

LAXEY VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS

Mid Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 19th March 2014 6.45 pm

Meeting Minutes

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

In Attendance: Mr P. Burgess, Clerk.

Apologies: Mr P Hill Deputy Clerk,

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the members for attending the public meeting on Tuesday 18th March 2014.

143/13 Planning Matters

Planning Applications

- a) Planning Application No 14/00256/B of 04.03.14 in respect of installation of replacement windows to front elevation at The Cushag, 10, Shore Road, Laxey, IM4 7DE. [LVC Ref: 3668]. Submissions before Friday 7th April 2014.

The Board recommends refusal of the above planning application on the grounds outlined below.

This property is within the Laxey Conservation Area and the Board believes that the windows should be like for like and in this case be sliding sash instead of the proposed casement.

Approval Notices (DoLGE Planning Committee)

- b) Planning Approval Notice No 14/00101/B of 14.03.14 in respect of alterations and erection of a second floor extension to create self-contained apartment at Oirr Ushtey, Promenade, Laxey. [LVC Ref: 3664]. {Delegated Powers}. *Approved by LVC.*
- c) Planning Approval Notice No 14/00111/C of 17.03.14 in respect of additional use of residential dwelling as tourist accommodation at 2 Sunnyside Terrace, Laxey. [LVC Ref: 3665]. {Delegated Powers}. *Approved by LVC.*

d) Refusal Notices (DLGE Planning Committee)

Nil.

e) Appeal Notices (DLGE Planning Committee)

Nil.

f) Planning Enforcement (DLGE Planning and Building Control)

Nil.

g) Planning - other Correspondence

Nil.

144/13 Approval of Minutes

Meeting reference 139/13, item i). AM proposed this discussion be placed in the private minutes. *Unanimously Resolved.*

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 5th March 2014 were examined for accuracy, and it was unanimously resolved they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed RB, Seconded JJ

145/13 Matters arising out of the minutes 5th March 2014.

a) Meeting reference 137.13, item a).

Stuart.Quayle@cs.gov.im e-mails at 1223 hours on 10.02.14 regarding Consultation on the Freedom of Information Bill 2014. - Please find attached the Freedom of Information Bill 2014 consultation document together with a feedback form for electronic responses. The consultation on the Bill runs for 6 weeks from today. The closing date for submissions is Friday 4th April 2014.

2014. These documents, together with an FAQs document, can be accessed electronically at: <http://tinyurl.com/ohle7dc> The consultation proposes a phased introduction for the Freedom of Information Act, which, when fully implemented will include all public authorities in the Isle of Man including local authorities. If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me.

146/13 General Correspondence

- a) Martin Kneale writes on 05.03.14 introducing Grant Thornton. His e-mail address is martin.kneale@im.gt.com, PO Box 307, Exchange House, 54-58, Athol Street, Douglas, IM99 2BE, telephone 639494, e-mail – gtiom@im.gt.com, website – www.grantthornton.co.im.
Resolved to note.
- b) Department of Infrastructure – Gillespie – writes on 04.03.14 regarding Members Attendance Allowance – Further Guidance. States that it is up to the Commissioners as to whether or not they round it up to 15 or 30 minutes. A review will be undertaken towards the end of the year.
A discussion took place and it was unanimously resolved the Commissioners should round up claims to the nearest 30 mins.
- c) Jeffrey Robinson, Operations Director, DOI writes on 04.03.14 regarding the recent flooding in Laxey. They intend to engage a technically competent consultancy to consider long term options for protecting coastal towns. Members of the public have already engaged in providing solutions and he requests that Laxey Commissioners also engage with this and submit any proposals within the next fourteen days.
A discussion took place and a Commissioner proposed that PK should make contact with Jeffery Robinson to discuss matters relating to flooding on the promenade and harbour areas. It was unanimously Resolved PK should contact Jeff Robinson.
- d) Tourism Department provides amended Campsite Registration Certificate showing 2 key Commended.
Resolved to note.
- e) Mr Wrigley writes on 06.03.14 advising Laxey Commissioners of their legal obligations under Section 4(3) LGA with reference to Boards reluctance to provide information asked for in the recent waste management consolation questionnaire. He states that they have provided SITA's costs but won't disclose the details of their contract as it is commercially sensitive.
A discussion took place. No decision reached. This matter will go to the Garff meeting 26.03.14.
- f) Community Officer Report for February 2014. No offences disclosed.
Resolved to note.
- g) Letter dated 07.03.14 to the Laxey Commissioners regarding the Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay in Laxey on Saturday 17th May 2014. The letter invites the Chairman or other appointed person to take part.
It was unanimously Resolved to accept the invitation and that the Chairman would take part.
- h) Kim.Gurry@publichealth.dhss.gov.im e-mails at 1718 hours on 12.03.14 regarding GoDoActive Database of Activities and Forthcoming Events Update - Please find attached a letter outlining the GoDoActive Initiative accompanied by two other forms for completion and return. One requesting details on your business and providing more detailed information for our physical activity database listings and the other asking if you would be interested in taking part in the some forthcoming events. www.GoDoActive.im displays information on the initiative and provides local residents with a one stop shop database with links to activities throughout the island for their particular age group. Each age group show different lists of activities available so you may need to check more than on these lists to ensure that you are listed into the correct age category. [Activities for Under 5's Walking and Non-Walking](#) [Activities for 5-18 years](#) [Activities for 19-64 years](#) [Activities for 65 and over](#) Attached are two blue jpg files showing the generic logo for GoDoActive please feel free to use these on your website, social media pages, email signature areas etc to help promote the GoDoActive Branding. If you require high resolution images for printed literature or clothing branding purposes please let me know. Other colours are available and full details on the logo use and guidelines can be found at this link. http://www.gov.im/media/791927/godoactive_guidelines_1-feb-2013.pdf If you can also help to promote our two Social Media pages within Facebook and twitter it would be much appreciated www.facebook.com/godoactive www.twitter.com/godoactive If you require any further help or information from the GoDoActive Team please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Resolved to note.

i)

SR e-mails at 2157 hours on 12.03.14 - I would be most grateful if you would circulate this email to your Chairs and Members, to assist with their presentations to the public next Tuesday and Wednesday. Firstly, I would be grateful if my apologies can be given at the start of these important meetings. Unfortunately Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th, the dates which have been chosen, are both monthly Tynwald sitting days so it is impossible for me to attend. Secondly, I welcome consultation with ratepayers and parishioners, in order to move the Garff Initiative forward to serve our local interests, and applaud the Boards' initiative. It will certainly demonstrate to Government that at least 3 local authorities are prepared to be pro-active, and not wait for 'local government reform' to be simply imposed from above. But it is most important that any information given to the public is accurate, and I am afraid I take issue with two assertions in the Public Notice. (1)..... 'Even the brand new Toilet Tax will double next year, to reduce the debts of the MEA at Ratepayers expense'. The reference to the MEA debt is WRONG. Whatever the comments which may have been picked up from the Press, the fact is that the Sewerage Charge is being imposed on the public (as a 'consumer pays' principle) because in this last Budget Treasury reduced the central Revenue subvention to the Water and Sewerage Authority by 2m as part of its general budget rebalancing (to recoup the well known 1/3 reduction in Government income). i.e. Central taxation funding of operating sewers is being replaced by a direct fixed charge on the public through the Rates bill, as provided for in new drainage legislation. This was first flagged up in June last year, and has nothing to do with amalgamating the MEA with WASA, as part of the more recently announced government restructuring. This Charge was going to happen anyway. Please do not give incorrect information! Furthermore, you will be aware, I hope, that as your MHK I recently voted AGAINST this Sewerage Charge in Tynwald (one of 9 members to do so) on the grounds that while Maughold is currently benefiting from IRIS expenditure on small local sewage treatment plants, residents of Laxey and Lonan are NOT - and will not be for some time. Therefore I didn't see why should they be regarded as 'consumers' paying for the revenue operational costs of a sewerage infrastructure they have not yet received. That is one of the reasons why, as an elected representative of Garff, I could not support it, and voted against. I would be grateful if you would make this clear at the meeting in the event that your MHK's position is open to question. (2).....'Housing' : ' Central Government wants to retain full control of policy while you pay for it'. That and the reference to 'RATEPAYERS' making good the poor condition of housing stock' is FALSE. The proposal for 5 regional housing authorities is NOT about putting housing costs on to the Rates. Regional housing authorities will receive rents from tenants for staff costs, administration, and day to day maintenance ONLY. The additional capital costs of social housing - major maintenance and new housing - will create a shortfall on the authority' s income which will be met, not by the Rates, but by Central Taxation Deficiency Payments, as at present. Rate income from your ratepayers will NOT go to running housing, and it is very misleading to the public to suggest this. Public Housing under any new structure being proposed is always going to need public subsidy from the taxpayer which - like now - is met through deficiency payments to the housing authority. Taxes - not Rates- will continue to meet that deficiency. Some existing housing authorities are at present self- sufficient. Onchan for example. They do not require a Government central taxation deficiency payment. Just as they would receive it from Government if it it was needed, so will the new Housing Authorities need it for their own deficiency incurred through capital spending on new housing or housing maintenance. To repeat, The 'Ratepayer' will not come into it. I also suggest to you that Laxey, Lonan, and Maughold local representatives who currently have NO influence on housing policy, allocations, maintenance etc for the Government Estates at Glen Moor, Gretch Noa, Glen Road, Minorca Crescent, Ballacannell or Coronay, will in future have very direct influence when these estates are handed over and run by one of the regional housing authorities on which the Commissioners will for the first time actually be represented. In conclusion, it is fine to invite the public to 'voice their concerns' but please let them be based on fact, and not misinformation, however unintended. In this regard I am not sure I understand why the first page of the Public Notice is talking about 'All Saints Church...in

danger of closing'. That is not a problem for which the Garff Initiative is the answer, and I will fear it will confuse people at the meetings. Very Good Luck!

Resolved to note.

- j) Laxey & Lonan Live At Home Scheme invitation to their Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 28th March 2014 at 7.00 pm at The Salmon Centre, Mines Road. If anyone wishes to join the Committee please contact Anne Duggan.

Resolved to note.

- k) Steve Hamer e-mails at 1523 hours on 12.03.14 - As we know, there are only two ways to get on and off this rock (weather permitting) and the ease and regularity of transport services are often influenced by Government policies - here and the UK. The User Agreement has brought some stability to our sea services, but the Open Skies policy has enabled airlines and routes to come and go more often than the seasons. TravelWatch Isle of Man has grown from a small group of concerned passengers and now meets regularly with a wide range of interested parties and Government Departments to ensure the voice of the travelling public is heard. We have links with TravelWatch groups in the UK for exchange of ideas and information. They too have concerns for such as wind farms being built across sea lanes. Twice a year TravelWatch holds major public meetings where anyone interested in travel both on and off Island are very welcome. The next meeting is in **the Villa Marina this coming Saturday morning (15 March) at 10am** - all are welcome to attend as we need to hear views and feedback from the travelling public. Amongst items on the agenda are the significant changes to our air travel options from the end of this month. TravelWatch have expressed concerns at the reduction in flights and loss of capacity, especially to the south east. Hope you can make it. Attached is an A4 poster to advertise the event, and ask if you have room to please display on your public notice boards.

Resolved to note.

- l) Simon Keiver e-mails at 1616 hours on 07.03.14 - Please find attached our first draft. We have made it narrower to match the Tourism booklets, and have spaced out the guide a little, this has enabled us to include some images to soften those pages a little (pages 6/7/8/9). Do we need to update the copy for the old Manx Engineers building, to mention its current use? We have put the Visitor Information on the back cover, have left the map on a single page, but could spread over 2, you will notice we now have a blank page next to it, wasn't sure if you wanted us to fill it with the map, photos, or if you wanted to use it for some other info? Let me know any other amends, and we can include on proof v2. Updated quote for 10k copies on its way to you soon too. *See attached white paper.*

A discussion took place and it was noted that in some part of the booklet the font was small and difficult to read. Several amendments were proposed.

147/13 Reports

- a) Nil.

148/13 Any Other Business

- a) Peter Hill seeks approval of draft signage to be placed on Kinrades refuse vehicle – “*working together in Garff*”.

A discussion took place and JR proposed the wording “Garff – Working Together”. Clerk to forward the revised wording to Lonan and Maughold Clerks.

- b) A Report produced by Peter Kinnish in conjunction with Mark Eastham and Juan Kinnish
BMX TRACK ON RACESIDE UPSIDE OF ENGINE HOUSE.

1. The track, including the return stretch alongside fence bordering the sluice culvert, needs the mud scraping off the surface.

2. The track, including the return stretch alongside fence bordering the sluice culvert, needs the muddy areas to be replaced with gravel - small stone chippings (10mm down)

3 The whole track, including the return stretch alongside fence bordering the sluice culvert, then

needs quarry dust in order to give the track a better surface.

A discussion took place and it was unanimously Resolved the proposed works should take place. JR stated that the work could be done by volunteer's, this would give ownership to the user's and the area was more likely to be looked after in the future. A further discussion took place and it was resolved costs would be obtained from a contractor to undertake the works proposed. The Clerk stated the materials purchased from DoI quarries by the Local Authority received discounts.

- c) AM reported the Ladies toilet sign was missing from the Mines Rd toilet. Clerk to investigate.
- d) AM stated the walls to the Blacksmiths yard next to the MER crossing needed painting.
Clerk to contacts DoI Properties Division.
- e) AM advised the manager of the Total station had offered a section of wall in the shop to mount a notice Board. *Clerk to investigate whether the notice Board previously mounted at Craig Moore would fit.*
- f) PK reported that a resident had spoken to him advising that vehicles were not stopping at the Stop sign at the bottom of Minorca Hill. It was resolved RB would raise this matter at the next Northern Traffic Management meeting.
- g) A Commissioner enquired if the Clerk had received an email offering the supervised services of prisoners to carrying out works. *Clerk to contact the Cooil Roi Clerk to obtain contact details.*
- h) JR stated it was important that the office staff were provided with up to date productivity tools and proposed the two office computers were replaced and Wifi internet access covering the offices and Board installed. *Clerk to obtain costs.*

Meeting Closed at 8.50pm

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 2nd April 2014, 6.45pm.