

GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 7.00p.m.

Present Mr. R K Harmer (Chairman)
 Mr. E C Beale
 Mr. I G Davison
 Miss K M Felton
 Mr. A G Jones
 Mrs. J O'Halloran
 Mrs. C A Moughtin

Apologies Mr. D J Lace

In attendance Miss P L Bampton (Deputy Town Clerk)
 Mr. J T Quayle (Technical Officer)
 Mr. R Baker (Curator)
 Miss G Quilliam (Librarian)

Action

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME 15/028 The Chairman welcomed Members of the Board and the public to the second meeting of May. The Chairman expressed his thanks to everyone, especially Mrs. O'Halloran, who were involved in organising the various events to commemorate the sinking of the Lusitania.

Mr. Harmer also wished to pass on his appreciation to the Commissioners outdoor staff for all their hard work renovating the Marine Parade Site.

The Chairman commented that he would like to thank Onchan Commissioners for their invitation to their Civic Sunday which he had recently attended.

Mr. Harmer expressed his and the Board's deepest sympathy to former Commissioner, Mr. Cushing on the tragic loss of his son, Harrison.

MINUTES 15/029 The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2015 were taken as read and *CONFIRMED*.

WARD LIBRARY REPORT 15/030 Miss Gemma Quilliam presented her Ward Library quarterly report for the period January to March 2015. Miss Quilliam indicated that the library had issued 5698 books for the period which was comparable to last year. New members had also doubled during the quarter. This was largely due to the Commissioners offering free membership. The Librarian informed the Board that the library had also been well utilised by school parties and pupils from Peel Clothworkers School which had recently made use of the library's resources to complete their school project.

Miss Quilliam reported that the Tardis had been well received with a large number of people making use of the facility which was well stocked with books that had been supplied by the library and also donated by members of the public.

Miss Quilliam commented that the Ward Library had received a donation from the Henry Bloom Noble Library of 160 large print books and a donation of four boxes of plays from the Legion Players.

The Librarian explained that she hoped to order the new iPad and Kindles shortly and thanked the Board for supporting this initiative which she hoped would encourage more teenagers to utilise the library.

Miss Quilliam reported that the Lusitania display had been well received by visitors to the library and she had received positive feedback from those who had viewed the exhibition.

The Chairman enquired whether borrowing figures were comparable with this time last year. Miss Quilliam informed Members that the new

computerised system categorised the amount of books that were borrowed differently to the old one, which made it difficult to compare like with like.

Mr. Davison suggested if the Ward Library had any old books that they needed to sell, the Librarian could set up a stall at Peel Day to sell the books and promote the Ward Library. Miss Felton reported that Miss Quilliam would also be able to sell the books at the farmers market which were due to take place on 4th July 2015 and 2nd August 2015. The Librarian informed Members that she would undertake to sell the library's surplus stock of books at these events.

Miss Quilliam reported that she had been approached by the librarian from Douglas Library who had queried what changes were imposed by the Commissioners to photocopy documents. At Douglas they currently charged 20p per sheet for A4 black and white copies and £1.60 per sheet for A4 colour copies. The Librarian informed Members that the Ward Library charged 10p per A4 sheet for both black and white copying and colour copies. The Board *AGREED* that Miss Quilliam investigate whether or not the income that was being generated covered the cost of the ink and alter the charges accordingly to ensure the Commissioners were not making a loss providing this service.

LEECE MUSEUM REPORT 15/031

Mr. Baker presented the Leece Museum report for the period ending April 2015. It was *NOTED* that 774 visitors had enjoyed the Leece Museum so far this year.

Mr. Baker reported that during the period the museum had received the following acquisitions, a book of place names by J J Kneen, a box of Isle of Man Tourist guide books, photographs from Mrs. Gleave, binoculars which had been used on the Manx Bell which was one of the Manx Fisheries Board boats.

Mr. Baker informed Members that the Knockaloe exhibition had been very successful with many visitors coming to view it. He explained that the next exhibition would be the annual TT exhibition which proved to be very popular with visiting motorcyclists. This year's display would feature a replica of Slippery Sam's bike which won the 1974 TT on.

Mr. Baker explained that due to the high cost in the region of £20,000 and loss of space plans for a mezzanine floor were not feasible. The Curator reported that he had been offered several motorbikes which had raced in the TT from Peel resident Bob Taylor of Wobbly Bob Racing who thought that the black hole would be an ideal place to display them. Mr. Baker suggested renovating the black hole by scraping, cleaning and repainting the walls and installing a new decking floor. Then one side of the cell would be used for a display on Manx prisons and punishments and the other half utilised to display motorbikes. The Board *AGREED* that the Technical Officer obtain quotations to undertake the improvements.

Mr. Baker informed Members that he had recently given a talk on Henry Butterworth to pupils from Peel Clothworkers School. He had also been invited back to Liverpool to talk about the role that the Wanderer played in rescuing passengers from the Lusitania when she sank on 7th May 1915. Mr. Baker reported that the Wanderer had also been mentioned several times in the church service to commemorate the sinking of the Lusitania. Mr. Baker commented that he had been invited back by the Director of the Maritime Museum to give a talk to some school children. The Curator explained that the Director was keen for both museums to work alongside one another. *AGREED*

Mr. Baker reported that the intruder

alarm at the Leece Museum kept activating for no reason. It was *AGREED* that the Technical Officer contact the Commissioners electrician to undertake the repair forthwith. It was further *AGREED* that Mr. Quayle would arrange for a wall to be repainted and the defective lights replaced.

Mr. Baker and Miss Quilliam left the meeting at 7.20p.m.

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| PEEL
HARBOUR/BALLAHARRA
SANDPIT | 15/032 | The Chairman referred back to Minute 15/007 and reported that a date was still awaited from Mr. Corlett to provide the Commissioners with a guided tour of the quarry operation at Ballaharra. <i>NOTED</i> |
| ATHOLL STREET | 15/033 | The Chairman referred back to Minute 15/009 and informed the Board that a letter was still awaited from Mr. Irving regarding whether or not his development site on Atholl Street was available. <i>NOTED</i> |
| LOCAL AUTHORITY
FRUSTRATIONS | 15/034 | The Chairman referred back to Minute 15/023 and reported that an email had been received from Mrs. Ann Craine, Private Secretary to the Chief Minister informing the Board that the Chief Minister was in receipt of Peel Town Commissioners letter dated 1 st May 2015 regarding local authority frustrations. <i>NOTED</i> |
| DOUGLAS ROAD | 15/035 | The Board considered an email from Andrea Hawley, Traffic and Transportation Technician from the Department of Infrastructure. Ms. Hawley explained that further to the meeting of the Western Traffic Management Liaison Group where traffic calming measures for Douglas Road by the QE11 high school had been discussed, she had now drawn up a proposal to remove parking, improve visibility and highlight the bus stops and school entrances. Mr. Davison queried whether or not a planning application had been submitted to build an indent. The Chairman commented that it would |

make sense to have a layby. Members *AGREED* that they would like to see more detailed plans before they were able to pass comment on the proposed plans.

ATHOLL STREET
PAVEMENT

15/036

The Board *NOTED* a letter from Mrs. Marjorie Fargher who wished to register a complaint about the surface of the pavement in Atholl Street, Peel by the Cathedral gates. On 11th May Mrs. Fargher stumbled and fell onto the cobbles broke her nose and had severe bruising to her face. Mrs. Fargher explained that she was not the only person to complain about this pavement surface Many people walked in the road to avoid it therefore putting themselves in danger from passing vehicles.

Mr. Jones informed the Board that they should send Mrs. Fargher a letter of sympathy and pass on copies of her correspondence to the Department of Infrastructure, the cathedral and Steve Stanley from the Regeneration Committee. The issue also needed to be raised at the next meeting of the Western Traffic Management Liaison Group. *AGREED*

PLANNING
APPLICATIONS FOR
COMMENT

15/037

Consideration was given to a list of Letter sent
planning applications as follows:-

15/00331/B

Mr. Davison declared an interest in this application and took no further part in the debate. Erection of a two storey extension to existing building Castlebay Seafoods Limited, Isle of Man Food Park, Mill Road, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*

15/00494/B

Alterations, replacement of garage door with a window and erection of ground and first floor extensions to dwelling, 9 Close Toalt, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*

15/00490/B

Installation of 2 replacement windows to

rear elevation of dwelling, 1 Church Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL*

PLANNING DECISIONS
NOTIFIED

15/039

The following planning decisions were notified by the Planning Department:-

PA 14/011870/B Alterations and extension to provide ground floor retail accommodation and four apartments in upper floors, 15-19 Michael Street, Peel for Simpsons Limited. *APPROVED*

PA 15/00067/B Alterations and conversion from workshop to retail Builders Merchants at Peel Commissioners Depot, Mill Road, Peel for Macs Builders Merchants Limited. *APPROVED*

PA 15/00398/B Erection of a conservatory to rear elevation, Granary Cottage, Charles Street Close, Peel for Aileen Fermor. *APPROVED*

PA 15/00373/B Installation of three replacement windows to front elevation, 1 Church Street, Peel for James Thornton Butler. *APPROVED*

PA 15/00214/B Widening of vehicular access and paved hard standing to form additional parking space, Plot 9 McLeods Fields, Peel for Mr. Alexander Michael Williamson and Miss Debbie Ann Porter. *APPROVED*

PA 15/00290/B Erection of a rear extension to replace existing to dwelling (amendment) PA 14/01260/B) 10 Charles Street, Peel for Mrs. Fenella Costain. *APPROVED*

PA 15/00236/B External alterations including window and door alterations, Corrin Memorial Home, Albany Road, Peel for the Governors of the Corrin Home. *APPROVED*

PA 15/00225/B Erection of fencing and gates, QE11 High School, Douglas

Road, Peel for the Department of Education and Children. *APPROVED*

Mr. Davison queried whether the Department of Education and Children's application to erect fencing and gates at the QE11 High School meant that the land would no longer be classed as an open space. Mr. Jones informed Members that land which was designated as open space for example a school playing field may only be able to be used at certain times of the day by members of the public. It was *AGREED* to seek further clarification on whether the land would continue to be designated as open space.

PA 14/01136/B Erection of a building to provide a forty unit sheltered housing scheme with associated car parking, landscaping and vehicular access, land adjacent to Croit Ny Greiney, Douglas Road, Peel for the Peel and Western District Housing Committee. *APPROVED*. The Board was pleased to see that Peel and Western District Housing Committee had been granted planning permission on appeal to build a forty unit sheltered housing scheme at Douglas Road as this type of accommodation was desperately needed.

PEEL CAMPSITE	15/040	Members <i>NOTED</i> receipt of the Tourism Division's campsite grading report. Mr. Davison commented that he thought that the grading of two stars was harsh. It was impossible for the Commissioners to increase the grading as it was not feasible for them to employ permanent staff at the campsite seven days a week.
PARISH WALK	15/041	The Board <i>NOTED</i> receipt of the Parish Walk Notice 2015 which had been issued by the Department of Infrastructure under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1986.
THEATRE COMPANY	15/042	Members considered an email from Completed

Roger Cook who had a small scale touring theatre company which was based near Leeds. Mr. Cook explained that during the week commencing Sunday 9th August they were planning to come to the Isle of Man. Mr. Cook enquired if the Commissioners were interested in staging one of their productions either “Talking Heads” by Alan Bennett, Happy Jack by John Godber or “My Brilliant Divorce” by Geraldine Avon. The Board *AGREED* to forward Mr. Cook’s email on to the Centenary Centre to see if they would be interested in staging one of his productions.

KIOSK	15/043	Members <i>AGREED</i> to a request from Mrs. Stelingiene to put up a temporary cover/tent on the left side of the kiosk during busy periods.	Completed
DOUGLAS CIVIC SUNDAY	15/044	Members <i>NOTED</i> a letter from Mrs. Rice, Chief Executive of Douglas Borough Council informing them that their Annual Civic Sunday Church Service was due to take place on 14 th June 2015 at St. Georges Church, Douglas. It was <i>AGREED</i> that Mr. Jones would attend on behalf of the Commissioners.	Letter sent
NEWSLETTER	15/045	The Chairman informed the Board the Commissioners needed to produce another newsletter and requested that Members submit items for inclusion in the newsletter to the Town Clerk. <i>AGREED</i>	Ongoing
LUSITANIA CEREMONY	15/046	Mrs. O’Halloran stated that she wished to thank everyone who had been involved in organising the events to commemorate the 100 th anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania especially Mrs. Moughtin who had managed the bar at the evening function and Mr. Davison who had provided the deserts, the Commissioners workforce and the lifeboat crew. Mrs O’Halloran reported that she would also like to thank the relatives of the crew of the Wanderer for attending and the British Legion for	

providing the poppies that were scattered on the sea. *NOTED* The Chairman commented on how successful the event had been.

TWIN TOWN	15/047	Miss Felton enquired if Peel was twinned with another town. The Chairman reported that Peel was not connected with any other Town. Miss Felton suggested that the Commissioners consider twining Peel with either Kinsale in Ireland or Liverpool. The Chairman requested that Miss Felton investigate the matter further and report back to the Board. <i>AGREED</i>	KMF
STANLEY ROAD	15/048	Mrs. Moughtin reported that she was disappointed with the condition that the Gas Board had left Stanley Road in after they had undertaken work there as the granite kerbs stones had now dropped. The Technical Officer undertook to contact Manx Gas and request that they reinstate the kerbs stones. <i>NOTED</i>	Ongoing
CLEVELAND MEDAL	15/049	Mrs. Moughtin informed the Board that she wish to congratulate Peel resident Mrs. Karen Elliott on wining her sixth Cleveland medal at the Manx Music Festival. The Board <i>AGREED</i> that they would send Mrs. Elliott their congratulations and inform her how proud they were of her winning her sixth medal.	Letter sent
PUBLIC TOILETS	15/050	Reference was made to an email complaint regarding the toilets being locked too early. Miss Felton informed Members that the lady concerned had to make use of The Marine public house toilet facility as the ones on the promenade were locked. The Technical Officer informed the Board that the contractors locked the toilets between 5.00p.m. and 7.00p.m. in the winter and between 7.00p.m. and 9.00p.m. in the summer. A suggestion was made that there needed to be a half hour extension to the closing hours. Discussion arose regarding the schedule	TQ

that the Commissioners had requested be erected in each of the toilets which the contractor would have to sign off each day to say what time the toilets had been cleaned and checked. The Technical Officer reported that the notice would have to be kept in a locked frame and the contractors may not have time to remove and fill them in every day. Mr. Quayle suggested that the Board would be better having a sign in each of the three toilet blocks informing members of the public that the toilets are cleaned between 7.00-9.00pm.

The Board *AGREED* that they wished for proper checks to be conducted, and documented when they had been cleaned. Mr. Quayle informed Members that the Commissioners outdoor staff would have to perform these checks as the contractors was only employed to clean the toilets at night. Mr. Davison enquired if the Commissioners workforce checked the toilets at the weekend. Mr Quayle explained that due to the road sweeping going out to contract a member of the Commissioners staff was employed for three hours between 7.00-10.00 am. to check the parks, beach, amenity areas, dog bins etc. The Chairman informed Members that during peak periods the toilets needed to be checked regularly. It was *AGREED* that the Commissioners staff would make regular checks of all the toilet blocks at lunchtime.

The Technical Officer suggested trialling doors that locked automatically at night at the Market Place toilets. This meant that no one would have to be employed to lock the toilets which meant that they would be able to be left open for longer at night. *AGREED*

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

15/051

Miss Felton stated that she wished to thank the Technical Officer for erecting a green light at the front of the Town Hall on the 12th May 2015 for the “Light Up the Night” event to raise awareness for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME)

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome,
Fibromyalgia and Multiple Chemical
Sensitivity.

This part of the meetings ended at 7.40
p.m.