

# Lonan Parish Commissioners

## Statutory Meeting

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 1815 hours in the Laxey Commissioners Office.

## MINUTES

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

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

The Meeting commenced at 1815 hours.

### 74/13 Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.

Action

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

**Proposed by: ND. Seconded by: MB.**

### 75/13 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

- a) **ND – 70/13(b)** – informed the meeting that with regret he was unable to attend this meeting, but **SC** was able to attend and represent the Board.

### 76/13 Private Sessions.

### 77/13 Planning Applications.

- a) Planning Application Number 13/91307/B of 06.11.13 in respect of erection of agricultural buildings and erection of extensions to existing agricultural buildings at Ballachrink Moar Farm, Ramsey Road, Lonan, IM4 7PP. **PH**  
*Approved.*
- b) Planning Application No 13/91318/B of 08.11.13 in respect of alterations and erection of dormers to dwelling at Bridle Cottage, Baldrine Road, Baldrine, IM4 6EB. **PH**  
*Approved.*
- c) Planning Application No 13/91323/B of 11.11.13 in respect of alterations to vehicular access and driveway at Ballacowle Cottage, Agneash, Lonan, IM4 7NP. **PH**  
*Approved.*
- d) Planning Application No 13/91331/B of 11.11.13 in respect of erection of an extension to rear of garage at detached garage block, Cooil Roi Mansion, Barroose Road, Baldrine, IM4 6AP. **PH**  
*Approved.*

### 78/13 Correspondence.

- a) Onchan Commissioners e-mail at 0912 hours on 28.10.13 a copy of a letter sent to the Chief Minister last week regarding the Government's intention to reform refuse collection without consulting the stakeholders, i.e. the Local Authorities. *A discussion took place and they felt that these proposals demonstrated just exactly how disjointed and dysfunctional the Government was as on the one hand they were talking about devolving functions to Local Authorities and on the other hand they were taking them away. The matter of a proposal to implement an all island refuse collection service was another example.*
- b) Department of Social Care e-mails at 0855 hours on 04.11.13 the David Tolson Reports - The independent review reports from the David Tolson Partnership have been uploaded to the Isle of Man Government Website and can be accessed by using the following link;

<http://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/social-care/housing-division/housing-policy-review/> The Departments strategic housing policy recommendations have been developed with input from both the review findings and your invaluable contribution to the review process over the last year. The Tynwald report containing the Department recommendations will be shared with all Authorities at the same time as Tynwald members receive the paper this week. [Lauren.Staniford@gov.im](mailto:Lauren.Staniford@gov.im) e-mails at 1621 hours on 05.11.13 - As you may be aware, a briefing was held this afternoon for Tynwald members regarding the housing review recommendations report which will be discussed at November Tynwald. Local Authorities have been invited to a meeting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November evening to discuss the recommendation report. To ensure this can be a detailed discussion a copy of this report has been sent out in the post to all Local Authorities today. The report has been issued in confidence as the report will not be publically available until Thursday. *Noted as above.*

- c) Onchan Board is meeting with Mr Robertshaw tonight on 14.11.13. The outcome will probably be a letter to all MHKs declaring that we wish to remain as a single housing authority but with management agreements with others, maintaining independence. One or two of our commissioners are quite willing to come to a meeting to discuss it with your elected members, if that is a direction you wish to consider. [malcolmhulme@onchan.org.im](mailto:malcolmhulme@onchan.org.im) e-mails at 1229 hours on 15.11.13 a copy of their letter to Robertshaw following this recent meeting. *The subject matter of this was discussed at item (a) above but with regards to the request by Onchan to meet the members at the next Garff Meeting, was discussed. They were in full agreement that they should attend and after deliberation as to a suitable date for the next meeting, given Laxey Commissioners request at item (e) below, the most suitable date this year was Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 at 1900 hours.*
- d) Onchan Commissioners e-mail at 1643 hours on 06.11.13 - Dear Clerks, You will obviously be aware that Onchan District Commissioners do not support the creation of regional housing bodies, largely because it has not been shown that the current arrangements are in any way inefficient. You will also recall that we met with your authorities some little time ago to discuss a possible sharing or management arrangement between ourselves and the Garff Initiative that would possibly enable us all to retain our independence and our local responsibilities. I would be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of your Boards once more. *Noted as above.*
- e) Laxey Commissioners informs Maughold and Lonan that the next Garff meeting which is scheduled for 27th November clashes with a Laxey Regeneration meeting. They request that Lonan arranges an alternative date as the meeting is being chaired by them. *See item (c) above.*
- f) Municipal Association e-mails on 10.11.13 regarding proposed ending of benefits being paid at Post Offices - This matter was discussed at our meeting held on 31 October. Our Vice-Chairman, Mrs Viv Quane, suggested that the Municipal Association should consider writing to Mr Robertshaw. After discussion it was agreed that we should first ascertain the views of all our membership. It would be appreciated if you would kindly advise me of your Board's view on this issue – at the earliest possible opportunity – so that the matter may be progressed at our next monthly meeting on 28 November, our last meeting of the year. **MB** *highlighted the importance of Post Offices particularly in the rural communities and the loss of this income would inevitably lead to the closure of a number of them. Laxey for example is losing its Bank and to lose the Post Office would be unthinkable. As above it demonstrated how dysfunctional the Government was when two Government Departments can act against each other.*
- g) Department of Health Public Consultation on Health Care Professionals Bill 2014 of 04.11.13. This draft of the Health Care Professionals Bill represents a crucial piece of legislation which is essential

to ensure that doctors practising medicine in the Isle of Man can undergo a process of General Medical Council revalidation. Without this revalidation, doctors will not be able to practise on the Island and the Department of Health would not be able to provide the majority of the Island's health services to the public. Submissions before Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 to Department of Health, Crookall House, Demesne Road, Douglas, IM1 3QA or by e-mail to [dh@gov.im](mailto:dh@gov.im) **PH** handed each member a copy of the Consultation Booklet and asked them to report back before 2<sup>nd</sup> December with any views that they may have.

- h)** Hon S. Rodan writes on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in response to the Lonan Commissioners letter of 30<sup>th</sup> October regarding Rate Revaluations and Temporary Reductions. He states, and I quote verbatim – “Thank you for your letter of 30<sup>th</sup> October advising of the Board’s request for my support to amend the legislation on rates and rateable values to end the policy of temporary rate reductions or zero classifications. I assume the legislation referred to is the Rating and Valuation Act 1983 and the Rent and rating Appeals Act 1986, which provide for objection to an entry on the valuation list to be made to the Rent and Rating Appeal Commissioners on grounds of, for example, loss of amenity with respect to a particular property. This would represent a major change of long-standing policy and principle, and would need to be backed and with persuasive evidence in favour of such a change. You mention that the Board’s provision of services can be hindered by unforeseen reductions in the overall rateable value of the Authority (with other ratepayers effectively subsidising such reductions). Further information on this loss of income to the Authority and the effect of provision of services would be appreciated; together with the outcome of any consultation or discussion with the Municipal Association, if such has taken place, as clearly there would be an impact across the whole of Local Government. I would then be in a position to consider the matter further.” *Noted.*
- i)** Copy of letter from Laxey Commissioners to Department of Infrastructure regarding proposal to reduce Board Attendance Allowance from set £30.00 to £7.50 per hour or part thereof up to a maximum of £30.00, which was not part of the consultation. *A discussion took place when it was noted that this proposal was not part of the consultation that took place earlier in the year. The consensus of opinion was that this represented a slap in the face for all Local Authority Commissioners, but more so the rural and smaller ones that mostly conduct their meetings in the evening. They believed that most, if not all individuals who stood as Commissioners did not do so on monetary grounds, but to contribute to the Community in which they lived and this represented a slur on their integrity and intentions. It was commented that the Chief Minister has made no secret of the fact that he wants to get rid of the smaller Local Authorities and it may be that this yet another back door attempt to achieve this by creating a perception amongst prospective Commissioners that their services did not represent any value. It was a disgrace. ND requested permission to write to the Press on behalf of the Board and this was agreed.*
- j)** Maughold Commissioners seek opinion about proposal to follow Port St Mary’s example and write to all residents in Garff encouraging them to recycle in view of the ever escalating cost of disposal. *A discussion took place and they were not in favour of this as it had been done previously and the low disposal figures reflected the fact that there was a good recycling culture in Garff.*
- k)** Port St Mary Commissioners are holding their annual Celebration of Christmas on Friday 6 December 2013 in the Town Hall, Port St Mary starting at 7.30pm. The doors will be open from 6.30pm to allow the public to shop at the local stalls which will also be present in the hall. There will be refreshments served after the carol service followed by fireworks. Our Chairman, Mrs B McCabe wishes to extend a cordial invitation to your Chairman and a guest to attend the event, where chains of office are encouraged to be worn. We would be grateful if you could indicate whether or not your Chairman is able to attend. We look

ND  
PH

PH

PH

forward to sharing our Christmas celebration with you. *Unfortunately this coincided with a function being organised by Lonan Commissioners.*

**79/13 Enforcement Matters.**

- a) No new matters.

**80/13 Special Agenda Items.**

- a) None.

**81/13 Any Other Business.**

- a) None.

**There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1850 hours.**

**The next Statutory Meeting of the Authority will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 1815 hours.**