

**LAXEY VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS**  
**Mid Monthly Meeting**  
Wednesday 21<sup>th</sup> October 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.

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

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

**75/15 Planning Matters**

**Planning Applications**

- a) Planning Application No 15/01100/B of 30.09.15 in respect of installation of replacement back door and lintel at Rough Lea, Glen Road, Laxey, IM4 7AN. [LVC Ref: 3732].

*It was unanimously Resolved to approve planning application 15/0100/B.*

**Approval Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)**

- c) Nil.

**Refusal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)**

- d) Nil.

**Appeal Notices (DEFA Planning Committee)**

- e) Nil.

**Planning Enforcement (DEFA Planning and Building Control)**

- f) Nil.

**Planning - other Correspondence**

- g) Nil.

**76/15 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were examined for accuracy and it was unanimously Resolved that they represented a correct statement of events.

*Proposed by: JJ, Seconded by: RB.*

**77/15 Matters arising out of the minutes 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

**a) Deferred from Any Other Business - Meeting Reference 74/15, item a).**

Pat Burgess and Bill Snelling e-mail at 2234 hours on 05.10.15 - questions to PB to be raised at a Public Meeting. We have some questions that we, as Laxey Ratepayers, would like to put before your members. They are as follows: One of the main functions of a local authority is to ensure that they provide the required services to their ratepayers: (from the Government Guidelines) How are you providing required services to a majority of your ratepayers when you hold your meetings in the middle of the morning thus preventing them from attending, or, indeed becoming Commissioners, as they have to work? Public information and advice: (Guidelines) Since the Commissioners are supposed to be available to give help and advice, why do only two Commissioners have contact details available? Environmental health: Why, when Environmental Health are insisting on air conditioning being installed in the Promenade Kiosk, are the Commissioners refusing permission, even when it is at no cost to the ratepayers, as the lease holder is prepared to install it at her own expense? I trust these matters will be discussed at a public meeting. Yours sincerely, P. Burgess W. Snelling.

***Question 1 - Public attendance at Meetings held in the morning.***

***PK suggested that a newsletter could be sent out. The Clerk referred to the document provided by the Local Government Unit titled "General Information for Member and Officers of Local Authorities" and read out Section C, Part III, sub-section 2, Attendance of the Public:***

Members of the public are not entitled as of right to attend meetings of a local authority. Whether to admit the public is entirely at the discretion of the local authority but authorities are encouraged to allow them to do so unless the nature of the items to be discussed (i.e.

housing allocation, staff matters or other sensitive issues) requires the proceedings to be held in private session.

*The Clerk stated it was not a right that the public attend, but a privilege. PK said this really should now be a matter for the future Garff Board and it would be a waste of time having a long debate about it at this time. The Clerk referred to statistics obtained from meeting minutes in respect of attendance of members of public at Laxey Village Commissioners meetings. In the Municipal year 2013/2014, two members of public had attended, compared to the Municipal year 2014/2015 where there were twenty three individual attendances by members of public. The Commissioners had changed the meetings time from 6.45pm to 10.00am commencing 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and the majority of attendances had been at the morning meetings. JP said the figures were good but you needed to understand the background, ie were they better publicised or were there issues discussed that may affect the individuals. JP referred to Onchan Commissioners and suggested Laxey Commissioners publish meeting agenda's. AM proposed the Clerk publish the agenda for the public meeting to the website by 12 midday Monday before the meeting. JP proposed the fact the agendas were to be published was advertised on the LVC notice Boards. Resolved - Public agendas to be published on the website, Proposed AM, Seconded JP.*

**Question 2 - Public information and advice/Availability of Commissioners Contact Details.**

*AM stated he was unsure why this question had been asked because the telephone numbers for Roz Bate, Peter Kinnish and himself appeared in the telephone directory. JP said she was ex-directory however her mobile number was available on the Commissioners website. The Clerk advised full contact details for all the Commissioners were held at the office and these could be provided to residents on request. JJ stated that most people know where he lives and in the last week he had received 5 visits from members of public. RB advised before the public meeting last week she had received 3 phone calls from members of public. AM referred to the document provided by the Local Government Unit titled "General Information for Member and Officers of Local Authorities" and read out section B, sub-section 2.3, Public information and advice:*

*Although not strictly a function of local authorities, they are relied on by the public to provide a local office or point of contact for persons seeking information about local or central government matters. In addition, a number of local authority offices are still used for some judicial services, and some clerks to local authorities act as commissioners for oaths or as registrar for births, deaths and marriages. This form of activity is likely to increase in future with the establishment of e-technology. Some of the larger authorities provide internet access for ratepayers and assist in providing workshops for basic internet instruction.*

*AM stated that the main point of contact for information and advice was the Clerk at the office of the Local Authority. Any queries would initially be addressed by the Clerk and if the matter requires notifying the Commissioners he will do so. AM continued stating he was available at his place of business and he had no issue with people contacting him there. The Clerk referred to Lonan and Maughold Commissioners websites, advising that other than contact details for the Captain of the Parish the only other contact details were for the respective Clerks. AM proposed that no action was required on this point. JP proposed that a Commissioner could be attend the meeting early and be available to take questions from constituents. A discussion took place and PK stated the correct procedure to raise matters was through the office, RB added or contact via members telephone number available in the telephone directory.*

**Question 3 - Environmental health – air conditioning in promenade kiosk.**

*AM advised the matter had been discussed in the private part of the Commissioners meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015. AM advised that the comments made by Pat Burgess and Bill Snelling in the correspondence were factually inaccurate and as the matter was private matter between the landlord and tenant it cannot be discussed in public. AM referred to the request to provide a copy of the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 audited accounts advising these would available soon.*

- b) Hoist Parked outside Glen House - RB** advised the vehicle was parked outside the property again. **PK** advised he had spoken to the owner and that works were still ongoing. A discussion took place

and **RB** asked the Clerk to provide an update on a complaint received from a relative of a resident of the Glen House. The Clerk advised he had contacted the manager of the Glen House and the properties manager at Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, who had advised he was not aware of any permissions granted to leave the vehicle outside the property and that the matter was in the departments hands.

**78/15 General Correspondence**

- a) **Laxey Firework Display** - Laxey Fire Station letter of 09.10.15 seeking funding for fireworks on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015.  
*A discussion took place and it was unanimously Resolved to give a donation of £300 towards the Laxey Fire Brigade firework display.*
- b) **Christmas Trees** - Do you wish to order any Christmas trees from St John's Sawmill for 2015. I attach a list of prices and an order form for your information. Please complete and return the order form to me, preferably by email, as soon as possible. Please be advised that the quality of Christmas trees may not be as good as previous years, nor can we guarantee that we will be able to supply the exact size of tree that you request. This year we are unable to supply any trees under 14 foot, but where possible we will endeavour to meet your requirements. Orders will be dealt with on a "first come first served basis". In addition, quality Christmas trees that meet our standards in size and shape are likely to be in limited supply over future seasons, and we would therefore like to take this opportunity to advise our customers that there may be difficulties in meeting your requests for future seasons. We look forward to hearing from you in due course, however, if you require any further assistance please contact me.  
*A discussion took place and it was unanimously Resolved to order three trees.*
- c) **Laxey Breakwater Maintenance Works** - Ann Reynolds e-mails at 1710 hours on 13.10.15 - Good afternoon Pete, Just a short note to say that on Monday 19 October, there will be some set up works (including scaffolding) by our contractor who will be carrying out some spray concrete work on the outside of Laxey breakwater. I understand this sort of work was last carried out in 1996. We will be do similar work again which will also include 'wrapping' around the nose of the breakwater to just inside the breakwater. The work will be tidal and could incorporate weekend work and naturally it will be weather dependant. The overall programme (subject the weather) will take ca five weeks including set-up. I don't know if you require any further information but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mark Kenyon 685184.  
*Unanimously Resolved to note.*
- d) **Waste Management Working Group Questions** - Clerk has completed the questionnaire which includes commercially sensitive information and now seeks permission from the Commissioners to forward on to the department.  
*A discussion took place and it was Resolved not to forward the response at this time.*
- e) **Additional Street Lighting on Mines Road** - Stewart Clague writes on behalf of the Salmon Lake Centre, Ballacregga Corn Mill Restaurant to ask Laxey Commissioners to erect a lamp post on the existing electric pole at Wheel hill because his customers and local residents are finding it very dark in that area when the upper car park is in use.  
*A discussion took place and it was unanimously Resolved to approve the installation of an additional street light on Mines Road adjacent to the upper Cornmill car park. Proposed PK, Seconded RB.*
- f) **Housing Review Eastern Working Group** - Eric Whitelegg e-mails at 1622 hours on 12.10.15 about Terms of Reference Eastern Working Group – Housing - Hi Pete, Can you please call me regarding the potential to set up a political meeting facilitated by Mr Thomas – at the moment timing is 7.00pm Tues 27th October. I'm wondering who (how many) might want to represent the Garff Initiative and whether you can gauge interest for me The list of invitees is: Garff, Onchan, Braddan and Douglas  
*The Clerk advised revised proposed meeting dates had been received which would be either 4<sup>th</sup> Nov during the evening or 5<sup>th</sup> November during the day.*

*A discussion took place and it was Resolved JP would represent Laxey Commissioners on the Eastern Working Group and if for any reason JP was unable to attend AM would take her place.*

- g) **Policing in the Parish** - Superintendent Kevin Willson request to attend one of the Commissioners' meetings to discuss policing in their parish. Proposed date Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 10.00hrs.

*It was unanimously Resolved to note.*

## 79/15 Reports

- a) **Garff – Public Consultation Meeting.** – The Clerk reported a number of questions had been raised and answered and that there were no serious objections. This along with written responses to the Consultation indicated that the Commissioners had the public mandate to proceed with the proposed merger.
- b) **Update on Draft Garff Order. Clerk to report** – The Clerk advised that Draft Order was still with the legal draftsman at the Attorney General Chambers and that officer from the Department of Infrastructure had met with him on Monday this week, however we still waiting for the revised document. The Clerk advised the revisions were of a relatively minor nature and sort Resolution in principle from the Commissioners to approve the Garff (local Government District) Order 2015. The Clerk advised the order would still need to go to Tynwald in December and therefore it had to be submitted for inclusion via the Clerk to Tynwald by 4<sup>th</sup> November and that the consultation process would end on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. If no significant objections had been received at that time then it should be assumed that the Commissioners have the public mandate should they wish to proceed. A discussion took place with respect to representation and comments received and AM stated he still had reservations. It was Resolved to approve in principle the Garff (local Government District) Order 2015. Proposed JP, Seconded RB.
- c) **Kinrades Haulage quotation for Road Sweeping and gully cleaning – In Private.**
- d) **Campsite Shower Block progress update.** – The Clerk provided an update to the commissioners. Resolved to note.
- e) **Road Sweeping – Old Laxey Hill** – The Clerk reported he had met on site with Kinrades Haulage to look at an area at the top of old Laxey Hill where Kinrades had used a brush and shovel to remove years' worth of soil and vegetation that had built up at the side of the Road. The clerk advised the build-up was preventing leaves from being swept up by the road sweeper and had an adverse visual impact on the amenity of the area and suggested that specific areas were targeted over the next six month. A discussion took place and it was Resolved the Commissioners view the area at the top of Old Laxey Hill with a view to considering additional works elsewhere.
- f) **Approval of Statement of Accounts** - The Audited Statements of Accounts for the Year End 31st March 2015 presented to the Board for approval. The Clerk, having advised the Members that the Statements of Accounts had been received from the Independent Auditor, seeks Resolution from the Board to approved and signed by Chairman and Responsible Finance Officer. Copy of year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 Statement of Accounts circulated to Commissioners. *The Clerk advised that a statement had been included on page 25 to reflect the anticipated formation of Garff Parish Commissioners. It was unanimously Resolved to approve the Audited Statements on Accounts for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and approve the standard letter of representation to the Auditor. Proposed AM, Seconded JP.*
- Treasury Rates Debtors** – RB requested the Clerk contact Treasury Rates Department and request an up to date list of rates debtors.

## 80/15 Any Other Business

- a) AM reported that a Laxey resident Mr Bob Leith had recently completed 80 lengths of NSC swimming pool to raise money for Laxey and Lonan Live at Home Scheme. AM added that Bob should

congratulated publically on this major achievement, particularly as Bob had recently celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

- b) **Works and Amenity** – A discussion took place and it was Resolved works and Amenities are placed on the agenda for the meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November.
- c) **Village Car Parking** – **JP** asked for consideration to be given to using the land next to the Commissioner's office for off road parking for camper vans. The Clerk advised the land referred to belongs to the Department of Infrastructure. A discussion took place and it was Resolved due to the access and gradient on the land it was unsuitable for parking.
- d) **North Traffic Management Committee** – **RB** advised that the department would not be moving the double yellow on Captains Hill as it would cause issue with pedestrian safety for people coming out of the MER station footpath. **RB** stated she had pointed out that more people were coming out of the Valley Gardens onto Captains Hill and was told the department would not putting lines anywhere unless it was for health and safety reasons. **JP** asked if the Commissioners could pay for the works to move the lines. **RB** advised it would require the department to produce a scheme design and draft an order. **PK** advised this would not be possible as the local authority does not have any powers in respect of highways maintenance or marking. A discussion took place and it was Resolved to raise the matter at the next Regeneration meeting.
- e) **Regeneration** – A discussion took place with respect to the works outstanding including paving on the station and tarmac of the car parking area at the rear of the coop and apron in front of the Church and it was Resolved to raise the matter of funding and outstanding works at the next regeneration meeting and that car parking in general be raised.
- f) **Signage and Way marking** – Following meeting with Chris Pycroft in Sept, Commissioners to determine next steps to progress the scheme.  
A discussion took place and it was Resolved **JP** and **RB** review the proposals put for by David Millar and report back to the next meeting.
- g) **Torchlight Procession and Lifeboat Service** – This will take place on the evening of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately it has not been possible to coincide the date with the tides this year, however it is planned for everyone to congregate on the Promenade at 6.15pm. Santa will arrive via a mode of transport yet to be decided and lead the Torchlight Procession to the Methodist Church for the Lifeboat Service. A discussion took place and it was Resolved to note the time and date of the event.
- h) **Public Street Lighting Timings** – Due to a fault with the battery backup system currently in the morning the street lights do not come on until approximately 7.15am. To ensure the lights are on when the first bus comes through I've asked Kevin Kniveton to amend this to 6.50am.  
*A discussion took place and it was unanimously Resolved to amend the street light switch on time to 6.45pm.*
- i) **Dumbells Terrace Draft Order and Plan.** - Please find attached a draft copy with plan of an Order for Dumbell's Terrace which the Department is proposing to make and which will be advertised in the local press advising the public that this draft copy will be available for inspection at your offices. Could you please ensure that this is done and that a copy is brought to the attention of your Commissioners. Any objections to the proposal(s) which you may wish to make should be sent to Highway Services Administration, Department of Infrastructure, Sea Terminal, Douglas on or before Thursday 5 November 2015.  
*It was unanimously Resolved to approve the proposed order.*
- j) **Glen Road Recycling Area/ Car Park** – Planning advise if a different surface is applied to the area ie it's not just maintenance works then a Planning application will be required. The planning officer also enquiries if landscaping could be included in the scheme. Ellis Brown suggest the area could be paved using a permeable surface.  
*A discussion took place and it was Resolved to seek a scheme project management cost proposal from Ellis Brown.*

- k) **Parking outside Commissioner Office** – Laxey resident (name and address supplied) calls in to the office the compliant that on the evening Wednesday 21.10.15 Commissioners cars were parked on double yellow lines a and bus stop.  
*A discussion took place and it was noted that as well as the Garff Committee meeting, Mother T's also had an event on the same evening.*
- l) **Promenade Public Shelter access for Dogs** – **RB** reported she had received a complaint from a member of public who had taken a dog into the public shelter and that Mrs Pinson had approached them and told them dogs were not allow because it was food was being consumed in there. **AM** sort clarification from the other members as to their understanding on dogs being allowed in the shelter, **PK, JJ** both confirmed they were. **AM** advised this was also his understanding. **JP** responded to the allegation strongly denying she had told anyone to take their dog out of the shelter. **AM** requested that in future any queries or complaints on this matter be forwarded to he office.

Meeting Closed at 12.05pm

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