

Lonan Parish Commissioners

Statutory Meeting

Wednesday 31st July 2013 at 1815 hours in the Laxey Commissioners Office.

MINUTES

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

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

The Meeting commenced at 1815 hours.

38/13 Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 26th June 2013

Action

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 26th June 2013 were examined for accuracy, and it was agreed that they represented a correct statement of events.

Proposed by: SC. **Seconded by:** ND.

39/13 Matters Arising out of the Minutes.

- a) SC – 36/13(a) – Informed the Meeting that he had advised Mr Snelling that Mr Clague was happy to accommodate him at the Cornmill, but had not had a response or acknowledgement from him.

40/13 Private Sessions.

41/13 Planning Applications.

- a) Planning Application No 13/00782/B of 04.07.13 in respect of alterations, erection of extensions and installation of a dormer window to dwelling at Rose Cottage, Baldrine Hill, Baldrine, IM4 6DQ.

PH

Approved.

42/13 Correspondence.

- a) Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Building Control letter of 28.06.13 regarding Consultation on Proposed Draft Building Regulations 2013. The purpose is to ensure that reasonable Regulations are in place for protection of the public, and ultimately not to hinder economic growth of the industry. It does not encompass Building Control Service Levels. An electronic version of the consultation can be found at the Government Website. *A discussion took place and it was agreed that individuals could make their personal views known, but the Authority as a whole had no comments to make.*

- b) Secretary of the Municipal Association advises that the next training session is to be held on 1st August with a presentation by Alan Donnelly and Andy Crook of Douglas Borough Council on the subject of Waste Management. Venue and time yet to be confirmed but likely to be similar to above. Please advise your intention to attend as soon as possible. Again, there will hopefully be no charge for Member Authority Clerks and Commissioners. *SC to attend.*

SC

- c) Resident of Ramsey Road e-mails on 02.07.13 regarding 'The New Skinscoes Ballamoar Industrial Estate' The complainant states that the local environment is being damaged by the proliferation of scrap vehicles at Skinscoe Farm and the use of The Paddocks as a business base and storage site for Island Drains with a large number of commercial vehicles being parked on site. The Complainant wishes to meet the Board and include a visit to this location on the occasion of their Parish Inspection. *{NOTE: The complaints regarding Skinscoe Farm were originally addressed in August 2009 by reference to the Planning Enforcement Officer, who judged that there were no breaches. The Complainant was appraised of this*

PH

action at that time and this is the first time that the matter has been raised since). A full discussion took place and the letter was read to the Board. It was agreed that the Planning Enforcement Officer should be contacted to establish if the actions amounted to a change of use. Additionally it was agreed to inform the Complainant as to this action and advise the Complainant of the date of the next Parish Inspection when this was determined. (See 45/13(a) below).

- d) Rates Defaulters List detailed those that were in arrears and the individual monies owed. See SM – 26.06.13 – 34/13(d). A discussion took place and **ND** proposed that this matter should be listed as a Special Agenda item for the next meeting. **PH** enquired as to whether it would be helpful to invite the Rates Manager to attend the meeting to clear up any points. This was agreed. **PH** also stated that he would re-send the correspondence from the Rates Department and Braddan Commissioners regarding rate collection services. PH
- e) Press Release to Commissioners stating that with the closure of the District Registration Offices there is now a gap in the market that could be taken up by Commissioners and their premises. Ramsey shuts on 04.09.13; Castletown on 31.12.13 and Peel on 01.03.14. Noted.
- f) Press Release issued by the Isle of Man Public Services - **Hedge Cutting and Weed Spraying** The Department of Infrastructure has scaled back its operations in relation to hedge cutting and weed prevention and removal. **Hedge Cutting** Most hedges bordering the highway in both town and country belong to the landowner and it is their responsibility to ensure that these do not obstruct users of the highway. Where owners are not undertaking the necessary work the Department will continue to undertake cutting to ensure that the basic safety of the highway is maintained. This includes removing growth where it is obstructing the highway or obstructing sight lines or signage. The Department may re-charge land owners for undertaking this work. There are some environmental benefits in reducing the cuts which allows hedgerows to take on a more natural look, to flower and also enabling wildlife to flourish. **Weed Spraying** The Department no longer has sufficient budgets to proactively remove weeds across the island; however, it has been rolling out a programme of systemic weed killer spraying in towns and villages and along main roads and in Douglas, Castletown, Peel and Onchan it has entered into agency agreements to work through the Local Authority to undertake that work. It would be of assistance if householders and businesses could remove weeds from outside their own properties where they are physically able and it is safe to do so. Leonard Singer MHK, Member with responsibility for Highways said: “We have to recognise that there is simply less money available for some services and the Department has faced tough choices in prioritising its expenditure. In this case, whilst less work will be done, there are environmental benefits to wildlife.” Attention is also drawn to a leaflet produced by DEFA ‘Manx Hedge Management code’ which can be found on DEFA’s website <http://www.gov.im/lib/docs/daff/CCS/manxhedgemanagement.pdf> **ND** raised the matter of hedge cutting in relation to the footpaths located between Groudle Road and Barroose Road in that they were completely overgrown by hedge growth. He stated that he had spoken to a local farmer but he had produced evidence to show that these hedges were the responsibility of the Highways Department and not him. **JF** added that Ballagawne Road was dangerously narrow now as a consequence of hedge growth. **PH** stated that he would contact the Highways Department with regards to both matters. PH
- g) Consultation Letter of 03.07.13 in respect of Review of Legislation relating to the Control of Advertisements. This consultation relates to the control of advertisements, which aims to assist in updating and rationalising the relevant primary legislation and Advertisement Regulations to ensure the legislation is fit for purpose for the future, whilst endeavouring to streamline and remove duplication of process as appropriate. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the matter of vehicles being used for advertising purposes as this was creating a PH

bad image when displayed in prominent or attractive rural areas.

- h) Minutes of Municipal Meeting of 27.06.13 and AGM of 23.05.13. *Noted.*
- i) Minutes of Garff – 10.07.13. *Noted.*
- j) Tolson Housing Review Initial Outcomes Report. **JF** confirmed that he had attended this meeting and that nothing new had come out of it, given the literature that had previously been circulated.
- k) Press Release on Human Resources Training by Municipal Association and future training plans. *Noted.*
- l) Department of Planning and Building Control letter of 19th July 2013 confirming that commencing 1st August, new planning application procedures and fees will apply, including a one off refundable fee of £150.00 if you appeal against a decision. The Orders concerned are (1) Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) (No 2) Order 2013, (2) Town and Country Planning (Appeal Fees) Order 2013, (3) The Building (Fees)(Amendment) Regulations 2013. *Noted.*
- m) Press Release from DEFA with that Licences to cut down trees will cost £20.00 after 01.08.13. Also a Press Release about tree diseases and reporting of same. *Noted.*
- n) Clerk to Cooil Roi e-mails at 1301 hours on 23.07.13 regarding the future of Social and sheltered housing and discussions that she had had with the Minister.
- o) Onchan District Commissioners invitation to the Garff Boards to meet and discuss the future of Social Housing and Sheltered accommodation in light of the Tolson Report. PH

43/13 Enforcement Matters.

- a) *No new matters.*

44/13 Special Agenda Items.

- a) *None notified.*

45/13 Any Other Business.

- a) **ND** – raised the matter of the next Parish Inspection and a discussion took place. It was agreed that this would take place on Thursday 15th August 2013 starting at 1800 hours at the Liverpool Arms Public House Car Park. They decided that they would visit the same locations as before unless other matters came to light in the intervening time. The Clerk was requested to publicise this meeting. PH

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1910 hours.

The next Meeting of the Authority will be the Parish Inspection on Thursday 15th August 2013 at 1800 hours.

The next Statutory Meeting of the Authority will be held on Wednesday 21st August 2013 at 1830 hours.