

**MIMUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAUGHOLD PARISH COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON Monday 4th January 2010, 7.30 PM AT DHOON CHURCH HALL**

7.30 pm Meeting of Maughold Parish Commissioners – Public Session

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.32 pm.

10.01. **Apologies** – The clerk reported that Mrs Stephens had given notice that she would be unable to attend the meeting.

10.02. **Notice of Summons Agenda** - All Members present reported that they had received a copy of the agenda at least 3 days prior to the meeting.

10.03. **Declarations of Interest** - There were no interests declared in the business of the agenda.

10.04. **Consideration of the accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of 7th of December 2009.**

MF proposed that these were an accurate record of decisions made at the meeting. Seconded **RM**. Resolved.

10.05. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of the 7th of December 2009:**

a. **U92 Maughold Mountain Road** – The Questions asked in Tynwald by Mr Rodan were noted. Mr Rodan had forwarded a copy of the response received from Mr Anderson, the DOT Minister. The responses indicated that the visitors contributed around £40,000 to government revenue. Mr Anderson went on to say that the damage would have to be tolerated.

It was also noted that separate comments supporting the stance of the Commissioners had also been received in writing from Mr Henderson MHK.

There followed discussion of the nature of the trackway over the Maughold Mountains. It was stated that there was no real track just a route over open moorland which was difficult to identify and generally hard to define.

Resolved: The clerk was instructed to write to Mr Anderson asking if the route of the U92 could be more effectively delineated to protect the open moorland with a physical marker such as fencing, etc.

b. **Budget Estimate for YE 2011.**

Various matters affecting the budget for Year 2010/2011 were discussed. These included the twelvefold rise in audit fee from £251 to £3,000, general inflation, and the reduction of the tipping waste subsidy from £90 per tonne to £71 per tonne; which involves a tripling of the tipping charge from around £4,300 per annum to around £12,500. The clerk presented a range of savings that could be made without compromising essential services. These include savings made by change of practise in the operation of office and administration services, a focus on consolidation of recreational facilities such as the Coronary Play Area and the Arboretum, rather than further development. A freeze on refuse collection charges was also being negotiated with the contractor.

It was agreed that the most challenging factors were the charges being transferred by central government such as the increase in tipping charge and audit fee. To meet the particular financial cost of these charges a budget model was adopted which included a separate charge being made for tipping charges on each domestic rate bill. This is likely to be in the region of £25, just over £2 a month on each property. The meeting was told that the focus on achieving savings in other areas would allow the audit fee and inflation to be absorbed without a further rise in the rates. HL proposed that this model be accepted. Seconded **RM**. Resolved unanimously.

Action: *The clerk was instructed to liaise with Treasury Rates and prepare the final estimate for submission to the DLGE.*

c. **Friends of the Earth** – 10:10 Campaign.

The clerk had collected a range of information in regard to this campaign. The general intention being that individuals, organisations and businesses can evaluate their carbon footprint and identify ways in which they could make reductions in the emission of carbon in to the atmosphere. The principal of the campaign

received general support and Members agreed that further information should be prepared including the 'carbon calculator' for the February meeting.

d. **Garff Commissioners' Carol Service** –

All agreed that the carol service had been a well supported and very enjoyable event. Reverend Faulds was thanked for organising and conducting the service. The monies from the collection would be divided between the three authorities for disbursement to each authorities nominated charity.

10.06. **Matters for Discussion**

a. Installation of **mini-recycling-centre** at the Coron. The clerk advised Members that the units had been delivered to the DLGE's depot at Snugborough. Clerk to draw up plans for this following liaison with RM and Officers of the Department.

b. To approve **Garff Standing Orders** –

The version dated 14th February 2005 were considered. **RM** proposed that these be approved. Seconded **MF**. Resolved.

c. **IRIS** Proposals.

MF advised that she and the clerk had met Mr Balmer at the site of the proposed works in Glen Mona. Mr Balmer had indicated that it was not likely that any land in Glen Mona or other parts of Maughold would be identified as suitable for development. An area plan was at least several years away. It was noted that, although the Drainage Division had powers to undertake the works under permitted development, planning permission would be required for the access road and entrance on to the A2. The other sites identified by the Drainage Division had also been discussed with Mr Balmer. The clerk reported that he had collected a range of comments submitted by residents and forwarded them to Mr Winstanley at the Division. It is expected that final proposals will be presented in February 2010.

f. **Friends of the Earth** – This matter was dealt with at item 10.05.c above

10.07. **Current Consultations for consideration:**

a. **DAFF** – Consultation on the Fisheries Bill. **HL** expressed concern about the proposal that recreational sea fishing become subject to licensing; the general consensus being that this was an unnecessary step and practically unenforceable. The clerk was instructed to raise this concern in the submission to the Department.

b. Consultation on **Modernising Communications Regulation**

The proposed regulations were discussed by Members. It was noted that the preferred option 3 suggested that introducing competition may have drawbacks. Contrary to this, Members felt that any new regulation should encourage other providers to enter the market. It was felt that this would lead to benefits for the consumer by creating conditions in which competition could flourish more effectively. The various communication channels, including fibre-optic, were discussed. It was stated that several of these facilities were currently under used due to a desire to protect the Island's established communications organisation. The clerk was instructed to submit a response by the requested date.

c. **Financial Provisions Bill 2010**, responses by 15th February 2010.

The clause giving Treasury the power to 'do anything to improve the Island's economy or the social well being of its people' was noted with interest. Further comment on this matter was reserved until the February meeting.

Action: *The clerk was instructed to place a copy of the Bill into the Circulation File.*

- d. Consultation on **Support for Students in Higher Education**, Response by 12th February 2010.
This matter was discussed in detail. The general consensus being that the Commissioners should recommend that the Department should consider introducing a means tested contribution towards the cost of tuition fees. Members also agreed that students should not be funded on 4 year courses when the same degree was available over a 3 year period. The clerk was instructed to reply by the requested date.
- e. **Public Sector Pensions Bill**
Members resolved that they had no comment to make on this consultation. The clerk was instructed to notify the Chief Secretary's Office by the requested date.
- f. Consultation on the Taxation of **Investment Products**
Members resolved that they had no comment to make on this consultation. The clerk was instructed to notify the Income Tax Division by the requested date.

10.08. **Correspondence**

- a. **Office of the Chief Minister** – Regarding Holocaust Memorial Day 24.01.10. This matter was noted by Members.
- b. **Resident** – Regarding Development on the Dreemskerry Road. This matter was noted and the clerk instructed to contact the Planning and Building Control Directorate to ask them to investigate.

10.09. **Electronic correspondence**

- a. **Resident** – Copy e-mail re. Safety on PROW 102, Glen Mona. The Commissioners had previously made representations to the Department in regard to safety on this public right of way resulting in the recent resurfacing work. The commitment of the Department to investigate the erection of a fence was welcomed. The Commissioners will continue to monitor the situation.
- b. **Review of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill** – The amendments to the Bill were noted and discussed. It was agreed that no further comment should be made at this stage.
- c. **Mr Power** - Regarding ending of the UK Health Agreement. This correspondence was read and noted.
- d. **DOT** – Highways Monthly December. This correspondence was noted.
- e. **DLGE** – Feedback following Corporate Governance Meetings. The clerk briefly reported on the content of this correspondence which included comment on minutes, declaration of interests, etc. The practise outlined by the DLGE has been adopted by the Commisisoners.
- f. **Rev.d Faulds** – Regarding maintenance of the War Memorial – The clerk reported that discussions would take place in January in regard to maintenance work on the Parish War Memorial. Feedback would be given at the February meeting.
- g. **DLGE** - Employment Law Update.
This matter regarding the recent changes to work permit legislation and on Employment Tribunals was noted.

Ciculation File

The following correspondence was noted.

RTLc – Circular 290

10.10. **Searches:** Fields at Cloughbane and Crossags 107 acres. This matter was noted by Members.

10.11. **Parish Maintenance:**

To discuss correspondence received from Mrs Smith regarding future management of the Arboretum. Matter reserved from December 2009 Meeting.

This correspondence was read to the meeting. The suggestion that the cutting regime could be changed was considered an idea worthy of investigation. The clerk was instructed to discuss this matter with Mrs Smith, Mrs Stephens and report back with the options to the Commissioners in February. The suggestion to open the area up to dog walkers was also considered. The general consensus being that this was not an option that could be supported at this stage. The Commissioners remarked upon the commitment of Mr & Mrs Smith to improving the condition of the Arboretum this year. The refurbishments have significantly improved the facility and the hard work is very much appreciated.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with Mr & Mrs Smith & Mrs Stephens to discuss cutting regime and further improvements.

10.12. **PLANNING.**

10.12.a **Decisions from DLGE: None Current.**

10.12.b **Decisions to be made:**

09/01696/B **Dhoon Church Hall**, Amended Plans for replacement porch, window and formation of disabled car park; The Vicars and Wardens.

The Commission supports this amended application and recommends approval.

09/01935/B **Cronk Ny killey**, Jallow, Erection of a replacement dwelling

The Commission has previously submitted objections to this application. These objections are that:

The Commissioners object to the proposals on the following grounds:

- The proposals would be an unacceptable intrusion in this area of extreme cultural and scenic significance
- The site is also within a zoned conservation area
- The location is beside the Raad ny Foillan
- The replacement of a single storey dwelling with one of two storeys is a further unacceptable intrusion in this location.
- The proposals constitute new development in the countryside, in an adjacent field to the current property which is zoned for agricultural use
- The current property nestles into the landscape in an unobtrusive fashion and is likely to have stood for a period of several centuries
- The Commission note that the proposals contradict the intention of the Role of Landscape Character Assessment in Development Documents which are currently being established as Planning Policy. Members note the reference of Mr Shimmin in the foreword to this document in which the 'stunning coastline' around 'the high cliffs of Maughold' are referenced as places worthy of protection from inappropriate development.

Any development at this site must not be permitted to contradict the Isle of Man Strategic Plan or the Directorate's own emerging planning policy; neither should it contradict the Minister's own assessment of this area of the Maughold landscape as indicated above.

The Commission strongly objects to these proposals.

09/01978/B **Sarah's Cottage**, Ballasloe, External alterations to approved dwelling and garage comprising amendments to 04/01353/B

Members have no objection to the proposals in these amendments.

Members also note that the traditional Manx hedgerow at the front of the property has been fully demolished. They will monitoring the situation and be seeking assurance that this ancient structure is reinstated as indicated on the original plans submitted. Approaches will be made to Building Control and the Planning Enforcement Officer in due course. Members are committed to ensuring the maintenance and restoration of the character of the rural landscape in Maughold Parish.

09/02023/B **Kinsale, Booilushag**, Proposed extension to provide additional living accommodation
The Commission has no objection to these proposals on this private estate. They wish to draw the attention of the Directorate to the proximity of adjacent dwellings. However, they defer to the expertise of the Planning Officer in regard to this matter.

09/02056/B **Dreemskerry House**, Ballajora Hill, Demolition of porch & replacement with new, erection of kitchen/family room extension at ground level, with bedroom at first floor
The Commission has no objection to these proposals. The only matter they wish to raise is that the extension does not compromise access to the property further along the private lane. However, they defer to the expertise of the Planning Office in regard to this matter.

10.12.c **Appeal Matters** – The following matters were noted:

09/00994/B Cronk Ashin, erection of a replacement dwelling with integral garage –
Original decision uphold & Appeal dismissed.

09/01052/B **Elgin Stables, Jacks Lane**, Alterations and erection of an extension to dwelling house – Submission made, Previous Comments reiterated.

10.13. Finance

a. Approval of December Cheques

112	Dhoon PCC	20.00		2460
113	Kirk Maughold PCC	325.00		2461
114	Chris Littler Web design	94.00		2462
115	MEA	182.67	23.83	2463
116	Spotless Cleaners Dec	200.00		2464
117	IOM Gov NI & ITIP Nov	267.39		2465
118	MEA Public Lighting	119.91	5.71	2466
119	Dhoon PCC	144.00		2467
125	Chris Littler Web Design	132.50		2473
126	IOM Gov NI & ITIP Dec	290.80		2474

b. Consideration of December Finances.

A spreadsheet showing the Commissioners current financial position was noted by Members.

10.14 Any other Business

Public Session closed at 10.05 pm.

Private Session Closed at 10.35 pm

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Barrantee Skeerey Maghal

Next Meeting Monday February 1st 2010, 7.30 pm at Dhoon Church Hall