

Lonan Parish Commissioners

Statutory Meeting

Tuesday 21st January 2014 at 1815 hours in the Laxey Commissioners Office.

MINUTES

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

Guest: Mr M. Couch, Chief Financial Officer. **Chair:** Mr J. Faragher. **Clerk:** Mr P. Hill.

The Meeting commenced at 1815 hours.

94/13 Meeting with Mr M. Couch, Chief Financial Officer, to discuss Rate Debtors.

Action

JF welcomed **MC** to the meeting and outlined the reason why the Board had requested his attendance. A discussion followed regarding the problems facing Local Authorities caused by rate debtors, whether through hardship or avoidance, and what measures could be put in place to encourage residents to meet their financial obligations. A number of scenarios were considered. **MC** outlined the difficulties also facing Central Government in relation to income tax, value added tax and other sources of income that were owed, indicating that the amount was quite substantial. He confirmed that they had instigated a number of prosecutions, the details of which were published in the local newspapers. Naming and shaming, placing a lean on property and goods seizures were options to be considered. The meeting concluded with expressions of thanks by **MC** and the Board, for what was seen to be a productive discussion. **MC** departed at 1945 hours.

95/13 Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 11th December 2013.

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 11th December 2013 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed by: ND. Seconded by: SC.

96/13 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

There were no matters.

97/13 Minutes of the Extraordinary Rates Meeting of 7th January 2014.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Rates Meeting of 7th January 2014 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed by: SC. Seconded by: MB.

98/13 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

There were no matters.

99/13 Private Sessions.

100/13 Planning Applications.

- a) Planning Application No 13/91518/B of 20.12.13 in respect of erection of an extension to existing stables at Field 614732, Baldrine Ménage, Baldrine Road, Baldrine. *A lengthy discussion took place and it was agreed that whilst they had no objection to the extension in principle, they were unable to recommend approval. The grounds being that the stable block to which the extension was to be applied did not have the benefit of formal planning permission. Planning approval had been granted in 2011 by the Department, and supported by the Board, (PA 10/01576/B refers), but the building that was subsequently erected was not the building for which approval had been given and did not at all resemble the said approval, thus it does not have the benefit of approval. The Board*

PH

recommended that in refusing this application, the applicant should submit a retrospective application in respect of the whole stable block in order to legitimise it in law. The Board fully supports the operation of this facility. *Refuse.*

- b) Planning Application No 13/91534/B of 24.12.13 in respect of erection of a replacement dwelling with garage block and remedial work to existing barn and outbuilding at Baldromma Christian, Ballamenagh Road, Baldrine, IM4 6AG. PH
Approved.
- c) Planning Application No 13/91538/B of 31.12.13 in respect of retrospective application for erection of a shed with lean to shelter at Riversdale, Glen Roy, Lonan, IM4 7QB. PH
Approved.
- d) Planning Application No 14/00024/B of 09.01.14 in respect of erection of a summer house at Garden House, Clay Head Road, Baldrine, IM4 6DP. PH
Approved.
- e) Planning Application No 14/00048/C of 14.01.14 in respect of change of use from tourist accommodation to residential at Hilltop, Croit-e-Quill Road, Lonan, IM4 7JQ. PH
Approved.

101/13 Correspondence.

- a) Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Audit & Financial Reporting. Please find attached letter in relation to a Treasury consultation in relation to the application of the Audit Act 2006 to the Local Government sector. The relevant consultation documents are available on the Government's website <http://www.gov.im/ConsultationDetail.gov?id=417>, however for convenience I also attach the consultation paper and word version of the response form for your consideration (a pdf version is available on the website). I will be in touch in the New Year to finalise arrangements for a meeting at the end of January. Thank you in anticipation of your consideration of this matter and may I also take this opportunity to offer you my best wishes for the festive period. *The Board discussed this matter and presented a number of responses with the particular note in respect of the internal audit level. They questioned the benefits of it and also the level at which the requirement to conduct one had not changed since its inception in 2006, despite rising inflationary costs.* PH
- b) Mr Wrigley writes on 24.12.13 regarding Alternative Means of Service Delivery Municipal Waste Management. The letter states – ‘Recommendation 5 of the Council of Ministers response to the Scope of Government Report states: ‘CoMin will set out proposals for reform of two of the biggest areas of expenditure and commonality of Local Authorities, which are housing and waste collection and disposal activities and report to Tynwald by Autumn 2013.’ The Department has undertaken a high level review and identified three options to the Council of Ministers. As a stakeholder, we want your views on the three options, which are outlined in this letter. The key services considered were: **Waste Collection** – (Refuse Collection/Civic Amenity Sites/Bring Bank and Kerbside recycling collections, and **Waste Disposal**, (Energy from Waste Plant/Landfill). Mr Wrigley would be happy to attend Local Authority Meetings to discuss these proposals and in any event responses to the document must be submitted **before Friday 7th February 2014**. *The Board examined the Report in detail and responded to the questionnaire. The Clerk stated that he would complete the said questionnaire and submit it with the Boards’ approval after the forthcoming Garff Joint Initiative Committee on 12th February.* PH
- c) Malew Parish Commissioners invitation to their Civic Service on Sunday 2nd March 2014 at 1500 hours at the Abbey Church, Ballasalla followed by refreshments. PH/JF
JF to attend.
- d) Mr Ronan writes on 09.01.14 regarding the Tynwald motion on the Isle of Man’s Food Production that he has submitted. The motion requests that the Minister for DEFA, develops a strategy and action plan to increase GDP from locally grown, sourced and processed foods to 7%; and represents a fourfold increase since the 2011 report. If you agree with the proposal please contact your Tynwald representative and gain public support. *Noted.*

- e) Minutes of the Municipal Meeting of 28.11.13. *Noted.*
- f) Minutes of Garff Meeting – 14.01.14. *Noted.*
- g) Office of the Clerk of Tynwald writes on 16.01.14 regarding the Tynwald Garden Party on Sunday 6th July 2014. Letter requests details of Commissioner and Guest and to send the information to the Head of Tynwald Administration, Nina Lowney on n.lowney@tynwald.org.im or by phone to 685512 **before Friday 14th February 2014.** *MB to attend.* PH
MB
- h) Ed.swain@gov.im of Motorsports Team, Isle of Man Tourism, DED, e-mails at 1119 hours on 17.01.14 regarding - The Department of Economic Development considers that there may be significant benefit in scheduling an additional qualifying session on the Thursday or Friday of TT practice week to provide competitors more opportunity to practice and prepare their machines and familiarise themselves with the circuit, prior to the scheduled commencement of racing on the following Saturday. The Department invites views on the proposal which would result in additional road closures during the morning or afternoon of the Thursday or Friday of TT practice week. It should be noted that roads would close earlier and open later on the mountain section between Barrule Park and Creg Ny Baa due to the one way system. I have pleasure in attaching the consultation paper for your consideration. Responses may be submitted by post or email. **The closing date for receipt of comments is Thursday 27th February 2014.** *A discussion took place and it was unanimously agreed that this should be re-introduced as it had many safety benefits for the riders. ND commented that he would be less supportive of evening practices due to the additional inconvenience and disruption to business.* PH

102/13 Enforcement Matters.

- a) *No new matters.*

103/13 Special Agenda Items.

- a) To set the Domestic Rates for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2015. *{Origin: XRM – 07.01.14 – 90/13}. The Board unanimously approved the proposals before them in that the separate Refuse Charge would be set at £141.00 per Household and the Domestic Rate at 62 pence in the pound. Proposed by SC and Seconded by ND. SC proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for the work undertaken in this respect. Agreed by all.*
- b) To Discuss and Contribute to, the Contents of the Proposed Garff Joint Initiative Committee letter to the Residents. *{Origin: Garff Meeting – 14.01.14 – 29(b)}. A discussion took place and it was agreed that SC should conduct a financial analysis of the Garff Authorities Accounts and report back to a special Extraordinary Meeting ahead of the next Garff Joint Initiative Committee Meeting. At this point they would discuss the contents of the proposed letter. It was decided that this meeting would take place on Tuesday 4th February 2014 at 1815 hours. PH to supply the necessary document to SC and the Board, and that he would have a special meeting with SC prior to the above meeting.* PH

104/13 Any Other Business.

- a) **SEC** – informed the Board that he had had a request from a resident in Baldhoon asking for a Welcome to Lonan Sign to be erected on the Baldhoon Road. A discussion took place and approval was granted. Proposed by **ND** and Seconded by **SEC**. PH

- b) **PH** – asked the Board if they would consider the annual donation to a local resident for their contribution towards the erection and removal of the Christmas tree and that previously a £50.00 Voucher had been awarded. This was approved. Proposed by **JF** and seconded by **ND**.

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

The next Meeting of the Authority will be held on Tuesday 4th February 2014 at 1815 hours to discuss the Garff Joint Initiative.

The next Statutory Meeting of the Authority will be held on Tuesday 18th February 2014 at 1815 hours.