

GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of a GENERAL MEETING held in the Board Room, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 19th January 2010 at 7.00p.m.

Present Mr. R Gimbert (Chairman)
Mr. D J Lace
Mrs. C A Moughtin
Mr. A Jones
Mr. R Harmer
Mrs. T M Birkett
Mr. E Beale
Mr. I Skidmore

Apologies Mrs. J O'Halloran

In attendance Mr. P G Leadley (Town Clerk)
Mrs. C Horton (Ward Librarian)
Mr. R Baker (Leece Museum Curator)

Action

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME 09/476 The Chairman welcomed the Press to the second meeting of January and wished to place on record his appreciation of all the hard work undertaken by Sergeant Gardner and his colleagues over the establishment of the allotment field.

MINUTES 09/477 The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2010 were taken as read and *CONFIRMED*.

WARD LIBRARY REPORT 09/478 Mrs. Horton presented the quarterly report for the Ward Library for the period ending December 2009. Mrs. Birkett wished to place on record her thanks to the Librarian for her running of the library over the past year. Mrs. Horton referred to the letters of thanks she had received from the school children following their visit to the library. *NOTED* It was *AGREED* that further effort be made with the Department of Transport to have the road signs outside the library altered. CH

LEECE MUSEUM REPORT 09/489 Mr. Baker presented the quarterly report for the Leece Museum for the period ending December 2009. Reference was made to the increase in visitor numbers which totalled 4,512 for the year 2009. Mr. Baker referred

to the additional publicity generated by the recent BBC programme which featured the Leece Museum. It was noted that effort would be made to promote the museum as a possible venue for art and photographic exhibitions. Mr. Jones referred to the research element of Mr. Bakers work and indicated that he had received favourable comments over this work which was appreciated. Mrs. Birkett wished to thank the Curator for another successful year.

Mrs. Horton and Mr. Baker left the meeting at 7.15p.m.

STREET
LIGHTING

09/490 The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 09/459 and reported that following a site visit with the Technical Officer and the Town Clerk it had been suggested that one side of the street light be blacked out to try and help the resident of 34 Market Street who had complained about the brightness of the street light in her bedroom window. *AGREED* PGL

Discussion ensued over the Board decision to switch off the street lights at 2.30a.m. to save on costs and it was indicated that the Board would need to consider the number and location of specific main road lights that they wished to leave on and that this information be passed to the Manx Electricity Authority for assessment prior to the switching off of the street lights. In discussion it was suggested that certain prominent lights be left on and these could include some of the lights on the Promenade, Michael Street, Atholl Place, Atholl Street and Derby Road. It was *AGREED* that a proposal be marked on the street light map for consideration at the next meeting.

OAK ROAD

09/491 Mr. Lace referred back to Minute 09/465 and wished to reiterate that the Commissioners were aware of the estate planning condition that a link road be provided and was therefore surprised that residents of Oak Road were unaware of this fact. PGL

Arising therefrom it was *AGREED* that a further consultation be held for the Traffic Management Plan proposals and that consideration could also be given to a proposal for a 20mph speed limit on Oak Road which had been supported by the Department but required public consultation. It was also suggested that the Department consider a weight restriction for Oak Road.

Discussion ensued over the merits or otherwise for HGV vehicles using the route through Peveril Road, Church Street and Albany Road as opposed to Oak Road. It was suggested that this particular item should be listed as an agenda item for discussion in the future. *AGREED*

ADVERSE
WEATHER

09/492 Mr. Beale confirmed that the Western Civic Amenity Site had reopened for business from 18th January 2010 and that salt/grit was available from the site in the event of adverse weather conditions. *NOTED*

Arising therefrom Mr. Lace indicated that recently the flooding of Mill Road had resulted in extremely high water levels which prevented vehicular traffic from using the road. It was noted that the flash flooding that occurred overnight on 15th January 2010 had resulted in the QE11 sports field being subject to flash flooding.

Arising therefrom the Town Clerk referred to a recent land slip on the bank at the rear of the Creg Malin. It was noted that costed options would be obtained as to how to deal with the restoration of this embankment.

FINANCIAL
PROVISIONS BILL

09/493 Consideration was given to a consultation exercise over the Financial Provisions Bill. Both Mr. Jones and Mrs. Birkett voiced concern at the contents of the Bill with regard to the provision of extra powers to the Treasury. The powers that would accrue to the Treasury were wide ranging and could encompass all aspects of Island life and Government expenditure. The Chairman expressed concerns over the extent and range of the powers proposed and the level of scrutiny in the exercise of these powers. It was the Chairman's view that democracy PGL

was the loser. Also of concern was the fact that the Treasury could give indemnity and guarantees to any matter it deemed appropriate. Should a mistake occur then the need to prosecute should be retained. The Chairman also expressed concern over Clause 3 (8) in which any scheme could be backdated and it was the Chairman's view that this should be specified in terms of time limit. Mr. Gimbert also referred to the loss of accountability and the need for recourse to Tynwald in such circumstances. It was *AGREED* that an appropriate response be sent to the Treasury on this consultation exercise.

STUDENTS IN
HIGHER
EDUCATION

09/494

Consideration was given to a consultation document regarding support for students in higher education. Mr. Jones indicated that the Isle of Man enjoyed a good education record and expressed a degree of concern over the proposals within the consultation document in which students could be saddled with significant debt in furthering their education at University. Mrs. Birkett indicated that she did not want to see anyone disadvantaged with huge debts and Mr. Harmer indicated that education grants were vital for Isle of Man students who face additional costs in attending University in the UK. Mr. Beale raised the question as to how many students returned to the Isle of Man following grant assistance and it was suggested that such grant assistance should favour areas of study that would be reflected in their future careers and be relevant to the Isle of Man. Mrs. Moughtin was of the view that tuition fees set by Universities were a big factor and that Island students enjoyed significant Government assistance. Mrs. Moughtin was opposed to students taking a year out prior to seeking post graduate courses for study. It was the Chairman's view that a scheme could be considered whereby a bond could be issued repayable if graduates failed to return to the Isle of Man within a ten year period and could be refunded over a five year term. Mr. Jones commented that this was flawed in that there could be a problem if vacancies on the Isle of Man dried up and it would result in penalising students. The Chairman referred

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to Clause 5.3 in which the residents qualification for eligibility for support be increased from three to five years. The Chairman advocated that this should be ten years. With regard to Clause 5.4 the Chairman disagreed that financial support should be stopped after three years as similar courses over a four year period were possibly better.

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| SCHOOL BUS
STOP – ROXWELL
TERRACE | 09/495 | The Board Members noted a copy of a letter addressed to the Transport Division in which concern was expressed by a resident of Roxwell Terrace over the school bus stop at the top of Roxwell Terrace. It was suggested that it should be moved to the existing West View bus stop adjacent to the play area as concerns had been expressed over litter, damage to hedgerows and anti-social behaviour by children waiting to travel on the school bus. <i>NOTED</i> | |
| CARMANE CLOSE | 09/496 | Members noted receipt of a letter from the Director of Estates and Housing at the Department of Local Government and the Environment dated 13 th January 2010. The Department had indicated that it had no plans to transfer any Department of Local Government and the Environment properties to local authorities. <i>NOTED</i> | |
| VICTORIA
TERRACE | 09/497 | Members noted receipt of a letter from Mr. Everton-Jones of 3 Victoria Terrace, Peel in which he had written to the Department of Transport and the Manx Electricity Authority seeking an update on action to address the perceived access problems at Victoria Terrace. Mr. Everton-Jones was of the view that emergency access was compromised and that the overhead electricity lines should be under-grounded and that the road be widened by the removal of the pavement. It was suggested that Mr. Lace and Mr. Skidmore meet on site with the relevant departments to discuss this matter. | DL/JS |
| PLANNING
APPLICATIONS
FOR COMMENT | 09/498 | The following planning applications were considered as follows:- | PGL |

PA 09/02101/B Re-roofing work including replacement roof lights, 10 Church Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*

PA 09/02122/B Demolition of existing car port and erection of a dwelling with integral garage, land adjacent to 23 Bridge Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*.

PA 10/00004/B Re-roofing works, 1-12 inclusive Close Chair, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*.

PA 10/00005/B Erection of an extension to rear of dwelling house, 34 Douglas Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*.

PLANNING
DECISIONS
NOTIFIED

09/499 The following planning decisions had been notified by the Planning Committee:-

PA 09/01861/B Erection of an extension to rear elevation of dwelling house, 1 The Links, Douglas Road, Peel for Mr. Jonathan Elven. *APPROVED*

PA 09/01492/B Creation of separate dwelling from rear part of existing dwelling, Thie ny Marrey, 31 Shore Road, Peel for Mr. Andrew Kershaw. *APPROVED*

PA 09/01690/B Installation of a replacement front door, 21 Market Street, Peel for Christine Faragher. *APPROVED*

PA 09/00740/B ON 09/500
APPEAL

Members noted receipt of the decision of the Planning Inspector in respect of the Appeal for the erection of a 1st floor extension to rear elevation at 17 Circular Road, Peel for Mr. & Mrs. Ian Sumner. The Minister had considered the report of the Inspector and agreed that the Appeal should be dismissed and directed that the refusal of the application be confirmed. *NOTED*

PA 08/1620/B ON 09/501
APPEAL

The Town Clerk referred to the recent receipt of an Appeal decision in respect of Shoprite Isle of Man Limited for alterations, erection of extension to store and amended parking arrangements at Shoprite, Derby Road, Peel. PGL

The Chairman declared an interest in this item as an employee of Shoprite and took no further part in the discussion. The Vice Chairman, Mr. Harmer agreed to chair this particular item. The Department Minister had concurred with the Inspectors conclusions and accepted that the Appeal should be dismissed subject to the deletion of the planning condition relating to the control of anti-social behaviour on the site. And that clarification was required over the landscaping for the site. It was suggested by Mr. Jones that in further discussions to be held with the Shoprite company that the state of the surface in the car park with regard to the areas of land to be exchanged should be raised. At this stage it was *AGREED* that a further meeting with Shoprite was warranted and it was *AGREED* to arrange a meeting in due course.

FACTORY LANE	09/502	The Chairman referred to the Department of Transport road closure in respect of Factory Lane, the latest of which was to run until 14 th May 2010. Noting the suggested lack of work on site and the inconvenience caused to affected residents it was <i>AGREED</i> that contact be made with the site developer on when the work was scheduled for completion.	TQ
ISLE OF MAN MOTORHOME CLUB	09/503	Consideration was given to a request from the Isle of Man Motorhome Group to use the campsite hard standing area for a weekend event from 12 th to 14 th February 2010. <i>AGREED</i>	PGL
WOMENS INSTITUTE	09/504	Mr. Jones referred to his attendance at a recent meeting of the Western Partnership and indicated that the Women's Institute were looking to establish an evening branch and that at its inaugural meeting scheduled for 27 th January 2010 one matter for discussion would be the adoption of an appropriate symbol. This could be subject to a design competition and it was <i>AGREED</i> that the Commissioners support this venture. The Commissioners website could be utilised with a link to the newly established branch.	

PEEL
CLOTHWORKERS
SCHOOL

09/505 The Chairman referred to the previous decision of the Board to request that the fence between the school grounds and the Commissioners car park in Derby Road be reinstated on safety grounds and indicated that the Works Division of the Department had undertaken this work recently without prior notification to the Clothworkers head teacher. As a result no advance notice could be given to the work which had caused some comment from parents dropping and picking up children from school. If advance notification had been received by the school and the Commissioners then a Press notice could have been issued and the matter communicated to residents.

REVENUE
BUDGET
2010/2011

09/506 Members approved the revenue budget statement prepared by the Town Clerk for issue to the Press. It was noted that in these particularly difficult times with regard to the reciprocal VAT agreement between the Isle of Man and the United Kingdom Government that an exercise had been undertaken to review all service provision and operations undertaken by the Commissioners in an attempt to identify savings. Following this exercise and consideration of the budget requirements for the ensuing year the Board had *AGREED* that a rate of 235 pence in the pound together with a separate charge per dwelling of £126.50 for refuse matters be set. This related to an overall increase of 2.5%.

This part of the meeting ended at 8.15p.m.