# **GENERAL MEETING**

The minutes of the general meeting held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on 20 January 2016 at 7:00pm.

Present	Mrs C. Moughtin (Chairman) Mr I. Davison (Deputy Chairman) Mr A. Jones Miss K. Felton Mr D. Lace Mr E. Beale Mrs J. O'Halloran		
In attendance	Mr D. Sewel	l (Clerk to Commissioners)	
			Action
CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	15/246	The Chairman welcomed the Board to the first meeting of 2016 and wished them a happy new year. She stated 2016 would be an eventful year for the Commissioners with the local elections in April and the general election later in the year.	
ITEM 1 MINUTES	15/247	The Board <b>agreed</b> the minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2015. Mr Lace proposed and Miss Felton seconded this item respectively.	
ITEM 2 MATTERS ARISING	15/248	Item 15/218 Manx Gas The Board noted the content of the communication from Manx Gas and the offer to extend the direct debit discount to customers who settle their accounts promptly. Mr Lace asked for this information to be included within the next newsletter. The Deputy Chairman highlighted the United Kingdom gas suppliers were announcing a 5% reduction in their tariffs this year because their wholesale purchase of gas was significantly lower than in previous years. Item 15/221 Peel Sewerage Treatment Funding	
		The Board considered a letter from the Manx Utility Authority dated 18 January 2016 which was circulated by the Town Clerk. They welcomed the assurance that the treatment works would be completed by 2019 and the commissioning of the environmental studies in October 2015. Mr Lace and Miss Felton expressed their gratitude to Mr Harmer MHK for	

his work in promoting this project.

Item 15/231 Pathway to QE II

Miss Felton recorded the thanks she had received from the local resident for undertaking works on this path. The Town Clerk reported the low cost temporary work was carried out in the Christmas holidays by the Commissioners to reduce the likely of this path to the school flooding while ownership of these paths was established. He confirmed the land ownership investigations has initially identified Heritage Homes owned the path behind Bluebell Close which was subject to flooding and the area of trees beyond the path where the Commissioners were currently undertaking tree maintenance works. Although this was subject to formal confirmation. The Deputy Chairman asked if we could recover the Commissioners expenditure on this work. The Town Clerk stated this was unlikely because the urgent minor flooding relief work on the path was carried out at very short notice and the owner could not be identified to allow them to carry out the work. In addition, the tree area was subject to an adoption agreement and this land would shortly be owned by the Commissioners and was being maintained on this basis. The Town Clerk reminded the Board the developer was negotiating play park facilities for this area and he would discuss the commissioners' additional expenditure during these negotiations to improve the facilities being offered. Mrs O'Halloran believed the developer should pay for these works directly. Mr Jones reiterated the Commissioners had to give the owner the opportunity to undertake the work in the first instance and the maintenance of the adoptable areas was agreed to keep the area in an acceptable condition for rate paying residents.

The Town Clerk reported he was meeting Heritage Homes to discuss a number of issues including getting the adoption of the public open spaces within these estates completed before grass cutting commenced this year. The Chairman stated this issue had gone on for a long time and these areas needed signing over. The Deputy Chairman highlighted Heritage Homes had recently changed its name and asked the Town Clerk to write to them to identify who now took responsibility for the developer's liabilities including the estate's sewerage pumping station.

#### Item 15/236 Road Racing Bill

The Board noted and welcomed the contents of the Minister for Infrastructure's email agreeing to include a statutory public consultation period for temporary Sunday event road closures.

## Item 15/237 Consultation on Local Government and Building Control (Amendment) Bill

The Town Clerk reported a response stating the Commissioners did not object to this proposed legislation was sent to the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture.

#### Item 15/237 Isle of Man Strategic Plan

The Board noted the contents of Mr Thomas MHK's email. The Town Clerk reported this matter would be raised at any future Western Area Plan Inquiry.

## Item 15/237 Election Act

The Board noted the content of the letter received for the Chief Secretary dated 15 January 2016 which was circulated by the Town Clerk. The Chairman stated the response did not raised answer the questions by the Commissioners on the legislation. Mr Jones stated the Cabinet Office appear to be breaking their own regulations and rules. Other areas of Government have recently been brought to task for breaking financial regulations for the silt dredging in Peel and the Sefton loan. This is another example of this type of behaviour which they are unwilling to take responsibility for. He stated this is a major issue which resulted in Councillors losing their seats and the Cabinet Office need to acknowledge they should not have removed persons from the electoral list. The Board agreed to send a letter to the Chief Secretary requesting that he provide a detailed response to the legislative questions the Commissioners have raised before the next meeting of the Board in February 2016.

### Item 15/242 Planning Applications

The Board noted their comments for planning applications 15/01331/B, 15/01191/B, 15/01301/B, 15/01307/B and 15/1337/B had been submitted.

Item 15/244 Consultation on Communication Bill

The Board noted the consultation period was extended in December 2015.

Item 15/245 Shoprite Parking Charges The Board noted the contents of the communications on this issue with a resident of Derby Road.

# Item 15/245 Western Art Trial

Mr Jones reported he had received no further information on this matter. A meeting was arranged for 28 January at the Noah Bakery to take this proposal forward.

#### Item 15/245 Flags on Promenade

The Town Clerk reported the flags were erected and owned by the kiosk operator. The flags would be replaced in the near future.

Item 15/245 Watercourse Maintenance

The Board noted the contents of the letter dated 18 January 2016 from Manx Utilities which was circulated by the Clerk. Mr Lace stated the gravel banks by Glenfaba Bridge and the eroded banks by the Fish Farm highlighted a lack of maintenance. He stated the lack of maintenance across the island was not assisting in the current heavy rainfall conditions and associated flooding experienced in Douglas. The Chairman stated a disjointed and fragmented approach appeared to exist and work was not getting done until there was a problem. The Board **agreed** to write to the Manx Utilities Authority to highlight these areas of poor maintenance on the River Neb.

HOUSING ITEMS 15/249 Item 3 Planning Applications The Board did not oppose planning applications 15/01380/B, and 16/0023/B. The Chairman instructed the Town Clerk to provide full addresses for each application in the future.

> Item 4 Planning Decision Notified. The Board **agreed** to take no further action on planning applications 15/01191/B, 15/01331/B, and 15/01337/B.

RECREATION 15/250 Item 5 Hospice Isle of Man Proposed Event ITEMS The Deputy Chairman expressed concern over the proposed location of this event on Walpole Road and particularly the lack of space to stop at the bottom of the hill. The Board **agreed** the Town Clerk should write to the organiser to ensure this had been risk assessed.

		Item 6 Sand Sculpture Mrs O'Halloran queried the adequacy of the sand on the beach for this purpose. The Board <b>agreed</b> to permit this event.
		Item 7 Chris Kelly Memorial Rally The Deputy Chairman advised this event was cancelled and did not appear to have an impact on Peel according to the plans they had submitted in any case.
		Item 8 Peel Golf Club Members and Event Brochure The Board <b>agreed</b> not to advertise their campsite accommodation or events in this brochure.
FINANCE AND GENERAL ITEMS	15/251	Item 9 Consultation on the Communication Bill The Board <b>agreed</b> not to provide any comments in response to this consultation.
		Item 10 Consultation on Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2006 Mr Jones raised concern over the enforcement of this legislation which prohibits smoking in private cars with young children on board. The Board <b>agreed</b> to submit a response stating the local authority would not want to be used as the enforcement body for this legislation.
		Item 11 Permission for Helicopter Training on the Headlands Field The Board considered this application and <b>agreed</b> to approve this request subject to the organisers having sufficient measures in place to restrict access for members of the public during this training.
		Item 12 Department of Infrastructure Local Authority Newsletter The Board noted the content of this newsletter. The Chairman requested the Commissioners newsletter should be released next month.
ITEM 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS	15/252 SS	The Town Clerk stated copies of the register of electors were available at the meeting for the Board members to take away.
		Mr Jones stated he had received a request from Douglas Corporation to replace the recycling bins in Shoprite Car Park with small skips which were designed not to take up any additional space. The Board <b>agreed</b> to this request.

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Mr Jones brought the outcome of a recent court case involving Onchan Commissioners' housing and a tenant who had unlawfully occupied the property on the death of family member who was the tenant. He stated the interpretation of point allocations for evictions in this case needed to be evaluated by the Commissioners.

Mrs O'Halloran stated the Commissioners should get a rebate from the civic amenity site this year. She highlighted there was going to be a review of the staff policy on retaining items for personal use and this would be displayed at the site. The Deputy Chairman stated at a recent visit to the site to dispose of a fridge he was surprised by the apparent lack of a robust accounting system for cash payments and the lack of parking segregated parking for persons disposing of waste from those recycling items of waste. The Board **agreed** the Town Clerk should write to the Chairman of the Civic Amenity site on these matters.

The Deputy Chairman stated the dog sculpture was moved from Peel Hill to the entrance of the Castle during the recent gale force winds. Manx National Heritage had requested the removal of this artwork from the Castle and could the Commissioners provide an alternative suitable location.

The Deputy Chairman stated the new bollards in Shoprite Car Park to delineate the pedestrian route had been reversed into on a number of occasions during the Christmas period. The Board **agreed** the Town Clerk should write to Shoprite to let them know this problem exists.

The meeting ended at 7:50pm