

| GARFF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS | |
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| Wednesday 1st November 2023, 7.00 pm | |
| Commissioners' Offices, 35 New Road, Laxey | |
| Minutes of the Meeting | |
| | Present: Mr S. Ryzak (SR) Chair; Mrs M. Fargher (MF) Vice Chair, Ms M. Christian (MC), Mr S. Clague (SC), A. Creer (AC), Mr T. Kenyon (TK), Mr. J. Smith (JS). Officers: Mr P. Burgess (PB), Clerk, Mr M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk/RFO, Mrs J Mattin, Housing Manager. Apologies: Mr P. Kinnish (PK), J. Pinson (JP). |
| 7.00pm | Public Meeting <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> |
| | Cooil Roi Matters <i>JM referred Members to her latest report which had been circulated. Various matters were covered including Health & safety, the new roadway and parking provisions (to include disabled spaces), and maintenance, etc. JM advised that she was monitoring heating oil prices. JM also advised that all fire tests are up to date. Members thanked JM for her comprehensive and informative report.</i> |
| | Planning Matters |
| 95/23 | Planning Applications |
| a) | 23/01148/B - Extension to existing external decking area. Bramble Brae New Road Laxey. <i>No Objection.</i> |
| b) | 23/01166/B - Erection of a garden room to replace a shed and a separate decking platform (retrospective). Maycroft Minorca Hill Laxey. <i>No Objection.</i> |
| c) | 23/01175/B - Apply for additional use for tourist accommodation. Glevum The Promenade Laxey. <i>No Objection.</i> |
| d) | 23/01212/B - Installation of a replacement front door (retrospective). Thie N Lchargee Rencell Laxey. <i>No Objection.</i> |
| e) | 20/01472/B - Installation of garden terracing and river storm defences and extension to residential curtilage (retrospective). Amended plans received. Cornaa House Ballaglass Glen Road Cornaa. <i>Members noted that these amendments did not resolve their Objection to this application. JS proposed that the Commissioners reiterate this Objection which was on the grounds of detriment to the character of the National Glen. This was agreed.</i> |
| f) | 23/01220/B - Alterations and erection of a two-storey extension to side elevation and single storey extension to rear elevation. External works to provide parking and turning area. Ballasaige House Dreemskerry. <i>The size, scope and character of these proposals were considered. It was felt that the extension was in character and did not constitute overdevelopment. There were no objections.</i> |
| | Approval Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) <i>The following approvals were considered. No further instruction was given to the clerks.</i> |
| g) | 23/00969/B - Installation of replacement porch. Seaview Fairy Cottage Laxey |
| h) | 23/00091/B - Alteration of existing secondary vehicular access to serve existing Dwelling. Ballacreg Dreemskerry Hill Dreemskerry. |
| i) | 23/00889/B - Construction of a boundary wall along the roadside frontage of Hawthorn Cottage. Hawthorn Cottage Maughold. <i>Some concern was expressed that details in this application were incomplete and did not contain indication of type/style of gates, etc. It was noted that this was also in the conservation area.</i> |
| j) | 23/00968/B - Removal of chimney stack, to be replaced by matching roof tiles. 16 Ballagorry Drive Glen Mona. |

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| k) | 23/00821/CON - Registered Building consent for demolition elements to PA 23/00820/B. Hazelbank Minorca Hill Laxey. |
| l) | 23/01005/B - uPVC porch to front elevation of property to replace current over door Porch. Kurisutojuri 12 Cronk Cardle Corony. |
| m) | 23/00936/B - Erection of garden store. Cornaa House Ballaglass Glen Road Cornaa. |
| | Refusal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) – ntr |
| | Appeal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee) – ntr |
| | Planning Enforcement (DEFA Planning and Building Control) – ntr |
| | Withdrawal Notices (DEFA Planning And Building Control) – ntr |
| | Demolition Notice (DEFA Planning And Building Control) – ntr |
| 96/23 | Approval of Minutes |
| a) | Approval of minutes of meeting of 4 th October 2023. <i>These were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed MF. Seconded TK.</i> |
| 97/23 | Matters Arising & Other Business |
| a) | Chickens dumped in Glen Roy and other areas of Garff – MC <i>There followed a discussion of abandoned poultry in Glen Roy which were deemed by locals to be a nuisance and a danger to traffic. It was agreed to raise awareness of this issue through new signage and social media posts. The officers advised that the MSPCA could not offer assistance in these matters and that DEFA had stated that they had no legislative responsibility for feral poultry.</i> |
| b) | Garwick Glen – Public access update on correspondence received. <i>The Officers advised that they had contacted the two Garff MHKs. They were fully supportive of the request to for Government to make Garwick a National Glen. The timing of an official request directly to Government and MU was discussed. It was agreed that the timing of this should be reviewed when a planning application for the sewage treatment facilities at Garwick and Laxey had been submitted. No further instruction at this stage.</i> |
| c) | Dog Bylaws 2023 – Signing and sealing the order. <i>MR advised that the LGU had resolved the issues which had held the implementation up over the past two months and had issued a new copy of the legislation for the Commissioners to sign and seal. It was unanimously agreed that the document would be signed and sealed. Proposed JS. Seconded AC. There followed a discussion regarding the new signage that would be installed at the various areas across Garff. The cost-effectiveness and efficacy of additional measures to enforce the legislation would be discussed at the time the legislation was enacted.</i> |
| d) | Derelict Houses – Matter raised by PK <i>A report on 12 properties in Garff that actions were or had been progressed upon in the last 24 months had been circulated by MR and was discussed. The report indicated the actions being taken currently and indicated where situations had and were being resolved. The Officers were instructed to continue with the actions until positive outcomes had been reached.</i> |
| e) | Manx Utilities – Correspondence received. Circulated to member via email 23.10.23. <i>An item of correspondence containing responses from the Executive Director of the MU had been circulated and was noted. PB advised that two follow up emails had been sent to the Auditor General to request an update on the Commissioners’ request for him to investigate Manx Utilities proposals for sewage treatment in the Laxey Bay area. He advised that no response or acknowledgement had been received to date.</i> |
| 98/23 | General correspondence - |
| a) | Request for a Traders Licence – Request to have "le creperie" mobile food trailer located on Mines Road, Coach park, Christmas Market Weekend 25 th and 26 th November. Email circulated 23.10.23. <i>PB advised that he had directed the request to the Christmas Market Committee. They had agreed that they would offer a slot to the trader. The Commissioners had no vires to issue a trading licence as the trading was not beside the highway. SC raised general concerns with 'inviting' outside mobile caterers into Garff for events stating that this was unfair on local businesses. He cited the presence of an ice-cream van at this year's Brass Band Festival. There followed a debate on this topic with some Members pointing out that such activity was the norm and expected by</i> |

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| | <i>visitors when events were held. MR advised that local traders were given first option to attend events such as the Band Festival and the Duck Race. Some took this up, but some declined. Some Members pointed out that a lot of businesses were 'overwhelmed' during some events and suggested that additional facilities and provisions were necessary. These matters were noted.</i> |
| b) | <i>Scoping Report Submission- Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm. Email circulated 23.10.23. MR to recirculate dates for the Community Information Events taking place 2.30 – 7.00 on Monday 20th November at the Glen Pavilion, on Tuesday 21st November at Milntown House, and Saturday 25th November at the Villa Marina. MR advised that he had written to Orsted to request a direct meeting with the Commissioners. A date for this would be circulated in due course.</i> |
| c) | <i>Mobile & Family Library – Email requesting Local Authorities consider providing funding. Email circulated 23.10.23. The value of these services to our community was discussed and agreed. It was also agreed that any financial contribution would be approved at the budget setting meeting scheduled for December 6th 2023.</i> |
| d) | <i>Consultation on Principles - Tynwald Commissioner for Administration (Amendment) Bill. Sent on behalf of the Tynwald Management Committee. Circulated by email 27.10.23. MF raised concern in regard to the proposal that 'Ex-Gratia' payments be made to complainants when the TCA found evidence of maladministration. She felt that there were implications for the general ratepayer if such a measure were brought forward. It was noted that the TCA could only make a recommendation and that (under this proposal) this would not be binding. The clerks were instructed to write to the TCA expressing the concerns of the Commissioners in regard to this aspect of the proposals.</i> |
| 99/23 | Committees & Boards – By exception |
| a) | <i>ECAS – TK advised that usage had significantly increased at the new CA plant in Braddan. This was welcomed and noted by Members.</i> |
| 100/23 | Operational Reports |
| a) | 35 New Road – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on meeting with DoI in regard to the provision of additional sheltered housing and new office premises. <i>MR reported that the Commissioners were still awaiting feedback from the Department. It was hoped that this would be received in the next days so that the investigations could be progressed.</i> • Update on External Auditors work. <i>MR & PB advised that the audit for YE 2023 had been completed and would be signed off at the meeting on December 6th.</i> • Budget Estimates financial yr 2023-2024. Clerks to report. <i>MR went through the first two quarter finances. It was agreed that a budget setting meeting would take place on December 6th. This was agreed.</i> |
| b) | Cooil Roi – JM had reported at the beginning of the meeting. |
| 101/23 | Any Other Urgent Business <i>(to be submitted in writing by mid-day the previous Tuesday to the date of the meeting).</i> |
| a) | Dhoon Church Field – Request that the Commissioners take on the mowing of the Dhoon church field? To encourage it's use. <i>MF proposed that the Commissioners contact the church authorities with a view to maintaining the field at the side of the Dhoon Church Hall in Glen Mona for amenity purposes. She suggested that this would involve cutting the grass and providing some picnic benches and perhaps football posts, etc. This was agreed to be a very positive idea. The clerks were instructed to write to the Church requesting a discussion of this proposal.</i> |
| b) | Skate Park – AC asked if lighting could be provided at the new skatepark. MR advised that a single lighting unit had been ordered with a view to trialling this. If successful around four to six units would be needed. Advice was being sought from the Commissioners' H&S Advisor. Any scheme that was brought forward would require a planning application. |
| c) | <i>SC referenced All Saints Church and advised Members that the 'Saints Charity' had been disbanded.</i> |

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| d) | <i>SC asked that a new seating plan be made at the Promenade Public Shelter. SR asked the clerks to arrange this.</i> |
| e) | <i>SC asked if IOM transport and Highways could be approached with a view to the installation of warning lights on the A2 at the Laxey Tram Station road crossing. Clerks to contact the relevant Departmental officers and make this request.</i> |
| 102/23 | Matters in Private |
| | <i>Matters in regard to Cooil Roi were discussed.</i> |
| | Note: Local Government Act 1985, section 65; Disclosure of Information 'Any member or former member of a local authority who, without the consent of the authority, divulges any information communicated to him in confidence as such member shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1000.' |
| a) | Any urgent Business in Private. |
| | The Meeting closed at 9.25pm Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 29 th November 2023 |