

# GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of a GENERAL MEETING held in the Board Room, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 7.00p.m.

Present Mr. R Gimbert (Chairman)  
Mrs. T M Birkett  
Mr. E Beale  
Mr. D J Lace  
Mrs. C A Moughtin  
Mr. A Jones  
Mr. I Skidmore  
Mrs. J O'Halloran

Absent Ms. P Hardman

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

Action

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME      09/350      The Chairman welcomed the Press and public to the meeting and indicated that he had recently attended the Business School graduation ceremony at the St. Germans Cathedral and the Ramsey Civic Service. The Chairman was pleased to formally mark the opening of the revamped BMX track on the headlands.

SEWAGE TREATMENT      09/351      The Chairman referred to item 5 on the agenda regarding the Notice of Motion submitted by Mr. Lace in respect of the proposed sewage treatment works for the West.

The Chairman indicated that in his opinion and in accordance with Clause 5 (a) of the Standing Orders the Notice of Motion was invalid as the subject for the Motion had not been correctly stated in the summons for the statutory meeting. The Chairman indicated that the Motion could be submitted for consideration to the next Board meeting of the Commissioners on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009.

SOCIAL SERVICES BILL      09/352      Consideration was given to a consultation paper on the Social Services Bill 2009. Members were unanimous in their opposition to the aims of the Bill which in Mr. Skidmore's view led to "back door privatisation" of social PGL

care in the Island. Serious concern was stated over part four relating to financial provisions. The aim of the Department of Health and Social Security was to charge for social care and that those responsible for the patient could be assessed as to income and assets and provision also included the disposal of homes to cover care charges. Members were concerned at the huge implications of such financial provisions within the Bill and were of the view that this was a departure from the provision of free national health service care as currently enjoyed.

Mrs. Birkett indicated her surprise at the lack of media scrutiny of the Bill and was of the view that the Department had not advertised the consultation process enough. Concern was also expressed over the ability under the provisions to transfer patients to care facilities in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland if deemed appropriate. Mrs. Moughtin indicated that the Bill could affect anyone in later life and that a significant effect on any savings and assets could ensue if care accommodation was required.

The Board was unanimous in registering its strong objection to the Social Services Bill 2009 in which its provisions were deemed draconian and unjust. It was *AGREED* that a suitable response objecting to the Bill be forwarded to the Department.

MINUTES	09/353	The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 were taken as read and <i>CONFIRMED</i> .	
WARD LIBRARY REPORT	09/354	Mrs. Horton outlined the points in her Ward Library Report for the period July to September 2009. Reference was made to the library garden and it was suggested that a community project be commenced to tidy it up to enable it to be used as a reading garden in the future. This could be achieved with a volunteer labour force and it was <i>AGREED</i> that the Technical Officer in the first instance measure up the area and that the matter be progressed accordingly by the Librarian.	TQ

Reference was made to the continuing damp problem within the property and whilst some temporary work had been undertaken to

alleviate the damp problem it had not resolved the issue. Mr. Jones indicated that the Board must maintain its properties in an adequate condition and that the necessary budget should be provided to enable this to be accomplished. The Town Clerk referred to the missing sign outside the library and indicated that he had requested the Department of Transport to replace it. *NOTED*

LEECE MUSEUM      09/355  
REPORT

Mr. Baker presented the Leece Museum report and indicated that visitor numbers so far during the current year were 4,117. The Curator referred to the need for a new digital security system and indicated that the cost would be in the region of £200. It was *AGREED* that Mr. Baker obtain a price for such a system for consideration during the budgetary process. Reference was made to the replacement radiators and it was noted that the Commissioners contract plumber had obtained the radiators and they would be installed shortly. *NOTED* Mr. Baker referred to a letter he had received from the new Director of Manx National Heritage which indicated a desire for Manx National Heritage to work more closely with outside heritage organisations and other museums. Mr. Baker welcomed such a move and indicated that a BBC radio four programme will be aired in 2010 written and presented by the Director of the British Museum which would aim to tell the history of the world using one hundred objects in the British Museum collection. Linked to this ten local objects from the Isle of Man could be included and Mr. Baker indicated that two items relating Knockaloe had been submitted by the Leece Museum to Manx National Heritage for inclusion in the Isle of Man region list. *NOTED*

CHRISTMAS          09/356  
ARRANGEMENTS

Reference was made back to Minute 09/319 and Mr. Skidmore indicated that he had not yet been able to identify a suitable VIP guest to turn on the Christmas lights. After discussion it was *AGREED* that Mr. Skidmore investigate whether a suitable pantomime character could be available to turn on the Christmas street lights.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1985	09/357	The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 09/328 and reported that the Technical Officer had confirmed that the new building being constructed in Factory Lane had not reduced the width of the road. <i>NOTED</i>	
REGENERATION SCHEME	09/358	Members noted that a meeting would be held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2009 with Mrs. McCauley the Regeneration Officer and the Commissioners Consultant Mr. Niall McGarrigle. With regard to the formation of the proposed Regeneration Committee to be chaired by the local MHK Mr. Crookall it was <i>AGREED</i> that the two Members from the Commissioners could be discussed at that meeting. Mrs. O'Halloran indicated her apologies as she would be of Island but did state that she would be more than happy to be a member if so chosen.	
BUS SERVICE REVIEW	09/359	At the request of the Chairman it was <i>AGREED</i> that a copy of the Bus Service Review be obtained and that a meeting be held with Mr. Kinrade provisionally set for the 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7.00pm.	PGL
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	09/360	Members noted a letter from the Department of Local Government and the Environment indicating that a presentation outlining corporate governance principles and a code of conduct for elected members and staff of local authorities had been arranged for Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2009 at the Philip Christian Centre at 7.00pm. Noting that this clashed with a meeting of the Transition Group on the same evening it was <i>AGREED</i> to request the Department to change the date if at all possible.	PGL
SPEED LIMIT – OAK ROAD	09/361	The Chairman requested that a letter be sent to Mr. Derek Sewell, Network Planning Manager at the Department of Transport to request an update on the provision of a 20mph speed limit through Oak Road. It was also <i>AGREED</i> that a reminder as to the consultation process with regard to the Peel Traffic Plan be raised with Mr. Sewell.	PGL
ST. GERMANS PLACE	09/362	Reference was made back to Minute 09/315 regarding the potholes at the end of St. Germans Place. The Town Clerk indicated that it would be impractical to concrete the potholes in isolation as it would create a hole alongside. It was suggested by the Board that bigger	

scalpings be used to try and alleviate the problem.

CREEK INN	09/363	Mr. Lace referred back to Minute 09/316 regarding the Creek Inn and indicated that on a recent visit to Manchester he had come across some leaflets relating to the CAMRA Organisation which promoted both the Whitehouse and Creek Inn as to public houses serving real beer. The leaflet contained a photograph of Peel and Mr. Lace indicated that this was a good advert for the Town and that congratulations be given to the two publicans involved. Arising therefrom Mrs. Moughtin indicated that a four page write up in the "Classic Bike" magazine had followed the recent visit to the Island and Peel in particular. <i>NOTED</i>	
THE RIVER NEB DAM	09/364	Reference was made back to Minute 09/342 and it was <i>AGREED</i> that a letter be sent to Mr. David Moore owner of the dam seeking his views on possible future utilisation of the area.	PGL
BUDGET BILL	09/365	Members considered a consultation exercise on a Private Members Bill promoted by Mr. Juan Watterson, MHK in respect of a reform of the Government budget process. The aims of the Bill were to provide an opportunity for public consideration and input before the budget was approved. Mr. Jones expressed concerns with regard to such a proposal as budgets were difficult to collate and that there was a need for financial information to be kept private until the announcement of the budget. Mrs. Birkett <i>AGREED</i> with such a view point and Members were generally opposed to the proposals suggested by Mr. Watterson. Reference was made to the Commissioners budgetary process in which more detailed and lengthy discussions ensued and the Chairman indicated that MHK's should be able to obtain detailed information in private sooner than as at present. In conclusion Members were not in favour of the Bill and it was <i>AGREED</i> unanimously not to support the Private Members Bill submitted by Mr. Watterson.	PGL
PEEL DOG CONTROL BYLAWS	09/366	Members noted receipt of a letter from the Department of Local Government and the Environment which indicated that the Attorney General's Chambers had recommended the use	

of new guidelines for the making of Dog Control Bylaws. As a result it was suggested that new bylaws would be preferable to an amendment of the existing 2007 Peel Dog Control bylaws. This would be undertaken when the Department had produced the new revised set of Dog Control Bylaws. *NOTED*

The Town Clerk referred to the Court proceedings against Mrs. Crellin in respect of a fixed penalty notice for dog fouling which was being contested. The proceedings had been called at a Magistrates Court on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 but had been adjourned by the Court following Mrs. Crellin's failure to appear. It was noted that the matter would be recalled on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009.

PLANNING  
APPLICATIONS  
FOR COMMENT

09/367

The following planning applications had been considered by the Commissioners as follows:-

PA 09/01583/B Construction of a lift and lobby area, Westland Elderly Persons Complex, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

PA 09/01586/R Part removal and alteration to existing wall, proposed dwelling, Factory Lane, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

PA 09/01609/C Change of Use of existing office/shop to residential accommodation, 9 Christian Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

PA 09/01623/B Installation of new shop front 6/8 Michael Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

STREET  
CLEANING

09/368

Mr. Skidmore referred to the street cleaning arrangements for Peel and indicated that in certain streets such as Mona Street problems occurred with the litter and leaves left around parked cars. It was noted that the cleaning was completed in the central area of the Town early in the morning prior to residents taking their cars to work.

PEEL HILL RACE

09/369

Consideration was given to a letter from the Manx Fell Runners Club which intended to stage a race involving Peel Hill on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 1.30p.m. It was *AGREED* to permit the event and at the request of Mr.

PGL

Lace it was *AGREED* that the gravel on the concrete path immediately above Fenella Beach be brushed away to improve safety for the competitors.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON CEREMONY 09/370 Consideration was given to a request from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Peel Sea Scouts who wished to sing carols and take a bucket collection on the occasion of the Christmas lights switch on ceremony scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 4.30p.m. *AGREED* PGL

IRIS SCHEME 09/371 Mr. Jones referred to the Requisition Meeting scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and indicated that he would be unable to attend and wished to register his apologies. With regard to the Department of Transport's proposal to provide a sewage treatment works for Peel and the West Mr. Jones was of the opinion that a lot of misinformation was being discussed around the Town and was concerned at how this information was being divulged. He referred to the recent information flyer which indicated that concerned residents could contact the Chairman at his home. Mr. Jones had been contacted by a number of residents and it appeared that information discussed "In Committee" had emanated from the Chairman. Mr. Jones requested the Chairman to state publicly that he was not leading the opposition to the Department's proposals or that he was the source of leaks of information to the public. The Commissioners would make its decision on the Department's treatment works based on facts and full and proper information. Mr. Jones would, along with his fellow Commissioners, be prepared to listen to the public comments and views on the matter and would make his own decision based on the facts presented and not on misinformation and gossip.

Mrs. Moughtin concurred with Mr. Jones's views and indicated that it would be her intention to support the Government in dealing with the raw sewage currently flowing into Peel Bay. The Chairman indicated that the Dalrymple report and the executive summary were available at the Ward Library for public viewing and further stated that if a resident asked him a question then he would answer it as best he could. Mr. Jones indicated that he

would prepare a written submission to be read out at the Requisition Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

Mr. Lace also voiced his concerns at information apparently being leaked from the private Board Meetings of the Commissioners.

The Town Clerk referred to the decision of the Chairman invalidating the Notice of Motion (agenda item 5) and it indicated that he would clarify the position with Mrs. Sutherland at the Department of Local Government and the Environment with regard to the interpretation of Standing Orders.

TESCO DEVELOPMENT	09/372	The Chairman referred to an email he had received from Mr. Stephen Bradley, Chairman of the Retail Committee of the Chamber of Commerce regarding the proposed Tesco development. Mr. Bradley had sought a meeting with the Commissioners over the possible impact of the development particularly on out of Town centres. It was <i>AGREED</i> that the Town Clerk contact Mr. Bradley to agree a suitable date to meet.	PGL
SKATEBOARD PARK	09/373	The Chairman enquired whether the skateboard ramps had been repaired following a health and safety issue. The Town Clerk indicated that the Technical Officer had been requested to undertake urgent repairs on safety grounds.	TQ
BMX TRACK	09/374	Upon enquiry from the Chairman the Town Clerk indicated that a claim for 25% of the upgrade and improvement costs had been made to the Department of Local Government and the Environment. The Chairman referred to the BMX Sub-Committee and indicated that some Commissioners were needed for the Sub-Committee.	
VOLLEY BALL NET	09/375	The Town Clerk confirmed that the volley ball net would be left in-situ over the winter as it was used by the public.	

This part of the meeting ended at 8.30p.m.



