

**MINUTES of the MEETING OF MAUGHOLD PARISH COMMISSIONERS HELD ON
MONDAY JANUARY 6th 2014, 7.30 PM AT DHOON CHURCH HALL**

7.30 pm Meeting of Maughold Parish Commissioners

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

14.01 Apologies: all Members present.

14.02. Declarations of any Interests in the business of the Agenda. **Mrs Fargher** advised that she had an interest in matters relating to the use of the Parish Field – see item 14.13. **Mr Quayle** indicated an interest in PA 13/91500/C (See Below).

14.03. Consideration of the accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the 9th of December 2013. These were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed, **Mr Moughtin**. Seconded, **Mr Quayle**.

14.04. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 9th of December 2013. None raised.

14.05. Matters for Discussion.

- a. **To discuss setting the rate and refuse charge for YE 15.** It was agreed that the rate in the pound should remain at 96p. However the above inflation charges imposed by central government at the EfW for refuse tipping and increased charges at the northern CA site have impacted on the separate refuse disposal charge which will rise to £95.92 (a rise of £11.94 for the year per property).

There followed a discussion of facilities in the Parish. It was agreed that a further approach should be made to the Diocesan Board of Finance in regard to either the purchase or long term lease of the field beside the Dhoon Church. It would be the intention of the Commissioners to consult with the local residents with a view to providing play and leisure facilities for the benefit of the local community.

- b. **To discuss draft Refuse Contract prior to GJIC meeting on 14.01.14.** The representatives on the GJIC were instructed to discuss terms and conditions of the new contract being drafted, prior to approval by the Board.

c. To discuss the document "Alternative Means of Service Delivery Municipal Waste Management" Dated 24.12.13.

Members had many concerns with this document. **Mrs Perks** pointed out that one of the final questions asked for costings from the authorities, and wondered how they could have written an accurate report without such figures for comparison. Mr Moughtin noted that the report did not provide detailed figures and costings. These aspects brought the credibility of the report into question. Members also questioned the identity and experience of the 'external validator' who had supported the partial figures and costings provided. **Mr Quayle** pointed out that refuse collection on the Isle of Man was being compared to models in the UK. Members agreed that this was a flawed and inappropriate comparison. **Mr Moughtin** stated that there were no complaints from residents about the current service; either in terms of its cost or quality. He advised that a previous Minister at the DoI had admitted that, across the Island, not one letter had been received asking for changes to the way refuse is collected. There followed discussion in regard to the savings that would be made by 'economies of scale' as indicated in the report. **Mr Quayle** stated that it was likely that the proposed changes would just bring another level of bureaucracy and further cost. **Mr Cowley** suggested that local authorities must act as one if these proposals were to be challenged. He referred to previous changes which had gone through largely because local authorities had failed to organise together and resist poorly drafted policy and legislation. **Mr Moughtin** suggested that a response requesting full clarification of the figures and basis for the conclusions in the report be provided before local authorities responded. Without these it would be difficult to respond effectively. The date for responses of 7th of February 2014 was noted; it was agreed that in the circumstances this did not provide adequate time for an appropriate response. The clerk was asked to write requesting that the deadline be extended. It was also agreed that **Mr Wrigley** should be invited to a meeting with the Commissioners or

the GJIC as a matter of urgency. The clerk was instructed to write to Mr Wrigley in this regard. There followed discussion of the transfer of charges for street cleaning from taxation to rates. It was noted that the level of street cleaning provided to Maughold was low in comparison to town areas such as Ramsey. It was felt that this could lead to a disproportionate charge being levied on rural ratepayers.

- d. To resolve Mandate Details for Britannia Building Society Account.
It was agreed that all Members to be signatories on mandate. These being current commissioners Mrs M. Fargher, Mr M. Cowley, Mr R. Moughtin, Mrs C. Perks, Mr J. Quayle.
- e. Strategic Plan Review – **Mrs Fargher** advised that she had attended a presentation in regard to this review. Questions were raised by members in regard to the prediction in the Review Document for a population of 98,000 by 2036. It was noted that these were Treasury predictions. The review had identified the need for a further 1200 properties in the north. **Mrs Fargher** questioned whether this figure included capacity in terms of elderly units. Mr Cowley asked if clarification could be found in regard to this matter. Members noted that in Maughold there was little extra capacity, particularly in terms of the sewage infrastructure and of the Dhoon School.

14.06. **Current Consultations for consideration:**

Treasury – Proposals for Local Government Audit & Financial Reporting Requirements 2014 (Resp. by 31st Jan 2014).

Members noted that the proposed changes should reduce costs to the smaller authorities, but questioned why a system in which authorities chose their auditor from a list of approved practitioners could not be implemented. It was felt that this would assist in keeping audit charges down to a minimum level.

Action: *the clerk was instructed to respond as indicated above.*

List of current government consultations circulated & attached for information.

14.07. **Correspondence** – see item 14.10

14.08. **Parish Maintenance and Health & Safety Matters:** no matters raised.

14.09. **PLANNING.**

a. **Decisions from DLGE:**

b. **Planning to Consider: -**

13/91483/B **Land adjacent to Lewaigue House**, Jacks Lane, Erection of boundary fencing; P.M Kerruish. No objection.

Mr Quayle withdrew from discussion of the following application:

13/91500/C **Unaig**, Ballafyle, removal of agricultural worker's occupancy condition from approved dwelling; Mr M. Whipp. Members noted the relevant planning legislation and the circumstances of the original application and its approval. The clerk was instructed to respond indicating the Commissioners view that the legislation and regulations should be applied as written.

13/91507/B **Lieh Acyr**, Port e Vullen, Erection of an extension to provide a garage to dwelling. Members had no objection to these proposals.

b.i. **Appeal Matters:** - none to consider.

b.iii. **Enforcement Matters:** - none to consider.

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

- a. **DoI** - Tipping figures October 13. 26.97 tonnes. Average 14.91 kg per bin, equates to average annual household tipping of 0.77 tonnes.
- b. **DoI** – Correspondence regarding maintenance of play areas including details of a court case from the UK.

14.11. **Searches:** Fairwinds, Booilushag. **Noted.**

The following matters were noted:

FINANCES DEC 13

Feltons Nov 13	11.64	1.94	3088
MEA Coronry lighting	12.00	0.56	3089
Island Contractors	115.00		3090

14.12. **Committees, etc.**

1. **Municipal Association** – Documents re. December 2013 Meeting in C/F. Meeting with Chief Minister Wednesday 29th January, 7.00 pm, Willow House – Mr Moughtin and Mr Cowley to attend.
2. **Housing** - ntr
3. **Swimming Pool** - ntr
4. **Northern Traffic Management Liaison Group** – ntr
5. **Garff Joint Initiative** - Next meeting Tuesday 14th January 2014. 7.00 pm Laxey Commissioners' Offices - noted. The clerk was asked to circulate the 'A Way Forward' document from 2010
6. **Northern Neighbourhood Policing Team.** Next Meeting Tuesday 14th of January 2014, 9.30 Ramsey Town Hall. No Member to attend.

14.13. **Any Other Business**

- Flooding at Coronry Bridge – The clerk was asked to forward a request to DoI that the adequacy of the culvert Above Coronry Bridge be assessed as it appeared to be unable to handle high volumes of storm water.
- Use of field for wedding Reception on 12.04.14. It was agreed that the grass could be cut and that the car park could be closed on the day for the duration of the reception.
- **Mr Cowley** requested that Mr Rodan's opinions be canvassed on a range of issues that were currently pressing. These being: the consultation on the auditing of authorities; the waste management report to Tynwald; the housing review recommendations; and the future of the three Garff authorities in the face of possible changes to local government structure.

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Next Meeting Monday 3rd February 2014