LAXEY VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS

Mid Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 16th December 2015 at 10.00am.

Meeting Minutes

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

at 10.05am).

In Attendance: Mr P. Burgess, Clerk. **Apologies:** Mr P Hill Deputy Clerk,

105/15 MER Goods Shed and Sub-Station – Meeting with Mr. Richard Henthorn to update Commissioners.

(This item to be heard in PRIVATE).

106/15 Planning Matters

Planning Applications

a) None.

Approval Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)

c) None.

Refusal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)

d) None.

Appeal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)

e) None

Planning Enforcement (DEFA Planning and Building Control)

f) None.

Planning - other Correspondence

g) None.

107/15 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the mid monthly meeting held on Wednesday 2^{nd} December 2015 were examined for accuracy and it was unanimously Resolved that they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed by: JJ, Seconded by: RB.

108/15 Matters arising out of the minutes 2nd December 2015.

a) Minute ref 99/15, item d).

Laxey School Ramp – **PK** referred to the section of ramp going up to the campsite and proposed an investigation with respect to installing no slip material to these steps. Clerk to investigate.

109/15 General Correspondence

Electronic Transactions Act 2000 - Rachel Bevan e-mails at 1555 hours on 09.12.15 regarding Electronic Transactions Act 2000 - To all Local Authorities, Committees, Boards and Burial Authorities. I have been asked to forward the email below and the attached document/questionnaire from the Department of Economic Development, concerning the Electronic Transactions Act 2000. (A pdf version is also attached for those who do not have Microsoft Word) Should your Authority have any comments it wishes to make, could I please ask you to send them to the Local Government Unit by no later than noon on Friday 18th December 2015. Please contact Ian Harris if you have any queries - Ian.Harris@gov.im.

It was Resolved to note Correspondence in respect of Electronic Transactions Act 2000.

b) **Local Authority Transition** - E-mail letter from Gawne of 09.12.15 regarding Update Conference on Local Government Transition to take place on Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 1230 hours at the Barool Suite.

A discussion took place and it was resolved to note the date in diaries.

110/15 Reports

a) Flooding in Laxey, Thursday 3rd December 2015 – Clerk to Report.

The Clerk briefed the Commissioners on the recent flooding and works undertaken by the Authority to assist with the clean up. The Clerk advised the volumes of water experienced and the speed it escalated were unprecedented and that although gullies were generally clear they were either unable to cope with the volumes of water or quickly became inundated with debris. Subsequently the majority of gullies had been inspected and cleaned, however a number of issues had been found that were likely to be down to lack of maintenance prior to the department transferring responsibility. Consequently a number of blocked surface water drainage pipes and culverts are currently being investigated by the Department. A discussion took place with respect to the option for a temporary /replacement road bridge and it was unanimously agreed that due to cost a temporary bridge was not an option and the bridge should be completed as soon as possible using the stone from the old bridge as clading. JP expressed concerns with respect to traffic issues if the Bridge were not completed in time for the TT bike show. PB advised the bike show could not go ahead if the bridge was not completed in time. JJ referred to residents who had been badly affected by the flooding. JP proposed the Commissioners give consideration to having an event to commemorate the opening of the bridge. It was Resolved to Note JP proposal to hold an event to celebrate the opening of the new bridge.

111/15 Any Other Business

- a) TT Bike Show Andy Scullard of the Moodey Dhoo Motorcycle club emails at 1821hrs on 15.12.15. After an enthusiastic meeting at the Dept of Economic Development, we have been advised to put in our applications for the Laxey TT Motorcycle Show as normal, (by the end of January). They believe that there will be a tremendous amount of pressure on the DoI to get the bridge done so we'll go with their recommendations. Thanks for your time on Monday. It was Resolved to note Mr Scullards correspondence.
- **Flooding on New Road Bridge** Mr John Fargher emails on 15.12.15.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you today in connection with the recent floods.

Prior to the recent unprecedented flooding, the bridge on the main road in Laxey has quite often been closed, temporarily, due to localised flooding. This is not normally a major problem and residents have become used to seeing the fire brigade routinely clearing the drains a couple of times a year. In fact it has become part of normal village life to see the bridge closed for a short time while it is cleared. We expect it to close, in fact it would be fair to say that we would be surprised if it didn't close once or twice a year. Well, in light of the recent near disaster in lower Laxey I implore you in the strongest possible terms to make sure that this bridge is modified or repaired in some way as to never let it flood again. The bridge sits about fifty feet directly above the river, so how hard can it be to get water to clear the bridge and drop into the river? I assume the DOI have responsibility for this.

The extra reason, if one were needed, that this bridge must be kept open is because during the height of the recent flooding, traffic was redirected down the dangerously swamped Glen road and over the now demolished bridge which could have easily collapsed with cars full of children on it.

Grandparents who had been drafted in to collect children from Laxey School due to the first bus crash were unwittingly directed straight into the teeth of floods. The firemen on the flooded bridge on the main road in the village were directing traffic down into lower Laxey not realising at this time just how deadly the situation was becoming. Why did this situation arise? It happened because we can't get the drains sorted properly on our main bridge.

You may think that it was the drivers fault for going down the Glen road in such conditions but if you are given instruction to go that way and are then followed by dozens of other cars you have no alternative but to carry on and before you know it your vehicle is being swamped.

It is not the firemen's fault; they were initially unaware how bad things were getting lower down the river. We are all massively relieved that there was no loss of life during this major event as there easily could have been. In fact the only reason there was no loss of life is due to luck, not good planning or judgement but pure luck. Laxey has had a 'near miss' we must learn from it, make repairs and modifications and ensure it never happens again.

Were the commissioners aware of this situation and how do you propose to deal with it.

Yours sincerely

John Fargher

The Clerk reported that problems with the bridge flooding had first been raised with the Department of Infrastructure in October 2012, however the problem still persists. The problem have again been reported to the Department who have advised they are looking into the matter. Resolved to Note.

- c) **Dogs in Rose Gardens** A discussion took place and it was Resolved the matter would be reviewed prior to the bylaws being renewed in 2017.
- d) RTC New Rd, Church Hill junction PK reported that there had been an RTC at the junction last night and enquired whether or not there used to be a slow sign marking on the New Road Bridge on the approach to the junction. It was Resolved the matter would be raised at the next NTMLG meeting.
- e) Camper Vans parking on Mines Road and Shore Road car parks A discussion took place in Private.
- **Rose Gardens / Village Square JP** asked if provision could be made for a Christmas tree in the Village square. **JP** proposed a permanent tree in the centre of the square. It was noted that a scheme to place a sculpture in the square was being progressed. A discussion took place with respect to cars parking on the square and installing additional planters along the front to prevent access. It was Resolved the political representatives would raise this at the next Regeneration Committee meeting.
- g) Bench in Bus Shelter Rose Gardens JP enquired it this was being progressed. PB advised the matter had been passed to the Department of Infrastructure.

Meeting Closed at 12.05pm Date of next meeting - Wednesday 6th January 2016, 10.00 am.