

# GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7.00p.m.

Present                    Mr. R K Harmer (Chairman)  
                                 Mr. E C Beale  
                                 Mr I G Davison  
                                 Mr. D J Lace  
                                 Mrs. C A Moughtin  
                                 Mr. A G Jones

Apologies                Mrs. K M Felton  
                                 Mrs. J O'Halloran

In attendance            Mr. P G Leadley (Town Clerk)

## Action

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	14/378	The Chairman welcomed Members to the last meeting of 2014 and commented upon all the different Christmas activities taking place in the Town. He wished a Happy Christmas to all.
MINUTES	14/379	The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2014 were taken as read and <i>CONFIRMED</i> .
TOWN HALL PHONE SYSTEM	14/380	The Town Clerk referred to his meeting with a Skanco representative and the subsequent proposal from Skanco for a new computer based telephone system. After consideration of the quotation it was <i>AGREED</i> to proceed with the Skanco proposal.
CHRISTMAS PEACE LIGHT	14/381	The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 14/371 and advised that he had been in contact with Mr. Paul Aldridge of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Peel Sea Scout Group and it had been <i>AGREED</i> to receive a Christmas Peace Light on the afternoon of 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2014. The candle light would be placed in the Town Hall foyer until Christmas Eve.
REDUCTION IN COMMISSIONERS	14/382	The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 14/373 and advised that consequent upon Tynwald approval the public inquiry into the Commissioners scheme to reduce its numbers from nine to seven would be held

on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 10.00a.m. in the Boardroom. The Inquiry Chairman appointed by the Department was Mr. Geoff Karran, Advocate.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT  
SWITCH ON  
CEREMONY

14/383

Mr. Davison referred back to Minute 14/375 and indicated his support for continuing the Christmas light ceremony on the Saturday and proposed it be held on 28<sup>th</sup> November next year. He also suggested that the ceremony be moved to the Market Place where there was more space for the crowd. Upon a suggestion from Mrs. Moughtin it was also *AGREED* that a smaller tree still be displayed at Atholl Place. Mr. Davison indicated that contact be made with the shop keepers and traders to encourage late night shopping on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. It was also *AGREED* that a road closure order be applied for in respect of the Market Place. In conclusion Mr. Davison indicated that the Crosby Silver Band would be pleased to participate and he also undertook to contact Mr. David Knight, World Enduro Champion to switch on the lights in 2015. Reference was made to contacting the major stores in the Town such as Shoprite, Spar and the Co-op to see if they would sponsor the provision of lollipops for the children.

PLANNING  
APPLICATIONS FOR  
COMMENT

14/384

The following planning applications were considered as follows:-

14/01327/B

Erection of six dwellings (change of house types from those approved under PA 13/91289) plots 89, 90, 91 and 92 Slieau Whallian View field 311826 between Poortown Road and QE11 High School east of Rearyt ny Cronk, Peel – *RECOMMENDED FOR REFUSAL*. Although the planning application refers to a reduction it still is an increase of two properties on the original planning application PA13/91289. The Commissioners concerns over the Town's infrastructure remained.

14/01326/B

Erection of four detached dwelling (change of house types from those approved under PA13/91289/B plots 18, 19, 20 and 21

Slieau Whallian View field 314444 between Poortown Road and QE11 High School East of Rearyt ny Cronk, Peel – *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*

14/01342/B

Installation of replacement garage door, garage for house no 58 Glenfaba Road, Peel – *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*

14/01391/B

Taking down existing inferior quality building comprising kitchen and bathroom and building on same – introducing new bathroom to existing bedroom area, 18 St. Germans Place, Peel – *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*

PA 14/00928/B ON  
APPEAL

14/385

The Town Clerk advised that a date had been set for the Appeal hearing in respect of the Appeal against approval for the demolition of existing building and erection of two terraced dwellings with associated parking, part of the former Peel Gas Works Site, 15 Mill Road, Peel. It was noted that the Appeal would be held at around 11.00a.m. on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and it was *AGREED* that Mr. Jones and Mr. Davison attend the Appeal hearing on behalf of the Commissioners.

PLANNING DECISIONS  
NOTIFIED

14/386

The following planning decisions were notified as follows:-

PA 14/01263/B Erection of an extension to rear of premises at The Post Office, Douglas Street, Peel for Mrs. Mary Palmer. *APPROVED*

PA 14/01279/B Installation of a bi-folding door to replace two existing windows to dwelling at Shendeeagh, Ballaquane Road, Peel for Mr. David Freer. *APPROVED*

PA 14/01260/B Erection of a rear extension to replace existing to dwelling at 10 Charles Street, Peel for Mrs. Fenella Costain. *APPROVED*

PA 14/00807/CON Registered building consent for landscaping works in Cathedral grounds relating to the erection of three

sculptures (RB no 204 in association with PA 14/00806/GB) to St. German's Cathedral, Derby Road, Peel for the Vicars and Wardens of St. German's Cathedral. *SUPPORTED*

PA 14/01152/CON Registered building consent for the installation of two roof lights (in association with 14/00977/B) Registered Building No 108 to 6 Charles Street, Peel for Miss Amanda Milner. *SUPPORTED*

PA 14/00450/B Re-surfacing of site and creation of car park (retrospective) at Site of Former Group Practice Centre, Derby Road, Peel. *APPROVED*

PA 14/00806/B Landscaping works in Cathedral grounds relating to the erection of three sculptures (in association with PA 14/00807/CON) at St. German's Cathedral, Derby Road, Peel for the Vicars and Wardens of St. German's Cathedral. *APPROVED*

PA 14/01136/B ON  
APPEAL

14/387

The Town Clerk indicated an Appeal had been lodged against the Peel and Western District Housing Committee's planning application for the provision of forty sheltered housing units on Douglas Road, Peel. Members noted the Appeal which was scheduled to be heard on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Mrs. Moughtin confirmed that the Westlands Committee would attend the Appeal hearing and argue its case for approval.

PUBLIC SECTOR RENT  
INCREASE

14/388

Members noted a letter from the Honourable H Quayle, MHK Minister for the Department of Health and Social Care regarding the Department's decision to increase public sector rents by 5% from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The Department's decision was discussed at some length and Mr. Lace was particularly aggrieved at the Department's continuing policy of increasing public sector rents by amounts higher than inflation. Mr. Jones referred to the press release issued regarding this matter and indicated that the Department was somewhat disingenuous with regard to the claim that the majority of local authorities approved the 5% increase.

It was suggested that the actual housing authorities were not in a majority in terms of supporting a 5% increase and that Peel Commissioners had argued for no increase in 2015. In conclusion the Chairman indicated the need for a fully functioning housing authority in the West with the ability to set rents without Government interference. It was his view that the Department should only be responsible for setting housing standards.

STREET NAMES	14/389	The Town Clerk referred to the Heritage Homes housing development of 144 units adjacent to Rearyt ny Cronk. A plan from Heritage Homes Limited outlining proposed names was given initial consideration. After discussion it was <i>AGREED</i> that the matter be deferred to the next meeting which would be held on Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 and not 6 <sup>th</sup> January as would be the normal date.
TIDAL FLOODING EVENTS	14/390	Consideration was given to a letter from the Department of Infrastructure dated 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014 regarding a request for local authorities to assist the Department in dealing with tidal flooding events. The matter was discussed at some length and it was <i>AGREED</i> that the Commissioners workforce would be prepared to assist the Department in deployment of sandbags in affected areas on the basis that the Department funded the cost of sandbags and sand.
3 <sup>RD</sup> SUPPLEMENTAL VALUATION LIST	14/391	A third Supplemental Valuation List issued by the Valuation Office at the Treasury was <i>NOTED</i> .
GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS	14/392	Consideration was given to two consultation documents namely the Public Health (Tobacco) (Amendment) Bill and the amendments to the Countryside Care Scheme for 2015 onwards. After preliminary discussion on these two consultation documents it was <i>AGREED</i> that they be held over to the next meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 for further consideration and a response.
TREES AND HIGH HEDGES ACT 2005	14/393	Consideration was given to a letter from Mr. Juan Turner, MLC, Member with

responsibility for local authorities at the Department of Infrastructure. Mr. Turner referred to the Trees and High Hedges Act 2005 and sought the agreement of those local authorities that had not undertaken responsibility for the act under a delegation from the Department to give further consideration to carrying out this function. The matter was discussed at some length and it was *AGREED* that the Commissioners would not be prepared to undertake responsibility for the administration of the Trees and High Hedges Act 2005 under a delegation from the Department. The Town Clerk was requested to advise Mr. Turner accordingly.

FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION  
BILL

14/394

The Town Clerk referred to a letter issued by the Cabinet Office dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 regarding the progress of the Freedom of Information Bill 2014. The matter was currently before the House of Keys and Minister Robertshaw had forwarded a letter indicating that the Act would eventually cover all public authorities in the Isle of Man. The Town Clerk advised that the act would “go live” from February 2016 for two government departments namely the Cabinet Office and the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture. It was planned that local authorities would come under the provisions of the act from January 2018.

The Chairman requested the Town Clerk to summarise the contents of the letter in a short report to be considered at the next meeting in January.

SAILORS SHELTER

14/395

Mr. Davison referred to the sterling work undertaken by Keith Horne and colleagues regarding the refurbishment of the Sailors Shelter. The previous week a “Meet Father Christmas” event had taken place which was well supported. There would be a carol service in the Sailors Shelter on 21<sup>st</sup> December. It was *AGREED* that an appropriate letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Horne.

STREET LIGHTING

14/396

The Chairman referred to a defective street light in Love Lane which required replacement of the head. It was *AGREED*

that the light be repaired.

JANUARY MEETING

14/397

It was *AGREED* to hold the first meeting of 2015 on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.00p.m.

This part of the meeting ended at 7.55p.m.