

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAUGHOLD PARISH COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2011, 7.30 PM AT DHOON CHURCH HALL**

**7.30 pm** Meeting of Maughold Parish Commissioners – Public Session

Present: Mrs G Stephens, Mr M Cowley, Mrs M Fargher, Mrs H Lace CP, Mr R Moughtin.

11.117. Apologies: All Members present. Meeting opened at 7.30.

11.118. Notice of Summons Agenda. Members reported that they had received their agenda in good time.

11.119. Declarations of Interest in the Business of the Agenda. None reported.

11.120. Consideration of the accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2011  
These were agreed to be an accurate record. Proposed **GS** Sec **HL**. **Resolved**.

11.121. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2011.

No matters were raised during this section of the meeting.

11.122. **Matters for Discussion**

to discuss **pre-audit charges** levied by Auditors PKF (LLB) IOM.

Members discussed the request from the auditors for a further charge of £1,000 on top of the newly imposed fee of £3,200. It was noted that the accounts had been presented to the auditors to the same level of preparation as in previous years. Members unanimously agreed that it was not in the interests of the ratepayer to accept an additional charge of this order. There had been an additional charge of £500 last year. Correspondence from the auditors indicating that last year's additional charge had been a 'contribution' towards preparation was noted. However, it was pointed out that no mention of an increased charge was mentioned at the pre-audit meeting which the clerk, **RM**, and representatives from PKF had attended in May 2011. It was noted that at this meeting the clerk had asked directly if there were any matters that the Commissioners could attend to differently in regard to preparing the accounts and that the Senior Auditor had stated that at the meeting that the Commissioners should submit their accounts in the same manner this year. There had been no indication that the additional charges would double. It was also noted that the audit fee, brokered by Treasury, had risen from £251 to £3,200 in the space of two years; a thirteen fold increase in a time when government was rightly indicating to local authorities that they should spend ratepayers money carefully and efficiently. The clerk pointed out the requirements of the Audit Act that local authorities should have their accounts signed off by the end of October. However, it was agreed that if the Commissioners accepted a situation in which audit costs were allowed to rise dramatically year on year they would be failing in their duties to the ratepayer.

**Action:** *the clerk was instructed to advise the auditors that the charge was not acceptable and that the Commissioners would collect the accounts, make further arrangements, and return them in due course. The clerk was also instructed to keep the Local Government Unit advised of the Commissioners actions in these matters.*

b. Meeting with Senior Officer from DoI regarding **hedgcutting** and other matters.

The clerk reported that a meeting had taken place with Mr Corlett from Highways at which various matters with regard to the maintenance of roadside hedges and road potholes were discussed. The ownership of and responsibility of maintaining hedges had been discussed, and Mr Corlett advised that in the Department's view the roadside hedges were not part of the road, and, therefore, were not their responsibility. Mr Corlett confirmed that more resources would be provided for hedge cutting next year, but they would only be cut where the Department considered there were road safety issues; at junctions and on pavements etc. The clerk reported that Mr Corlett had confirmed that there was no Departmental Schedule to monitor junctions or overgrown pavements. The lack of such a monitoring schedule was a

matter of concern to the Commissioners. Mr Corlett had advised that the Department would cut areas it considered dangerous if they were notified by the public or organisations such as the police or local authorities. There followed discussion of the possibility of the Commissioners taking on responsibility for hedge row cutting and minor road repairs. This could be done through the engagement of contractors and the implementation of a monitoring schedule. **RM** advised that organisations such as Douglas Corporation could also be contacted with a view to engagement for road/hedge maintenance. **MF** raised the matter of assessing risk and insurance if these services were transferred. It was agreed that these matters would have to be clarified. Members agreed that such responsibility could only be considered if the budget were transferred from central government. It was noted that in recent weeks Mr Rodan had aired the possibility of local authorities taking over further responsibilities such as hedge row maintenance. It was agreed to take this matter to the GJIC for further consideration. Mr Rodan to be invited to attend.

**Action:** *the Chair to write to Highways to request written clarification of the matters discussed in terms of hedge cutting, risk assessments, the lack of monitoring schedules, etc.* Matter to be raised with Garff Authorities and Mr Rodan.

c. Feedback from **Civic Service 2011.**

Mrs Stephens was thanked for organising a very enjoyable Civic Service. The children from Dhoon School had been central to the service and were thanked for their wonderful contribution. Reverend Faulds had been thanked following the service, as had Mrs Barnes, Mrs Sayer and their team for providing the refreshments. Attention was drawn to the Kirk Maughold facebook site which had photographs of the event.

d. To consider proposed changes to local election legislation (summary sheet attached). This matter was noted. No further action.

11.123. **Current Consultations for consideration:**

a. to discuss submission in regard to the consultation on **Agricultural Strategy** (document circulated following September meeting)

Members discussed this consultation and considered further information from local farmers. Some concern was raised that the 10 year Countryside Care Scheme was the subject of review after just two years; which could disrupt the long term planning of farmers. The tone of the discussion was that agriculture should be adequately supported by government, but that the correct approach would be to listen to the views of all farmers prior to any restructuring of the CCS. The clerk was given no further instruction.

b. to discuss **Draft Planning Policy Statement**, 'The Replacement or Extension of Dwellings in the Countryside' Response by 11<sup>th</sup> of November (copy in CF).

This document was noted and placed into the Circulation File. MF was concerned that any PPS did not compromise the controls on the replacement or extension of dwellings in the Manx vernacular style. Further discussion was reserved until the November meeting. The Planning Seminar at item 11.124.b below was noted at this stage.

c. For information: List of **Consultations** Current on 30.09.11 (document attached). This document was noted. No further instructions given.

11.124. **Correspondence**

a. **Hon S.C. Rodan SHK** – copy correspondence of request for action on ditches near Ballajora Hill, near Jallow Cottage. **Noted.**

b. **DoI** – Planning Application Submissions Seminar, Thursday 03 November, 4.00 pm Murray House. **Action:** clerk to *advise that MF, RM and the clerk to attend.*

c. **DEFA** – Confirmation of designation of Maughold Cliffs and Brooghs as ASSI. **Noted.**

11.125. **Parish Maintenance:** Clerk & GS to report.

Daffodil Competition at Dhoon School. Clerk to liaise with school and advise Commissioners of date and time.

Arboretum – ntr

Damage to verge by Recycling wagon at **Corony MRC**.  
The clerk advised that this had been cleared and had been reported.

11.126. **PLANNING.**

a. **Decisions from DLGE:** The following matters were noted. No further action.  
11/00997/B **Rose Cottage, Ballajora Hill**, Alterations and extension to dwelling – Approved 27.09.11.  
PA 11/01155/B **Stafflands Cottage, Ballafayle**, Alterations and erection of front porch – Approved 23.09.11.  
PA 11/01118/B **Old Barony House, Port Cornaa Road**, Erection of a sun room extension to replace existing conservatory – Approved 22.09.11.  
PA 11/01171/B **Mill Cottage, Rhenab Road**, Replacement windows – Approved 28.09.11.  
11/01038/B **Land opposite Hillside Cottage, Corony Hill**, creation of vehicular hard standing – Approved 27.09.11.

b. **Decisions to be made:**

11/01007/B **Ballig Farm, Glen Mona Loop Road**, Erection of a replacement dwelling; Mr Henry Whipp  
Amended plans to consider.  
No Objection.

11/01248/B **Cliff Stabilisation works, Ballure**, Hyder Consulting Ltd.  
No objection.

c. **Appeal Matters & Matters to Note**

11/00539/B **Sarah's Cottage**, Erection of a detached garage (Amendment to 04/01353/B). **Noted.**

d. Building Control Certificates: None.

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11.127. **Finance Consideration of September 2011 Finances.**

INV. DATE	EXPENDITURE	GROSS	VAT	CHQ
	25-Sep-11 Manx Telecom	50.96		8.34 DD
68	MSC Parish Day	654.57		2747
69	Plants Belle Vue	25.50		2748
70	Chris Littler Web Design	104.00		2749
71	MEA	0.54	0.64	2750
72	Spotless Cleaners Sept	200.00		2752
73	Lara Barnes CS Refreshments	360.00		2753
	Totals	5,752.56	513.78	

September Financial Overview. A spreadsheet was circulated at the meeting for consideration. **Noted.**

11.128. **Any other Business**

**MF** advised that a member of the public had asked if the Dhoon Sign was to be replaced. It was felt that a replacement was not necessary at this stage.

**RM** raised the matter of recycling and the viability of providing more mini-recycling-centres similar to the unit at the Corony. There followed discussion of the likelihood of further rises in the charges for tipping at the EfW. It was agreed that the viability of recycling would increase if this charge were increased by government.

**11.129. General Correspondence/Information File**

**DoI** – Tipping Figures September 2011

**Lezayre Commissioners** – Invite to Civic Service 30.10.11, 2.00 pm, Sulby Community Hall.

**Braddan Commissioners** – Invite to Civic Service 06.11.11, 3.00 pm, Kirk Braddan Church.

**Lonan Commissioners** – Invite to Civic Service 09.10.11, 11.00 pm, All Saints Church.

**DoH** – Physical Activity Strategy.

**RTLC** – Circulars.

The above matters were noted. No action requested. File to be circulated.

**Private Session**

Meeting Closed at 9.51

**Maughold Parish Commissioners Contact Details:**

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**Date of Next Meeting Monday November 7th 2011**