

# Lonan Parish Commissioners

## Statutory Meeting

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 at 1815 hours in the Laxey Commissioners Office.

### MINUTES

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

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

The Meeting commenced at 1815 hours.

#### 66/13 Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

Action

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

**Proposed by:** SC. **Seconded by:** MB.

#### 67/13 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

- a) **SC – 65/13(a)** – asked if any progress had been made with regards to enforcement to which **PH** stated that he had been in contact with the Planning Enforcement Officer who had assured him that the matter was being dealt with. It was commented on the plastic leaves that had been applied as camouflage, which was a surprising development if the intention was to remove the fence.

#### 68/13 Private Sessions.

#### 69/13 Planning Applications.

- a) Planning Application No 13/91169/B of 02.10.13 in respect of erection of a Gas Tank in part field 614729, Baldrine Road, Baldrine. (See PA 11/00195/REM). **PH**  
*Approved.*
- b) Planning Application No 13/91181/B of 07.10.13 in respect of erection of replacement porch at Bun-Ry-Skyn, Croit-e-Quill Road, Lonan, IM4 7JH. **PH**  
*Approved.*

#### 70/13 Correspondence.

- a) Mark Cleator from Laxey Fire Station writes on 24<sup>th</sup> September requesting financial support for the annual fireworks display on 5<sup>th</sup> November and invites all to attend. (Previous year's donation of £200.00). *Approved for the record, verbal authority having been given. Proposed by SC and seconded by MB.*
- b) Onchan District Commissioners e-mails at 1634 hours on 25.09.13 - Onchan District Commissioners' chairman, Mr Rob Callister, would like to invite you and/or your vice-chairman to a meeting of all local authorities which is to be held at our Willow House boardroom on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013 commencing at 7.00pm**. This is a meeting of political representatives with the aim of discussing the Government's proposals for housing and waste collection. Mr Callister would like to stress the importance of this discussion and I would be grateful if you could confirm that you will be able to attend. Willow House is the library building in Main Road, Onchan. Entrance to the boardroom is from the lane at the rear of the building. There is ample parking available at the Commissioners Offices. *A full discussion took place with regards to the Housing Review proposed by the Department of Social Care and the responses made by other Authorities and in particular, Onchan. SC confirmed that he would be attending the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October and ND added that he would attend the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November. JF had already stated that he would attend.*

**PH/  
ND/  
JF/  
SC**

- c) Onchan District Commissioners writes an open letter to Mr Robertshaw, regarding the Tolson Report and the forthcoming Housing Review and the essence of the letter is that if it isn't broken why fix it. *Noted and discussed at (b) above.*
- d) Onchan Commissioners e-mails at 1014 hours on 10.10.13 - I attach a copy of a letter sent today to the Chief Minister and all MHKs detailing our further concerns about the Housing Review. Onchan Board of Commissioners bring these issues to your attention in the hope that you will discuss it with your MHKs and support our request that Tynwald delays its vote to pass these recommendations and so allow all local authorities time to consider the implications. Chairmen of local authorities may also wish to demand greater representation at the Keyll Daree presentation, as this, in the words of Minister Robertshaw, is "one of the biggest shifts in Housing Policy for over twenty years". *Noted and discussed at (b) above.*
- e) Onchan e-mails at 1142 hours on 11.10.13 seeking support to delay the implementation of the Housing Bill to enable proper consultation by interested parties. This Bill is being rushed through on the nod without Tynwald debate. See attached correspondence. *Noted and discussed at (b) above.*
- f) Invitation to attend the launch event for the *GoDoActive* initiative, to be held on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013** at the National Sports Centre, Groves Road, Douglas, commencing at 10am. This initiative supports the aims and objectives of the Physical Activity Strategy which is in the second year of implementation. The *GoDoActive* initiative aims to raise awareness of the health benefits of being active, and opportunities to participate in physical activity across the Island; for example – walking in the plantations, taking part in structured activity sessions or cycling around our beautiful Island. The *GoDoActive* website will be launched at this event – a 'one-stop shop' for information on physical activity opportunities across the Island, along with guidelines on daily/weekly activity levels for all ages. Whatever your age, there's strong scientific evidence that being physically active can help you lead a healthier life. People who do regular activity have a lower risk of many chronic diseases, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke and some cancers. Research shows that physical activity can also help people to function better through the alleviation of stress and improved sleep. Regular physical activity also helps to control weight and reduces the risk of obesity. *Unfortunately no Commissioners are available to attend.*
- g) Local Government Unit Manager writes on 07.10.13 regarding the provision of hospitality or gifts from public funds. There is no legislation that specifically covers how Local Authorities deal with gifts and hospitality. The Department believes that serious consideration should be given when making decisions regarding expenditure from public funds and that any decisions are clear and transparent and open to public scrutiny. Further advice can be obtained by reference to the Corporate Governance Principles and Code of Conduct 2009, paragraphs 15, pages 18 & 19 and paragraph 46, page 28. Local Authorities may wish to determine appropriate amounts on specific occasions or gifts. *Noted.*
- h) Isle of Man Municipal Association letter of 09.10.13 from David Talbot regarding Courses run by the Association. Letter encloses attendance card. Next lecture on 23.10.13 at 1800 hours on subject of Risks for the Modern Commissioner presented by Dougie Elliott at the Strathallan Suite. Then on 20.11.13 at 1800 hours on subject of Understanding Financial Information presented by Ian Begley at the Strathallan Suite. Letter also states that non-members are welcome but should pay £10.00 per person to defray costs. *SC stated that he would attend both lectures.*

SC

- i) E-mail at 1153 hours on 11.10.13 regarding the EU (Amendment) Bill 2013 - to draw your attention  
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to the fact that the consultation exercise on the European Union (Amendment) Bill has been extended until Friday 8 November 2013. This is because since the consultation was launched the Council of Ministers has agreed that additional amendments to the European Communities (Isle of Man) Act 1973 should be included in the Bill. A revised consultation document has been issued that sets out the new amendments and explains the reason behind them and it also provides additional information on the amendments that were included in the first version of the Bill. The revised document will shortly be published on the Isle of Man Government website and I attach a copy for your convenience. I will be happy to receive any comments that you may have and of course if you have already responded to the consultation you are welcome to submit additional comments.  
*Noted.*

- j) Treasury Rates 3<sup>rd</sup> Supplemental List 2013. This list shows two properties as being zero rated. Both of these properties are neglected and have either been or are subject to enquiries under the Building Control Act and Miscellaneous Provisions Act. *PH provided a history regarding the two properties and a discussion took place as to whether the application should be objected to. The Board unanimously agreed that there were no apparent satisfactory grounds to apply a zero rate as there were no known external reasons beyond the control of the respective owners to bring the dwellings into a habitable condition. The dwellings themselves were having an adverse visual amenity to the surrounding properties. The owners should be encouraged to make good the properties. Proposed by SEC and Seconded by SC.* PH
- k) Chief Minister writes on 15.10.13 regarding the National Service of Remembrance and Re-Dedication which will take place at the Royal Chapel of St. John and the National War Memorial on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 1500 hours. Commissioners are invited to this ceremony, which will be followed by refreshments and reservations should be made to Elaine Caley by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 by e-mail to [Elaine.caley@gov.im](mailto:Elaine.caley@gov.im) or phone to 685708. *The Service conflicts with the Remembrance Service in Lonan, hence no Commissioners were available.* PH
- l) Secretary of LHT e-mails at 1735 hours on 21.10.13 - It's that time of year again when the AGM for the Trust comes around. This year it will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in The Salmon Centre, Mines Road. Please find attached a copy of the agenda, a copy of last year's minutes, the chairman's report and the latest set of accounts. *Noted.*
- m) **RE: LO040 – BALDRINE ROAD** Further to a report of the above light being in a dangerous condition, our Public Light Engineer attended site to find the glass bowl on this fitting hanging down. This is an old sugar type fitting which the catch had broken on and is unable to be repaired. The light has been temporary tied together but we would recommend a replacement arm and fitting which I have estimated the cost of below. The estimated cost will be £530 + 20% VAT. *A discussion took place and it was agreed that approval to replace the lamp should be given. Proposed by SC and Seconded by MB.* PH

#### 71/13 Enforcement Matters.

- a) No new matters.

#### 72/13 Special Agenda Items.

- a) **Audited Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. (For Approval).** BDO gives clearance for the accounts of Lonan Parish Commissioners to be signed together with the letter of representation Also attached is the completion letter which includes the client point regarding fixed assets. *A discussion took place and the Accounts were approved. Proposed by MB and Seconded by SC.* PH

**73/13 Any Other Business.**

- a) **SEC** – asked about progress at Green gables to which **PH** replied that it was still on-going, but the delay was due to current volumes of work in the Office.
- b) **SEC** – raised the matter of reduced rateable values as discussed at the last meeting and believed that a letter should be sent expressing disapproval of the system that permits such reductions. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Rodan. **PH**
- c) **SEC** – believed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the owner of the property at Ballabeg Crossing for his swift action in clearing up the frontage of the said property. It was agreed. **PH**
- d) **PH** – informed the meeting that he would be away from 31<sup>st</sup> October until 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- e) **JF** – raised the matter of the Commissioners Christmas Meal and after a discussion it was agreed that the venue should be the Liverpool Arms on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 1900 hours for 1930 hours.
- f) **JF** – thanked everyone for their contribution to the Civic Service on Sunday last stating that it was well attended.

**There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1905 hours.**

**The next Statutory Meeting of the Authority will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 1815 hours.**