

Lonan Parish Commissioners

Statutory Meeting

Thursday 11th December 2014 at 1830 hours at Laxey Commissioners Office.

MINUTES

Present: Mr S. Clucas, Mr J. Faragher, Mr M. Burgess, Mr S. Clague, Mr P. Hill.

Apologies: Nil. **Chair:** Mr S. Clucas. **Clerk:** Mr P. Hill.

The Meeting commenced at 1830 hours.

76/14 Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 27th November 2014.

Action

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 22nd October 2014 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed by: JF. **Seconded by:** SEC.

77/14 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

- a) **SC – 69/14(b)** – asked if the Notice Board matter had progressed to which **SEC** stated that he had been too busy to deal with this and apologised for the delay. He would respond in time for the next meeting.

78/14 Private Sessions.

79/14 Planning Applications.

- a) Planning Application No 14/01360/B of 28.11.14 in respect of erection of replacement dwelling with detached garage, extension of residential curtilage and formation of new access onto highway at Wheatcroft, Ballaragh, Lonan, IM4 7PW. *Approved.*

PH

80/14 Correspondence.

- a) A Retained Duty Fireman states that the Fire Service is going to make half of them redundant with the consequence that Laxey will only have one pump. They will not be able to provide full fire safety as for example when persons are trapped they are only permitted to enter when there is another appliance present. He is to speak to the Laxey Board on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at their Statutory Meeting. *A discussion took place and PH, who was the Minute Clerk for the Laxey Meeting, explained the situation and that as a result he had written a letter of concern to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Chief Fire Officer expressing concerns about safety. The Board concurred with Laxey Commissioners and the Clerk was directed to write a letter of support.*
- b) Secretary of the Heritage Trust e-mails at 1829 hours on 01.12.14 - Just thought I'd drop you a quick email to let you know about a new book which Andrew Scarffe, the author of the Heritage Newsletter, has just brought out – The Railways and Tramways of Laxey. Ideal timing if you are looking for a present for someone as it is an excellent read! He also has another book of old Laxey images which is being launched on 6th December. As we don't currently have an online shop, if you would like to purchase a copy you can either pop into Presence of Mann which is located at Laxey Woollen Mills or order through their online shop – the web address for which is www.presenceofmann.com If you could quote "LLHT" in the comments box if you order online then the Trust will receive a small commission from each sale. *Noted.*

PH

- c) Consultation on the revision of the use classes and associated permitted changes of use - You are invited to comment on the Department's revision of the Isle of Man's use classes and associated permitted changes of use. The Department has published a consultation document that relates to the Isle of Man's use classes and associated permitted changes of use. The consultation paper sets out proposals for a revised set of use classes and a revised set of permitted development rights (allowing certain changes of use to occur without the need to obtain planning approval). The Government wants to streamline the planning legislation to cut bureaucracy, and provide greater clarity to the public and businesses alike. The Department would like your full participation on this consultation so as to be able to strike a balance between what is acceptable in regulating and relaxation of uses on the Island. We will assume, unless you notify us to the contrary, that you are content for your name and/or organisation to be published in any subsequent public review document. Submissions should be made through our online questionnaire which can be found at the following web address: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=141649284042> An electronic version of the consultation document can be found at <http://www.gov.im/ConsultationDetail.gov?id=473>. Alternatively, submissions must be marked clearly 'Consultation on the revision of the use classes and associated permitted changes of use' and should be sent by post or email to; Planning Policy Team. This consultation begins on 28th November 2014, lasting for 6 weeks and will close on **9th January 2015 at 5pm.** *Noted – No submission considered necessary.*
- d) Please find attached a letter and Q&A document from Minister Gawne concerning local services; the hardcopies of which will follow in next week's post. *Noted – Dealt with at Garff- see (e) below.*
- e) Minutes of Garff Meeting held on 3rd December 2014. *SC read the summary of actions detailed in the Minutes. A discussion took place.*
- f) Correspondence between Hon Steve Rodan and the Diocese of Sodor and Man regarding the current situation at All Saints Church, Lonan, and the reply from Bishop Patterson. Also, correspondence from the Diocese of Sodor and Man replying to Lonan Commissioners letter of 2nd December 2014, in which they stated that, the Bishop will not attend a Commissioners Meeting and that it was now in the hands of Lonan Commissioners as to how they wanted to proceed. No suggestion was made that they would provide the vital information required by the Board in order to make an informed response to their consultation. *A discussion took place regarding the latter and it was felt that it was extremely unhelpful and difficult to see how they could progress the matter. It was resolved that in the absence of any cooperation from the Diocese then there was no point in making any further submission.*
- g) **Amendments to Countryside Care Scheme** - Dear Consultee, Please find attached a copy of a consultation on proposed changes to the Countryside Care Scheme and a pro-forma response form. The consultation has been issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture following consideration of recommendations from the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, subsequent Tynwald amendments and additional considerations by the Industry Advisory Committee. Any scheme changes resulting from the consultation are anticipated to take effect in time for the next scheme year in April 2015. The closing date for responses is 5pm on Friday, 16th of January. The Department would prefer to receive responses on the pro-forma sheet electronically to CCSReview@gov.im But will accept other correspondence, including by post to the following address: 'CCS Review' Agriculture Directorate, Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture Thie Slieau Whallian, Foxdale Road, St Johns, Isle of Man, IM4 3AS The document will also shortly be available on: <http://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/agriculture-directorate/countryside-care-scheme-legislative-background/> *A discussion took place and it was resolved that individual submissions should be made.*

- h) **Royal National Lifeboat Institution** invitation to the Sir William Hillary Commemorative Service 2015 on Sunday 11th January 2015 at 1500 hours at St Georges Church, Douglas, followed by refreshments. RSVP before 31.12.14. *SC stated that he would attend on behalf of the Board.* SC/PH
- i) **Department of Infrastructure** letter of 04.12.14 from Mr Alan Hardinge, Civil Maintenance Manager, regarding Tidal Flooding Events. "During a meeting with the Department's Minister Mr Gawne recently, to discuss preparations for the predicted high tides in January, February and September next year, we agreed to look at ways in which a more collaborative approach could be taken across the island. It was suggested that I write to you as a Local Authority and ask you to consider setting up a Voluntary Work Group who could assist to disseminate information, filling and the possible deployment of sandbags, supporting businesses and residents particularly the vulnerable with preparations i.e. offering advice on the placing of sandbags in order to maximize their effectiveness against flooding. As you are aware the Department is the lead agency for the coordination and delivery of services associated with tidal flooding events, however meeting the public expectations within localised areas across the Island is becoming increasingly difficult. I would appreciate your feedback on these proposals in order for us to explore these opportunities further." *A discussion took place and it was considered that as the Parish did not have any areas that would be subject to tidal flooding there was littler that they could contribute to.*
- j) **Agneash Resident** telephones Laxey Commissioners on 08.12.14 to say that motocross riders congregate at the bit in Agneash where the road widens between Ballacowle Farmhouse and the Village and dump litter and do wheelies etc. in the road. He stated that he had spoken to Police but they had referred him to the Local Authority. He added that he picked up the litter after them and it happens every Sunday. He requested a litter bin. *A discussion took place when the Board expressed their sympathy for the problems there, but did not believe that a litter bin would make any difference. It was resolved that the Clerk should speak to the complainant again and also raise the matter at the next Northern neighbourhood Policing Team meeting.* PH
- k) **The Isle of Man Department of Health & Social Care** is undertaking a public consultation on a draft Public Health (Tobacco) Bill. This follows on from a previous public consultation in late 2012. If you would be interested in contributing to this consultation please click on the hyperlink below which will take you to the consultation document. The risks of exposure to second hand smoke are well established on the Island with legislation, in Part 2 of the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2006, already banning smoking in certain premises (including pubs) and in vehicles used for work. However, there are no restrictions in other vehicles even though research has found that second-hand smoke concentrations in vehicles are often greater than in other restricted areas such as pubs. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of second-hand smoke and exposure increases the risk of cot death, glue ear, asthma and other respiratory diseases. The previous public consultation demonstrated that the public agreed that further efforts to decrease the exposure of young people to second-hand smoke should be made, and, in particular, agreed that smoking in cars where children were present should be banned. The DHSC is, therefore, pleased that the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture ('DEFA') has supported a request for them to bring forward regulations in this area, and is happy to include provision in this draft Bill for the introduction of fixed penalty notices for use in association with these regulations and other smoking offences. Whilst appreciating that many of you will already have commented on the policy consultation, I hope you will be able to find the time to read through this document and the draft Bill and to let us have any additional views you might have. **Comments should be submitted by Monday 19th January 2014.** *Noted.*
- l) Unsigned note found on 02.12.14 that reads, 'Road Sign on Croit-e-Quill Road needs renewing. *The Board were disappointed that the complainant chose to raise this matter in this way. PH stated that the sign was opposite the junction with Church Road and that it needed cleaning and repositioning,*

not replacing. SC stated that he would examine the aforesaid sign.

- m) Freedom of Information Bill 2014** - Please find attached a letter regarding the Freedom of Information 2014 Bill from the Minister for Policy and Reform, together with enclosures stated. The letter advises Local Authorities that these provisions will include them from January 2018 but preparations need to be started now. Attachments include Guidance Notes and Memorandum. *A discussion took place and it was felt that there was no need to react at this stage, but raise the matter again in 2016 or thereafter. PH stated that in his entire time with the Authority only one person had ever asked for information, and sadly he has since passed away. He added that Lonan has always adopted an open and transparent approach to their functions.*

81/14 Enforcement Matters.

- a)** *No new matters.*

83/14 Any Other Business.

- a)** **SEC** – Asked what progress was being made at Green Gables. **PH** replied that the work is to resume in the new year. **PH** added that he has arranged to speak to the owner at that time.
- b)** **PH – 70/14(a)** – Presented a letter of closure in respect of the HBOS Account for signature by **SC** and **JF**.

82/14 Special Agenda Items.

- a)** **To discuss the Rates for the Financial Year 2015 to 2016.**

Private Discussions

At the conclusion of the rate setting exercise an informal discussion took place regarding the provision of local services and the tendering of contracts whether within the Garff Joint Initiative Committee or individually by each Authority.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 2020 hours.

The next Statutory Meeting of the Authority will be on Tuesday 6th January 2015 at 1830 hours.