

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAUGHOLD PARISH COMMISSIONERS HELD ON
MONDAY August 5th 2013, 7.30 PM AT DHOON CHURCH HALL**

7.30 pm Meeting of Maughold Parish Commissioners

Present: Mrs M Fargher, Mr M Cowley, Mr R Moughtin, Mrs C Perks, Mr J Quayle.
Clerk: M Royle.

Meeting with **Nigel Cretney**, Bishop's Missioner, Local Minister, at the Dhoon Church.

The clerk reported that Mr Cretney had sent apologies as he was unwell. **Mrs Fargher** said that Mr Cretney had indicated that he hoped to attend the September meeting.

13.92. Apologies: All members present.

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

13.94. Consideration of the accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the 1st of July 2013. These were resolved to be an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed **Mr Quayle**. Seconded **Mr Moughtin**.

13.95. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 1st of July 2013.
None raised.

13.96. **Matters for Discussion.**

- a. Housing Conference, 19.07.13 – feedback from **Mrs Fargher** and **Mr Moughtin**.
Mr Moughtin referred to the presentations on the current Housing Review stating that they were only general proposals at this stage and lacked detail about implementation. He informed Members that the various presentations should have been followed by question sessions, but these were omitted and didn't happen. **Mr Moughtin** said this led to an impression amongst delegates that government wanted to control public housing but not pay for it. **Mrs Fargher** said that discussion had taken place about the need for smaller houses due to more people living on their own; this was also relevant to Maughold where no smaller units were available. In this respect **Mrs Fargher** referred to the request made by the Commissioners to the DSC Minister for consideration of the provision of smaller units in Maughold which had been investigated in the past. The response from the Minister had indicated that the matter could not be considered until the new housing administration structure was in place.
Action: *It was resolved that the clerk should acknowledge the response from Mr Robertshaw and request that the request for a review of public housing provision in Maughold be kept on file for future investigation.*

Mr Quayle referred to the indication in the Housing Report that in future public housing was more likely to be funded via shared equity schemes such as 'rent to buy', which would help to transfer the burden of future provision from taxation. There followed a discussion of how a system of means testing would be applied to tenants of public housing and sheltered accommodation. The general consensus was that this would provide a more sustainable way of funding public provision.

Mrs Fargher referred to the correspondence received from the clerk at Cooil Roi Housing association which had led to an offer from Mr Robertshaw for a further meeting with the Garff Authorities to discuss how the public housing in Garff could be administered. **Mr Cowley** proposed that representatives of the Commissioners attend such a meeting, but said that the option of joining a housing association with the northern authorities should also be investigated on the basis that the best option should be chosen for

Maughold residents. He stated that the Commission needed to make itself aware of all the options and their implications before making a decision.

Action: *The clerk was instructed to notify Laxey, Lonan and Cooil Roi that they would attend a meeting with Mr Robertshaw as proposed. This was planned to be on September the 11th 2013.*

Mr Quayle referred to the Housing Report by Tolson and how it indicated that priorities should be changed in terms of eligibility for public housing, etc. He advised that this could have implications which needed to be considered. **Mr Quayle** also referred Members to the sections which indicated conditions under which new public sector houses might be sold under the rent to buy scheme outlined.

Mr Quayle also referred to the proposals being made to reduce the number of wardens and off site wardens on duty at sheltered accommodations. He said that such changes could lead to efficiency savings, but that the changes could also cause problems and had to be implemented sensitively. Mrs Fargher advised that some proposed changes were very contentious and agreed that the implications had to be thought through carefully before being made. **Mr Cowley** stated that the local aspect should be maintained in terms of the way housing was administered. There followed debate of whether tenants should be allowed to access public housing and sheltered accommodation in other areas. **Mrs Fargher** suggested that tenants should not be constrained by boundaries and should be able to move island wide. **Mr Cowley** stated that some choice as to who is accepted into public housing was preferable and needed to be included in any new system for allocation. It was felt that this was a matter for further discussion as the proposals from government became more detailed in the future months.

Mr Quayle outlined the proposal for a Procurement Agency to oversee new provision and maintenance of the housing stock across the Island. The consensus was that this could result in excessive bureaucracy. **Mr Moughtin** suggested that it could introduce another tier of unnecessary management. There followed discussion of how public housing services could be delivered more sensibly without government over-administration.

It was noted that under the proposals tenants would pay total costs, including service and maintenance costs although the ability to pay would be assessed under a system of means testing. The general consensus was that this was a necessary step forward in terms of making the funding of public sector housing more affordable in the future.

b. Update on arrangements for Civic Service 2013.

Mrs Fargher advised that the school had been approached and were willing for the choir to attend. The ladies of the church had agreed to organise refreshments. Mr Cretney had advised that he would forward a draft service sheet. Mrs Fargher proposed that the proceeds of the collection be donated to Dhoon Church Funds. This was resolved.

Action: *It was agreed that invitations should go out towards the end of August. Members to forward names to be included to the clerk asap. The clerk was also instructed to forward the date of the Civic Service to the Secretary of the Municipal Association.*

b. To discuss the options offered by Askbuck for Bring Bank Recycling.

Various locations for further mini-recycling-centres were discussed. The consensus was that a facility for glass/paper/cans at Port Lewaigue Close could be investigated with local residents, as could a facility for cardboard and plastic at either Glen Mona Hotel Car Park or Dhoon Car Park; at both sites the agreement of the landowner was necessary. Members felt that these would be more geographically suitable sites for plastic and cardboard rather than the car park owned by the Commissioners in Maughold Village which was more remote from centres of population. Members asked about the type of receptacle that would be installed.

Action: *the clerk was asked to liaise with Laxey Commissioners about the type And effectiveness of the receptacle that Askbuck had installed at Laxey Harbour.*

c. Surface of the Commissioners' Car Park in Maughold Village (raised by Mrs Fargher 29.07.13).
This matter was discussed by Members.

Action: *It was agreed that the clerk should obtain a quote for rehabilitation of the surface at the entrance.*

d. **To discuss refuse tipping arrangements across the three Garff Authorities.**

The clerk outlined a possible new method for the manner in which tipping charges were apportioned across the three Garff authorities. It was agreed that a new method should be agreed and implemented as soon as possible.

Action: *Clerk to arrange for a proposal to be presented at the GJIC meeting on the 11th of September 2013.*

e. **Speed Limit area and traffic calming in Glen Mona.**

The request of a resident to extend the 30 mph limit on the southern entrance to Glen Mona was considered. The clerk reported that Highways had previously stated that the current placing of the 30mph signs was correct, and that they had re-iterated this position. The clerk also reported that Highways were currently undertaking an audit of speed limits along the whole of the A2. The Department had been asked to include an assessment of traffic calming measures that could be introduced in Glen Mona. It was also noted that Highways had requested the return of the 'Smiley Face' speed indicator signs that the Commissioners had been placing to calm traffic in Glen Mona. This was felt to be a disappointing development as it was considered unlikely that the signs would be installed regularly in Glen Mona.

Action: Clerk to write to Highways requesting frequent placement of speed indicator signs in Glen Mona, particularly in school term times. Clerk to also enquire with DoI about the cost of purchase of similar signs with a view to their regular placement at the north and south entrances to Glen Mona.

f. **Cooli Roi** – Regarding a meeting with Mr Robertshaw to discuss amalgamation of public housing across Garff.

13.97. **Current Consultations for consideration:**

A list of current government consultations circulated & attached for information. The range of current consultations were discussed in general. No further actions were requested on any of these matters.

Action: *The clerk was instructed to arrange for a link to government consultations on the web site as well as their posting on the noticeboards.*

13.98. **Correspondence**

a. **Resident** – Regarding placement of wheelie bins outside properties. A resident had written in commenting on the untidiness of wheelie bins that were left at the curtilage of properties by the highway. The correspondence was read, the matter was noted and will be monitored by the Commissioners.

b. **Ramsey Town Commissioners** – The clerk reported that a reminder regarding the invoice for emptying the bins at the Crossags had been received. The clerk reported that no correspondence had been received since the letter from the Chief Technical Officer; which had also advised that further correspondence would be forthcoming directly from the Board of Ramsey Commissioners. Mr Cowley asked if this had been received. The clerk advised that no further correspondence had been forthcoming on the matter. Mr Cowley said that on several occasions he had tried to contact the Chief Executive at Ramsey Commissioners but the requests for contact had not been returned; other than a phone call from the Chief Technical Officer. Mr Cowley also stated that he had spoken to two Ramsey Commissioners about the situation with the Crossags invoice; both had assured him they would look into the matter but no contact had been made with Maughold Commissioners. He further commented that the poor communication from Ramsey was disappointing at a time when local authorities were looking towards working mutually to deliver services.

Action: *The clerk was instructed to return the invoice to the Commissioner in charge of Works and Development at Ramsey Commissioners advising that Maughold Commissioners were still awaiting communication from either the Chief Executive or the Board of Ramsey Commissioners on the matter. A copy also to be sent to the Chairman.*

c. **DSC** – Copy of Tolson Housing review Report.

This document was noted.

d. **DeFA** – regarding introduction of a £20 fee for the issue of a tree felling licence.

These matters were noted.

e. **Hon Chris Robertshaw MHK** – Regarding provision of public sector housing in Maughold.

The clerk read this letter to the Board. The Commissioners had requested that the Department investigate the need for and provision of smaller public housing units in Maughold. The response from the Minister indicated that no investigation would take place until new housing authorities were in place following the current Housing Review. Mr Robertshaw indicated that the request would be passed on to Mr Halliwell who co-ordinates the new build housing programme for the Department.

Action: *Clerk to acknowledge the response and ask that the request be investigated as soon as the Housing Review process is completed.*

f. **DoI** – Regarding Planning Application Legislation & Landowner statement.

A documents in relation to these matters was circulated and noted. In future planning applications will have to be accompanied by a pro forma indicating ownership of the land signed by the owner of the property which is subject to a planning application.

g. **DSC** – Regarding work experience for the long term unemployed.

Members were positive about this initiative and discussed how the Commissioners might become involved.

Action: *The clerk was instructed to respond to this correspondence seeking further information and further details regarding how those on the scheme are selected by the employers.*

13.99. **Parish Maintenance and Health & Safety Matters:**

a. **landscaping at arboretum upper path/viewing point.** The clerk reported that Island Contractors had landscaped the viewing point with top soil and grass seed. **Mr Moughtin** advised that paving would be sourced to line the compass installed by the pupils of Dhoon School.

b. **Updated risk assessments from Kinrade Bros Haulage and Island Contractors.** These matters were noted. C/F.

c. **Play Area Inspection.** The clerk was instructed to make arrangements with Douglas.

d. Correspondence from LGU on the **safety of inflatable blower fans.** Noted C/F.

13.100. **PLANNING.**

13/00881/B Ballacreggan Farm, Slieau Lewaigue, Erection of a cattle shed to replace existing chicken sheds: Mr Steve Corkill. No objections.

13/00890/R Sarah's Cottage Cornaa, Creation of new vehicular access and front boundary wall (amendment to PA 12/01316/B retrospective); Mr & Mrs Rand.

This application had not been received at the time of the meeting. Clerk to contact the Department and circulate.

a. **Decisions from DLGE:** None this month.

b. Planning to Consider:

b.i. **Appeal Matters:** None this month.

b.ii. **Building Control Certificates, etc:** 09/07229/DEX Caardee, Dreemskerry Hill, 1st Floor Extension, enclosure of balcony, etc Issued 10.06.13. Noted.

b.iii. **Enforcement Matters:** Clerk to report. The clerk reported that the Planning Enforcement Officer was currently investigating a matter in the Cornaa area. The situation regarding the caravan in the field at Hibernia had yet to be resolved. The Commissioners complaint to the Department about their handling of the matter was being investigated by the Planning Secretary. Commissioners to monitor these matters.

13.101. Finance

| FINANCES JULY 13 | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|--------|------|
| INV. | DATE | EXPENDITURE | GROSS | VAT | CHQ |
| DD | 25.07.13 | Manx Telecom | 47.81 | 7.97 | DD |
| 32 | 26-Jul-13 | IOM Gov (Hous Conf) | 33.00 | 5.50 | 3022 |
| 33 | 05-Aug-13 | Island Contractors | 250.00 | | 3024 |
| 34 | | Feltons (June) | 41.67 | 6.94 | 3025 |
| 35 | | IOM Gov Tipping June | 2,116.91 | 352.82 | 3026 |
| 36 | | IOM Gov CA Site 2nd qtr | 4,313.26 | 718.88 | 3027 |
| 37 | | D. Richards (bench) | 150.00 | | 3028 |
| 38 | | IOM Gov (NI & ITIP July) | | | 3029 |

13.102. **General Correspondence/Information File** The following matters were noted prior to circulation.

- a. DoI - Tipping figures Jun 13. 30.76 tonnes (4 cycles) equates to 17.01 kg per bin average. Extrapolates to annual household refuse tipping weight of 0.88 tonnes.
Tipping figures Jul 13. 41.76 tonnes (5 cycles) equates to 18.48 kg per bin average. Extrapolates to annual household refuse tipping weight of 0.96 tonnes.
- b. DoI – Re: Consultation on review of Legislation relating to the Control of Advertisements.
- c. DoI – Notification of changes to town and Country Planning Orders and Building Regulations Fees.
- d. Ramsey Town Commissioners – Notification of Civic Service date, Sunday 29th September 2013.
- e. General Registry – Regarding centralization of Civil Registration Services.
- f. DCL – regarding Classic TT road closures.
- g. DoI – Re. Petitions Process
- h. DoI – Notice of A18 closure Saturday 24th July (Classic TT), 12 – 6 pm.

13.103. **Searches:** Field known as Reuben’s Place, Ballajora Hill. Noted.

13.104. Committees, etc.

1. **Municipal Association – Mr Cowley** advised that Peel Commissioners had approached government with a view to a national policy to deal with the problem of dog fouling. Feedback on Waste Management Forum (01.07.13). The clerk reported that the presentation documents had been circulated. The following were also placed into the circulation file:

Copy letter from Minister regarding dog fouling. C/F.
Copy, Whitley Council Bulletin. C/F.
Agenda July Meeting, Minutes June Meeting & AGM, July Press release. C/F.

2. **Housing** – ntr.
3. **Swimming Pool** - ntr
4. **Northern Traffic Management Liaison Group – ntr**
5. **Garff Joint Initiative** - Next meeting Wednesday 11th September 2013. Noted. Minutes 10.07.13 in C/F.
6. **Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team.** Next Meeting Tuesday 13th of August 2013, 9.30 Ramsey Town Hall. Noted. Clerk to send apologies.

13.105. **Any Other Business**

Mrs Fargher referred to the siting of a basking shark off Maughold Head in recent weeks. Clerk to provide information on the web site.

Mr Moughtin referred Members to the previous Sunday's 'Opinion' programme on Manx Radio. During the programme Mr Rodan had indicated that he thought that local authorities should consider playing more of a role regarding hedgecutting. The previous meetings the Commissioners had had with DoI on this subject were discussed. DoI had advised that for the service to be transferred new legislation would have to be passed by Tynwald and that no financial assistance would be given. The Commissioners had resolved not to pursue this matter at the the current time, following the meetings with DoI. This remained their position.

Action: *the clerk was instructed to write to Mr Rodan clarifying the current position of the Commissioners.*

Mr Cowley advised that he had recently been involved in the discovery of a case of **Cannabis Cultivation** on a piece of land within Maughold. A large number of Cannabis plants were discovered. This had been reported to the police leading to a suspect being taken into custody. He reported that the matter was presently under investigation, and that he would keep the Commissioners updated with its progress.

Mr Moughtin asked the clerk to contact DoI to request that the path to Cashtal yn Ard be cut as it was heavily overgrown.

The meeting closed at 10.35 pm

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BARRANTEE SKEEREY MAGHAL

Next Meeting Monday 2nd September 2013