

Lonan Parish Commissioners

Statutory Meeting

Wednesday 27th November 2014 at 0930 hours at Laxey Commissioners Office.

MINUTES

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

Apologies: Nil. **Chair:** Mr S. Clucas. **Clerk:** Mr P. Hill.

The Meeting commenced at 0930 hours.

68/14 Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 22nd October 2014.

Action

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 22nd October 2014 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed by: JF. Seconded by: MB.

69/14 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

a) **SC – 59/14(b)** – asked if the rate reductions in Reayrt Ny Glionney had been removed as the building works had ceased. **PH** advised the Board that they would be removed commencing the next financial year.

b) **SC – 61/14(a)** – **PH** displayed the noticeboard that was formerly located at Church Road and also alternative options that he had researched. It was agreed that the current noticeboard was beyond economical repair and a discussion took place. At the conclusion of which **SC** proposed that the Scroll Exterior Wall Mounted Notice Board at a cost of £296.00 should be purchased. Seconded by **ND** and agreed by all. At that point **SEC** stated that they should purchase from a local company and suggested that they approach Sign Sense. It was then agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting pending an approach. **SEC** to obtain their details and supply to the Clerk.

SEC

c) **SC – 64/14(d)** – **SC** asked **ND** what progress had been made with regards to the land benefactor. **ND** stated that he had spoken to him and whilst he had expressed concerns, he was willing to discuss the matter with the Woodland Trust. It was agreed that the Woodland Trust should be provided with the benefactor's details so that they can deal direct. **PH** to deal.

PH

d) **SC – 67/14(f)** – Raised the matter of rearranging the date of the Commissioners Christmas Celebration and after a discussion it was agreed that it would now be on Thursday 18th December 2014 at 1900 hours at the Liverpool Arms. *See also 74/14(b) below.*

70/14 Private Sessions.

71/14 Planning Applications.

a) Planning Application No 14/01276/C of 06.11.14 in respect of retrospective application for change of use of existing building to a residential garage at Nissen Hut, Field 614992 Adjacent to Riverside Cottage, Glen Roy. *Approved.*

PH

b) Planning Amendment Notice 14/00922/B of 19.11.14 in respect of erection of flood lighting to riding arena, Field Number 614732, Baldrine Road, Baldrine. *Approved but with a caveat that a condition must be applied ensuring that there is no spillage of light beyond the arena.*

PH

- c) Planning Application No. 14/01315/B of 18.11.14 in respect of erection of an agricultural building at Field 614872, Baldromma Farm, Baldromma Road, Baldrine, IM4 6AF. (Cow Shed). PH
Approved.

72/14 Correspondence.

- a) Please see the attached letter from Mr Gillespie, concerning the Local Government (Members Attendance Allowances) Order 2013. He states that he would welcome comments about the Order and in particular whether any difficulties have been experienced in its implementation. *SC outlined the history behind this legislation and at the request of SEC, ND read out his personal views from a prepared letter. SC confirmed that he had also prepared a letter and it was agreed that a submission should be sent embracing the views expressed by the members during this meeting.* PH
- b) Local Resident writes to the Commissioners attaching a letter that he sent to the Department for Infrastructure yesterday concerning the absence of a speed limit on the A2 between Baldrine and Laxey. He requested that the Commissioners provide comment, and state whether or not they would support his call for a speed limit to be introduced. *A discussion took place during which SC confirmed that the matter had been raised at the last NTMLG Meeting and was now part of the A2 improvement consultation. Clerk to write to correspondent to thank him for his observations and provide him with details as aforesaid.* PH
- c) A Consultation on Proposed Permitted Development Order for Temporary Use or Development of Land - Across the island there are many events and activities which take place on a temporary basis either to support local community based events, sporting events or the construction phase of approved developments. In some cases these will be small in nature, and after the event, the site will revert back instantly to the previous lawful use with no lasting impacts arising from its short term use. Other uses, however, may be: more substantial; have a significant economic benefit to the island; and / or take place over a longer temporary period, in connection with events such as the TT or the Southern 100. The Department is now consulting about a proposed Permitted Development Order which would remove the need for a planning application for certain changes of use on a short term basis, subject to adherence to certain criteria. Any extension of permitted development reduces the burden of application for householders, businesses, landowners, event organisers and anyone else previously subject to the need to apply for planning approval. It also frees up resources in the Planning Department to work on more significant issues. In this context we would welcome your views. In order to effectively manage this process we are encouraging the submission of responses via an online questionnaire at <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=141405766668> The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Friday 24th October until Friday 5th December 2014. *A discussion took place and the Board agreed in principle with the proposals made, believing that there was a need for clarity in this matter.*
- d) Isle of Man Anti-Cancer, Lonan & Laxey writes on 05.11.14 to thank the Board for the Offertory Collection in their favour in sum of £167.00. *Noted.*
- e) Laxey Resident writes to Laxey Commissioners regarding the alleged undemocratic and deplorable service that is now being provided by the Planning department in pursuit of savings. A discussion took place and the Board agreed with the sentiments expressed believing that these measures could be prejudicial to the interests of individuals who may be affected by planning applications in their area and who may not have internet access. Clerk to acknowledge letter. PH

f) Mr Gawne submits letter and answer sheet regarding costs of transferring services to the Local Authorities. *Discussed at 74/14(a) below.*

g) Department of Infrastructure e-mails at 1644 hours on 13.11.14 regarding Road lengths – Hedges – Gullies and forwards the figures below, which are provided to give an indication of the quantities involved in any transfer of functions to the Local Authorities. For estimating purposes, to give an indication of cost, you can use the following rates. However, please be aware that there is no guarantee that these are rates you will be quoted when going out to tender:

Local Authority	Roads for LA (miles)	Urban/Estate Roads (miles)	Roads with hedges (miles)	Length of hedges (miles)	Number of gullies
Lonan	18	1	17	34	60

Discussed at 74/14(a) below.

h) Minutes of Garff Meeting of 13.11.14 and Agenda for 03.12.14. *Discussed at 74/14(a) below.*

i) Please find attached a news release issued by the Department on local services. *Discussed at 74/14(a) below.*

j) A question has been tabled for answer by Minister Gawne MHK at Tuesday’s sitting of the House of Keys (2nd December 2014) in respect to the Minister’s letter to all Local Authorities dated 15 October 2014 and titled ‘Local Services at a Local Level’, in which the question is seeking information regarding each Local Authority’s response to that letter. On behalf of Minister Gawne MHK, could I please ask the Local Authorities who have responded verbally or in writing (either with an in principle yes or no), to let me know whether they would be happy for the Minister to state their opinion in the House of Keys with the knowledge that this will go to the Press. Due to the tight deadlines involved in responding to parliamentary questions, could I please ask you to provide a response by no later than **4.00 pm on Friday 28th November**. *(Suggested Response is **Dear Rachel, I can advise that the proposal to transfer services to LA’s was discussed by the Garff Joint Initiative at their meeting on 13.11.14, the Commissioners representing Laxey, Lanan and Maughold Resolved in principle to support the proposals. Furthermore they are happy for the minister to state this opinion in the House of Keys.**)* Please state if you are happy with this or does Lanan wish to make a separate response in which case Laxey and Maughold will do the same. *A discussion took place and it was agreed that a joint submission should be made as indicated above but only on the basis that the full wording is used and not edited to lose its meaning.*

PH

k) Manager, Legislation Unit writes to clarify various matters that need to be considered before a draft Order can be produced in respect of the possible merger of the three Garff Authorities. *Discussed at 74/14(a) below.*

l) Manager, Legislation Unit confirms that there are no plans for any amendment to the Local Government Act 1985 to go before the Branches before April 2016. In view of this, and suggests that “Garff Parish District” be the name of the proposed new district in the draft Order. *A discussion took place during which ND clarified the difference between a Local Authority area and an Electoral Constituency. As regards the name it was suggested that in the absence of ‘Sheading’ then just using ‘Garff District’ would be likely to satisfy the three Authorities. ND pointed out that whilst they could refer to themselves as Garff District, the current legislation does not cater for that in that the words either Village or Parish have to be included.*

MB left the meeting at 1045 hours and at 1046 hours PB entered to advise the members of the date of the next Heritage Meeting.

- m) Smiths of Derby writes regarding renewing the Millennium Clock's annual service contract at 2011 prices. **PH** informed the meeting that he had received quorate permission to renew but requested retrospective approval for the record. Proposed by **ND** and seconded by **SC**.
- n) Port St Mary Commissioners are holding their annual Celebration of Christmas on Friday 5 December 2014 in the Town Hall, Port St Mary starting at 7.30pm. A fireworks display will be held prior to the start of the service. The doors will be open from 6.30pm to allow the public to shop at the local stalls which will be present in the hall. There will be refreshments served after the carol service. 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 forward to sharing our Christmas celebration with you. *SC indicated that he would try and attend. Clerk to inform them as requested.* SC/PH
- o) Department of Economic Development writes on 18.11.14 regarding Metalliferous Mineral Prospecting Plans for the Snaefell Prospect and Glen Crammag. *Noted.*
- p) The Chairman writes to say that he would like Lonan to make a donation in return for their performance at the Civic Service - say £50 which we must discuss on Thursday so a cheque can issued. Also if any individual commissioners wish to donate he can take their donations to the concert- although all are welcome to attend themselves. *The matter was discussed and agreed. Proposed by JF and seconded by SC.* PH
- q) Diocese of Sodor and Man writes on 25.11.14 regarding Mission and Pastoral Measure (Isle of Man) 2012 in respect of All Saints Church, Lonan. The Commissioners have given preliminary thought as to the future of Lonan Church if it were closed, and suggestions are invited as to possible uses of the building in that event. This might include persons who may be interested in taking on ownership (with certain provisos) of the building. The Commissioners wish to stress that the suggestion that Lonan Church be closed and any proposals for its after-use are merely a basis for discussion, and that they are not committed to implementing closure or any particular proposals. They would be grateful for views of interested parties to be forwarded to them in writing as soon as possible and in any event not later than 18th January 2015. *A lengthy discussion took place during which JF was adamant that the Church should be saved, a view shared by all. JF provided an overview of the problems currently facing it and various options were discussed. SEC believed that fund raising events, a public meeting should be considered and even the question as to whether or not the Authority could purchase the Church for a shilling. At the conclusion of the debate it was resolved that the Clerk should write to the Bishop asking for information as to exactly what was wrong and what measures or costs have they taken or obtained details of. Further to this it was suggested that he should be invited to the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to copy Mr Rodan into the correspondence as well as Mr Wild. On another matter JF asked permission to remove the wreath from its current location and place it in All Saints Church. This was approved.* PH

73/14 Enforcement Matters.

- a). *No new matters.*

74/14 Special Agenda Items.

- a) **To consider Garff Meetings during the day. Origin: SM – 65/14(a).**

ND – Outlined the situation regarding discussions with Mr Gawne relating to the transfer of some services from the Government to Local Authorities, such as hedge cutting, road sweeping, gully clearing and minor pavement repairs. He clarified the potential costs involved taking into account the freezing of the Energy from Waste Charges for the forthcoming year. A discussion took place. No decisions were made beyond those already discussed earlier. As regards the move to daytime Garff Meetings, this was not practicable due to employments during the day which would have excluded some members.
See 72/14(f)(g)(h)(k) above.

- b) **To set new date for Commissioners Christmas Meal. Origin: SM – 67/14(f) – SC.**
Dealt with at 69/14(d).

75/14 Any Other Business.

- a) **JF** – Asked whether or not the water problem in Pinfold Hill was being dealt with. **PH** replied that contractors from the Water Board were currently working there and presumed that this was related.
- b) **SEC** – Asked what progress was being made at Green Gables. **PH** replied that he had spoken to the owner earlier this week and although not particularly productive, some improvements had been made but that work is to resume in the new year. **PH** added that he has arranged to speak to the owner at that time.
- c) **SEC** – Asked about the Appeal at Ballamenagh Moar Farm to which the Clerk replied that the Appeals Office were currently seeking submissions, which he would attend to.
- d) **PH** – presented the agreed Contract for the Grass Cutting for endorsement by the Chairman and this was done.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1145 hours.

The next Statutory Meeting of the Authority will be on Thursday 11th December 2014 at 1830 hours.