

# GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 3 May 2016.

Present  
Mr Convery  
Mr Davison  
Mr Jones  
Ms Hannan  
Mr Heath  
Mrs Moughtin  
Mr Lace

In attendance  
Mr Sewell Town Clerk

Action

APPOINTMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN AND  
LEAD MEMBERS

16/001

The Commissioners elected to serve on the Board of Peel Town Commissioners on 28 April 2016 each separately made the declaration of office as witnessed by the Town Clerk.

The meeting commenced at 7:30pm and the Town Clerk welcomed the Commissioners and the public to the annual general meeting held on the first working day of May 2016. The Town Clerk requested nominations with proposers and seconders for the position of Chairman to Peel Town Commissioners.

Mrs Moughtin was nominated for the role of Chairman by Mr Jones and seconded by Mr Lace. The Board of the Commissioners unanimously supported this nomination. Mrs Moughtin took the chair and thanked the Commissioners for their support. She expressed her delight at the opportunity to continue in the capacity of chairman for a twelve month period to build upon her six month term when she took over from Mr Harmer in October when he was elected into the House of Keys.

The Chairman requested nominations for deputy chairman, lead members and Tynwald Order Boards.

Mr Jones and Ms Hannan proposed and seconded the appointment of Mr Davison as Deputy Chairman. The Board unanimously

**agreed** this appointment.

The Chairman and Mr. Jones proposed and seconded the appointment of Ms Hannan as Lead Member for Finance and General Purpose. The Board unanimously **agreed** this appointment.

Mr Heath and Mr Jones proposed and seconded the appointment of Mr Lace as Lead Member for Works and to be the Commissioners representative on the River Neb Working Party. The Board unanimously **agreed** this appointment.

Mr Lace and the Deputy Chairman proposed and seconded the appointment of Mr Jones as Lead Member for Housing and member for Peel and Western Housing Committee. The Board unanimously **agreed** this appointment. Mr Jones and Mr Davison proposed and seconded the Chairman as the other Commissioner representative on the Peel and Western Housing Committee Board and Peel Heritage Trust. The Board unanimously **agreed** this appointment.

Mr Jones and Mr Lace proposed and seconded the appointment of Mr Davison as Lead member for Recreation and Entertainments. The Board unanimously **agreed** this appointment.

The Chairman and Mr Jones proposed and seconded the appointment of Mr Convery as the Commissioners representative on the Western Civic Amenity Site Board. The Board unanimously **agreed** this appointment.

The Chairman and Mr Lace proposed and seconded the appointment of Mr Heath as the Commissioners representative for Youth and the Western Swimming Pool Board. The Board unanimously **agreed** this appointment.

The Chairman and Mr Heath proposed and seconded the appointment of Mr Jones and Mr Convery as the Commissioners representative for Municipal Association. The Board unanimously **agreed** this appointment.

The Chairman and Mr Jones proposed and seconded the appointment of the Duty

Chairman and Ms Hannan as the Commissioners representative for the Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Regeneration. The Board unanimously **agreed** this appointment.

ITEM 4 MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING  
HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL 2016

16/002

The Board noted the contents of the previously **approved** minutes of the Board meeting held on 5 April 2016.

ITEM 5 MATTERS  
ARISING

16/003

15/283 Election Act

The Board noted the content of the letter sent to the Chief Minister dated 19 April 2016 and the contents of the Isle of Man Examiner newspaper article. The Town Clerk reported he had received an acknowledgement from the Cabinet Office that the Commissioners' letter to the Chief Minister was receiving attention. Mr Jones stated this issue needed pursuing because the Government had taken away persons legitimate right to vote in a democracy which at best was sloppy legislative administration and a blatant disregard of the law in the worst case.

15/284 Planning Applications

The Board noted the communication confirming the Commissioners did not oppose planning applications 16/00333/B, 16/00336/B, 16/00338/B, 16/00335/B, 15/01301, 16/00311 and 16/00325 had been sent to the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture.

15/285 Tynwald Garden Party

The Board noted the invitation acceptance had been sent and the Town Clerk advised he would now provide details of the Chairman and their guest.

15/285 RNLI Application

The Board noted Peel RNI had received approval for their application to hold a street collection when beach racing was in progress in Peel and for a stall on Peel Day.

15/286 Condition of East Quay

The Town Clerk reported temporary repair works were in progress and the Deputy Chairman had requested a meeting between the Department of Infrastructure and the Commissioners to discuss the scope and extent of these works. The Deputy Chairman advised he would welcome a meeting with the Department to establish the areas which would

be temporarily repaired. The Board **agreed** the Town Clerk should set up this meeting with the Department of Infrastructure. Ms Hannan asked who owned and cleaned the drainage channels on West Quay. The Town Clerk advised the channel between the harbour bridge and Fenella Beach was owned by the Department of Infrastructure. The Commissioners were responsible for cleaning the channel of any debris washed down from Peel Hill. He reported the channel outside Peel Castle was owned and cleaned by Manx National Heritage or the Department of Infrastructure.

#### 15/286 Grass Cutting Ballawattleworth

The Town Clerk reported he had met the Commissioners' advocate earlier today and had looked at the adoption plans/agreements provided by Dandara Limited on 5 April. He advised these documents were acceptable and would allow the rapid adoption of these areas of land. Ms Hannan asked why these areas of grass had been cut by the Commissioners in the past. The Town Clerk advised the Board had agreed to cut this grass once the properties were occupied by rate payers on the basis that the land transfer would occur quickly. Unfortunately, he stated this had not occurred. The Chairman stated the Board had made this decision because these residents were rate payers and the Commissioners had given an undertaking to adopt these areas of land to the developer.

#### 15/287 French and German Volunteers in Peel Schools

The Town Clerk reported he had written to the Minister for Education and Children to propose the use of volunteers during their gap years in Peel's school and offering assistance for a scheme of this nature. The Deputy Chairman asked if this proposal had been taken forward by the Department. The Town Clerk reported he had received no further communications on this matter.

## WORKS ITEMS

16/004

### Item 6 Regeneration Update

The Town Clerk reported he had met with the contractor undertaking these works and they advised work was progressing in accordance with their programme. The underground utility company service works were now largely completed and the kerbing works to bring this

phase of work out of the ground would commence later this week. This would permit the planned deployment of additional manpower resources. In addition, the Town Clerk advised the Deputy Chairman and he had met the residents and businesses of Castle Street to discuss forthcoming traffic restrictions and compensation for businesses while works were in progress. The Town Clerk advised there was no provision or legislative requirement for the Department of Infrastructure to provide compensation while road works are in progress. However, rates reductions may be applicable if the disturbance was for a prolonged period of time and could be directly attributed to the works. Mr Convery confirmed there was no compensation available from the Department while regeneration was in progress. The Deputy Chairman stated 10% rate reductions had been given for those who could prove a long term detrimental impact on a case by case basis. The Town Clerk advised the Commissioners could improve advertising for business in the town by leaflet dropping the housing estates with a shop local leaflet or advertise nationally in the press what Peel has to offer. The Deputy Chairman stated this could be discussed with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce to establish which option is most appropriate and if the traders will part fund this initiative. The Board **agreed** this proposal. Ms Hannan stated the diversion signage was unclear and cars should be directed to the parking on the Promenade. The current sign just diverts traffic into the Douglas street car park where there is no parking available. Additional signs are required to direct traffic up Castle Street and Market Street to Michael Street. The Chairman agreed with these observations and stated the diversion sign was prior to the closure and was hidden behind parked cars. She believed additional signs were required. The Deputy Chairman stated he agreed additional signs were required however, Castle Street and Market Street were too narrow for larger vehicles. Ms Hannan stated the signs could stipulate the size of the vehicle and she believed the electronic sign on Michael Street should be switched off to allow vehicles to travel along Michael Street. Mr Jones stated he agreed with many of Ms Hannan proposals although he was concerned for the safety of pedestrians on Michael Street if the restrictions

were removed and the sign belonged to the Department. The Board agreed to raise these matters with the contractor and the Department of Infrastructure. Mr Heath asked how often the Commissioners met the Department and their contractor to discuss regeneration. The Town Clerk advised these meetings take place monthly.

HOUSING ITEMS

16/005

Item 7 Planning Applications

Ms Hannan asked why the Department had resubmitted a planning application 16/00460/B for regeneration. The Town Clerk advised the application made provision for the larger commercial vehicles used to deliver to the Cooperative and Shoprite. This had resulted in the kerb lines being relocated to allow greater turning for vehicles for the occasional use of these larger of vehicles. Ms Hannan stated she was not in favour of the regeneration scheme and believed the money could be better spent. The Town Clerk advised the regeneration scheme already had planning consent and the Commissioners comments should relate solely to the difference between the approved drawings and the proposals contained within this application. This for example, could relate to the loss of pedestrian area which could be maintained if a shared space approach was used. The Deputy Chairman stated the application included part of Michael Street from Douglas Street to Orry Lane which was not included within the current phase of the works. He stated the works should not enter Michael Street until funding was available for the whole of this Street. The Chairman stated Peel had been short changed when you compare it with the projects completed in Douglas and Ramsey. The Town Clerk confirmed the Chief Minister's regeneration Steering Committee had only approved construction works in Market Place and Douglas Street at this time. The Board agreed not to oppose the application subject to advising the planning committee of their comments.

The Board noted the content of planning applications 16/0392/B, 16/00409/B, 16/00449/B and 16/00448/D and agreed not to oppose these applications.

#### Item 8 Planning Decisions

The Board noted the decision notices for 15/01301/B, 16/00336/B and 16/00338/B and the Town Clerk reported the Board had not opposed these applications when consulted. The Board **agreed** no further action was required.

#### RECREATION ITEMS

16/006

#### Item 9 Douglas Civic Sunday

The Board noted the invitation to Douglas Council's Civic Sunday on 12 June 2016. The Board agreed the Chairman would attend.

#### Item 10 Peel Day Update

The Deputy Chairman explained Peel Day was taking place around the House of Manannan, East Quay and Weather Glass Corner. The stunt show and Leece Museum exhibits would take place between 10am and 3pm. After 3pm the pit bike racing course around the House of Manannan will be set up and will continue into the evening which is new event for Peel. The Duty Chairman stated he had received sponsorship for this event from the Steam Packet, Kestrel and Sure. He stated East Quay had been chosen as a focal point for this year's event because it was nearer to the businesses and the Leece Museum. The size of the event was smaller this year to keep costs down which is an important factor when visitor access can be restricted at short notice by Sunday racing.

#### FINANCE AND GENERAL

16/007

#### Item 11 Review of the Functions of Tynwald

The Board noted the contents of the communication from the Secretary to Lord Lisvane. Mr Jones proposed this item be deferred until the next meeting. He believed this was an opportunity to introduce a Government Ombudsman. Ms Hannan stated this is about how Tynwald operates. She highlighted the need to review the branches of Tynwald, allow greater women representation and improving voting procedures which had been looked at in the past and has always failed. Ms Hannan stated she would be happy to provide information on these issues. Mr Jones stated the scrutiny structure was cited as an important part of this review. The Chairman supported Mr Jones' motion to defer this item. The Town Clerk reported Lord Lisvane was taking oral evidence on weeks commencing 16 and 30 May 2016 which did not provide a lot of time for submissions. The Board **agreed** to

defer this item.

Item 12 Application to use the Headlands Field from the Coastguard

The Board considered the request submitted by the Coastguard Rescue Teams Manager in his email dated 25 April 2016. Mr Jones proposed the application should be approved and Mr Lace seconded this approval. The Board **agreed** to approve this application subject to them imposing the necessary safety measures to protect the public.

Item 12 Department of Economic Development Drop in Session

The Board noted the content of the press release from the Department received on 25 April 2016. The Town Clerk reported there was some confusion surrounding this event which the Press had reported was happening between 12:00hrs and 14:00hrs to discuss compensation measures for the regeneration works with local businesses. The Press had apologised for providing inaccurate information concerning this event. Mrs Hannan stated the Department should have directly notified businesses in Peel of this event and provided a longer notification period. Mr Convery stated this release should have been undertaken by the regeneration committee which had occurred in Castletown. Mr Heath stated a similar event in Castle Street in Douglas had been better advertised. The Board agreed if the event was not well attended a further better advertised event should be arranged for the future.

Item 14 Consultation on Inshore Marine Zoning

The Board considered the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture consultation document. Ms Hannan proposed Option 2 which is a good compromise and allows fishing in all conditions. She stated the Manx Fleet remains constant and better controls are required against incursions from fleet from other jurisdictions. However, care is necessary over historic rights and these will require detailed assessment. The Deputy Chairman stated Option 1 was the better option because it provides a consistent 1 mile protected area. He believed the blue areas did not provide adequate protection from off island



vessels and static gear could still be used within this area if Option 1 was supported. Mr Lace stated areas for poor weather fishing needed to be retained for local fishing boats. The Town Clerk advised the Commissioners response could select Option 2 subject to the fisheries management plan allowing only local fishing boats in the 1 mile area. The Board **agreed** to submit this as their response.

#### Item 15 Isle of Man Municipal Association AGM

Mr Jones advised he would attend this meeting as the Commissioners representative however, all Commissioners were welcome to attend.

#### Item 16 Any Other Business

The Town Clerk advised the Librarian had gone on maternity leave on 28 April 2016. The Board, **agreed** the Town Clerk should send the Boards best wishes to Gemma.

The Town Clerk reported he would be advertising a six month fixed term part time maternity cover librarian role to assist in the operation of the Library. The Town Clerk advised he would bring a report to the next meeting to seek changes to the hours of operation of the Library.

Mr Heath requested the removal of the notice placed on the Library door on Saturday. The Town Clerk advised this was removed yesterday.

Mr Jones expressed his gratitude to the Town Clerk and his staff for their work during the local elections.

Ms Hannan asked if a suitable date could be arranged for her declaration of interests.

Mr Heath thanked all the Commissioners for his warm welcome to the Board.

Mr Convery asked if a suitable date could be arranged for him to meet all the Commissioners staff. The Chairman stated this arrangement should be made through the Town Clerk.

The Deputy Chairman stated all Commissioners would be welcome to the meeting with the Department of Infrastructure

to discuss East Quay once this was arranged.

Mr Lace asked if future meetings could start at 7:30pm. The Town Clerk advised this would require a change in standing orders. Mr Convery stated the meetings should have a cut off time of 10pm. The Town Clerk advised this may require a change to the Lead Members delegation to allow decisions to be made outside the Board meeting. Ms Hannan expressed concerns relating to single Commissioners making decisions. The Town Clerk advised he would bring a report to the next meeting outlining the options.

The meeting ended at 9:15pm