

Lonan Parish Commissioners

Statutory Meeting

Tuesday 15th September 2015 at 1830 hours at Laxey Commissioners Office.

MINUTES

Present: Mr N. Dobson, Mr J. Faragher, Mr S. Clague, Mr P. Hill. **Apologies:** Mr S. Clucas.

Chair: Mr J. Faragher. **Clerk:** Mr P. Hill.

The Meeting commenced at 1830 hours.

48/15 Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 18th August 2015.

Action

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 18th August 2015 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed by: SEC. **Seconded by:** MB.

49/15 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

- a) **PH – 44/15(b)** – Advised the Board that Inspector Kneen would now attend the next meeting.

50/15 Private Sessions.

51/15 Planning Applications.

- a) Planning Application No 15/00945/B of 17.08.15 in respect of door and window alterations to side and rear elevations at 25, Baldrine Park, Baldrine, IM4 6DB. **PH**
Approved.
- b) Planning Application No 15/00997/B of 28.08.15 in respect of alterations, erection of a two storey extension, creation of access and additional parking provision to dwelling at Baljean Cottage, Baldhoon Road, Lonan, IM4 7QL. **PH**
Approved.
- c) Planning Application No. 15/01014/B of 07.09.15 in respect of conversion of existing outbuildings into two holiday cottages and extension of garage to form log store, workshop and implement shed at Close Mooar Farm, Glen Roy, Lonan, IM4 7QF. **PH**
Approved.

52/15 Correspondence.

- a) Consultation on streamlining the Income Tax System. Treasury Minister Eddie Teare MHK has announced the start of a public consultation on moves to further simplify the Island's income tax system and lift thousands of the lower paid out of the tax net. The proposals, first set out in this year's Manx Budget, would see the abolition of the lower 10% income tax rate, the effect of which would be counterbalanced by a significant increase in personal allowances, from £9,500 per person to around £14,000. In his Budget speech in February, Mr Teare explained that the change would leave the Island with a single personal income tax rate of 20%, after the personal allowance. He went on: 'I will announce the level of the personal allowance for 2016/17 in my Budget speech next year but my aim is to ensure that as a consequence of this change as many people as possible on low incomes benefit and I hope revenues will permit me to also ensure that nobody will be worse off. 'It will mean that over 10,000 low paid people will no longer have a tax liability. It will also significantly simplify the income tax system and reduce the instances where income tax acts as a disincentive to paid employment. This will also enable us to divert resources to ensure that those who should pay do pay.' The Minister yesterday repeated his hope that income tax revenues this year would be sufficient to permit a level of personal allowance high enough to ensure that no-one

paid more tax as a result of the removal of the 10% rate. He added that it was still too early to say with any certainty whether or not this would be achieved. The Treasury consultation 'Proposed Changes to Individual Taxation' starts today (Friday August 14, 2015) and is due to close on Friday October 9. It is available in the consultations section of the Government website – <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/government/government-consultations/> *Noted.*

- b) [Consultation on New Regulations for Public Health \(Tobacco\) Bill \(Part 1\)](#) The Public Health (Tobacco) (Amendment) Bill successfully completed its passage through the Branches of Tynwald at the end of June 2015, and is now awaiting Royal Assent. In association with the amended Act, the DHSC is progressing new Regulations under part 1 of the Act and would like to seek your comments. The New Regulations can essentially be broken down into 3 parts: 1) Displays of tobacco products; 2) Displays of price lists; and 3) Brandsharing. Comments should be submitted by Monday 28th September 2015 in writing, by post to: Tobacco Control Regulations 2015 Consultation Department of Health and Social Care Crookall House, Demesne Road, Douglas IM13QA or by email to: colin.brew@gov.im *Noted.*
- c) Consultation on proposed changes to National Insurance for Workers over State Pension Age - Proposal to end age exemption from National Insurance payments. The Treasury has launched a public consultation on a proposal to stop workers being exempted from making National Insurance contributions once they reach state retirement age. The change would mean that anyone who is employed or self-employed beyond state retirement age would pay National Insurance (NI) in the same way as their younger counterparts. Ending the age exemption was one of the recommendations from consultancy Ci65 in its report on the challenges facing the Island's state pensions and benefits system, which is largely funded by NI contributions. Announcing the proposal in his Budget speech in February this year, Treasury Minister Eddie Teare MHK said: 'I see no reason why anybody should effectively get a pay rise courtesy of the National Insurance Fund when they reach state retirement age.' He added that this would be a significant change so it would not be introduced immediately and would be considered over the next twelve months. The Treasury consultation 'Proposed Changes to National Insurance for Workers over State Pension Age' opens today (Wednesday August 19, 2015) and closes on Wednesday October 14. It is available in the consultations section of the Government website – <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/government/government-consultations/> *A discussion took place and the matter was noted.*
- d) Douglas Corporation e-mail regarding provision of services in Garff. *A discussion took place and it was resolved that any decision regarding the provision of services by Douglas Corporation or other providers would be deferred to the next meeting of the Garff Joint Initiative Committee when more detailed information would be available.*
- e) (1). Garff (Local Government District) Order 2015 – As amended. (2). Public Meeting Suggested Consultation Format. (3). Garff Rates Exercise. (4). Minutes of Garff Meeting of 9th September 2015. (5). Proposed Content of letter to Residents. *Items (1) to (4) were discussed and noted. (5). ND led the discussion in this regards and suggested that the letter should contain three essential points, (i). Why? To explain the pros and cons or a merger; (ii). How? Would this happen and what would the merger involve in relation to local representation and accountability; (iii). How? Would the merger work in relation to finances, rates and provision of services. He added that it would be beneficial to indicate the support that the Government is giving to voluntary mergers as distinct from forced mergers as this was more beneficial to both the residents and government alike. PH raised the matter of enclosing a 'Yes' or 'No' Card in the letter and after a discussion it was resolved by majority that this was not a good idea. JF remained in favour. As regards the Public meeting(s) ND believed that they should take exactly the same format and personnel and that he was*

willing to represent Lonan. **JF** indicated his support for **SC** in this role and a discussion took place. The matter was unresolved.

- f) Minister for Home Affairs, letter with regards to a recent email concerning LPC Submission in respect of the Police (Amendment) Bill 2015. Yours sincerely, Joey. **Hon Watterson seeks more information about the Commissioners Concerns in relation to “Clause 4 (Police powers for contracted staff). *The Commissioners said* – “Employing Civilian Staff in Custody Suites without the necessary powers, training and policing skills is completely unacceptable and undermines the value of those Officers so employed. The investigation process doesn’t stop at the Custody Officers door and cases can be lost for want of correct procedures whilst detained”. A discussion took place and **PH** stated that he was happy to respond to the letter.** PH

53/15 Enforcement Matters.

- a) *No new matters.*

54/15 Special Agenda Items.

- a) **Report on Costs for All Saints Church.** (*Deferred from SM – 18.08.15 – 39/15(a).*) PH
A discussion took place and it was resolved to ask Mr Rodan to call a meeting of interested parties as indicated in his earlier communication.

55/15 Any Other Business.

- a) **SEC** – Expressed his concern that he was not present when Planning Application 15/00797/B was discussed and believed that the meeting should not have been tagged onto the end of the Garff Meeting. **ND** explained the procedure adopted by Lonan Commissioners in respect of Applications that fell between meetings and that the meeting and purpose referred to above was properly notified.
- b) **SEC** – Asked to see a copy of Amended Planning Application 15/00668/B and was satisfied that these met his concerns.
- c) **SEC** – Asked what progress had been made regarding Green Gables and the Clerk provided an update and that he would continue to try and resolve the situation as he was now in dialogue with the Environmental Health Department. PH
- d) **SEC** – referred to the green railings opposite the Methodist Chapel and the appalling state of them. The Clerk stated that he had contacted the Department as previously requested but had not had any response. He would contact them again. PH
- e) **ND** – commented on the 50 mph limit that had been imposed on the stretch of road between Whitebridge and Baldrine. **PH** informed the Board that a temporary Order had been issued in this regard and it was in place whilst hedge cutting was undertaken.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1950 hours.

The next Statutory Meeting of the Authority will be on Tuesday 20th October 2015 at 1830 hours