumping option'. <b>AJM</b> stated that there had never been a vote on this option. <b>TK</b> declined to comment. <b>ND</b> stated that this was a matter between the candidates at the election, but added that maybe the Board should clarify that there had never been a vote as the pumping option had not been brought forward to date.</p>
d)	<p>MR to report on post-election internal training provision following the Gawne report, and the provision being provided by the IOM Municipal Association.</p> <p><b>MF</b> advised that the Commissioners would be undertaking training for Commissioners following the election. This had been a recommendation of the Gawne Report and she was keen to see specific training on conflict of interest implemented. She referred to a document prepared by MR which had indicated a monthly programme of training for all Commissioners. <b>JP</b> proposed that this scheme be implemented subject to the new Board amending the dates. This was agreed and it was also agreed to avoid the date of the training being planned by the Municipal Association. The clerks were asked to prepare to implement this training in August following the election. <b>AJM</b> requested that the Municipal Association stop indicating private email addresses on its correspondence. This was agreed.</p>
e)	<p>Clerks to feedback on issues relating to dog fouling.</p> <p><b>JP</b> had submitted correspondence in regard to dog fouling requesting progress on the provision of dog by-laws and whether a dog warden would be appointed. MR advised that the dog by-laws had been lodged with the LGU in 2018 and were awaiting scrutiny and amendment by the AG's office. They had not been progressed by the latter to date due to the priority given to other legislation on Brexit and Covid. The employment of a dog warden had been discussed on several occasions in recent months, but the consensus had been that this would be costly and have low impact on the problem; Laxey had engaged a part-time warden previously and the results had been disappointing. <b>ND</b> stated that an Authority the size of Garff did not have the resources to employ a warden in a way that would impact on the problem. It was also noted that the problem persisted in areas such as Ramsey where a dog warden operated. It was also noted that once the new Local Government Bill was implemented the by-laws would only need approval by the LGU; this should permit prompt implementation of new dog by-laws. <b>JP</b> felt that the situation was</p>

	<i>getting worse and advised Members of an incident in which a child had fallen on dog fouling and trailed the matter into her shop forcing its closure for a period. MR reported that additional dog bins and bag dispensers had been implemented in recent months as requested by the Board in conjunction with the Laxey Dog Club. Additional signage had also been erected and further signage was on order. A temporary campaign was currently underway on Reayrt ny Glionney. Additional stickers had also been ordered for litter bins to indicate that dog waste bags could be deposited in them.</i>
<b>f)</b>	<b>MF</b> to feedback on a meeting chaired by Daphne Caine to discuss Highway issues in Garff. <i>A document indicating the outcomes of a meeting called by Daphne Caine with officers from Highways were circulated. MF and the clerks had attended. Members noted that the Chair had attended, but expressed concern that invitations had not been extended to Board Members.</i>
<b>g)</b>	Feedback from DEFA for additional bathing water quality testing. <b>PB</b> reported that investigations into how additional weekly testing could be funded, and who could carry the action out continued to be undertaken. DEFA had stated that they could not resource such testing. The cost of the tests would be £75.00 per month, but was likely that additional costs would be incurred as the procedure would take 2/3 hours per week and involved administration and the tester taking the sample to the Government Laboratory. <b>JS</b> felt that Laxey Beach should be designated as a 'bathing beach' by DEFA. It was noted that they had removed this designation as untreated sewage continued to be discharged into the Bay. <b>JP</b> suggested that a volunteer could be used to undertake the testing. It was agreed that this was an option that could be part of the investigations and negotiations with DEFA.
<b>h)</b>	ECAS – Agreement Funding Model – <b>ND</b> to brief members. <b>ND</b> advised on two options that had been identified to permit funding of the new NCAS site acquisition and build. Option 1 was for Douglas to petition for the monies and for a legal agreement to pass proportionate ownership to each of the five authorities once their contributions had been made over the term. Option 2 was for four of the Authorities to petition for their proportionate share plus an additional contribution for Santon's portion of the costs. A legal agreement would then permit part proportionate ownership by Santon once their contributions had been made over the term. <i>ND proposed that the Board state a preference for and accept Option 1, but also accept Option 2 should that be the option chosen by the five authorities. The representative from the Commissioners would be duly empowered to sign an agreement on one of these options on behalf of the Board. This was seconded by <b>AJM</b> and Resolved.</i>
<b>93/21</b>	<b>General correspondence</b>
<b>a)</b>	Correspondence from a resident to be read to the Board in regard to parking issues on New Road, Laxey ( <i>circulated 16.06.21</i> ). <i>A letter was read to Members at the correspondent's request. This was noted. There followed discussion of the problems experienced by businesses on New Road due to the lack of parking. It was noted that a two hour disc-zone was being implemented in due course.</i>
<b>94/21</b>	<b>Committees &amp; Boards</b>
<b>a)</b>	Municipal Association – <i>The forthcoming AGM was noted. TK referred to two training sessions being planned in Ramsey and Douglas. Details to follow.</i>
<b>b)</b>	Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust - ntr
<b>c)</b>	Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities - ntr
<b>d)</b>	Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee - ntr
<b>e)</b>	Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team Community Partnership meeting - ntr
<b>f)</b>	Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee - <b>ND</b> advised that planning had been submitted for the new site and timescales for the construction and opening of the site were being prepared.
<b>g)</b>	Northern Civic Amenity Site – <i>recycling of WEE goods were discussed. It was noted that a new WEE contractor was being selected.</i>
<b>h)</b>	Northern Swimming Pool Board - ntr
<b>i)</b>	Northern Sheltered Housing Committee - ntr
<b>j)</b>	Waste Management Steering Group - ntr
<b>k)</b>	Employment Sub-Committee - ntr
<b>l)</b>	Glen Road Recreation Area Sub-Committee - ntr

<b>95/21</b>	<b>Operational Reports</b>
<b>a)</b>	Cooil Roi – <i>(Report to be circulated by JM prior to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021)</i>
<b>b)</b>	New Road - MUGA approved surfacing, Order placed with Swales, installation date TBA - Feedback on requested plaques, signage, on order - Feedback on roll out of Laxey Branding Initiatives - Feedback on Christmas Lighting Additions <b>MF</b> asked if the Clerks could report on these matters in due course.
<b>c)</b>	Health & Safety – <i>(H&amp;S &amp; Maintenance Record document (circulated 10.06.21).</i> - Quarterly Meeting with H&S Consultant 15.07.21 - Feedback Resetting of Capping Stones on walls at the Village Square. - Further H&S observations/reports <b>MF</b> asked if the Clerks could report on these matters in due course.
<b>96/21</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>
	<b>MF</b> asked if the issue of the 'Community Hubs' could be placed on the agenda. This was agreed.
<b>a)</b>	<b>JP</b> advised that she had heard an MHK discussing the lack of assistance to first time buyers on the radio. She asked if the Clerks could find the identity of the MHK so that the Board could write offering support for his views. This was agreed.
<b>b)</b>	<b>PK</b> expressed concern with the progress being made by Manx Utilities in regard to the investigations into sewage treatment for Laxey Bay. He noted that he and <b>JS</b> sat on the Committee set up to investigate options, but felt that communication within the Committee could be improved. <b>JS</b> felt that MU were not 'educating us' on progress.
<b>c)</b>	<b>AJM</b> gave apologies and left the meeting, adding that he was disappointed that no definitive decision had been made by the Board in regard to toilet facilities in the Village.
<b>97/21</b>	<b>Matters in Private –</b>
<b>a)</b>	A staffing matter was discussed.
<b>b)</b>	The possibility of a Civic Function was discussed.
<b>c)</b>	To discuss outline proposals submitted for the siting of beach huts on Laxey Promenade Green. An outline proposal to site Beach Huts on Laxey promenade Green was discussed.
	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> it was agreed to hold a meeting on the 28 <sup>th</sup> of July should it be deemed necessary by the Chair. This would also provide opportunity to thank outgoing Members.
	Meeting Closed at 8.50pm