

## LAXEY VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS

### Mid Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 10.00 am

## Meeting Minutes

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

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

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

### 127/14 Planning Matters

#### Planning Applications

- a) Planning Application No 15/00130/B of 06.02.15 in respect of conversion of ground floor shop to residential accommodation alterations to rear garage and installation of replacement windows and door at 43, New Road, Laxey, IM4 7BQ. [LVC Ref: 3707].

*Resolved to approve planning application no. 15/00130/B.*

- b) Planning Application No 15/00136/B of 09.02.15 in respect of widening of vehicular entrance to Glen at New Road, Laxey. [LVC Ref: 3708].

*Resolved to approve planning application no. 15/00136/B.*

#### Approval Notices (DoLGE Planning Committee)

- c) Planning Approval Notice No 14/01245/B of 03.02.15 in respect of enlargement of two existing windows and installation of replacement windows to south elevation of dwelling at The Cliffs, Fairy Cottage, Laxey. [LVC Ref: 3694]. *Approved by LVC.*

Planning Approval Notice No 15/00016/B of 13.02.15 in respect of installation of replacement window to side elevation at Sea Bank, Promenade, Laxey. [LVC Ref: 3705]. *Approved by LVC.*

Planning Approval notice 14/01346/D of 12.02.15 in respect of erection of signage at the Cooperative Shop in New Road, Laxey, [LVC Ref: 3702]. *Approved by LVC.*

*Resolved to note planning approval notice no's. 14/01245/B, 15/00016/B and 14/01346/D.*

#### Refusal Notices (DLGE Planning Committee)

- d) Nil.

#### Appeal Notices (DLGE Planning Committee)

- e) Nil.

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

- f) Nil.

#### Planning - other Correspondence

- g) Nil.

### 128/14 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were examined for accuracy, and it was unanimously resolved they represented a correct statement of events.

*Proposed by JJ, Seconded by AM*

### 129/14 Matters arising out of the minutes 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

- a) **121/14, a). Unveiling of the Miners Statue - AM** reported that for various reasons the proposal to unveil the New Miners statue on Laxey Fair day could not happen. The main reason was that the sculpture, Ongky Wijana, was only on the island for a short period of time and at the end of June he was due to attend an International Conference in Germany, additionally Mr Rodan has stated he wants the unveiling of the statue to be the final part of the Laxey Regeneration scheme and separate from the fair. The unveiling of the statue will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 1400hrs.

- b) **PK** reported he had received one or two adverse comments reference the provision of car parking within the regeneration scheme and disappointment that no extra parking had been provided. A discussion took place.

- c) **126/14, f). Fair Ground/Boat Park Tent Road, Laxey – JP** enquired why the matter had been raised. **AM** responded advising he had been approached by individuals who thought the land had been gifted by Henry Bloom Noble to the Commissioners, who had subsequently handed it the Harbours Authority with an agreement that any rents collected would be paid to the Harbour Board. The Clerk advised there were no records indicating the land had been owned by the Commissioners. **PK** stated he believed the land was originally ‘common land’ which had been taken over by the Harbour Authority. A discussion took place. No further action required.

### **130/14 General Correspondence**

- a) Consultation on Draft Electronic Communications and Social Media - Following a review of the above Policies by a Government wide working party some time ago, it was determined that technological advances and the increased use and scope of electronic communications and social media necessitated their amalgamation into a single policy document. As the way we communicate changes, it is crucial that users understand their rights and responsibilities in relation to electronic communication and social media, the benefits that these tools can bring, what is expected of them when they engage with social media both in the workplace and in a private capacity, and what the consequences for misuse can be. The Draft Electronic Communications and Social Media: Policy, Standards and Guidelines identifies minimum standards for all users of electronic communication and social media, as well as general Guidelines on best practice. Departments may adapt these Guidelines to suit their particular environment and business need, subject to the minimum standards being adhered to. The principles set out in the new Policy, Standards and Guidance link directly with the ‘Good Government’ priority identified in the Chief Minister’s ‘Agenda for Change’ document published in 2013. This priority recognises Government’s commitment to ‘using technology to support better delivery of services and reduce bureaucracy’. The consultation document can be found by clicking on the following link <http://www.gov.im/ConsultationDetail.gov?id=487> The initial consultation period ends on Friday 13 March 2015 and all final written views and comments should be submitted by 5.00 pm on that day. *AM asked if the Commissioners could look at the Consultation and respond.*
- b) St John Ambulance Application to hold Charity Collection in Laxey between 22.06.15 and 27.06.15. *Approved.*
- c) Manx Utilities writes on 05.02.15 regarding the Commissioners Planning Application, 15/00017/A, [LVC Ref: 3706], stating that they have no objection in principle subject to certain conditions relating to surface drainage and mandatory connection to public sewer. *Resolved to Note.*
- d) Marown Parish Commissioners writes on 03.02.15 regarding the Consultation on the Isle of Man Strategic Plan. They have identified a number of weaknesses in the assumptions of population growth and mix and that the plans seem to favour developing existing areas without proper thought. The letter continues. The Marown Board are proposing to hold a meeting of Eastern Authorities to consider these matters and to this end would like to convene this meeting at Braddan Commissioners Office on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 1900 hours. RSVP. *RB to attend on behalf of Laxey Commissioners. JP advised she had received a separate invitation and would be attending.*

### **131/14 Reports**

- a) Nil.

### **132/14 Any Other Business**

- a) Isle of Man Bank writes on 12.02.15 regarding the Mobile Bank, which will be called Penny, and will commence service on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015. An opportunity is being given to all residents to visit this vehicle, and enjoy a cup of coffee, on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 1000 hours until 1130 hours at Ham and Egg Terrace. Thereafter the service will be on Mondays and Wednesdays at Ham and Egg

Terrace. The Monday service will be between 1200 hours and 1300 hours and Wednesday between 1415 hours and 1515 hours.

*A brief discussion took place and AM encouraged all the Commissioners to attend.*

b) Stephen Hind FCCA, Secretary to the Treasury Audit (Consultative) Committee, Assurance Advisory Division, The Treasury email dated 11.02.15:

Dear all (Local Authorities, Burial Ground Authorities & Other Local Government Bodies),

I am writing to provide a brief update in relation to the progress of the changes in Local Authority audit/accounting policy that we consulted upon last year.

As you will be aware, we have already introduced the revised audit/assurance framework for non-Burial Authorities via the Audit (Local Government) Direction Order 2014 and this framework is now in effect for applicable bodies for the forthcoming 31/03/15 year ends.

Per previous information circulated (by both myself and the DOI's Local Government Unit), Treasury have appointed Grant Thornton as auditor and assurance reviewer, based upon the revised audit/assurance framework.

#### **Audit/Assurance: All Local Government Bodies except Burial Authorities**

As a reminder, for non-Burial Authorities, the audit/assurance framework is triggered via gross income and gross expenditure levels (whichever is higher):

For year ended 31/03/15:

- <£100,000 then an Independent Examination of the accounts can be undertaken by an Examiner appointed by the relevant body and approved by the Treasury. The Examiner needs to have accepted the appointment in writing by 31st July. In the event that the relevant body cannot find a suitable examiner then Treasury have agreed a fee with Grant Thornton for Independent Examinations. Please contact them direct if you wish to appoint them.
- £100,000 - £1,000,000: then an Assurance Review will be undertaken by Grant Thornton at the price circulated previously.
- >=£1,000,000: then an Audit will be undertaken by Grant Thornton at the price circulated previously.

#### **Audit/Assurance: Burial Authorities**

For the accounts year ended 31/12/14 all Burial Authorities still require a full audit by the Treasury appointed auditors Grant Thornton (at the price circulated previously).

#### **Audit (Amendment) Bill 2015**

I am pleased to be able to inform you that this week I have received the final draft of the proposed Audit (Amendment) Bill 2015 and it is intended that this will shortly (within the next couple of months) be introduced into the Tynwald branches for consideration of progression into statute.

In summary, the key aspects of the Bill are:

- To allow Treasury to bring Burial Authorities into the new audit/assurance framework.
- To introduce a 31st March year end for Burial Authorities.
- To make the new audit/assurance review/independent examination explicit within the primary legislation (as opposed to via subordinate legislation).

Treasury is not planning any further consultation on the Bill, as the principles have all been included in previous consultations.

#### **Accounts Regulations – Proposed Changes**

We are still considering the most appropriate way forward in relation to amendment to the existing accounts regulations. We have already undertaken some initial consultation with the Burial Authorities and Ian Begley at SMP and will be undertaking further consultation with the sector over the forthcoming months.

However, it is clear that the introduction of the Audit (Amendment) Bill will require amendments to accounts regulations at that time, accordingly we have decided to defer any further amendments to the accounts & audit regulations to coincide with the introduction of the new Bill.

Accounts Regulations – Burial Authorities 31/12/14 Y/E and other Local Government Bodies 31/03/15 Y/E

To confirm, there are no changes to the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2013 and all accounts should be prepared as per previously.

I trust this assists, I will provide a further update and link to the Audit (Amendment) Bill 2015 once it is available on the Tynwald website.

*The Clerk advised this correspondence was confirmation of proposed changes received last year. The main impact on Laxey Commissioners was that the Audit fees would reduce from £7,400 in 2014 to £1,900 in 2015. This was due to only being subjected to an assurance review rather than a full Audit. AM proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk and others who had lobbied the relevant authorities to affect these changes.*

- c) Invitation to Mr P. Burgess and Mr A. Moore to attend official opening ceremony of Strand Group new HQ at sailmaker House, Tromode Estate on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 1730 hours. RSVP to Carol Gregory on 663913 or [carol.gregory@strandgroup.im](mailto:carol.gregory@strandgroup.im).

*Apologies to be sent.*

- d) Manx National Heritage letter asking if Laxey Village Commissioners would like to take part in Heritage Open Days in 2015 whereby the public can visit your premises. The event are in October. If you wish to take part please complete the attached form.

*Resolved to note. No direction given.*

- e) **Dates for Dairy.**

- **All Saints Church Lonan** - meeting to discuss possible alternative or additional uses for the church building, including formation of a 'Friends of All Saints Lonan', as outlined in the recent letter to interested parties from the Church Commissioners, at 2 pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February in Laxey Commissioners boardroom. **PK and RB** to attend. **PK** read out the email from Steve Rodan and enquired if anyone had any ideas for future use of the Church building. **JP** said it could be used as a sports hall or as a hostel for homeless people. A discussion took place in respect of financing the building and the building condition.
- **Coastal and Wave Overtopping – Consultation and Public Meeting.** - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 11.00 am at the Laxey Working Mens Institute. **PK and JJ** to Attend.

*Resolved to Note.*

- f) **PK** referred to an article he had read in the Isle of Man Newspaper about a derelict property in Douglas, the article referred to properties being rates exempt and the Isle of Man courts not supporting the Local Authorities by imposing very small fines. A general discussion took with respect to the costs of pursuing property owners and the different legislation that could be used including the Public Health Act and the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture Officers role in the process.

- g) **JP** enquired if there was a new date for the Garff meeting. The Clerk advised there had been a further meeting with Alan Donnelly at Douglas Borough Council and they had requested further information on mileage of hedges and the number of cuts required. Laxey and Lonan and Maughold Clerks were collating this information.

- h) **JP** offered to attend the presentation on the Government first time buyers scheme.

- i) **JP** asked when the boats on the promenade greens would be painted. The Clerk advised he would follow this up and progress the works.

- j) **JP** reported that the new doors had been fitted to the Small Promenade Store, however the contractor had not applied the opaque film to the glass. Clerk to progress.

- a) The Clerk reported the repairs to the failed principle rafter at 35 New had been completed, however the repairs to the external flashing were still pending.

Meeting Closed at 11.40am

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 10.00am.