

# GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the general meeting held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on 22 September 2015 at 7:00pm.

Present Mrs C. Moughtin (Deputy Chairman)  
Miss K. Felton  
Mr A. Jones  
Mr D. Lace  
Mr E. Beale  
Mrs J. O'Halloran  
Mr I. Davison

In attendance Mr D. Sewell (Clerk to Commissioners)

Action

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME 15/188 The Deputy Chairman called for a one minute silence in memory of Mr John Kennaugh the Captain of the Parish who had died on 21 September 2015.

The Deputy Chairman welcomed the Commissioners to the meeting and congratulated the Chairman on his successful election as the House of Keys representative for Peel.

The Deputy Chairman expressed the Commissioners sadness and regret at the passing of Mr Kennaugh who was a farmer, commissioner, comedian, captain of the parish, family man and friend. She recognised his contribution the Isle of Man, the western community and the radio where his Manxness shone. The Deputy Chairman particularly recalled the advice Mr Kennaugh had given her when she became a Commissioner for the first time. This was to never be afraid to stand up for your principles, apologise if you are wrong and how to project your voice when speaking in public. His death will be a big loss both to the Island's community and to his family. The Commissioners **AGREED** to send a letter of condolence to Mr Kennaugh's family from the Board. DS

MINUTES 15/189 The Board **AGREED** the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015. Mr Lace proposed and Mr Jones seconded this item respectively.

RESIGNATION OF 15/190  
CHAIRMAN AND  
ELECTION OF  
REPLACEMENT

The Town Clerk occupied the Chair and read out Standing Order 3(e). The Town Clerk stated he had received a letter of resignation from the Chairman of the Board of Peel Town Commissioners following his election to the House of Keys for Peel. The letter thanked the Board and staff for their support during Mr Harmer's period of holding office as a Commissioner and Chairman of the Board. The Town Clerk requested nominations from the Board for the election of a new Chairman.

Mr Jones proposed Mrs Moughtin for the role of Chairman which was seconded by Mrs Felton. The Board **AGREED** to the appointment of Mrs Moughtin as Chairman of the Board of Peel Town Commissioners. Mrs O'Halloran and Mr Beale did not vote on this issue.

Mrs Moughtin thanked the Board for their vote of confidence in her and occupied the Chair. The Chairman proposed Mr Davison for the role of Deputy Chairman. Mrs O'Halloran expressed her support for Mr Davison's appointment to this role and Mr Jones seconded this motion. The Board agreed to the appointment of Mr Davison as the Deputy Chairman of Peel Town Commissioners. Mrs O'Halloran and Mr Beale did not vote on this issue. Mr Davison thanked the Board for this appointment.

The Chairman sought the Boards approval to move to agenda item 9 Isle of Man Constabulary matters. The Board **AGREED** to this motion. Mrs O'Halloran and Mr Beale did not vote on this issue.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wilson for attending the Board meeting and introduced the members of the Board.

Mr Wilson stated he was the Superintendent with responsibility for operations, neighbourhood policing and CID. He was visiting local authorities as a significant number of changes had occurred in the Isle of Man Constabulary within the last eighteen months and he was eager to listen to community feedback. He stated new officers had recently been appointed to oversee both the local and national neighbourhood policing teams and the constabulary wanted constructive positive and negative feedback to improve the service the Constabulary provide. Mr Davison stated a number of senior officers had recently left and it was reported four of the seven recruits had already left the police. Mr Wilson agreed a number of experienced officers had recently left. However, he stated ten officers start training this

week and further recruitment was in place to commence training in January 2016. This would ensure nine officers would remain in Peel.

Mrs O'Halloran stated the Island was lucky to have good community policing and she had worked closely with the officers in Peel who were a credit to the Police.

The Town Clerk referred to the letter the Commissioners had received from the Minister for Home Affairs in relation to the proposed extended use of civilian staff in the Constabulary. Mr Wilson stated modern channels of communication with the public were important to continue successful community policing. There was a need to free up staff resources including police officers currently undertaking jailor duties in the custody suite. He emphasised police officers would continue to supervise and oversee the custody suite however, suitably trained staff will do the other routine functions. This approach would allow greater flexibility to shift resources depending upon demand and need in a Police force which had reduced from 248 to 210 officers.

Mr Jones expressed concern in relation to the loss of local expertise when staff are required to move around to provide this flexibility. Mr Wilson stated training would ensure a consistent approach in a smaller organisation which must provide development opportunities for their staff.

Mr Jones agreed with the proposals for the custody suite but he did not agree with other proposals including the use of civilian staff to take statements which were core policing skills. Mr Wilson assured the Commissioners a high quality service would be retained through training and the use of experienced staff.

Mr Jones stated the Commissioners would support the retention of policing resources and would provide assistance to the Police in Peel. Mr Wilson reiterated his commitment to community partnerships and policing which have a proven track record of delivering benefits to the community

Mr Davison stated there was plenty of funding available for capital schemes and this funding should be transferred to day to day operations. Mr Wilson stated the Police could not change the Government's financial regulations.

Mr Wilson asked how the Commissioners currently influence policing in their areas. Mrs Felton and Mrs O'Halloran stated they find the Level 1 and biannual meeting very useful. Mr Jones asked what the Commissioners can do to assist the police. Mr Wilson asked for ongoing feedback and collaboration.

MATTERS  
ARISING

15/191

15/130 Isle of Man Strategic Plan

The Town Clerk reported the strategic plan inquiry was scheduled to take place for a week commencing on 28 September. Members of the Board could attend to support him should they wish to participate.

15/172 Atholl Place bins

The Town Clerk reported the only available location either owned by the businesses or the Commissioners was located in the Philip Christian Centre car park which was a considerable distance from these businesses. Mr Jones stated he had only received one comment on this matter. The Board **AGREED** the options were limited and the bins were to stay in their current locations unless an alternative in Atholl Place could be found.

DS

15/172 Planning Application Objections The Chairman asked why first time buyers properties are being placed on the open market. Mr Davison asked for the percentage of first time buyers' properties built in the new developments in Peel. Mr Jones stated the first time buyers properties do not need to be built in every development and they can be offered elsewhere. The Board **AGREED** the town clerk was to obtain this information.

15/177 Rent Increase

The Board **AGREED** Mr Jones and Mr Lace were to attend the Municipal meeting.

Item 15/178 Town Beach Pollution

The Town Clerk reported the water quality testing had continued to report good quality bathing water results on the town and Fenella beaches. The Manx Utility Authority had advised they were commencing work to repair the minor leak on 22 September subject to not experiencing adverse tidal or weather conditions. Mr Jones stated Government's approach on this leak was a farce including the initial notification to the Commissioners and the argument between Departments on diver availability. He stated no lessons on working together had been learnt from the harbour silt removal difficulties. The Town Clerk

reported the Manx Utility Authority were scheduled to attend the Board meeting at the end of October. Mr Davison stated the Board were still awaiting the promised feasibility study for the main sewerage treatment facility for Peel.

#### 15/179 Leece Museum

The Town Clerk reported the construction cost for the new exhibit and cellar conversion was £15,500.

#### 15/182 Local Election Act 12986

The Board noted the contents of the correspondence and the assurance the two Commissioners were now registered from 1 October 2015.

#### 15/18 Douglas Street Car Park Loading Bay

The Chairman asked the Town Clerk to remind the Cooperative they should not block the accesses to the car park.

DS

#### 15/187 Operational Items

The Town Clerk reported the street sign on Peveril Terrace had been re-erected, the bin area behind the wildlife shop had been cleaned and the garage by the Commissioners Town Hall car park was in good condition. Mrs O'Halloran stated Peveril Terrace was now full of potholes and Mr Lace stated the ramp was required for 8 Kerroo Coar.

The Chairman request we now move to matter arising item 15/172 Food Park and Agenda Item 10. The Board agreed with this motion. Mrs O'Halloran and Mr Beale did not vote on this issue.

## FOOD PARK

15/192

The Chairman welcomed Mr Christopher the Director of Estate Services and Mr Wilson the Department of Infrastructure's Food Park Manager to the meeting and introduced the Board. The Chairman stated the Commissioners were interested in seagull nuisance, drainage problems, processing of waste problems, the future plans for the food park and how the Commissioners could assist resolving these issues. The Chairman stated the original concept for the food park had been sold to the Commissioners by the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture and they had failed to deliver this vision after spending over three million pounds. Mr Christopher reported the Food Park had recently become his responsibility in the Department of Infrastructure. He was responsible for looking after the asset and the leases including making tenants aware of these concerns. The seagulls, smell and drainage were existing tenant problems which the

Department of Infrastructure would seek to resolve through working with tenants and enforcing if necessary the requirements stipulated in the leases. Mr Wilson reported the blocked drains were caused by shell and sand deposits in the drains which required cleaning. This cost would be picked up by the Department and regular flushing to should be undertaken by the tenants. Net cages and covered trailers were now being used for the disposal of shells. Although the Department's officers had noticed open boxes and shells left by some tenants were still attracting seagulls. Installing a caretaker may assist in the management of the Food Park in the future.

The Chairman reported the condition the Food Park was worse than ever, even though large amounts of money have been spent. Mr Christopher reiterated the Department have only just picked up the responsibility for the Park. He stated more operations need to be placed inside, tenants need to stop washing materials down the drains and drains need cleaning. A change in mindset is required by tenants and the Department will work with the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture to enforce the requirements of the leases.

The Chairman stated the fire service in the past had wash out the drains and this was no longer done resulting in stagnant smelly water. She asked what assistance the Commissioners could provide. Mr Christopher requested a site meeting with the Town Clerk within two weeks to take forward these matters.

Mr Davison reported all the businesses had been located in the Food Park for a long time and the new design for the Food Park had been done incompetently. There was a requirement for the Department to meet the business owners to discuss the shortcomings including standing water and poor drainage design. Mr Jones asked if the Department could go back to the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture to procure the works to rectify these problems.

Mrs O'Halloran stated she occupied an adjoining building which suffered from seagull activity associated with the Food Park and the Department needed to be a good neighbour through better management of this facility.

Mr Christopher stated he was happy to meet with tenants once the meeting with the Town Clerk had taken place. The Chairman thanked Mr Christopher and Mr Wilson for their attendance and thanked Mr Christopher for confirming the transfer of the operation of Fenella Beach Car Park and the Breakwater Toilets.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	15/193	The Commissioners agreed not to oppose planning applications 15/01049, 15/01022, 15/01026, 15/01016, 15/01012, 15/00994, 15/998, ad 15/00999. Mrs O'Halloran and Mr Beale did not vote on this issue.
PLANNING DECISIONS	15/194	The Commissioners noted the planning decisions and <b>AGREED</b> to take no further action. Mrs O'Halloran and Mr Beale did not vote on this issue.
PRE 1984 PLANNING APPLICATION FILES	15/195	The Commissioners noted the contents of this communication from the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.
AMALGMATION OF ONE AND TWO BEDROOM PROPERTY LIST	15/196	Mr Jones reported he did not foresee a problem with this proposal based upon the report from the Housing Officer which included zoning for specific locations such as Bluebell Close for over 50 year old tenants and Castle Court flats for younger single persons. Mr Lace proposed a motion to amalgamate the one and two bedroom lists to improve the opportunities for single tenants seeking housing who currently have to wait for a one bedroom property to become vacant. Miss Felton seconded this motion. The Board <b>AGREED</b> to the amalgamation of one and two bedroom property list. Mrs O'Halloran and Mr Beale did not vote on this issue.
BONFIRE NIGHT	15/197	Mr Davison confirmed he would like to see a torchlight procession contained within this year's event.
CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL HEALTH AND CARE SERVICE BILL	15/198	The Board <b>AGREED</b> to defer a decision on this issue until the next meeting.
CONSULTATION ON EXTENSION OF RATIFICATION OF THE CAPE TOWN	15/199	The Town Clerk reported the main issue was to ensure the ongoing support for the promotion of the Island's aircraft registry industry and to ensure aircrafts can be kept on the Island to pay local creditors in the event of a bankruptcy. The Board <b>AGREED</b> to support the proposals contained within

CONVENTION  
AND AIRCRAFT  
PROTOCOL TO  
THE ISLE OF  
MAN

the consultation subject to adequate safeguards being in place for these two issues.

ANY OTHER  
BUSINESS

15/200

Miss Felton asked for an update on the Market Street demolition. The Town Clerk reported he had met with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture's Officer for environmental health protection. The Town Clerk had confirmed that the Commissioners needed assurance the building was in a safe condition. Once this information was received the Commissioners could decide what future action was appropriate should the owners not have the funding available to complete the demolition. The Government's officer was meeting the neighbour to this property on Friday and he would confirm the Commissioners stance on this matter.

Miss Felton asked if the dog muck around the town and particularly on the Promenade could be removed and the dog owners identified. DS

Mr Davison asked for an update on the capacity available in the Clothworkers School. The Town Clerk reported an update had been received from the Department of Education and Children stating there was sufficient spaces for all children who live in Peel at this school. The Town Clerk was meeting the Minister for this Department on Friday and he would ask for the catchment area map for the area outside Peel for this school.

Mr Davison sought Boards approval to spend £1,000 for reserving a United Kingdom entertainment act for Peel Day. The Board **AGREED** to book this act. Mrs O'Halloran and Mr Beale did not vote on this issue. ID

Meeting closed at 8:47pm