

GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 2nd July 2013 at 7.00p.m.

Present Mr. R K Harmer (Chairman)
 Mr. E C Beale
 Mr. N Cushing
 Mr. I G Davison
 Miss K M Felton
 Mr. A G Jones
 Mr. D J Lace
 Mrs. C A Moughtin (from Minutes 13/120)

Apologies Mrs. J O'Halloran

In attendance Mr. P G Leadley (Town Clerk)

Action

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	13/117	The Chairman welcomed the press and Mr. Crookall, MHK to the first meeting of July 2013. The Chairman wished to congratulate Janice Quirk on her success in the Parish Walk and also Alex McCauley the winner of the Peel Town Cup. In conclusion the Chairman noted with satisfaction that recent Police statistics had shown the West of the Island to be the safest area in which to live.	
MINUTES	13/118	The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 th June 2013 were taken as read and <i>CONFIRMED</i> .	
TOWN CENTRE PARKING STUDY	13/119	The Town Clerk indicated that a recent meeting with Derek Sewell and Mike Barnes of the Department of Infrastructure had taken place and a map was tabled indicating the Department's proposals for additional herringbone parking on the promenade at Marine Parade. The Chairman indicated that the Commissioners land at the former swimming pool site could also possibly be utilised but that decision would rest with the Commissioners. It was also noted that if, after appropriate public consultation, one-way traffic was implemented on the promenade then additional parking could be provided. The Board having considered	Email sent

the proposed plan submitted by the Department agreed to convey its support for the layout suggested. It was noted that the final design would rest with the Department of Infrastructure.

HOUSING REVIEW

13/120

Mr. Jones reported upon his recent attendance at the monthly housing review presentation by David Tolson. It was noted that items such as shared equity and other measures to make private rentals more affordable had been raised. In addition it had been suggested that consideration may be given to the sale of a small number of specific local authority houses to fund the building of additional social housing. Mr. Jones indicated that reference had also been made to the proposals for a procurement agency and he expressed his concerns that a single procurement agency for the Island may not necessarily be the best option in terms of saving money.

It was further noted that the Department of Social Care had advised of the positive response to the proposal for fixed term tenancies but that a two year fixed term was insufficient and that a longer period of between three and five years was under consideration with a proposed commencement date of April 2014.

Mrs. Moughtin arrived at 7.05p.m.

Mr. Jones also indicated that sheltered housing was discussed at the presentation and he awaited the Housing Conference scheduled for 19th July with interest.

It was further noted that Onchan Commissioners had issued a press release stating that they did not favour the suggested establishment of a central housing authority that would link Peel, Braddan and Onchan together. In conclusion the Chairman indicated that Government had not provided enough social housing on the Island and whilst more properties were required there was a need to recognise the retention of local community spirit in different areas.

BEACH CLEAN

The Chairman reported on the recent successful beach clean that had taken place on 29th June when some twenty volunteers had assisted in cleaning the beach of litter. It was also noted that Michael Street had been jet washed early in the morning on Sunday 30th June. In addition the Town Clerk indicated that the outdoor staff had been heavily involved in weed spraying over the previous three weeks.

WESTERN CIVIC
AMENITY SITE

13/122

The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 13/110 and indicated that the bailing machine referred to by Mr. Jones was awaiting collection by the contractor and it was noted that no contract had been entered into to use the machine.

TOWN SERIES CYCLE
RACE

13/123

Members noted the press release issued the previous week in which the Town Series Cycle Races had been cancelled due to a lack of adult entries. *NOTED*

NEW HOUSING
PROVISION

13/124

The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 13/114 and indicated that after appropriate enquiries it was unlikely that the development of the top part of the headlands fields for housing would obtain support from the Planning Committee as the area was designated for leisure use on the Peel Local Plan.

ROAD TRAFFIC
REGULATION ACT
1985

13/125

Members noted an area made by the Department of Infrastructure entitled Peel (Various Roads) (Reserved Parking Places) (Amendment) Order 2013 which removed a reserved parking place on the West side of Rheast Bridson (Westlands) fronting properties numbered 56 to 83. *NOTED*

PLANNING
APPLICATIONS FOR
COMMENT

13/126

The following planning applications were considered as follows:-

Letter sent

13/00739//B

Proposed conservatory roof alteration to rear alterations to front drive, 41 Douglas Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

13/00723/B

Replacement of 3 timber box sash windows to front of the property with new white uPVC vertical sash sliding windows, 23 Church Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

13/00715/B

Erection of ground floor extension on rear of property, 12 Fuchsia Road, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

13/00714/B

Replace existing doors with white PVC Victorian panel doors front entrance and double doors to rear, 1 Peveril Road, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

13/00707/B

Replacement of wooden windows with PVC windows replaced like for like, 13 Mona Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

Arising therefrom Mr. Cushing enquired as to whether a planning application had been received concerning the former bus station depot in Atholl Street. The Town Clerk indicated that he had not yet received this application.

PLANNING DECISIONS 13/127
NOTIFIED

The following planning decisions had been notified by the Planning Committee as follows:-

PA 13/00588/B Installation of replacement front door at 22 Circular Road, Peel for Fairmitre Windows (IOM) Limited. *APPROVED*

PA 13/00364/D Erection of illuminated signage at 7-11 Douglas Street, Peel for Lloyds Banking Group. *APPROVED.*

PA 13/00529/B ON 13/128
APPEAL

The Board noted a letter from the Planning Appeals Office which indicated that the appeal against refusal for installation of replacement doors, 1 Peveril Road, Peel by Tina Chan had been withdrawn.

PEEL CAMPSITE 13/130

Members noted receipt of the campsite quality grading report from the Department

of Economic Development which had awarded the campsite a two keys commended rating. The Chairman indicated that the report was extremely positive and he wished to convey his and the Board's thanks to Mr. Quane the Campsite Attendant and also Mr. Davison for his work as Lead Member with regard to the campsite.

PEEL BEACH

13/131

Consideration was given to the use of Peel Beach for various activities and a discussion ensued as to whether there was a need or otherwise for a policy in respect thereof. The Chairman expressed the view that major events such sand racing during TT week was to be encouraged and that individual requests seeking approval for various activities should each be considered on its own merit. The criteria advocated by the Chairman was that if the event attracted more people to Peel and did not have an adverse effect on other users of the beach then approval should be forthcoming. Mr. Lace expressed his concern at areas of the beach possibly being cordoned off for events such as barbeques. The other issue related to litter being left on the beach. After discussion the Board *AGREED* that each application for use of the beach would be considered on its own merits.

Letter sent

Arising therefrom consideration was given to a letter from Mr. M Davison of Douglas.

Mr. Ian Davison declared an interest in this matter as the applicant was his brother and took no part in the discussion.

Mr. Davison had obtained the Segway dealership for the Isle of Man and currently had permission to run tours along Douglas Promenade, Castletown beach and Conrhenny and South Barrule Plantations. Mr. Davison sought approval to undertake beach tours of up to eight people on Segways on the wet sand at low tides for periods of thirty minutes. Such a request entailed no more than one or two days in any one month. Mrs. Moughtin indicated that she was not in favour of Segway

machines on the beach. However, Mr. Cushing was of the view that such a recreational facility would encourage people to Peel and provided there was no problem with other users of the beach he had no objection to the request.

The matter was considered and with five members in favour it was *AGREED* to permit Mr. Davison to undertake Segway beach tours at low tide as requested subject to public liability insurance, risk assessment and an appropriate fee.

STREET TRADING
LICENCE

13/132

Consideration was given to a request from Mr. Simon Kosh of Close Beg, Peel who wished to provide a mobile catering facility offering a menu of three dishes that would be different from the usual fare on offer namely "curry-wurst" together with a sirloin steak and onion baguette served with home prepared peppercorn and brandy sauce and lamb steak baguettes again with a home prepared mint and rosemary dressing or mayonnaise. In addition there would be a selection of chilled drinks and salads available. Mr. Kosh was seeking approval to operate from a free standing gazebo style trading point on the promenade opposite the Ballacallin Apartments.

Letter sent

The matter was discussed at some length and Mrs. Moughtin and Mr. Davison were opposed to the request as such mobile operators were cherry picking the prime times during the year to operate and consequently take business away from the permanent established businesses in the Town. After discussion it was *AGREED* that the request be refused.

TERRORISM AND
OTHER CRIME BILL

13/133

Consideration was given to a consultation document from the Department of Home Affairs entitled the Terrorism and Other Crime (Financial Restrictions) Bill 2013. Mr. Jones indicated his support for the measures proposed and as other members had no comment to make it was *AGREED* that no response be made to the consultation document.

WESTERN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT LIAISON GROUP	13/134	Members noted receipt of the latest approved Minutes of the Western Traffic Management Liaison Group meeting held on 15 th May 2013. <i>NOTED</i>	
RATING OBJECTION	13/135	Members noted a rating objection relating to a subsequent 15% temporary reduction in the rates of 20 Close Caaig, Rearyt ny Cronk, Peel as a result of the ongoing building works in the area. <i>NOTED</i>	
MRI SCANS	13/136	The Town Clerk read out a letter of response from the Honourable D Anderson MHK, Minister for the Department of Health regarding the waiting list times for MRI scans. It was particularly noted that the scanner was largely used to capacity on a daily basis and whilst there was a twelve week waiting time for routine non-urgent referrals those that required urgent attention were scanned within one to two weeks. Mr. Lace enquired whether the hospital could incorporate an additional night shift to enable greater use of the scanner for longer periods.	
CIVIL REGISTRY	13/137	The Town Clerk referred to a letter he had received that afternoon in which the General Registry had decided, without previous consultation, to centralise its registration function at the Douglas Office. As a result the Peel Registry Office would close on Saturday 1 st March 2014 with the Ramsey Office closing at the end of September 2013 and the Castletown Office closing at the end of December 2013.	press release issued
		Members expressed their extreme disquiet at the loss of this function from Peel which entailed the registration of births, marriages and deaths and the continued drive of Central Government to centralise certain services. Mrs. Moughtin expressed her disgust at this decision and suggested that for local residents to have to travel to Douglas with the attendant problems of finding parking near to the Registry was not in the best interests of the public. In addition registrations of death were extremely emotional and it was felt that the provision of a more localised service	

should have been retained. The Chairman indicated that the unilateral decision of the General Registry without consultation belied a deeper problem and that the overriding Government principle of a fairer caring society was being eroded by decisions such as this which moved important services from local areas on the Island to Douglas.

It was *AGREED* that a press release be issued expressing the Board's disappointment.

WAR MEMORIAL	13/138	Mr. Jones referred to the meeting held in October 2012 regarding the work undertaken by the Cathedral in respect of the War Memorial. It was <i>AGREED</i> to seek an update on the plans for a walkway to be provided to the war memorial.	LB
WORKING PARTY FOR CHILDREN	13/139	Miss Felton indicated that she had arranged a meeting on 4 th July 2013 at the Town Hall with relevant parties to undertake work relating to children. She indicated that she wished to issue a press notice to advertise the meeting and this was supported by the Board.	
WESTLANDS	13/140	Mrs. Moughtin referred to her recent attendance at a Westlands meeting when the Housing Review was discussed. She indicated that the Western rural authorities had concerns over Minister Robertshaw's vision for housing on the Island and wished to convene a further meeting to discuss and promote the proposal for a Western Area Authority which would include Peel, Michael, German, Marown and Patrick. Such a meeting could involve Commissioners and Clerks of the various authorities and the proposal for a meeting was supported by the Board.	LB
PEEL HILL	13/141	Mr. Lace referred to the pavement gully at the bottom of Peel Hill running along West Quay and indicated that it had been overgrown with brambles and vegetation. The Town Clerk undertook to arrange for the gully to be cleared.	TQ

Arising therefrom the Chairman referred to a resident's complaint regarding overgrown verges and significant numbers of potholes in the roads. It appeared that the Department of Infrastructure was cutting back on its maintenance regime and this was not deemed to be acceptable. Reference was made to Rheast Lane which had a number of potholes and despite previous requests it had not been repaired until two recent accidents when residents had tripped in potholes.

The Chairman referred to the outdoor work schedule for grass cutting in which it involved a three week cycle. He suggested that a shorter cycle was required and this would need more detailed consideration due to the cost implications.

With reference to the beach the Chairman indicated that a significant amount of seaweed had recently washed up on to the beach and the Board *AGREED*, subject to tidal movements, to arrange for it to be moved prior to the end of the school term.

This part of the meeting ended at 7.50p.m.