

GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of a GENERAL MEETING held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 15th November 2011 at 7.00p.m.

Present Mr. N A Cushing (Chairman)
 Mr. E C Beale
 Mrs. T M Birkett
 Mr. R M Gimbert
 Mr. R K Harmer
 Mr. A G Jones
 Mr. D J Lace
 Mrs. C A Moughtin
 Mrs. J O'Halloran

In attendance Mr. P G Leadley (Town Clerk)

Action

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	11/467	The Chairman welcomed Mr. Crookall, MHK to the second meeting of November and commented upon the successful firework display held on bonfire night. In addition the Chairman wished to thank the representatives of the Royal British Legion and the Peel Lifeboat for their contribution to the Remembrance Day services.
MINUTES	11/468	The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 st November 2011 were taken as read and <i>CONFIRMED</i> subject to an additional Minute as follows "Memorial Seat - Mr. Harmer referred to the seat in memory of Mr. Bob Foster situated at St. Patrick's Isle and upon request it was <i>AGREED</i> that the outdoor staff remove the seat for repainting purposes."
VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMITS	11/469	Mr. Gimbert referred back to Minute 11/437 and indicated that the number of heavy goods vehicles recorded on the traffic survey held during the week commencing 25 th July 2011 at Church Street, southbound was just under 3,000 vehicles per day with 866 being class 4. This appeared a high number compared to the 5.3% and 5.2% figures stated in the Director of Highways letter dated 25 th October 2011.

PROMENADE SLIPWAY	11/470	The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 11/438 and indicated that Captain Best of the Harbours Division had responded and indicated that the sign regarding jet skis would be replaced in the New Year. <i>NOTED</i>	
BONFIRE NIGHT	11/471	Members reviewed the firework display organised by Galaxy Fireworks Limited on bonfire night.	
		<p>It was generally felt that the display was successful and enjoyed by a large crowd. Comment was however made that some of the fireworks did not reach very high into the sky and it was noted that the display which ran to seventeen minutes and thirty eight seconds could be shortened with greater emphasis on more expensive higher firing fireworks. It was suggested that an article on this be placed on the Commissioners website seeking feedback on the display.</p> <p>The Town Clerk indicated that there was one unfortunate incident involving a spark from the bonfire getting into a spectators eye. It had been washed out by the St. Johns Ambulance Officer on duty.</p> <p>Members felt that the lantern parade had been a success and thanks were extended to all the children who had taken part. In addition thanks were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Birkett for running the chestnut stall which had raised £125.00. Mrs. Birkett indicated that they would operate the chestnut stall at the Christmas lights ceremony and put the combined money earned to Peel Anti Cancer.</p>	
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S VISIT	11/472	Members considered the draft itinerary prepared by the Town Clerk and <i>AGREED</i> its contents subject to including an additional stop at the Peel Transport Museum.	PGL
ISLE OF MAN MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY	11/473	The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 11/445 and indicated that he had written to Mr. Dowd seeking a suitable date with the Society's representatives to discuss the	

possible location of the raised train track on the northern end of the promenade. A reply was awaited.

PA 10/00544/B ON
APPEAL

11/474

Members considered a letter from the Planning Appeals Administrator seeking further views from interested parties with regard to the Heritage Homes residential development of 101 dwellings at Rearyt ny Cronk.

Email sent

The Chairman indicated that Plot B1 had been removed as confirmed by Mr. McLoughlin at a previous meeting but it now appeared to have been included in the plans submitted. It was *AGREED* to advise the Planning Appeals Administrator accordingly. The Chairman also indicated that with regard to the properties B3 to B10 little attempt had been made to reduce the house sizes.

The matter was discussed at some length and Mr. Gimbert indicated that the submission of different plans created a degree of confusion. It was his view that the Board should recommend the submission of a new planning application. Mr. Harmer indicated that it would be inappropriate for the Board to alter its original objections and that Mrs. Birkett also agreed that the original objection should be adhered to. Mr. Jones indicated that whilst he had some sympathy with the views expressed by Mr. Cowin, copies of which had been tabled at the meeting, he also felt that Heritage Homes application had some merit. The Commissioners should object on the size of the properties as the fault lay with the planners. Mrs. O'Halloran also supported the view that a new planning application be recommended to the Planning Appeal Administrator. After full discussion it was *AGREED* to suggest that one single estate map would aid consideration of the application and upon which valid comments could be made.

WESTERN TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT
MEETING

11/475

It was noted that the previous Minutes 11/459, 11/460 and 11/461 regarding promenade build-outs, Mill Road and

PGL

Derby Road be discussed at the Western Traffic Management Meeting on 16th November 2011. *NOTED*

PLAY EQUIPMENT	11/476	The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 11/463 and reported that the Technical Officer was liaising with the Douglas Corporation over the possibility of undertaking risk assessments and maintenance of the Peel play equipment.	TQ
DISABLED TOILETS	11/477	The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 11/464 and indicated that the Technical Officer had advised that the radar keys were expensive and that to hold a number of them in a nearby shop for use by disabled persons was not practical or cost effective. Discussion ensued and it was <i>AGREED</i> that more publicity be given to the availability of the radar keys. The Chairman indicated that it would not be a good use of Commissioners funds and that it may better be referred to the Peel Chamber of Trade to see if a business would sponsor this initiative.	PGL
STREET CLEANING	11/478	Mr. Lace reported upon his attendance with the Technical Officer at the presentation workshop provided by the Highways Division of the Department of Infrastructure the previous week. Mr. Lace tabled a chart of the survey results regarding the status and condition of the roads in the various towns on the Island. In discussing common issues with other local authority representatives it was noted that the most common problem was blocked gullies. Mr. Lace enquired as to whether the Department could prepare a road map for each town with each gully numbered to make it easier to identify problem areas. It was also noted that Port St. Mary had recently acquired a beach cleaning machine and this was available for hire to other local authorities. It was <i>AGREED</i> to make enquiries as to the possibility of hiring the beach cleaning machine at appropriate times next year together with the possible loan of the Douglas Corporation gum cleaning machine.	TQ

The Chairman referred to the Keep Mann Tidy Seminar with specific regard to the litter survey. The Chairman indicated that 168 replies had been received of which 13 were from Peel. It was felt that this was not a strong basis upon which to agree a strategy. It was *AGREED* that the Department's questionnaire be placed on the Commissioners website to try and obtain additional responses. Arising therefrom Mr. Beale enquired as to the cost of the survey.

MEMORIAL BENCH	11/479	<p>Consideration was given to a request from a Mrs. Megan Wilson who wished to provide a bench in memory of her mother who had strong connections with Peel. It was <i>AGREED</i> that the bench be sited on West Quay.</p>	Letter sent
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Arising therefrom Mr. Lace enquired as to the possible establishment of an area at the headlands bottom field for future memorial benches. It was *AGREED* that the matter be discussed at the next budget meeting. Mr. Lace also enquired as to future applicants being advised that a plaque could be attached to existing memorial benches. *NOTED*

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT	11/480	<p>The following planning applications were considered as follows:-</p>	Letter sent
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11/01538/B
 Installation of replacement windows and rear door, 54 Glenfaba Road, Peel.
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

11/01539/B
 Alterations, erection of extension to dwelling and creation of a pedestrian access, 6 Cronk Rearyt, Peel.
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

11/01496/B
 Erection of a perimeter fence with gates and access controlled entrance gates, The Fish Yard Mill Road, Peel.

Mr. Gimbert referred to this application and indicated that it was in a Conservation

Area and in his opinion should be opposed. It was however confirmed that the fish yard was not part of the Conservation Area and after discussion other Members felt that the development of a food park be supported. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

PLANNING DECISIONS 11/481
NOTIFIED

The following planning decisions were notified as follows:-

PA 11/01369/B Installation of replacement windows and front door, 2 Orry Lane, Peel for Mr. Christopher John Wilkinson. *APPROVED*

PA 11/01337/B Installation of an oil tank and enclosure, Shoprite, Derby Road, Peel for Shoprite (IOM) Limited. *APPROVED*

PA 11/01329/B Installation of replacement windows, 1 Stanley Mount, Peel for Mr. Michael Roy Kelly. *APPROVED*

PA 11/01345/B Alterations and extension to provide WC and store, Bowling Green Café, Marine Parade, Peel for Peel Town Commissioners. *APPROVED*

PEEL ONLINE 11/482
ANNUAL REPORT

Members noted the 8th annual report of the Peelonline website prepared by Mr. Littler. Members noted the high use made of the website with the new features relating to Facebook and Twitter. The Board extended its thanks to Mr. Littler for all his hard work in maintaining the website.

PORT ERIN CAROL 11/483
SERVICE

The Town Clerk referred to an invitation from Port Erin Commissioners to attend their annual carol service on 15th December 2011. *NOTED*

NURSERY PLACES 11/483

Members considered the response from Mr. Peter Karran, MHK Minister for Education and Children dated 3rd November 2011 regarding the provision of nursery places in Peel. It was noted that the shortage of spaces was not unique to Peel and Mr. Karran was of the view that a wide review of how the Department made provision for nursery education was needed. *NOTED*

SPAR OFF-LICENCE
APPLICATION

11/484

The Town Clerk updated Members on the application by CI Newsagents (IOM) Limited for an off-licence at the Spar Store, Atholl Street, Peel. Objection had been submitted and the matter had been called at a Licensing Court on 10th November 2011. The Town Clerk advised that at the request of the applicant the matter had been adjourned to enable the applicant to discuss the matter with the Commissioners prior to it being dealt with at the Licensing Court on 8th December 2011.

Meeting
arranged

After discussion it was *AGREED* that a delegation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with the Town Clerk meet with Mr. Whittaker on behalf of the company to discuss the application.

Arising therefrom Mrs. Moughtin indicated that whilst an objection had been made in respect of the Spar application an objection to the Tynis Bistro application for an off-licence at the adjacent property to the restaurant had not been made. She indicated that consistency of approach should be adopted and it was noted that this application had not been picked up by the Commissioners or the Town Hall staff. It was *AGREED* to check if an objection to the application could be made at this stage. It was *AGREED* that more vigilance was required to ensure that all off-licence applications were scrutinised when advertised in the local press in the future.

RATES

11/485

Consideration was given to an email and press release issued by Braddan Commissioners in which it indicated that it maintained a high rate collection percentage record and that it was in a position to offer a collection service to other local authorities subject to a 1½% collection fee. Members also considered a further email from Mr. Grubb of the Treasury regarding the Treasury's record in rate collection for local authorities.

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Mr. Harmer indicated that £22,000 had been written of by the Treasury in respect

of old rate debt and that the current collection rate for Peel was 97.4%. Current arrears stood at £27,327.00. Mr. Harmer was of the opinion that the Commissioners were not getting a good service from the Treasury but that Braddan did not necessarily provide a better option. Mrs. Birkett was of the view that lobbying of MHK's over the issue of rate arrears was required and that the problem of collecting rate debt through executions lay with the efficiency or otherwise of the various Coroners. The Coroner's role in debt collection was discussed and it was noted that the Board required clarification from a legal point of view as to exact ownership of the rate debt and if it belonged to the Treasury why the Board was not receiving 100% of the rate demand for the Town. Mr. Gimbert expressed concern at the amount of old rate debt written off by the Treasury and referred in particular to the Data Protection Act and the Income Tax Act which hindered the exchange of information to enable pursuance of rate defaulters. In his opinion a major change of legislation was required and that outsourcing the rate function would be of benefit.

In conclusion it was suggested that the matter should be discussed at the Municipal Association and that Mr. Crookall, MHK be requested to raise the matter in Tynwald for a review of current Isle of Man debt collection procedures.

SEAGULLS

11/486

Members noted a letter from Mr. Wilkie of Reayrt Cronk, East Quay, Peel regarding his view over the Commissioners stance in respect of seagulls. A further on-line comment from another resident had been responded to by Mrs. O'Halloran and the matter was discussed at some length.

The Chairman indicated that a suggested cull to eradicate seagulls in the Town would not be pursued and that a sensible proportionate response was required. It was noted that a number of complaints over aggressive behaviour of seagulls had been made and that the promenade signage

requesting the public not to feed seagulls was appropriate and should be extended to other critical areas.

Mrs. O'Halloran indicated that in hindsight she regretted the response she had made to the on-line comment but did indicate that she had personal experience of the aggressive behaviour of seagulls and was only opposed to people feeding them.

BMX TRACK	11/487	The Town Clerk referred to a request from the Queen Elizabeth 11 High School requesting approval to enable a community project involving the upgrading of the BMX track on the headlands. Year 10 pupils would look to undertake a project from 16 th November for a five week period to 14 th December between 11.00a.m. and 1.00p.m. which would involve tidying up the edge of the track, getting rid of the weeds and smoothing out the track surface. The school would provide its own tools and after discussion it was <i>AGREED</i> to permit the request.
CLOTHWORKERS SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS FAYRE	11/488	The Town Clerk referred to a request from the Parent/Teachers Association of the Clothworkers School regarding the annual Christmas fair. The Association wished to include the wider community in its fund raising efforts and enquired as to whether the Commissioners would sponsor a hamper which would be included in a silent auction. After discussion it was <i>AGREED</i> that Mrs. Birkett organise a hamper up to the value of £50 for donation to the Christmas fayre.
CHILDRENS CENTRE	11/489	The Town Clerk referred to a request from Mrs. Bailey of the Isle of Man Children's Centre regarding a fund raising effort to take place during the switching on of the Christmas lights on 3 rd December 2011. The purpose of the collection was for the Peel Adventure Club to raise money for an adventure weekend supported by the Childrens Centre. <i>AGREED</i>
PLANNING ISSUES	11/490	The Town Clerk referred to a letter from the Director of Planning dated 14 th November 2011 which indicated that Mr. Letter sent

Howard Quayle, MHK had been appointed as Departmental Member with responsibility for planning. Mr. Quayle was keen to improve the meaningful engagement and participation of local authorities in the work of the Planning Committee and in this respect had suggested that each local authority identify and recommend a Member to act as Lead Member on planning matters. This was deemed to be a worthwhile initiative and after discussion it was *AGREED* that Mr. Gimbert be appointed as Lead Member for Planning and that this appointment be reviewed at the Commissioners Annual General Meeting in May of each year.

WESTERN ATHLETICS CLUB	11/491	<p>The Town Clerk read out a letter from the Chairman of the Western Athletics Club seeking approval to park the Western Athletics van in the Derby Road car park not withstanding the current car parking restriction of eighteen hours in a twenty four hour period.</p> <p>Mr. Gimbert objected to the request as he deemed it inconsistent. Other Members felt that the club served a worthwhile function within the Town and that as a licence arrangement had been given to Mr. & Mrs. Sperring for their bed and breakfast facility on Albany Road to allow two reserved car parking spaces that this application warranted approval also. It was <i>AGREED</i> that on an informal basis that Mr. Brew be given permission to park the vehicle in the Derby Road car park if space was available without having to comply with the eighteen hours in twenty four hour period.</p>	Letter sent
CLOVER AVENUE	11/492	<p>The Town Clerk indicated that he had enquired of the Highways Department the current status of Clover Avenue. It was noted that the Department had adopted Clover Avenue as a cul-de-sac. Upon completion of the adjacent Reayrt ny Cronk housing development Clover Avenue would then be considered for re-designation as an adopted through road.</p>	
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT	11/493	<p>The Town Clerk indicated that an Order Number 0718/11 had been made by the</p>	

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Highways Department for the designation of disc parking on a section of Peveril Road immediately in front of the Gayles Fayre shop. *NOTED*

LOCAL AUTHORITY
REFORM

11/494

Mr. Gimbert referred to the issue of local authority reform and tabled the Governments current budget summary for 2011. Mr. Gimbert indicated that he obtained the figures from the Government annual report and stated that upon examination the likely shortfall of income over expenditure would be in the region of £25million pounds. This appeared to be a lot less than what was generally perceived to be the shortfall. In any future discussions over local authority reform or re-allocation of local authority functions then the Government should be required to back up any such arguments from a financial angle having regard to the Government figures presented by Mr. Gimbert.

REMEMBRANCE
SERVICE

11/495

Mr. Jones expressed his thanks to the outdoor staff for their hard work in preparing the memorial site on Peel Hill in advance of the recent Remembrance Service.

PEEL TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT PLAN

11/496

Mr. Harmer referred to the Traffic Management Plan for Peel and enquired as to when Phase 2 was likely to be undertaken. The Town Clerk indicated that he would ascertain the current situation at the meeting of the Western Traffic Management Group to be held on 16th November.

PGL

FORMER RAILWAY
TRACK

11/497

Mr. Harmer referred to the poor condition of the former railway track out of Peel and enquired as to whether it could be maintained in a better manner by the Department of Infrastructure. It was *AGREED* to make an enquiry accordingly.

PGL

MILL ROAD – STREET
LIGHT

11/498

Mr. Lace wished to thank staff for ensuring the defective streetlight in Mill Road had been repaired and was now functioning properly.

This part of the meeting ended at 8.50p.m.

