

Lonan Parish Commissioners

Statutory Meeting

Tuesday 15th January 2013 at 1815 hours in the Lonan Commissioners Office.

MINUTES

Present: Mr S. Clucas, Mr N. Dobson, Mr J. Faragher, Mr M. Burgess, Mr S. Clague, Mr P. Hill. **Apologies:** Nil.
Chair: Mr N. Dobson. **Clerk:** Mr P. Hill.

The Meeting commenced at 1815 hours.

100/12 Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 18th December 2012.

Action

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 18th December 2012 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed by: SC. **Seconded by:** JF.

101/12 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

- a) **ND – 93/12(a)** – Asked the Clerk what progress had been made with regards to the Lonan Gentlemen’s Fellowship Signs to which **PH** stated that the matter was still on-going and yet to be submitted to a design maker for a quotation and action. **PH**
- b) **ND – 93/12(c)** – Informed the Board that the Bus Stop was not going to be moved and that they could proceed with the Street Light. **PH** stated that there were problems and this could be dealt with at correspondence item 106/12(h). **106/12 (h)**
- c) **ND – 96/12(a)** – Informed the Board that he had been in contact with the Vicar regarding the provision of a public address system in All Saints Church and that he had offered 50% of the funds necessary if the remainder was found elsewhere. A discussion took place regarding the responsibility of a Local Authority to contribute towards this, during which **PH** repeated his earlier concerns. (See original note). **ND** re stated the position that the Church was used frequently as a place of public amenity in addition to its Christian role and that it was an appropriate use of funds. **ND** concluded by adding that he was still awaiting a response to the proposals. **ND**

102/12 Minutes of the Extraordinary Rates Meeting of 8th January 2013.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Rates Meeting of 8th January 2013 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed by: JF. **Seconded by:** SC.

103/12 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

- a) **SEC – 98/12(a)** – Sought clarification of the roles of the auditors and pre-auditors.

104/12 Private Sessions.

- a) The Clerk presented the Statement of Accounts for the month of December 2012, and these were approved by the Board.

Proposed by: SC **Seconded by:** JF.

- b) The Clerk presented the interim Financial Statement of Accounts for the month of January 2013, and these were noted by the Board. *Noted by the Board.*
- c) The Clerk presented the Clerk's Time Sheet for the period ending 5th January 2013 and this was approved by the Board. **Proposed by: SC Seconded by: JF.**
- d) The Clerk presented the Clerk's Time Sheet for the month ending 31st December 2012, in respect of the attachment to Laxey Village Commissioners, and this was noted by the Board.
- e) The Clerk presented the Monthly Waste Statistics for December 2012, and the monthly comparison. *Noted by the Board.*

105/12 Planning Applications.

- a) Planning Amendment Notice No 12/01321/B of 18.12.12 in respect of formation of re-located driveway and vehicular access incorporating part of adjacent field into residential curtilage at Green Hills, Pinfold Hill, Lonan, IM4 7HJ. *Noted by the Board.* PH
- b) Planning Application No 12/01668/B of 18.12.12 in respect of alterations, replacement and enclosure of space below raised decking to rear of dwelling comprising amendments to 12/00670/B (Approved by LPC) at Green Oak, Clay Head Road, Baldrine. *Approved.* PH
- c) Planning Application No 12/01677/B of 19.12.12 in respect of alterations and erection of two storey extension to dwelling at Sea View, Ballaragh Road, Lonan. *Approved.* PH
- d) Planning Application No 12/01690/B of 21.12.12 in respect of erection of a replacement dwelling at White Cottage, Pinfold Hill, Lonan. *Approved.* PH
- e) Planning Appeal Hearing Notice No 12/01160/B of 03.01.13 in respect of appeal against refusal to allow floodlights at the Baldrine Ménage. Hearing to take place on Wednesday 6th February 2013 at 09320 hours at Government Offices. Details of attendees. *There were no Commissioners available on the date of the hearing and the Clerk was requesting to ask the Planning Appeals secretary to have their submission read.* PH
- f) Planning Application No 13/00028/B of 11.01.13 in respect of retrospective permission to erect fence at Balmaha, Croit-e-Quill Road, Lonan. *A full discussion took place and it was unanimously resolved to refuse the application on the grounds that the height was not compliant with current planning regulations; That the nature and colour of the plastic fence, (near pink), together with its height had an unacceptable adverse impact on the visual amenity in the area and was out of keeping with the surroundings; The Board remains opposed to retrospective applications.* PH

106/12 Correspondence.

- a) Letter from the Municipal Association regarding proposals to hold locally based training courses through the Association. The letter outlines various agreed proposals for consideration by the member boards. *SC explained the content and purpose of the letter and sought the approval of the Board to indicate at the next Municipal Meeting their support for the proposals contained therein. Agreed.* SC
- b) Invitation from Chief Minister to the Holocaust Memorial Day Service on Sunday 27th January 2013 at 1445 hours at St German's Cathedral, Cathedral Close, Peel. *MB/JF to attend.* MB/JF

- c) Douglas Corporation e-mails at 1047 hours on 21.12.12 regarding ECAS Budgets. ‘Attached are minutes of the Joint Civic Amenity Site Committee meetings on 3rd and 17th December respectively. I will be putting them to the Council at its next meeting, on 9th January, 2012. The minutes of the special meeting on 17th December refer to the estimates for next year, and the figure of £55.00 per ton gate fee. As suggested in my e-mail of 18th December, I do not propose to convene a special meeting to review the estimates in the light of the now definite figure of £57.35 per ton. Instead it is more important that each participating Authority should be aware of its share of the overall cost in order to make suitable allowance in its estimates. (The revised schedule was attached to my e-mail on 18th December). The Joint Committee will then have the opportunity to approve the revised estimates on 11th February, with the security of knowing that each Authority is aware of them.’
Noted.
- d) Steve Rodan e-mails at 1838 hours on 03.01.13 regarding Tynwald Order Paper for January that involves Local Authorities in that they intend to implement proposals regarding fact that Local Authorities should pay for the services they provide; Review how joint funding can take place; All Island refuse Collection. SR seeks details of our response top Scope of Government Report. (He is away from 05.01.13 to 11.01.13 but will monitor e-mails). *ND read the e-mail to the Board and a comprehensive discussion took place during which it was agreed in principle that the matter should be raised at the forthcoming Garff Joint Initiative Committee Meeting. It was further agreed that proposals should be considered to hold public meetings throughout Garff to make the public aware of the true implications of the Scope of Government Report and the impact it will have on the rural communities in relation to rates and the provision of affordable and efficient services.*
- e) Chief Constable Gary Roberts writes on 03.01.13 to state how important to the safety of the Island the contact is with their partners, such as Local Authorities. He attaches a copy of the Constabulary Strategic Plan for 2012 to 2016 and would be happy to meet and discuss the report. *Noted.*
- f) Stephen Pitts of Buchanan & Pitts e-mails at 1533 hours on 07.01.13 a quotation for the painting of the Pillar Clock. *PH explained that he had written to seven Contractors, including the Off Island Company that has the service contract, and that the aforementioned had replied by return of post with a quotation and timescale, and only two Isle of Man based Companies had replied with Buchanan & Pitts being the only one that had provided a quotation. The matter had been on-going since September. A discussion took place and SEC asked that the matter be put back for one month to the next meeting. Agreed.* PH
- g) Boundary Review Committee Consultation Report on revised Electoral Areas to create 12 Constituencies with two MHKs in each and each area having approximately the same population. *A full discussion took place during which ND expressed the view that the proposal of equal representation was absolutely correct but that the proposal in relation to the changes to the East and North were not in the local interest and believed that Maughold should remain in the east with Laxey and Lonan as they were three Local Authorities who were actively working together. This working was fully in accordance with Government recommendations for reform. They agreed that a better model would be Onchan Village, Laxey, Lonan and Maughold and the formula would equally balance the figures.* PH
- h) Resident of Main Road, Baldrine, IM4 6DU, writes to object to the proposal to erect a lamp post by the Bus Stop between High Standing and Silverdale on the grounds that the light output would cause loss of amenity and enjoyment of her property at night time. *A discussion took place during which it was acknowledged that in the interests of road safety it was essential that this light was installed. PH stated that he would investigate with the MEA whether or not a shield could be put on the lamp* PH

unit to deflect the light away from the complainant's property. **PH** also added that Lonan did not have a morning street light burn and the lamp was for the benefit of the south bound bus stop which would need one. He would see if this lamp could be put onto a separate timing switch.

- i) Resident of Highfield Drive telephones asking whether the street lights can come on in the morning. **PH**
After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a quotation to all of Lonans' street lights put onto a morning burn.
- j) Residents of Laxey Road, near Ballabeg, write on 12th and 13th January to the Highways Department and Steve Rodan regarding the speed limit between Ballabeg and Baldrine. Following a fatal accident they are requesting that a speed limit be imposed on this de-restricted stretch of road and suggests 50 mph together with a raised pavement along the entire length of the road. *The matter was discussed and it was acknowledged that the board have raised this issue a number of times during the previous years and recognise that consideration needs to be given to imposing some restriction.*
- k) DoI Health & Safety at Work Inspectorate writes on 14.01.13 regarding Local Government Health and Safety Responsibilities. To ensure that Local Authorities are compliant with current legislation they are holding a seminar in late March to early April and to which representatives are welcome. **PH** stated that he would attend on behalf of the Board.

107/12 Enforcement Matters.

No new matters.

108/12 Special Agenda Items.

- a) **Rates Estimate for 2013 to 2014.**
ND opened the rates discussion by proposing that consideration be given to incorporating the refuse charges within the general rate. The rationale being that as refuse costs steadily increased it would be fairer on the less well off if the charge was placed this way. **PH** informed the meeting that at the current costing it would be equal to 79 pence in the pound. A full discussion took place and it was generally agreed that the current charging method should remain for the forthcoming year, but could be reviewed for the year 2014 to 2015. There then followed a discussion regarding the proposed 57 p in the pound estimate provided by the Clerk following their calculations on 8th January last. There was a difference of opinion with one Commissioner stating the rate should rise to 70 pence in the pound another suggesting 60 pence in the pound and one Commissioner suggesting that 57 pence was correct. The majority agreed that the Contingency General should not be allowed to fall too low. At the end of the discussion a Rate of 60 pence in the pound was **Proposed by ND** and **Seconded by JF**, with **MB/SEC** in agreement.
- b) **Grass Cutting Contract – 2013.**
PH introduced this matter as the new season would commence in March. The Board agreed that the current Contractor was doing an excellent job and had improved the area. **ND** raised the question as to whether it needed to be put out to tender and **PH** did not think that it was necessary due to the value of the Contract. **PH** suggested offering a three year renewal on the basis of favourable terms. **SC** suggested that the price should be frozen in exchange for such a period or subject to annual review. This was agreed and the Clerk was directed to put this proposal to the Contractor.

109/12 Any Other Business.

- a) **JF** – raised the matter of the bushes at the Millennium Gardens and that they still had not been cut back to the level required. **PH** stated that he had instructed the Contractor in line with the Boards’ directions but that concerns had been expressed by him that making too severe a cut at this time of year could be harmful, but had complied. A discussion took place.
- b) **SEC** – raised the matter of the Baldrine sign located on the approach to Baldrine from the north, in that it was leaning and accident damaged. **PH** stated that this matter had been reported to the Police with a view to obtaining the details of the driver(s) responsible in order that compensation could be obtained, but they had not been forthcoming. He continued by stating that it had been hit several times and it would not be possible to specifically identify the offender. The Board agreed that the sign should be replaced and that a quotation should be obtained. **PH** stated that there was no point in doing this unless consideration was given to moving it to a safer location, near the 30 mph sign, before the bend. **JF** stated that he would speak to the land owner before a quotation was obtained. **PH/JF**

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 2010 hours.

The next Statutory Meeting of the Authority will be held on Tuesday 19th February 2013 at 1815 hours.