

LAXEY VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 2nd December 10.00 am

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mr J James, Mr P Kinnish, Mr AJ Moore (Chairman), Mrs R. Bate (Vice Chairman),

In Attendance: Mr P. Burgess, Clerk.

Apologies: Mr P Hill Deputy Clerk, Mrs J. Pinson.

Action

96/15 Rates Arears – Meeting with Jonathon Grubb Treasury Rates Department and Chris Heginbotham Treasury Valuation Department to discuss collection of Local Authority rate arears. Specific matters relating to individual rate debtors will be discussed in private.

AM welcomed the guests to the meeting. Mr Grubb briefed the Commissioners on the Treasury rate arears collection process. A discussion took place with respect to the coroner and his powers to recover the arears and who he was ultimately responsible to. The Commissioners were advised the Coroner is a Crown appointment and therefore there is no formal route to make a complaint. A Commissioner enquired about zero rated properties and how they were determined. Mr Heginbotham advised the owner of the property would need to apply to Treasury for a rate revaluation and depending on the condition of the property it could be either fully, partially or zero rated. Mr Heginbotham advised that a lot of people choose to continue to pay rates to avoid the potential for the sale value of a property to be affected by the fact it is partially or zero rated and potentially uninhabitable. In Private – A discussion took place with respect to rate arears on specific properties. It was Resolved that Mr Grubb provide the Commissioners with a list of zero rated properties in Laxey. **AM** thanked Mr Grubb and Mr Heginbotham for attending. **JG** and **CH** left the meeting at 10.47am.

97/15 Planning Matters

Planning Applications

a) Planning Application No 15/01255/B of 17.05.15 in respect of alterations to dwelling and erection of an attached garage to side elevation at Kittiwake Cottage, Minorca Hill, Laxey, IM4 7EA. [LVC Ref: 3738].

It was Resolved to approve planning application 15/01255/B.

Approval Notices (DoI Planning Committee)

b) Nil

Refusal Notices (DoI Planning Committee)

c) Nil.

Appeal Notices (DoI Planning Committee)

d) Nil.

Planning Enforcement (DoI Planning and Building Control)

e) Nil.

Planning – Correspondence

f) Nil.

98/15 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the mid monthly meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2015 were examined for accuracy and it was unanimously Resolved that they represented a correct statement of events.

*Proposed **RB**, Seconded **JJ***

99/15 Matters arising out of the minutes 18th November 2015.

- a) **Community Bulk Gas Storage Facility** – Renewal of lease. The Clerk advised both a rent valuation and appraisal of the lease had been actioned however the current lease was not due to expire until 30th November 2016.
- b) **Harbour Webcam** – Clerk to contact Director of Ports to seek and update on the progress of taking still images from the harbour CCTV cameras and making them available on line.
- c) **Laxey School Ramp** – **RB** requested that leaves be removed from the bottom of the school ramp. A discussion took place and it was Resolved the Clerk request Laxey School Head teacher contact Department of Education Works Department to request they remove leaves from the ramp on a regular basis.
- d) **Blocked Gullies New Road Bridge** – **PK** reported he had observed a blocked gully on the New Road Bridge. The Clerk advised that this problem had been reported to the department in September this year and nothing had, this had been reported again and approx. 2 weeks ago and the Department of Infrastructure had been out but only cleared 50% of the gullies reported. This had been reported again and this week.
- e) **Wind Farm - AM** reported he had been interviewed by Manx Radio about the lease the Isle of Man Government had signed with Dong energy to survey the seabed and carry out ecological impact studies and made it clear that the comments made were his own and not necessary the views of Laxey Commissioners.
- f) **Property on Lhergy Grawe** – The Clerk advised that following correspondence received from the owner of a neighbouring property, the Environmental Officer from Department of Environment Food and Agriculture had visited to site to investigate further. The complainant had raised issues regarding rodents and lose ridge tiles and slates that were failing onto the adjoining property. The Clerk advised that works would need to be undertaken by the owner to make safe and awaits further communication from the DEFA officer.

100/15 General correspondence

- a) **Invitation to International Diversity Conference** - on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at the Villa Marina. The main purpose of this Organisation is to promote and raise awareness of matters of ethnic, religious and cultural diversity, good citizenship and social inclusion within the community. It was Resolved to note the above correspondence.
- b) **Junction of New Road and Mines Road** - Further to a site visit by one of our streetlight technicians we have been advised the above light has been hit by a third party which has bent the column and made it loose in the ground, please see attached photos. This has been removed for safety. The fitting may be able to be re-used. I have estimated below the cost of a replacement 8M column and fitting (if required).
The estimated cost of a replacement 8M Column and fitting will be £2,700 + VAT.
Clerk Note – Details of the police RTC report have been sent to the Authorities insurer who have requested details of the third parties insurer.
It was unanimously Resolved to approve quotation for Replacement Lighting Column LA149.

101/15 Committee Reports

- a) **Municipal Association** – Roz Bate, Julie Pinson – No Report.
- b) **Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust** – Peter Kinnish – **PK** reported he had attended the AGM on Thursday 26th November. **PK** reported that the Joan Charnock had now retired as shop manager and that Vicki Hewison had tendered her resignation as secretary. A detailed discussion took place with respect of the trust and information centre.
- c) **Cool Roi Housing Authority** – Andrew Moore Jeff James – No Report.
- d) **Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities** – Jeff James – No Report.
- e) **Garff Joint Initiative Committee** – Roz Bate, Julie Pinson. Next Meeting Wednesday 2nd December at 7pm.

- f) **Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee** – Roz Bate, Peter Kinnish. No Report.
- g) **Laxey Youth Initiative** – Roz Bate, Jeff James. No Report.
- h) **Regeneration Committee** – Peter Kinnish, Julie Pinson Next Meeting. No Report.
- i) **Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee** – Andrew Moore. No Report.
- j) **Works and Amenities** – Andrew Moore, Peter Kinnish. The report circuted by the Clerk was noted.

102/15 Chairman's Report

- a) No Report.

103/15 Reports

- a) No Reports.

104/15 Any Other Business

- a) **Street Light - LA152 Opposite Holmleigh, Ramsey Road.** - Further to a site visit by one of our streetlight technicians we have been advised the above light is beyond repair. The fitting is no longer water tight and has burnt out, please see attached photos. I have estimated the cost of a replacement fitting. The estimated cost of a replacement standard or LED fitting will be £480 + VAT. It was unanimously Resolved to approve the quotation to replace the street light LA152.
- b) **Garff Commissioners Merger** – Points raised at meeting with Laxey Commissioners accountant to discuss merging of accounts and accounting systems. Clerk to report.
The Clerk advised the Clerks from Laxey, Lonan and Maughold Commissioners and the Clerk to Cooil Roi Housing Authority had met with Mr Ian Begley from SMP to discuss various administrative matters relating to the merger of the authorities. Discussion moved to Private.
- c) **Local Election (Fees) Order 2016** - Please find attached a copy of the draft Local Election (Fees) Order 2016. The intention of this Order is to increase the fees payable to election officials by the rate of compound inflation (RPI) since the time of the last election. The Department is aware that there have been comments by some returning officers about the current fees and that they were, in their opinion, not attractive enough to encourage people to carry out the role, however, these views will form part of a wider review of all Local Elections legislation (Primary and Secondary) which will take place after the Local Authority General Elections, scheduled for **28th April 2016**. In the meantime the Department is seeking your views on the proposed Order. Does your Authority agree that these fees should be increased by these amounts? I have included (attached) for information purposes the current fees from the 2011 Order. Subject to any comments received, the Department is planning to refer the new Fees Order to February Tynwald so the new fees will be in operation in time for the Local Elections in April 2016. Due to the deadlines for Tynwald business I would respectfully seek a response to this email by **Friday 18th December 2016**.
It was unanimously Resolved to note the draft Local Election (Fees) Order 2016.

Meeting Closed at 12.25pm

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 16th December 2015 10.00 am