

GARFF PARISH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday 2nd March 2022, 7.00 pm

Laxey Football Club Function Room

Minutes of the Meeting

Present: Mrs M. Fargher (MF) (Chair), , Ms M. Christian (MC), Ms A. Creer (AC),
Mr T. Kenyon (TK), Mr P. Kinnish (PK), Mr S. Ryzak (SR).

In Attendance: Mr P. Burgess (PB), Clerk, Mr M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk/RFO.
Manager.

Apologies: Mrs J. Pinson (JP), Mr J. Smith (JS) Vice-Chair.

7.00pm

Meeting with Mr Peter Dainton, Malcolm Cowin (apologies), Karl Millar

MF welcomed meesrs Dainton and Millar to the meeting.

Mr Dainton advised that he had been appointed as the Flood Liaison Officer for the Island, but currently was predominantly working in the Laxey Catchment. Mr Millar advised that he was working in Laxey to ensure close liaison with residents and Commissioners on all the projects being undertaken planned for the next months and years. Mr Millar referred to DoI's Schemes in Laxey. Referred to a map and to Malcolm Cowin from the Flood Risk Management Team at DoI who was planning the wider catchment. Mr Cowin was investigating where the water was coming from in the whole catchment and implementing plans to manage its progression to the sea, particularly at times of storm/heavy rain. Mr Dainton advised that he was monitoring the catchment in its entirety on a weekly basis and issued a report to the Flood Risk Management Team and the Commissioners on a weekly basis. This was noted. Mr Dainton advised that he shared an office with Mr Cowin which assisted communication in the Division. A map of the greater catchment was circulated by Mr Millar and Mr Dainton.

SC asked if the measures taken to slow and control the progress of water through the catchment would also take into account the issue of animal waste/manure going into rivers in the run-off manure. Mr Dainton stated that he would refer this matter to Mr Cowin who was conducting the planning for the flood alleviation scheme.

AC expressed concern with river management, the number of trees that appeared to be vulnerable/over-hanging, and the time it took to remove fallen trees from the banks. KM explained that DoI monitored and removed trees where necessary on the riverbank but advised that this was DEFA's or the landowners responsibility further back. Mr Dainton advised that experts had been called int to survey the trees again recently in the Glen, but some were healthy and couldn't be condemned. He added that he was available to provide advice and asked if his contact details could be passed to Members. AC suggested that in terms of both drainage and road repair DoI should return to the former system of having dedicated 'gangs' who were focussed on particular areas. Mr Millar advised that in the last two decades the workforce had shrunk significantly with due to a series of cutbacks being implemented by Government.

There was also discussion of the patching of roads and problems with highway services/drainage. There followed detailed discussion of progress with all the projects DoI were currently undertaking including at Quarry Road/Minorca Hill & Vale, The river wall at the Tennis Courts, etc: once the latter was finished the Commissioners could install the skateboard park as planned. There was also discussion of reinstatement of the collapsed footpath bank opposite the Tennis Courts. PK advised that Mr Robinson at DoI had stated that remedial works were on the list but were low down on the schedule and a date for the works had not as yet been given.

There would also be additional gullies at identified locations on Glen Road.

The proposed glass/stone wall at the Shore Hotel was discussed. The Board advised that the recently circulated amended drawings were acceptable in the circumstances: it was noted that the strength of the wall would be compromised due to the complex bonding process if stone pillars were incorporated; it was also felt that, although a stone wall was preferable to some Members, the glass would allow the public to view the rive more easily. Correspondence received by the Commissioners from a resident was included in the discussion with Messrs Millar and Dainton. It was agreed to forward a copy of the correspondence to Mr Cowin at the Flood Risk Management Team.

	<i>PK thanked Mr Millar and Mr Dainton for "getting things done" and for having provided more efficient communication. This statement was supported by the Authority's officers. MF closed the discussion advising that Members appreciated efforts being made by the two Liaison Officers. Mr Dainton and Mr Millar left the meeting at 7.41pm.</i>
	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, no Member declared an interest in any matters.</i>
30/22	Planning Matters
	Planning Applications
a)	22/00141/B Folieu Lewaigue Maughold, Enclosure of existing covered terrace with new patio doors/windows. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
b)	22/00160/B Thie-Ny-Mara Shore Road Laxey, Erection of an extension. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
c)	22/00165/B Address: Ballacreg Dreemskerry Hill Dreemskerry, Maughold, Erection of a detached building as a studio for florist business. <i>It was felt that the building was too far away from building cluster and a location nearer to the main house was preferred by Members. The deputy-clerk was given instruction.</i>
d)	22/00174/B Ballacreg Dreemskerry Hill Dreemskerry, Maughold, Removal of existing detached building, erection of storage barn and stables and installation of hard standing (Retrospective) <i>There were no objections to these proposals. Members asked if disappointment that the application was 'retrospective' be included in the comments submitted to planning.</i>
e)	22/00183/B Copper Top 1 Booilushag Ballajora, Maughold, Erection detached outbuilding. <i>There were no objections to these proposals.</i>
f)	22/01102/B Shore Hotel River Wall Glen Road Laxey, Strengthening of the existing river wall and construction of a glass flood wall along the edge of the river to provide flood protection. <i>The amended plans were considered in detail. Correspondence from a resident was considered and noted during this discussion and during the discussion at the meeting with Messrs Millar and Dainton above. There were various opinions on what would be the most acceptable solution, but it was resolved that the Board would accept the new amendments as their request that the glass be separated by stone pillars had been rejected. This was because the DoI's design team advised that the strength of the glass wall would be compromised by the 'bonding' process that would be required for each panel. It was agreed that the wall needed to be installed as soon as possible to provide flood alleviation defences. No objection to be submitted.</i>
	Approval Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) <i>The following approvals were noted. No further instruction.</i>
f)	21/01580/B Erection of extension with associated external landing and staircase, Laurel Bank Rencell Hill Laxey.
g)	22/00026/B Alterations, erection of extension, roofing works and creation of first floor access with associated external stairs to existing garage block, Cronk-E-Chule Wheel Hill Laxey
	Refusal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) - ntr
	Appeal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) - ntr
	Planning Enforcement (DEFA Planning and Building Control) - ntr
31/22	Approval of Minutes
a)	Approval of minutes of meetings of the 16 th of February 2022. <i>These were agreed to be a correct record of the decisions made at the meeting. Proposed SR, Seconded AC. Resolved.</i>
32/22	Matters Arising & Other Business
a)	To set a date for a meeting to discuss projects to be included in the five-year financial plan being drafted. <i>It was agreed that discussion of this matter should take place at the mid-monthly meeting on March 16th 2022.</i>

b)	Update on actions undertaken in regard to options for new offices for the Commissioners. SR explained that an architect had been approached and fee proposals for investigations into the options for either refurbishment or demolition/re-build of 35 New Road were being sought. This was noted.	
c)	Clerks to update on information gathered in regard to a proposal from JP that the Commissioners consider the installation of streetlights powered by dog waste as discussed at the meeting on the 16 th February 2022. <i>Information obtained from the inventor/manufacturer of the streetlights had been obtained. This had been circulated to Members. The costs of an installation were noted as being in the region of £10,000 as indicated in the details provided. The benefits of such an installation in terms of raising the issue of dog-fouling were discussed, however on balance it was felt that the project would be cost prohibitive. It was resolved that the clerks should thank the manufacturer for providing the details and advise that at this stage the Commissioners would not be going ahead with the proposal.</i>	
d)	Feedback from the meeting that took place with Manx Utilities to discuss options for sewerage treatment solutions on 23 rd February 2022. <i>TK stated his view that the best option was to pump to Meary Veg. The meeting that had taken place on the 23rd February with MU and the Chair Mr Callister was discussed. It was agreed that the Commissioners would put out a statement on their website/social media advising the public of the content of that meeting and of how the Commissioners were conducting ongoing liaison with MU and the community. It was agreed that the public should be encouraged to visit the office to find out the latest progress with the options for sewerage treatment in Laxey/Lonan. It was also agreed that Members would welcome a meeting with the Best 4 Laxey group should an invite be forthcoming.</i>	
33/22	General correspondence	
	Venture Centre – Beach activities TT week <i>Correspondence from the Venture Centre asking if the Commissioners had any objections to them offering a range of outdoor pursuits to the public from Laxey Promenade was noted. It was agreed to advise the Centre that the Commissioners had no objections to their proposals. MR advised that they had conducted such sessions in previous years with no incidents, etc having being reported to the Commissioners. SC asked about H&S requirements. MR advised that it was now standard practice to ensure that those holding events in the Sheading had the correct insurances and risk assessments. These would be obtained in this case as well.</i>	
34/22	Committees & Boards	
a)	Municipal Association TK went through report which stated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister David Ashworth unable to attend, he had covid • A general discussion took place • Ramsey not attending Municipal Meetings anymore. • Douglas member suggested more lighting needed in rural areas, more cats eyes possible solution • Neil Mellon informed the meeting that 400 Manx families are now using foodbanks • Northern and Western swimming pools under financial pressure due to high heating costs. Agreed that government needs to help save these facilities 	
b)	Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities – ntr	
c)	Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team Community Partnership meeting March 22 nd – ntr. Next meeting TBA.	
d)	Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee TK went through report which indicated some financial information in regard to construction of the proposed new ECAS Site. TK reported that it had been stated that currently only a third of residents participate in the kerbside recycling scheme in Douglas and that the financial returns for plastic recycling were making the provision of a service unviable.	
e)	Northern Civic Amenity Site SR advised that a change in the agreement for running the site were being discussed as currently RTC had sole responsibility for redundancy costs incurred; other staff contractual matters were also	

	being discussed with a view to any changes the Committee felt appropriate. The Board would be kept updated as discussions continued.	
f)	Northern Swimming Pool Board - ntr	
g)	Northern Sheltered Housing Committee - ntr	
h)	Cooil Roi Sub-Committee - ntr	
i)	Glen Road Recreation Area Sub-Committee - ntr	
j)	Garff Sewerage Consultative Group - ntr	
35/22	Operational Reports	
a)	35 New Road – <i>MR reported that the Commissioners were monitoring the traffic through Glen Mona and Laxey and were setting up random observation points. Any speeding/poor driving behaviours would be reported to the RPU and they would target radar patrols. Additional SID signs had been deployed along the A2. Liaison would take place with both the RPU and Highways as necessary.</i>	
b)	Cooil Roi – <i>ntr.</i>	
36/22	Any Other Urgent Business <i>(to be submitted in writing by mid-day the previous Tuesday to the date of the meeting).</i> <i>None raised.</i>	
37/22	Matters in Private	
a)	To discuss private matters in relation to PA 21/01113/B <i>A discussion took place.</i>	
b)	To discuss the future use of the Public Shelter on Laxey Promenade. <i>A discussion took place. The matters were reserved for further discussion in due course.</i>	
c)	To discuss the level of heating charge at Cooil Roi for YE 2023. <i>A discussion took place. Residents to be advised of the outcome.</i>	
	Date of next meeting: March 16 th 2022, 7.00pm Laxey Football Club	