

	GARFF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS Wednesday 6th December 2023, 7.00 pm Commissioners' Offices, 35 New Road, Laxey
	Minutes of the Meeting
	Present: Mr S. Ryzak (SR) Chair; Ms M. Christian (MC), Mr S. Clague (SC), A. Creer (AC), Mr T. Kenyon (TK), Mr P. Kinnish (PK), Mr. J. Smith (JS). Officers: Mr P. Burgess (PB), Clerk, Mr M. Royle (MR), Deputy Clerk/RFO. Apologies: Mrs A.M. Faragher (MF), Mrs 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>
111/23	Meeting with Chief Constable Russ Foster - <i>The Chief Constable to formally introduce himself, update on his strategy and vision and listen to any feedback/concerns you have which relate to policing on the Island.</i> <i>SR welcomed the Chief Constable, Russ Foster, to the meeting. RF briefed Members on his career to date. He referred to the range of public consultation events that had taken place in recent months and the feedback received from the public. RF outlined his strategic plan for the police force, which included priorities such as protecting vulnerable people, preventing harm in communities, and tackling criminality. He emphasised the importance of community policing, putting victims first and delivering justice through thorough investigations. RF outlined his desire to combat more serious and organised types of crime through improvements to border security measures possibly through facial recognition techniques and ANPR. A focus on road safety would also be maintained. There followed discussion of police coverage and the resource constraints that restricted having a more visible police presence in communities. The consensus was that this was a matter that the MHKs needed to address. Members noted that although there was relatively little crime in Laxey there were particular issues with speeding and anti-social behaviour. RF explained the data collected by the RPU on accidents in which there were fatalities and serious injuries indicated that the focus should be on the A18 Mountain Road where the evidence was that the vast majority of serious incidents occurred. RF referred to a variety of other challenges his strategy was directed to address including support for those with mental health issues and combatting organised drug dealing as well as international money-laundering. RF emphasised the need for collaboration between all the emergency agencies, Manx Care, the Departments and MHKs to address these challenges. In addition, it was part of his strategy to prioritise and allocate resources to tackle domestic abuse, violence against females, violent crime, youth offending, and anti-social behaviour. SC & AC commented that it was sometimes not possible to get to speak to an officer directly when reporting matters or seeking advice, etc. RF advised that there was also a desire to improve communication with the public adding that he would consider how these matters could be addressed. Members thanked the Chief Constable for attending to brief them on the strategy he was implementing. He stated that, if he had opportunity, he would revert to the Commissioners in six-months' time to report on the progress of the strategy he was implementing.</i>
a)	<i>To discuss the Budget for YE 2025 (additional documents to be circulated 04.12.23). A draft budget had been prepared by the clerks and had been circulated previously. Members scrutinised the projection for YE March 24 and the draft budget that had been prepared for YE Mar 25. MR advised that the draft of the latter contained provisions for a programme of lamppost refurbishment that was necessary and a contribution towards the mobile library service. Confirmation of costs for next year had not been received from all service providers to date so it was not possible to confirm all the figures. MR advised that early indications were that several service provider costs would rise at a rate relatively analogous with CPI. It was noted, however, that indications were that costs would rise in excess of CPI in several areas such as ECAS. Alterations to the draft budget would be made as providers confirmed costs. Members considered a document which provided an analysis of the income that would be generated by different percentage rate rises. A discussion took place in regard to additional projects that could be</i>

	<i>undertaken across Garff. There was no outcome to this discussion at this stage and SR requested if Members could bring proposals to the January meeting for the Board to consider. MR stated that Members could submit any proposals to the office prior to the meeting so that outline costs could be presented. Further discussion would take place during January 2024.</i>
112/23	Any Other Urgent Business <i>(to be submitted in writing by mid-day the previous Tuesday to the date of the meeting).</i>
a)	<i>SC proposed writing to the Archdeacon inviting her to a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss the future of All Saints Church, Lonan. This was seconded by PK. It was also proposed that matters in relation to the Dhoon Church Field and the Maughold Crosses could be discussed at the meeting. A vote took place with four Members in favour of SC's proposal and none against. There were two abstentions. The clerks were instructed to write to the Archdeacon in line with the proposal in the motion.</i>
113/23	Matters in Private
	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.'
	<i>No matters were discussed in Private.</i>
	Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 10 th January 2024