

GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the general meeting held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on 17 May 2016 at 7:00pm.

Present Mrs C. Moughtin (Chairman)
 Mr I. Davison (Deputy Chairman)
 Ms H. Hannan
 Mr E. Convery
 Mr B. Heath
 Mr A. Jones

Apologise Mr D. Lace

In attendance Mr D. Sewell (Clerk to Commissioners)
 Mr C. Littler (Commissioners' Website Designer)

Action

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	16/008	The Chairman welcomed the Board and Mr Littler to the meeting. She congratulated the owners on opening the new gym in Ballawattleworth in Peel which is a wonderful facility. The Chairman stated a large investment was made in developing the gym and she would like to wish the owners every success in this new business venture.
ITEM 1 MINUTES	16/009	Ms Hannan stated the minutes had used her title inconsistently and in future the title "Ms" should be used. The Board agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2016 subject to this change. Mr Jones proposed and the Deputy Chairman seconded this item.
ITEM 2 MATTERS ARISING	16/010	Item 16/003 Condition of East Quay The Town Clerk reported he had sent a communication to the Department of Infrastructure's Director of Ports with proposed dates for a meeting. In addition, he stated the meeting was to include the development proposals on Weatherglass Corner inner harbour and the stone dredging works in the harbour which commenced on 16 May 2016. The Town Clerk stated the Commissioners had received little notice of these planned dredging works and read the Department's email received at approximately 8pm on 12 May 2016. The Town Clerk stated he would contact

the Commissioners once a date and time for the meeting was confirmed.

Item 16/004 Regeneration Works

The Town Clerk reported the work was progressing to schedule with concrete foundation and kerbing works being installed. Additional resources arrived on 15 May and these resources were redeployed onto the Commissioners' Peel Day preparation works because some underground utility works were still to be completed. He reported regularly communicating with the contractor to improve the direction signage for traffic to the town which should be installed imminently. Ms Hannan stated three workers were stood around doing nothing today and eventually they were joined for a short period of time by another three workers. These workmen need to be working harder to reduce the 15 month impact of these works on the businesses. Ms Hannan stated the road direction signs had not been improved and there was no parking available in the Douglas Street car park. She concluded, although this is not a Commissioners scheme, we must make our feelings known and not wait for things to be done. Mr Jones stated the utilities companies should have planned their works and this aspect should be better co-ordinated. Mr Heath reported Isle of Man Newspapers would shortly be running an article on Peel. He believed this opportunity should be used to promote Peel. The Town Clerk reported he had sent a letter to local retail businesses today providing them with the opportunity to discuss regeneration with the contractor undertaking these works, car parking and promoting what is available in Peel. This meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on Thursday 26 May 2016. The Deputy Chairman and Ms Hannan noted this date as the Commissioners Representatives for regeneration and Chamber of Trade.

Item 16/005 Planning Application

The Board noted a communication stating the Commissioners did not oppose planning applications 16/00392/B, 16/00409/B, 16/00448/B, 16/00449/B, and 16/00460/B had been sent to the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture.

Item 16/006 Douglas Civic Sunday

The Board noted a communication accepting the invitation to Douglas Borough Council's Civic Sunday on 12 June 2016 had been sent.

Item 16/007 Review of Tynwald Functions

The Town Clerk reported this issue was to be considered under agenda item 13.

Item 16/007 Application to Use the Headlands Field from the Coastguard

The Board noted the communication granting approval with the requirement to protect the public safety during the exercise had been sent to the Coastguard.

Item 16/007 Department of Economic Development Drop In Session

The Town Clerk reported this event had not many visitors and there was a requirement for a advertised second event. He advised the Board of the local Member for the House of Keys intention to hold a presentation day during the last week in June which could include a further Department of Economic Development Drop In session. Ms Hannan reported businesses did not know the purpose of the Drop In Session or when it was happening. Mr Convery asked if the 50% grant for improving shop frontages was highlighted. The Town Clerk reported the Regeneration Manager was present at the session.

Item 16/007 Consultation on Inshore Marine Zoning

The Board noted their response had been submitted to the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture.

Item 16/007 Part Time Fixed Term Librarian (Maternity Leave Cover)

The Board noted this position was advertised in Peel. The Town Clerk reported there had been sufficient interest to date and the closing date for applications was 20 May 2016.

Item 16/007 Commissioners Meeting the Staff

The Town Clerk reported this meeting was scheduled for 9:30am on 1 June 2016 at the Town Hall.

Item 16/007 Commencement Time for Meeting

In Mr Lace's absence the Town Clerk reported Mr Lace had employment commitments and had proposed the start of the meeting is rescheduled for 7:30pm. Mr Convery stated the meetings should not be longer than 3 hours if the start time was moved to 7:30pm. The Chairman proposed considering this request with Item 8. She was in favour of reverting to the original Commissioners meeting format and would like a separate meeting to explore these options. Mr Jones seconded the request for a separate meeting. The Board **agreed to defer** this item and Item 8 to a separate meeting.

HOUSING ITEMS

16/011

Item 3 Planning Applications

The Board noted the proposed use of plastic casement windows in planning application 16/00478/B 4 Atholl Street, Peel. The Deputy Chairman believed the planning authority was now approving the use of plastic windows in the conservation area. Ms Hannan stated the purpose of the conservation area was lost when the regeneration scheme was approved. The Deputy Chairman asked what the conservation area was designed to protect. Mr Jones stated the application did not change the size or the overall appearance of the building. The existing windows were not original and we should not be denying residents the opportunity to improve the property. The Board agreed not to oppose planning application 16/00478/B on this basis.

The Board did not oppose planning applications 16/00473/B, 16/00468/B, and 16/00482/B.

Item 4 Planning Decision Notified.

The Board noted the decisions and building control approvals. The Town Clerk reported he had received a large number of notices approvals in recent weeks. The Chairman stated the Commissioners had offered to assist the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture with experienced resources in this area. The Department were keen to remove this function from the Commissioners and they should now give it back. The Town Clerk stated the Minister had asked the Commissioners to provide them with a business case with a regional solution to this matter. Ms Hannan asked if we had consulted neighbouring authorities on this issue. Mr

Jones stated this had not taken place at this time and it is an area which local authorities could work together to save money on their building control functions.

FINANCE AND
GENERAL ITEMS

16/012

Item 5 Library Opening Hours

The Board noted the contents of the Town Clerk's report. Mr Jones asked if these changes were agreed with the current members of staff. The Town Clerk reported staff consultation had taken place and the proposed hours were being trailed to ascertain their suitability. Mr Jones proposed accepting the report's recommendation and Ms Hannan seconded this item. The Board **agreed** to accept the recommendation and to implement the change in opening times on Monday 23 May 2016.

Item 6 Lead Officer Standing Orders

The Board noted the content of the Town Clerk's report and had deferred consideration of this matter to a separate meeting in the matters arising section of the meeting.

Item 7 Local Authority Transition

The Board noted the contents of the communication received from the Minister for Infrastructure dated 5 May 2016. The Chairman stated individual briefings to new Commissioners on this matter should not take place and all Commissioners should attend a single briefing. This proposal was seconded by Ms Hannan. The Board **agreed** the Town Clerk should seek a specific briefing for Peel Town Commissioners. Mr Jones advised the QE II meeting was open to everyone and the Municipal Association is a good source of information. The Board **agreed** the Town Clerk should arrange a briefing for Commissioners on local authority transition items before the QE II meeting.

Item 8 Service of Thanksgiving to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday

The Board noted the invitation for the Chairman to attend this event. The Town Clerk was asked to accept this invitation.

Item 9 Waste Charges at the EFW

The Board noted the contents of the communications from the Department of Infrastructure. The Town Clerk reported the implementation date and details of the new

charging regime had been contested by the Commissioners when the Minister attended the Board meeting on 5 April 2016. In addition, Douglas Borough Council had written to the Commissioners to raise concerns relating to the legality of imposing an availability fee. Ms Hannan stated costs could be reduced if there was more recycling. The Deputy Chairman asked what would be the actual costs of these changes to the Commissioners. The Town Clerk reported, based on last year's waste tonnage figures, the cost of disposal would increase by £15,000 per annum to cover the operational costs at the EFW. This would be largely offset by a reduction in the Commissioners' contribution to the Western Civic Amenity disposal costs. He stated additional recycling would increase disposal costs through the EFW plant because all the figures are based upon retaining the current disposal tonnages to keep the plant operating efficiently. Mr Jones stated he was sympathetic with the desire to recycle more but there must be a proven benefit to the Isle of Man. For example, the case for recycling plastic bottles was not clear cut. Mr Convery stated if more recycling takes place the EFW may need to import clean waste to retain efficient tonnages in the future. He stated there was still an outstanding issue surrounding the implementation of any new charging regime on how this is apportioned to local authorities based on tonnage, population or rateable value. The Deputy Chairman stated the EFW is clearly bigger than the Island needed and is not fit for purpose. He stated after 12 months with this new charging regime there is nothing to stop Government increases in availability fee to cover none operational expenditure at the facility. Mr Heath stated the Department were happy they had the legal authority to implement an availability fee under the existing legislation. He stated the recycling contracts were currently profitable to the Isle of Man. The Board **agreed** the Town Clerk should liaise with other local authorities to ascertain if the Department had the legal authority to impose the new charging regime and if the working party were content with the implementation date and methodology. The Town Clerk should then provide a written response to the Minister highlighting the any outstanding concerns.

Item 10 Review of Developments in Legal Aid
Ms Hannan declared a family interest in this matter. The Chairman stated this consultation did not appear to have any direct impact on the Commissioners activity. Mr Jones stated this issue was important to Isle of Man citizens and the use of duty advocates was very useful for policing on the island and paralegals should be considered. Mr Convery stated the proposals were about reducing the cost of these services. Mr Heath stated the proposals must be fit for purpose for the size of our population and the island.

Item 11 Review of Tynwald Functions

Ms Hannan stated she would send her comments to the Town Clerk for him to circulate to the Commissioners.

ITEM 12 ANY
OTHER BUSINESS

16/013

The Town Clerk asked the Board to consider an application from Shoprite dated 17 May 2016 to erect signs at 15 sites in Peel for TT fortnight. The Board **agreed** this application subject to the signs being removed on the first Monday after the TT festival was completed.

The Town Clerk asked the Board to consider an application from the Peel Promenade Kiosk Café dated 17 May 2016 to install a small tent on the Weatherglass corner side of the Kiosk. The Board **agreed** this application.

The Town Clerk asked the Board to consider an application from the RNLI to collect in Peel town centre on Thursday 9th June 2016. The Chairman supported this application because approval had already been given for them to collect on the Promenade in the evening. The Board **agreed** this application.

The Town Clerk asked the Board to consider an application from Peel Carnival to permit the sand sculpturer to operate on the beach during the carnival and for him to collect for Relay for Life Cancer Research. The Board **agreed** this application.

The Town Clerk asked the Board to consider an application dated 17 May 2016 to collect for Children in Need on the Promenade on Peel Day and during the TT Sand Races in Peel. The Chairman stated other charities had already

received approval for charitable collections at this location and at this these times. The Board **refused** this application and asked the Town Clerk to ascertain if any other dates would be suitable.

The Town Clerk asked the Board to consider an application from Victim Support Isle of Man dated 16 May 2016 to undertake a street collection in Michael Street on 30 July 2016. The Board **agreed** this application.

Mr Jones reported he had undertaken the Commissioners surgery and the only issue raised was a garage on Station Road.

Mr Convery reported how successful the Royal Artillery Baton Ceremony had been. The Chairman endorsed this view.

The Deputy Chairman reported older children were causing a nuisance on the football pitch at Kerroo Coar and requested this facility should be relocated. The Town Clerk advised he would review this problem.

Ms Hannan stated voters from the Corrin Home were unable to get out and vote at the recent election. The Town Clerk advised the Election Act was scheduled for review later this year and the Commissioners could recommend a longer time period is provided for absent voters.

Ms Hannan reported the Promenade railings required painting.

Ms Hannan reported problems with worn road markings around the town and the dreadful conditions of the road.

The meeting ended at 8:25pm