

## LAXEY VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS

### Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013 6.45 pm

## Meeting Minutes

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

**In Attendance:** Mr P. Burgess, Clerk.

**Apologies:** Mr P Hill Deputy Clerk.

### 40/13 Planning Matters

#### a) Planning Applications

Planning Application 13/00914/B of 31.07.13 in respect of re-construction of scoured river bed being an amendment to PA 13/00479/B, at Laxey River Weir, opposite New Fire Station, Mines Road, Laxey. [LVC Ref: 3645], Submissions before Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

*Resolved - To Approve the Planning Application no. 13/00914/B.*

#### b) Approval Notices (DoLGE Planning Committee)

Planning Approval Notice No 13/00639/B of 22.07.13 in respect of installation of two roof lights and additional window at Mill Cottage, Mines Road, Laxey. [LVC Ref: 3643]{Delegated Powers}.

*Resolved – to note the planning approval notices 13/00639/B*

#### c) Refusal Notices (DLGE Planning Committee)

Nil

#### d) Appeal Notices (DLGE Planning Committee)

Nil

#### e) Planning Enforcement (DLGE Planning and Building Control)

Nil

### 41/13 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Mid Monthly Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 were examined for accuracy, and it was unanimously resolved they represented a correct statement of events.

*Proposed RB, Seconded JJ.*

### 42/13 Matters arising out of the minutes 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013

#### a) JR enquired where the cast iron benches at the MER station had come from and how much they cost.

The Clerk advised he was unsure, but believed the benches were the property of the MER.

*Clerk to investigate costs for similar benches.*

#### b) Laxey Fair – Roz Bate enquired if the Laxey Fair Committee had advertised which organisations they had made donations to this year. The Clerk stated he would contact the Fair Secretary.

### 43/13 General correspondence

#### a) Cooil Roi Resident, writes on 25.07.13 to complain about the deplorable state of the Weir opposite which is blocked by debris and the bank is overgrown giving rise to rodent infestation. If it is not the responsibility of the Commissioners, please inform the relevant Department.

*Resolved - Clerk to respond to Mr McFarland advising land ownership*

#### b) DEFA Consultation on the Biodiversity Strategy, which is the Island's plan for delivering conservation and enhancement of the Island's wildlife, habitats and the services these provide to us. Submissions before Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

*Resolved to note – JJ took the Consultation documentation to read and will report back to the meeting 04.09.13.*

#### c) Department of Planning and Building Control letter of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 confirming that commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August, new planning procedures and fees will apply, including a one off refundable fee of £150.00 if you appeal against a decision. The Orders concerned are (1) Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) (No 2) Order 2013, (2) Town and Country Planning (Appeal Fees) Order 2013, (3) The Building (Fees)(Amendment) Regulations 2013.

*Resolved to note.*

- d) Isle of Man Harbours letter of 23.07.13 regarding the Harbour Toilets and extending the opening hours. They state that they are for the use of harbour users and not the general public. They will consider the request if the Commissioners agree to entering into a binding agreement to assist in the funding of cleaning and vandal repairs occurring during the extended hours.  
*A discussion took place. It was resolved the Clerk would write and seek further details in respect of the binding agreement and associated costs.*
- e) [Jeanbuck@manx.net](mailto:Jeanbuck@manx.net) e-mails at 1649 hours on 19.07.13 - Attached is the banner that we have prepared for Laxey. It is 4ft x 2ft ". The photo does not show in full one side due to a door! . The decision was made to incorporate a salmon within the wheel design - and I hope you are happy with what has been achieved., as this was not what I first envisaged. The design was from Hilary Bruce in our Guild - and has been much admired.. We are now preparing dowelling top and bottom .The banners will be hung in The Arcade over The Festival weekend - September 20th - 23rd. and we will then pass over to you for keeping. If the Commissioners are happy with this - may we submit our Invoice for £75? Sincerely Jean Buck Guild of Silk Painters Isle of Man.  
*Item deferred to meeting 04.09.13.*
- f) MEA email at 1308hrs on 19.07.13, with estimate for replacement light fitting for LA167 – Glen Road, Laxey. The fitting has burnt out due to the ingress of water and is unable to be repaired. I have estimated below the cost of a replacement fitting. Estimated cost of repair £460 +20% VAT.  
*Resolved to approve the works as proposed.*
- g) **Housing Review.**
- i. Clerk to Cooil Roi Housing Authority emails at 1301hrs on 23.07.13, advising she spoke to Chris Robertshaw MHK at the Housing Review Presentation on 19<sup>th</sup> July. Mr Robertshaw advised there had been no notification from Laxey or Lonan pertaining to their wishes to join with other Authorities, or manage houses in their respective areas. If a request is not made it will be looked upon as we don't wish to manage housing stock or join with other Authorities. JP requests the Boards views on this matter as a matter of urgency.
  - ii. Malcolm Hulme at ODC e-mails at 1200 hours on 24.07.13 - Gentlemen, No doubt you are keeping a close eye on the machinations of Tolson and Robertshaw and you will be aware that Onchan does not find their arguments persuasive. At the housing conference last Friday we were part of a workshop where it was mentioned (by us) that management agreements between our local authorities could achieve the required objectives without us having to join together in any formal 'joint board' or 'regional housing authority'. Thus removing all the costs, administration, auditing, finance etc etc that would otherwise blight our lives. It didn't seem to have occurred to the DSC. Obviously, we have strong views about this and we believe that Onchan, Laxey and Lonan could come together to create a mutual agreement that would be beneficial to all parties without significantly upsetting our own local arrangements – which you must agree are already working well. I would be very pleased if you could agree to meet with me and my team so that we could discuss a possible way forward on this. Our boardroom here at Onchan is available. I'll arrange coffee and chocolate biscuits. Would you like to suggest a date? How about Tuesday next week, 30<sup>th</sup> July, at 10am? I look forward to hearing from you.
  - iii. Clerk to Cooil Roi Housing Authority emails at 0916hrs on 30.07.13, forwarding email and letter to Chris Robertshaw MHK in respect of Housing Review. [See Blue Papers attached.](#)
  - iv. Clerk to Cooil Roi Housing Authority emails at 1218hrs on 01.08.13, with letter from Chris Robertshaw MHK attached. Mr Robertshaw states, he and the Housing Director Debbie Reeve are more than happy to meet with Garff Commissioners representatives to discuss proposals for managing Local Authority Housing within Garff. Due to holiday Commitments it is unlikely this will take place until early September. Clerks note – Suggest Mr Robertshaw and Debbie Reeve are invited to the Garff meeting on 11.09.13 or the meeting rescheduled to accommodate.
- A discussion took place and the Board unanimously agreed to accept Chris Robertshaw's proposal to attend the Garff meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013. It was also agreed the Clerk and Mrs Bate*

would meet with Onchan Commissioners Officers. RB stated that at the Tolson Housing Presentation it had been suggested that all procurement would be dealt with centrally, however the consensus of the Commissioners and officers present was that this would not offer the suggested savings.

- h) Letter from Janis Knox Researcher for BBC Songs of Praise dated 30.07.13, seeking suggestions for interviewees for the 2014 'Island of Culture' Songs of Praise. Ms Knox suggests they are looking for people involved in any area of Isle of Man Culture – such as artisans, actors, artists, playwrights, musicians, authors or film makers.  
*A discussion took place and it was proposed the following names should be put forward –, Matt James, Liana Rosa and John Wood.*
- i) Department of Infrastructure letter of 31.07.13 clarifying The Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) (No 2) Order 2013 in relation to the Land Ownership Statement Certificate 01.  
*Resolved to Note.*
- j) PK emails on at 13.06hrs on 01.08.13 raising a number of matter relating to works and amenities, staffing and L&LHT.  
*The Clerk gave a brief overview on works currently being progressed. A discussion took place on the progress of Capital projects, Clerk to speak to Darren Cain for an update.*

#### **44/13 Committee Reports**

- a) **Municipal Association** – Roz Bate reported she had attended the Waste Management presentation on 01.08.13 at the Strathallan Suite Douglas.
- b) **Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust** – Peter Kinnish - Date of next meeting 12th September at the Bridge Inn. *As discussion took place with respect the annual donation Laxey Commissioners make to the Trust. It was resolved the Commissioners would make a payment £1,000.*
- c) **Coil Roi Housing Authority** – Andrew Moore Justin Rosa. *Nothing to report.*
- d) **Laxey & Lonan Sports and Community Facilities** – Jeff James - *Nothing to report.*
- e) **Garff Joint Initiative Committee** – Roz Bate, Justin Rosa Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7.00pm. Laxey to chair the meeting. *Nothing to report.*
- f) **Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee** – Roz Bate, Peter Kinnish. *RB reported that the order for the double yellow lines to create passing places on Minorca Hill was being progressed.*
- g) **Laxey Youth Initiative** – Roz Bate, Jeff James. *Nothing to report.*
- h) **Regeneration Committee** – Peter Kinnish, Justin Rosa. Meeting Dates 25.09.13, 30.10.13 27.11.13. *Nothing to report.*
- i) **Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee** – Andrew Moore. *Nothing to report.*

#### **45/13 Chairman's Report**

AM advised he would be attending the opening of the Ballacregga Tea Rooms Restaurant on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August.

#### **46/13 Reports**

- a) Laxey Commissioners Civic Service – Norma Cowell has proposed a date Sunday 13th October at 11.00am, Laxey Methodist Church, Minorca Hill, Laxey. It has been suggested this will be a joint service lead Rev Jo Dudley with possibly Norma Cowell preaching the sermon.  
Norma also advises Laxey Methodist Church will be holding their Harvest Festival on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00pm, all welcome!  
*The Chairman asked that all Commissioners place this date in their diary's.*

#### **47/13 Any Other Business**

- a) Glen Road resident emails on 02.08.13 at 1237 hours - Your letter of 31st July arrived in the post this morning, thank you. I note the legal position but am disappointed that no further action seems to have been taken by the Commissioners for the last 2 or 3 years or so. Surely the matter should not be

just forgotten about as the Commissioners could continue to urge the UK owners to take some sort of action, and appeal to their sense of responsibility or decency? After all, the property is a blight on a conservation area. Also, I assume that the UK owners are paying rates on the workshop. Could some of that money not be reallocated by the local authority to give the workshop a lick of paint to make it appear more respectable? I appreciate this will need the consent of the owners but I would not have thought that they would object! It might even prick their conscience. Can you raise this matter at the next meeting and see what else might be done?

*Clerk advised the Deputy Clerk had written to the owners of the property. Resolved to Note.*

- b) Department of Social Care writes on 31.07.13 regarding proposals to try and reduce long term unemployed. The object of the letter is to ask if there is any scope to employ unemployed persons on a work experience basis at £6.40 per hour and that they will not lose their benefits. If you have vacancies please contact Andy Stewart, Employment and Skills Group Manager, Department of Economic development, [Andrew.stewart@gov.im](mailto:Andrew.stewart@gov.im), or telephone 682380.

*Resolved to Note.*

- c) Rachel Bevan e-mails at 1513 hours on 05.08.13 - Please note that the Department intends to provide information on the Government website of the facilities provided by Local Authorities for young persons (14 - 23 year olds) in their local areas. It was thought best to group this information together centrally, by way of links to the relevant areas on the Local Authorities web-pages. We are aware that not every Authority has a website, and are also aware that for those who do have a website, this information is not necessarily something which is set out by all. As such, it is intended that a link will also be placed on the Government website to the list of Local Authority contact details (set out on the DOI's web-page); advising members of the public to contact their local authority should they require details on the facilities in place in their local area.

Please find attached a copy of the draft content which we intend on placing on the Government website. Could you please let me know whether you are happy for these details to be included, or whether there is any other additional information you would like set out. It would be appreciated if you could please let me know by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

*Resolved to Note.*

- d) Lillian Ingram telephones [861543] on 07.08.13, seeking permission to place a memorial bench in memory of her late husband in the Heritage garden, Mines Road.

*The Board Resolved to approve the request for a memorial bench at the Heritage Garden.*

Meeting Closed at 8.55pm  
Date of next meeting - TBC.