LAXEY VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS

Mid Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 17th October 2012 6.45 pm

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mrs S Jones (Chairman) [SJ arrived at 7:00pm], Mrs R. Bate (Vice Chairman), Mr J James, Mr P Kinnish, Mr AJ Moore.

In Attendance: Mr John Bate (6:45pm 7.05pm), Mr P. Burgess, Clerk. **Apologies:** Mr P Hill Deputy Clerk.

78/12 Planning Matters

Planning Applications

- a) Planning Application no. 12/01355/B, in respect of conversion of basement into additional office accommodation, The House of Sizers, Former Laxey Pipe Factory, Tent Road, Laxey, IM4 7DB. [LVC Ref: 3605] *Approved.*
- b) Planning Application no. 12/01337/B, in respect of erection of a dwelling with attached garage, site adjacent to Highfield, Stoney Road, Laxey. [LVC Ref 3606]. *Approved.*

d) Approval Notices (DoLGE Planning Committee)

It was unanimously resolved to note the following Approval Notices. Planning Approval Notice No 12/01198/B of 05.10.12 in respect of alterations to shop front and installation of replacement windows at Whitehouse Close. {Delegated Powers}. [LVC Ref: 3597]. Conditionally approved by LVC.

- e) Refusal Notices (DLGE Planning Committee) Nil.
- f) Appeal Notices (DLGE Planning Committee) Nil.
- g) Planning Enforcement (DLGE Planning and Building Control) Nil.

79/12 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 3rd October 2012 were examined for accuracy, and it was unanimously resolved they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed, Seconded

80/12 Matters arising out of the minutes 3rd October 2012

a) Minute Ref: 74/12, item c).

Steven Moore emails on 20.09.12 in response to query about adding 'The Old Pipe Factory' to the registered building list and providing overview of recent planning history, works carried out and references to planning policy. SM asks the Commissioners to consider the points and having done so, indicate whether they are still minded to suggest if for registration and if so, what aspects do the Commissioners consider that the building indicates.

Following a discussion with respect to Steve Moore's correspondence and the guidance contained therein the Board unanimously resolved to petition for the Pipe Factory to be added to the list of Registered Buildings.

b) Minute Ref: 77/12, item h).

Laura.Hanley@gov.im e-mails at 1058 hours on 02.10.12 a Consultation on the Manx Marine Environmental Assessment. This is the first time that mapping of marine species habitats has been undertaken on such a scale. It is important that we have as much information as possible available to us to help protect the marine environment and support sustainable uses of Manx territorial waters. Maps of habitats such as maerl, horse mussels and eelgrass will make an important contribution to our understanding and I would encourage people to get involved in the consultation process to help us make best us of local knowledge and scientific data.' Minister for Economic Development, John

Shimmin MHK said: 'Manx territorial waters offer the potential of new and valuable revenue streams to the Island through the harnessing of wind, wave and tidal energies. Obviously we need to explore these potential development opportunities but it is vital that we do it in a sustainable way with due regard for the environment, existing infrastructure and people who use the seas for leisure and industry. I am pleased to see the Manx Marine Environmental Assessment taking place and I hope that it will allow us to develop in the future without jeopardizing what already exists. Documents can be downloaded by going to http://www.gov.im/transport/planning/msp/mmea.xml.

It was unanimously resolved to note to Consultation on the Manx Marine Environmental Assessment

81/12 General correspondence

a) Department of Infrastructure letter of 05.10.12 regarding Consultation on introduction of fees for planning appeals. It is proposed to charge people who appeal against planning decisions a one off fee of £150.00 which will be refunded if they win. Submissions before Monday 19th November 2012.

A discussion took place and it was unanimously resolved to respond stating: The Board do not agree with the to charge people who appeal against a planning decision, the Commissioners believe these charges should be limited to the original applicant for the planning application. Charging everyone would discourage persons of limited means from challenging a planning decision.

- b) It was unanimously resolved to note General Correspondence items b), c), d), e), f), and g).
 Department of Infrastructure letter of 05.10.12 regarding Members Interests Personal and Public.
 Letter asks Clerks to remind their members about declaration of interests.
- c) Community Officer Report for September. No offences reported.
- d) Lonan & Laxey Anti Cancer send letter of thanks for £73.75 raised at the Laxey Civic Service.
- e) Barbara Dunworth e-mails at 1753 hours on 05.10.12 a copy of a letter from Michael Commissioners regarding the Scope of Government Report.
- **f**) Barbara Dunworth e-mails at 1350 hours on 07.10.12 a copy of a letter from Arbory Parish Commissioners regarding the Scope of Government Report.
- **g**) Department of infrastructure writes on 08.10.12 regarding House of Keys Question on 26.06.12 regarding People not in Education, Employment or Training, (NEETS) and asks if the Local Authority has any training vacancies. No need to reply but if you have queries please contact Andrew Stewart at DED on 687151 or Andrew.stewart@gov.im.
- h) Chief Minister writes on 08.10.12 with invitation for a representative to attend the National Service of Remembrance and Re-Dedication at Royal Chapel, St Johns on Sunday 11th November 2012 at 1500 hours. RSVP to Elaine Caley by 2nd November 2012. Telephone 685708 or e-mail Elaine.caley@cso.gov.im

It was resolved the Chairman would attend the National Service of Remembrance and Re-Dedication

i) Chief Secretary's Office emails on 10.10.12, in respect of Consultation Document for the introduction of a national criminal justice system strategy in the Isle of Man. Submissions by 9th November 2012. Document circulated with papers to meeting.

A discussion took place and it was unanimously approved to support the proposals contained in the Consultation Document for the introduction of a national criminal justice system strategy in the Isle of Man.

j) Laxey Fire Station annual bonfire and firework display – Station Officer Mark Cleator requests a donation from the Commissioners towards to cost of the fireworks.
 It was unanimously resolved to approve funding of £250 towards the Laxey Fire Station annual

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82/12 Clerk's Report

Report on recommended works to be undertaken at Laxey Campsite - see attached blue papers.

PB

John Bate in attendance.

The Vice Chairman welcomed John Bate to the meeting. JB provided detail of the works and the reason they had been identified. It was unanimously resolved to note the contents of the report and approve the works detailed therein.

JJ proposed a vote of thanks to John Bate for all his hard work during the season. The Clerk advised the 2012 season's takings at the Campsite had exceeded the previous year. Proposed JJ, Seconded AM

83/12 Any Other Business

a)

b)

Richard Little of DCCL emails on 4th October in respect of the Santa Trains which will be running 15th, 16th and 22nd and 23rd December. RL advises the trams could bring up to 3,000 visitors to Laxey who will have some time to spend before their return tram (it is up to the ticket holder what tram they ride back so some may make a day of it) so this is a great opportunity for Laxey to show what is on offer and encourage these visitors into shops and see how nice the village is.

Please do let me know if the Commissioners or local traders decide to put anything together to encourage this such as:

Opening on Sundays, Leaflet & map showing local shops and facilities, Discounts to Santa ticket holders for incentives to visit shops etc

IOM Railways would be happy to promote what is decided online and have leaflets available at stations.

It was unanimously resolved the Clerk write to the relevant local businesses to seek their support for the proposals contained within Richard Little's email.

Owners of the premises next to the Glen Road garage email on 12.10.12 saying that they want to convert the building into holiday let accommodation. They would like to receive the support of the Commissioners as the venture will substantially improve the area.

It was unanimously resolved to support in principle the proposal to convert the building into holiday let accommodation, however the Commissioners stated they would reserve the final decision pending consideration of the planning application.

c) Andrew Moore wishes to draw the Commissioners attention to the MER substation at the rear of the Commissioners Office. The building houses equipment commissioned in 1934 to convert AC electricity from the Manx National Grid into 550V DC for use on the Manx Electric Railway. This is carried out by the two Mercury Arc Rectifiers in the building which are now the only two that remain in use on the line, although four similar substations existed at Derby Castle, Groudle, Ballaglass and Belle Vue, along with another example on the Snaefell line. Over the years, the systems have been removed (Groudle and Ballaglass) or replaced with solid-state units (Derby Castle and Belle Vue), with the new Laxey substation under construction, the old sub station with it's Mercury Arc rectifiers and switch gear is likely to be decommissioned soon . While it is understood that the Mercury Arc Rectifiers and switch gear will be preserved, it is likely they will be removed from the building, which will be put to other use.

A discussion took place and it was unanimously resolved to write to Department of Community Culture and Leisure expressing the Commissioners concern in relation to the future of the building and equipment, stating the Board would object strongly to any proposals to remove the equipment from the building..

Copies to: Manx Heritage Foundation, Steve Rodan MHK, L&LHT and Manx Electric Railway Society

d) RB reported on various matters discussed at the recent Northern Traffic Management Liaison Committee meeting, including; Proposal for a no right turn sign at the top of Old Laxey Hill which was not supported. A pedestrian count at Ard Reayrt following a request to create a pedestrian crossing. Cooil Roi no through Road sign has now been erected. Consideration had been given to a pedestrian visibility mirror at Fairy Cottage however a suitable location to mount the mirror could not be found. The general issue of car parked on Glen Road would be revisited and reviewed. Car parking at the Rose Gardens would be revisited once the regeneration works had been completed. Discussions re parking on Mines Road and proposed measured to deal with the problem. Pausing places on Old Laxey Hill, review to take place.

Item Moved from Private to Public - Minute Reference d).

Plans for Miners Statue at the end of Mines Road presented to the Board. The executor of the estate of Mrs Phillis Tate advises he is now in a position to pay for the ground works required in the Heritage Garden.

A discussion took place and various concerns were put forward in respect of the overall height of the statue, mass on the plinth and location. Two Commissioners approved the plans, two abstained and one objected. The Clerk advised the executor of the estate was willing to meet with the Commissioners to discuss. It was unanimously resolved the Clerk make arrangement for the Commissioners to met with the executor of Phillis Tate's estate.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 7th November 2012 6.45pm