

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAUGHOLD PARISH COMMISSIONERS HELD ON MONDAY  
April 8<sup>TH</sup> 2013, 7.30 PM AT DHOON CHURCH HALL**

**7.30 pm** Meeting of Maughold Parish Commissioners

Present: Mr R. Moughtin (Chair), Mrs Fargher, Mr Cowley, Mrs Perks, Mr Quayle.  
Clerk: M. Royle.

13.48. Apologies: All Members present.

13.49. Declarations of any Interests in the business of the Agenda. None declared.

13.50. Consideration of the accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. Mrs Fargher proposed that the circulated draft minutes be accepted as a correct record. Seconded Mrs Perks. **Resolved.**

13.51. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2013.  
None raised during this item.

**13.52. Matters for Discussion.**

a. Proposals for changes to level of local authority attendance allowance and travelling expenses: Members referred to other authorities, namely Douglas and Port St Mary where there had been some support for a large rise in the level of payments. **Mrs Perks** stated that any rise was wholly wrong whilst there were cuts being made elsewhere; particularly in education. **Mr Quayle** stated that now was not the time and added that he was surprised that a large increase was being considered. **Mr Cowley** reported that at the recent Municipal Association meeting, the Douglas had been of the opinion that a higher payment would make the role of Commissioners financially viable. **Mr Cowley** added that, outside of Douglas, the other authorities in the Association opposed a large rise and were of a similar view to Maughold Commissioners. It was noted that the majority of the meetings of Douglas Corporation took place during working hours. Members considered the options and agreed that the clerk should submit comment indicating that the Board were not supportive of any rises in the current rates.

b. To discuss response of the planning authority to caravan parked in a field in the Parish. Correspondence from the Planning Enforcement Officer was read to the meeting. This indicated that investigation of the matter was ongoing. It was noted that the caravan was supporting a use of the field that was not agricultural.

**Action:** *Mr Cowley proposed that the clerk be instructed to write to the Planning Authority to ask them to investigate whether an application for Change of Use needed to be submitted. Resolved.*

c. Response to Askbuck regarding further recycling facilities. Correspondence from this company had been considered by Members. The option of plastic recycling was discussed. **Mr Moughtin** stated that whilst he was very supportive of investigating plastic recycling, the effect on the EfW of removing a material that may assist in the efficiency of the burning process was also a factor that needed to be considered. **Mr Cowley** questioned how the plastic was recycled, the assumption being it was shipped off-island. **Mr Quayle** stated that the main concern was for ensuring that non-combustible materials such as glass and metal were recycled rather being sent to the EfW

**Action:** *It was resolved that a representative from Askbuck should be invited to a forthcoming meeting.*

d. Isle of Man Waste Strategy 2012 – 2022 Document.

This document had been circulated and was noted. **Mrs Fargher** referred the attention of Members to the household recycling target of 30%. Members agreed that this seemed unambitious. It was agreed that recycling should be very positively encouraged. **Mr Moughtin** suggested by expanding the current range of the kerbside recycling scheme currently running in Douglas and Braddan. It was suggested that in other respects the document proposed circumstances in which an all-island refuse collection service could be encouraged. **Mrs Fargher** noted that there was no discussion in the document of how all this was going to be paid for. The possibility of

government transferring Bring Bank collection charges onto the rates in future was raised by **Mrs Fargher**, and noted by Members. **Mr Cowley** stated that this was part of the process of transferring charges from government onto rates and that should be made clear. **Mr Moughtin** said that the figures showed that the Commissioners delivered a refuse collection service very cost effectively and at a high level of service, and that the Board's duty was to the ratepayer not Treasury. **Mr Quayle** added that in practice government were often reluctant to devolve provision of services to local authorities, but were happy to transfer the charges for them. **Mr Moughtin** suggested that bin weighing may be an option that could be considered in the future, particularly as the waste disposal charges rose.

e. Payment of fee for residents to access Douglas Library.

Further correspondence from a resident was read in regard to the decision made at the March meeting to decline the offer from Douglas Library. It was noted that the matter had been raised in the minutes which are published on the noticeboards and website. It had also been raised in the North section of the Isle of Man Newspapers following the February meeting. No resulting correspondence has been received from other residents since the matter was raised in the minutes and the newspaper.

### 13.53. **Current Consultations for consideration:**

List of current government consultations attached for information.

Members referred to the consultation on the proposed new immigration and British nationality fees. These propose the introduction of new fees for applications for Immigration and British Nationality services in line with an equivalent increase in the United Kingdom.

**Action:** *the clerk was instructed to respond indicating that the Commission felt the costs should be in line with those set in the UK.*

### 13.54. **Correspondence**

a. DoI – Re. Planning Applications Fees Order 2013

This correspondence was noted.

### 13.55. **Parish Maintenance and Health & Safety Matters:**

Feedback from from Mr Moughtin following H&S Meeting at DoI, 04.04.13.

**Mr Moughtin** and the clerk had attended a meeting given by DoI on health and safety. The seminar had covered general health and safety matters regarding local authorities, particularly in regard to refuse collection on un-restricted roads. **Mr Moughtin** advised that in terms of the latter a range of options had been suggested, including suspension of the refuse collection service during race/practice weeks and use of 'barrier' vehicles. It was noted that the primary health and safety responsibility lay with the contractor, however, it was also noted that the Commissioners are in regular dialogue with the contractor and had periodic discussions of options in regard to safety on the A2. The clerk reported that the contractor was already taking actions such as collecting on unrestricted sections in the early hours, reporting dangerous driving to avoid repeat incidents, and minimizing the times the vehicle was stationary on bends, etc. It was agreed that the dialogue with the refuse contractor in regard to health and safety issues should continue. Accordingly the clerk was instructed to raise the matters discussed at the health and safety meeting with the contractor prior to TT. **Mr Quayle** referred to the presence of agricultural vehicles on the highway. There followed discussion of various options including the provision of road signage that could warn drivers of the potential presence of slow moving vehicles on the A2. The general consensus was that actions in this regard were the responsibility of the highways authority. Large signage was already erected at the Dhoon Corner by DoI to encourage sensible driving during the racing season.

**Action:** *clerk to forward copies of the documents from the health and safety meeting to the contractor; clerk to discuss these matters with Mr Kinrade prior to TT.*

### 13.56. **PLANNING.**

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

12/01316/B **Sarah's Cottage, Ballasloe**, Retrospective application for creation of new vehicular access and erection of front wall – Refused 14.03.13

13/00177/B **The Carrick, Port Lewaigue**, Erection of replacement greenhouse – Approved 19.03.13.

12/01706/B **Booilushag House**, erection of a dwelling at land adjacent; BPD Ltd – Approved 26.03.13.

**b. Planning to Consider:**

13/00282/B Land Adjacent to Laurieston House, Booilushag, AiP for erection of a dwelling.  
The Commission raised no objections to this proposal.

**b.i. Appeal Matters:**

12/01225/B Ballaconn, Ballasloe, Appeal against refusal of application for alterations and extensions to dwelling.  
Outcome: Minister **reversed** decision of the Planning Committee and Planning Inspector. Application now approved.

The decision by Mr Thompson, on behalf of the Minister, to reverse the decisions of both the Planning Committee and the Appointed Planning Inspector was noted with interest. The level of detail explaining the reversal decision was noted. The Commissioners had not objected to the application themselves and some understanding of the reasons for the reversal decision as outlined by Mr Thompson (acting on behalf of the Minister) was expressed by the Board. However, the level of intervention in the decision prompted a discussion of the procedure for ministerial involvement in planning appeals; in particular the opportunity given for the decisions made by planning professionals to be over-ridden at ministerial level.

**Action:** clerk to circulate copies of the legislation in regard to planning appeals.

**b.ii. Building Control Certificates, etc:**

DoEFA – Notification of request for remediation work to take place on septic tank at Ballasaig Farm House. This matter was noted.

**13.57. Finance**

**FINANCES MARCH 2013**

INV.	DATE	EXPENDITURE	GROSS	VAT	CHQ
DD	25.03.13	Manx Telecom	39.15	7.83	DD
1(14)	27.03.13	Kestrel Insurance	1,318.84		2978
128		MEA Publ. Lighting	128.89	6.14	2979
129	08.04.13	IOM Gov NI & ITIP			2980
130		Spotless Mar	200.00		2981
131		Kinrade AV Mar	184.80	30.80	2982
132		KMPCC HH to 15.06.13.	325.00		2983

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

- a. **DoI** - Tipping figures Mar 13, 27,140 kg (4 cycles) Equates to 15.01 kg per bin (extrapolates to 0.78 tonnes per household per year.
- b. **Onchan Commissioners** – Notification of Civic Service: 3.00 pm Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013, St Peters.
- c. **DoI** – Request for safety signage at the Dhoon during TT & MGP.

**13.59. Searches:** One search completed 02.04.13. – noted.

**13.60. Committees, etc.**

- 1. Municipal Association** – Minutes of Meeting 28.02.13 and agenda for Meeting 28.03.13 in CF.  
**Mr Cowley** advised that the association was to discuss the next contract for local authority auditing services at a forthcoming meeting. A meeting would also take place later in the year with the Chief Minister and Mr Ronan to discuss the government’s position on local authority changes. The Association had also discussed the possibility of the passing of sewage charges onto the water rates; which would impact the ratepayer. Invites had already been sent out for the AGM which was to take place at the Colby Glen Hotel

on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Members were asked to contact the clerk as soon as possible to advise if they were to attend.

2. **Housing – Mrs Fargher** advised that she had raised the matter of access to the minutes of joint boards with the Committee at their last meeting. There followed a discussion of procedures for drafting minutes where confidentiality was an issue.
3. **Swimming Pool** – Nothing to report.
4. **Northern Traffic Management Liaison Group** - Nothing to report.
5. **Garff Joint Initiative** – Next meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00 pm Agenda in CF.  
Mr Robertshaw will be in attendance to discuss the recent housing reviews. There followed a discussion of the provision of social housing for the elderly or those wishing to 'down-size' from the houses available in the Corran. Mrs Fargher noted that currently there were no options available within Maughold. This was a matter that could be raised at the meeting with Mr Robertshaw.
6. **Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team.** Next Meeting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2013, 9.30 Ramsey Town Hall. No issues. Send apologies.
7. **Northern Local Authorities Meeting** – notes from meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013.  
Mr Moughtin advised that the outcome of the meeting would be that Mr Bell and Mr Ronan be invited to a future meeting to discuss local authority changes. This was noted by Members.

#### 13.61. **Any Other Business**

- a. A planning proposal for a new dwelling at a location in the Dreemskerry area was read and considered. No direct comment was made on the details of the proposal. It was agreed that detailed comment would be made should a planning application follow.
- b. **Mr Cowley** requested clarification of the planning permission for sheds. The clerk was instructed to circulate the legislation in regard to permitted development.
- c. **Mrs Fargher** advised that the U92 track was snowbound and potentially unsafe for motorbikes. The consensus was that this was a matter for DoI to assess.
- d. **Mrs Perks** asked if any Members had had reports of dogs becoming ill after visiting beaches in the parish, as there had been a problem on Laxey Beach. The clerk reported that no reports had been made to the Commissioners.

#### **Maughold Parish Commissioners Contact Details:**

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**Next Meeting AGM Monday May 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm**