

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAUGHOLD PARISH COMMISSIONERS HELD ON MONDAY JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2013, 7.30 PM AT DHOON CHURCH HALL

**7.00 pm** Meeting with Mr Nigel Cretney Regarding Developments at the Dhoon Church  
Mr Cretney had forwarded his apologies prior to the meeting. It is hoped that he would attend the February meeting of the Commissioners.

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

13.1. **Apologies:** All Members present.

13.2. **Declarations of any Interests** in the business of the Agenda: None declared.

13.3. Consideration of the **accuracy of the Minutes** of the Meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2012. These were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed **Mr Quayle**, seconded **Mr Cowley**.

13.4. **Matters Arising** from the Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2012. None raised.

13.5. **Matters for Discussion.**

a. Cuts to Number 16 Maughold Bus Service.

**Mrs Fargher** referred to the usage figures provided to the Commissioners. These demonstrated that on average the Number 16 carried three persons per journey. She asked if these could be publicised. This was agreed. Mr Moughtin referred to Mr Longworth's correspondence in which he indicated that there had been a 'misunderstanding' on the Commissioners part in regard to the notification of changes to bus times. Mr Moughtin stated that, whatever the process, the people affected had not been informed until the media release. Members agreed that the changes should have been the subject of more effective consultation. Should be longer and more publicised. There followed discussion of the lack of a Saturday service in the new timetable. The Commissioners had requested that Saturday be one of the two days on which a service ran. Mr Longworth had advised subsequently that this would not be viable. Members had voiced concerns about Dhoon children having to stand on the Number 16 due to insufficient number of seats on the new silver buses. Mr Longworth had advised the Commissioners that standing was within current legislation and therefore acceptable. It was noted that the Welsh Government was in the process of requiring operators to have seat belts fitted to all school buses. Members discussed IOM Transports proposal to use bendy-buses for school runs to RGS. Concerns about the number of pupils who would be forced to stand on these were expressed. There was a general consensus that the use of these buses was not an acceptable option for the older pupils.

**Action:** *the clerk was instructed to contact Dhoon and RGS to discuss their views on these issues.*

b. Garff Commissioners' Carol Service 2012 - Feedback.

It was noted that the service was well attended and very enjoyable.

Action: the clerk was instructed to send letters of thanks to those who had organized, performed and assisted with the service.

c. Damage to gates and erosion of the U92 track –

**Mr Cowley** advised Members that the top gate had been repaired. He also advised that water damage remains and felt that the track should be shut as it was potentially dangerous. **Mrs Fargher** had also viewed the damage and agreed. There was still some vagueness in the Department's responses in regard to the closure of the track.

**Action:** the clerk was instructed to seek absolute confirmation that the track was open, and to re-iterate the Commissioners view that the track needed urgent repair.

d. Meeting of Northern Commissioners at Jurby, 05.12.12 – Feedback.

**Mr Cowley** stated that the meeting had been positive and the general idea of working together, where mutually beneficial, was to be supported. Mr Moughtin agreed and said that the meetings were a good opportunity for the authorities to communicate with each other. Mr Quayle stated that the meeting had

been useful and could lead to further joint working in addition to the Garff Initiative. Mrs Perks was very supportive of the northern authorities speaking to each other for the purpose of sharing services.

- e. Impact on the rates of the projected rises in Tipping Charges and operational costs at the Northern CA Site.  
Action: The clerk was instructed to provide and circulate figures showing options for including the 65% rise in tipping charges on the rates.

Mr Moughtin requested that the clerk contact Treasury to obtain information on how the rates from DSS controlled houses was collected and paid to the Commissioners.

- f. Garff Refuse Collection – Annual Inflationary Review.  
The clerk advised that there would be a 3% rise in refuse charges for YE 14. This was to cover inflation as agreed in the refuse contract. This had been accounted for in the estimates.

### 13.6. Current Consultations for consideration:

**DoI** – To consider introducing additional roadworthiness testing for vehicles (by 1<sup>st</sup> February).

The general consensus was that these tests should not be introduced. The number of accidents where the condition of the vehicle was the cause of the accident was extremely low. There was some concern that, in part, the measure was being considered to increase government revenue. It was also noted that much of the research in the document was based on statistics from other jurisdictions as remote from the Isle of Man as China; it being felt that the Manx situation should be the basis for the decision. Members were more supportive of increasing the number of 'spot checks' undertaken by the Police and Vehicle Testing Engineers. Statistics from IOM not china.

List of further current consultations attached for information. **Noted.**

### 13.7. Correspondence

- a. **DOI** – Request for information on use of Trees and High Hedges Legislation. The clerk reported that he had forwarded information on the cases that had been dealt with by the Commissioners under this legislation. **Noted.**
- b. **Treasury** – Re. Local Authority Borrowing Framework Agreement (Response by 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013). The Commissioners have no borrowing. No action necessary. **Noted.**
- c. **Douglas Corporation** – Regarding joining Douglas Library.  
The clerk was asked to include this matter on the February Agenda for further discussion.
- d. **DoI** – Planning User Group – Highways matters & effect on planning; 24.01.13, 4.00 pm, Murray House  
**Mrs Fargher** to attend.

### 13.8. Parish Maintenance and Health & Safety Matters:

**Mr Moughtin** initiated discussion of the Commissioners' approach to Health and Safety, prompting a discussion of any additional actions that were currently deemed necessary. **Mr Quayle** agreed and said that further input from a H&S professional might be worth investigating at this stage; it might provide another perspective to the way the Commissioners deliver services. **Mr Cowley** referred to the fact that the vast majority of services were delivered by contractors and that these had primary responsibility for Health and Safety. He also stated that he felt that the Commissioners had already given a lot of thought to the way in which it applies its H & S issues etc, and that we have to be careful that we do not make out H & S to be an area that people should panic over. That would be the last that the Dept of H & S would want.'

The clerk advised that the H&S Officer from government had briefed the Commissioners on their responsibilities to ensure that they were engaging contractors who had sufficient competence to carry out the work safely; i.e. that

risk assessments were inspected and discussed with the contractor. Risk assessments had been produced by the Commissioners for maintenance activities undertaken by the clerk as part of his duties.

### 13.9. PLANNING.

a. **Decisions from DLGE:** the following matters were noted.

12/01455/B **Faaié Moar**, Port Lewaigue, Erection of replacement sun-room – approved 10.12.12.

12/01547/B **Ballagilley Farm**, demolition of an existing barn and conversion of redundant stone barns into living accommodation.

b. **Planning to Consider:**

12/01633/A **Grounds of Folieu**, AiP for erection of a detached dwelling; Seymar Developments Ltd.

Members noted that this proposal was contrary to the Area Plan and to policies in the Strategic Plan and other planning legislation. The clerk was instructed to object.

12/01483/B **Seawinds, Ballajora Crossing**, Amended plans for alterations, erection of extension, creation of a driveway and extension of residential curtilage.

No objection.

12/01547/B **Ballagilley Farm**, demolition of an existing barn and conversion of redundant stone barns into living accommodation.

No objection.

b.i. **Appeal Matters:**

**Cronk ny Killey**, Amended plans for demolition of cottage and replacement two storey cottage – Appeal against original refusal decision confirmed. **Noted.**

a. **Building Control Certificates, etc:** None.

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13.10. **Finance** The following matters were noted and cheques approved and signed.

#### FINANCES DECEMBER 12

INV.	DATE	EXPENDITURE	GROSS	VAT	CHQ
97	03-Dec-12	Gifts Civic Service	29.90		2944
98		Dhoon Church PCC Hall Hire	240.00		2945
100		IOM Water & Sewerage Auth	51.84		2947
101		MEA (Corony Ent)	11.50	0.54	2948
102		IOM Gov Tipping Oct/Nov	2,772.84	462.14	2949
103		Spotless Cleaners	200.00		2950
104		Feltons Nov 12	58.40	9.13	2951
105		Kinrades AV Nov/Dec	279.60	61.60	2952

### 13.11. Any other Business

**Mrs Perks** drew Members' attention to the fact that no works had been started to stop water issuing onto the Lhaggan Path.

**Action:** *the clerk was instructed to contact the PROW Officer and the Water and Sewerage Authority who had caused the flow of water during their works on the new sewage plant.*

**Mr Quayle** reported that the condition of the Port Cornaa road was very bad with many potholes.

**Action:** *the clerk was instructed to ask for these to be assessed and repaired.*

**Mrs Fargher** asked if the government's plans to transfer many costs onto the rates be publicised.

Action: clerk to issue press release and post on website.

**Mrs Fargher** also asked about drainage at the Coron, referring to the flooding of a property which had previously occurred. The clerk reported that the situation was monitored during periods of heavy rain, but the ditches above had been cleared and were operating efficiently at this time. The new ditch across the play area designed to take any further overflow was an additional precaution. The situation would continue to be monitored.

**Mr Moughtin** proposed prohibiting the disposal of glass, tins and paper in the wheelie bins. This was particularly important as the tipping subsidy was being drastically reduced by government and would disappear completely in 2017.

**Action:** *the clerk was instructed to discuss the practicalities of banning recyclable materials from the bins.*

**Mr Quayle** proposed extending the higher path at the Arboretum. This was discussed. It was agreed that a site visit should be arranged in the Spring to consider the proposal.

13.12. **General Correspondence/Information File** The following matters were noted:

- a. **DoI** - Tipping Figures November 12 – 29.8 tonnes (4 cycles).
- b. **DHA**- Invitation to Holocaust Memorial Service 27.01.13.
- c. **DASH** – request for support.
- d. **DoI** – Advice & information leaflets on flooding.
- e. **Tynwald** – Annual report
- f. **Douglas Corporation** – Invite to social event 14.01.13, 2.30 pm Mayor's Parlour.

Public session declared closed at 10.20 pm

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**Private Session**

**Next Meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 7.30 pm**