

GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 1st July 2014 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
 Mr. D J Lace
 Mrs. C A Moughtin
 Mrs. J O'Halloran

In attendance Mr. P G Leadley (Town Clerk)

Action

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	14/101	The Chairman welcomed Members of the public and the Press to the first meeting of July. Mr. Harmer wished to comment on the successful staging of Viking Longboat Races, the Peel Town Cup played the previous weekend and the Junior Peel Town Cup.	
MINUTES	14/102	The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 th June 2014 were taken as read and <i>CONFIRMED</i> .	
PEEL BAY WATER QUALITY	14/103	<p>The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 14/091 and indicated that following a meeting with Mr. Kennington of the Public Analyst's laboratory and advised that this body provided completely impartial water quality testing and that to undertake further independent off island testing would prove relatively expensive. After discussion the Board <i>AGREED</i> that it would rely on the testing requested by the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture and to seek additional testing in further areas at different locations within the harbour and bay to obtain the optimum results with possible attendance from the Friends of the Earth.</p> <p>Consideration was given to a letter from Michael Commissioners dated 12th June 2014 in which it expressed concern at the lack of sewage treatment in Peel which impacted upon the water quality further up the west coast. Michael Commissioners had urged the Commissioners to make greater efforts to</p>	Letter sent

obtain the sewage treatment plant for Peel. After discussion Members commented on the efforts being made to ensure a sewage treatment plant was provided as soon as possible and requested that Michael Commissioners support the Commissioners in their efforts.

PEEL HARBOUR	14/104	The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 14/100 and requested Members give consideration to a date to meet further with Mrs. Reynolds, Director of Ports and Mr. Christopher of the Department of Infrastructure. It was <i>AGREED</i> to suggest a meeting on the 30 th September 2014 at 7.00p.m.	
MEMORIAL BENCH	14/105	Consideration was given to a request from Mr. Ian Coulson to provide a concrete memorial bench and sculptural plaque in memory of his parents. Mr. Coulson had enquired whether the bench seat and plaque could be situated in the Castle Street Gardens. Mrs. Moughtin suggested that it may be more appropriate for the plaque and bench to be located at the gable wall of the Water Depot on East Quay. It was <i>AGREED</i> to make contact with Mr. & Mrs. Atkinson of Castle Street who owned the area of land concerned. A request would also be made to the Manx Utilities Authority in respect of the plaque being fixed to the depot gable wall.	Letter sent
WEED SPRAYING	14/106	The Town Clerk reported that staff had undertaken weed spraying throughout the month of June and listed the various locations whereby such spraying had taken place. It was <i>AGREED</i> that additional resources be used to increase weed spraying. Arising therefrom Mrs. Moughtin expressed concern with regard to overgrown hedges impacting upon pedestrian access along pavements. She also stated that it was particularly difficult for pedestrians to walk on pavements on the main roads where minimal hedge cutting took place. It was Mrs. Moughtin's view that Government expended money in the wrong place and matters such as hedge trimming in the interests of pedestrian safety should be given a higher priority. That was the responsibility of the Department of	

Infrastructure and it was the view of the Board that more should be done by the Department. It was *AGREED* to clarify with the Department its responsibilities for hedge trimming.

STRAND STREET 14/107

The Town Clerk referred to a Temporary Suspension of Parking Order issued by the Department of Infrastructure in respect of a section of Strand Street between its junction with Queen Street and Beach Street to allow work to be carried out by the Manx Utilities Authority on the sub-station. The Order would be effective from 30th July to 1st August 2014.
NOTED

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT 14/108

The following planning applications were considered as follows:- Letter sent

14/00707

Erection of a timber lean to shed (retrospective), 6 Rheast Bridson, Peel.
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

14/00729

2 storey extension at rear, 2 dormer windows to rear roof slope, 10 Station Road, Peel.
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

14/00733

Erection of family room on front of property and en-suite on rear of property, 21, Close Quane, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

PLANNING DECISIONS NOTIFIED 14/109

The following planning decisions were notified by the Planning Committee as follows:-

PA 14/00518/B Installation of replacement windows at Flat 5, 20-22 Michael Street, Peel for Miss Gillian Nicholls. *APPROVED*

PA 14/00421/B Demolition of existing garage workshop and erection of a dwelling at 20 Stanley Mount, Peel for Mr. Robert Quayle. *APPROVED*

PA 14/00501/B Installation of replacement double doors to rear elevation at 44 Michael Street, Peel for Frederick Arthur and Jocelyn Ann Peck. *APPROVED*

PA 14/00444/B Demolition of existing stone

boundary wall to rear of store and erection of a replacement wall to replicate original at Co-operative Store, Michael Street, Peel for the Co-operative Group. *APPROVED*

PA 14/00304/B Erection of a lean-to storage area in rear yard at 4 Charles Street, Peel for Mrs. Jane Tatchell. *APPROVED*.

PA 14/00258/B Erection of a pair of two storey semi-detached dwellings at plot of land adjacent to 54 Glenfaba Road, Peel for Mr. & Mrs. Colin Mills. *APPROVED*

PA 14/00041/B Erection of a detached garage and re-build rear outlet at 7 Patrick Street, Peel for Peter Dunworth. *APPROVED*.

Mrs. Moughtin referred to the approval granted to Mr. Peter Dunworth for the erection of a detached garage at the rear outlet of 7 Patrick Street, Peel. It was Mrs. Moughtin's view that the garage should be built inside the building line in conjunction with the garage further up the car park. She suggested that Mr. Dunworth should be encouraged to provide a hard standing in front of the garage doors to ensure minimal impact on operation of the Douglas Street car park.

PA13/91289/B
HERITAGE HOMES
LIMITED

14/110

Members gave consideration to the Planning Committee's approval for the residential development of 144 dwellings with associated highway and drainage works, public open space and landscaping to the east of the Rearyt ny Cronk Estate, Peel by Heritage Homes Limited.

Appeal
lodged

Mr. Lace indicated that in his opinion Peel had been developed sufficiently and that there were now enough new build dwellings in the Town. He referred to the Strategic Plan with the requirement that only 1000 additional properties be provided in the West. This development would increase the number of properties over 1000 by approximately 27%. Mr. Davison expressed his concern at the ability of the Town's infrastructure to cope with this substantial residential development and was supported by Mr. Beale and Miss Felton. Reference was made to the infrastructure and the ability of the schools,

shops and sewage to be dealt with by this new development. It was noted that the decision to approve the application by the Planning Committee was three in favour with two opposed. The Chairman voiced his concern at the divided view of the Planning Committee and after full consideration with seven members in favour and Mr. Jones opposed it was *AGREED* that an Appeal be lodged to the planning approval based on the limit of 1000 properties in the West and the Island under the Strategic Plan being exceeded by a significant percentage.

HOUSING
(REGISTRATION)
REGULATIONS 2013 14/111

Members approved the registration of Flat 8 at Raad Bridjeen, Rearyt ny Cronk, Peel following a recommendation from the Environmental Health Office. *AGREED*

PEDEGO ELECTRIC
BIKE TOURS 14/112

Consideration was given to a request from Pedego Isle of Man which was a new company set up to offer tours, rental and sales of electric bicycles. The company wished to operate electric bicycles tours and trials from Peel during the summer season based at the northern end of the promenade. After consideration it was *AGREED* that the company be permitted to operate tours from the Creg Malin Park and the northern end of the promenade as sought.

Letter sent

TYNWALD
ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR
DISABILITIES 14/113

Members noted the response from Mr. Braidwood, Chairman of the Tynwald Advisory Council for Disabilities regarding the Commissioners submission on the recent Disabilities Annual Report. The Council was concerned over the problem of overgrown hedges and the possible impact on disabled people and the potential hazards caused to visually impaired people. The Chairman requested that the matter be raised with the Minister of the Department of Infrastructure which was the Department responsible for keeping the highways and pavements clear of obstructions.

Arising therefrom Mr. Davison commented upon the poor state of repair of many pavements and footways on the Island and in Peel. It was his view that the Department of Infrastructure would only react and undertake repairs when third party claims were made following falls and injury.

ROYAL LEGION	BRITISH	14/114	Members noted a letter from the Poppy Appeal of the Royal British Legion which outlined that it would hold house to house collections between the 24 th October and 7 th November 2015, 29 th October – 12 th November 2016 and 28 th October – 11 th November 2017. The Board supported the street collections as sought. In 2015 Poppy Day would fall on 7 th November with Remembrance Day on Sunday 8 th November.	Letter sent
SUPPLEMENTAL VALUATION LIST		14/115	Members noted receipt of the second Supplemental Valuation List for 2014.	
POLICE MODERNISATION PROGRAMME		14/116	Mr. Jones referred to his attendance with the Chairman at a recent meeting with the Chief Constable when it was outlined the cutbacks that would impact upon the Isle of Man Constabulary. Members noted the report prepared by Mr. Jones in respect of the recent meeting and Mr. Jones stated that under the Police Act 1993 it was the duty of the Department of Home Affairs to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective Police Force for the Island. It was Mr. Jones's view that the Government not only had a moral duty to maintain law and order on the Island but also a legal duty to do so under the 1993 Police Act. In his view Government was failing to comply with the law and its moral duty. He expressed concern that decisions had been made without proper consultation and whilst the changes may not have an immediate impact problems would occur with anti-social behaviour, drink driving and minor crime further down the line. The quality of life on the Island would be affected and it was his concern that the Island's Police Force would be in danger of becoming a third class Police Force. Other Members supported the comments made by Mr. Jones and reference was made over issues with some of the youths. The Chairman in particular referred to the cutting of the Police training budget and the lack of succession planning. It was <i>AGREED</i> that a strongly worded letter expressing deep concern at the cutbacks being imposed on the Isle of Man Constabulary be sent to the Chief Minister. It was the Board's view that Government should ensure priority funding was provided for the upholding of law and order, education and health.	Letter sent

PUBLIC
TRANSPORT AND
PARKING

14/117

Consideration was given to a consultation document issued by the Department of Infrastructure with regard to proposed changes to public transport and parking provision on the Island. Mr. Jones indicated that it was a poor attempt by the Department to make cuts and generate savings. It was his view the Department was top heavy with management and that certain of the proposals outlined in the consultation document such as the removal of bus passes would be unlikely to make significant savings. Of particular concern was the proposal to charge school children for transport on buses to and from school. This would likely increase the number of children walking to school which could be a safety issue. Mr. Jones also suggested the proposal to charge government staff to park should result in income going to each relevant Department and not the Department of Infrastructure. The proposals for parking meters was also a bad move as these were now being phased out more significantly in the United Kingdom. It was Mr. Jones's view that the Department needed to look more closely at where it could make effective savings. Mr. Davison expressed deep concern at the proposal to introduce on-street parking fees which in his opinion would destroy businesses in town centres. He referred to the closure of a number of shops in Strand Street, Douglas and suggested that the only winners would be the out of town retail operators which provided free parking. The suggestion that a commuter train from the south could be utilised was worthy of further consideration provided the ticket cost was at an acceptable and more economic level such as £3 per trip. The Chairman commented that Government needed to ensure public transport was cheaper and more cost effective to increase usage and provide benefits all round. In conclusion the Board was opposed to many of the proposals contained within the consultation document.

SHENNDEEAGH
BALLAQUANE
ROAD

14/118

Consideration was given to a letter from Corlett Bolton & Co, Advocates acting for Mrs. Oliver who was selling her property Shenndeeagh to Mr. & Mrs. Freer. A request had been made to permit the emptying of the septic tank located in the Clothworkers School field and

Letter sent

permission had been sought to gain access to the tank for emptying purposes over the Commissioners camp field. *AGREED*

DEFA MEETING 14/119

The Town Clerk referred to the Board's wish to meet with representatives of the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture to discuss a range of issues including the queenie fishing industry and its impact on Peel. It was *AGREED* to meet with Mr. Lole, Chief Executive, Mrs. McHarg, Director of Fisheries and Mr. Gawne, MHK Minister for the Department on 5th August 2014 at 8.00p.m.

Mr. Davison indicated in a recent conversation with a fish processor that contrary to Mr. Gawne's recent statement that an extra 120 jobs had been created in the queenie fishing industry in fact staff numbering 60 had been laid off. Staff reductions also applied to another fish processor and was as a result of the lack of queenies to process. Mr. Davison indicated that queenie stocks were not being over fished by Manx boats but were by the other fishing fleets from the UK. The processors had suggested a trial with a three day fishing week limited to 40 bags of queenies per day and in this way stocks could be maintained whilst support would continue for the maintenance of the fishing industry. Mr. Jones was of the view that the government needed to police its own fishing areas better. It was *AGREED* that this be raised with the Department when the meeting took place on 5th August.

CORNER HOUSE 14/120
MICHAEL STREET

The Town Clerk referred to the structural problems with the Corner House building at the bottom of Michael Street/Douglas Street. It was noted that a request from the Management Company for an extended period of time to 11th July from 30th June be sought to enable a response to be made to the Commissioners proposal to instigate court proceedings to bring about the stabilisation of the building. After discussion the Board *AGREED* to this extension to 11th July.

RECYCLE BINS 14/121
DERBY ROAD CAR
PARK

Consideration was given to concerns received from Mrs. Glover of Shoprite Store regarding the overflowing recycle bins at the car park. Request made

Members noted photographs recently taken showing the bins overflowing and whilst it was to be supported that more people were recycling it was *AGREED* to request the Department responsible to provide larger bins or additional bins for the recycling materials.

2014 FESTIVAL OF MOTORCYCLING 14/122

The Department of Economic Development had sought input on a proposal to extend the practise sessions for the Manx Grand Prix Week by 2.5 hours on Saturday 23rd August 2014 commencing at 9.30a.m. Members had no objection and *AGREED* to indicate support for an additional period of practice.

Reply sent

REGENERATION SCHEME 14/123

Mr. Lace referred to comments he had received from members of the public complaining about the expenditure on the proposed improvements to the Market Place and lower part of Douglas Street and Michael Street. Comment was made that they would prefer to see expenditure on providing more car parking. The Chairman and Mrs. O'Halloran indicated that the fund under the regeneration scheme was quite separate and could not be utilised for parking as it would be outside the remit for this scheme.

CATHEDRAL SIGNAGE 14/124

The Chairman referred to a complaint from a visitor over the lack of adequate signage to the Cathedral and shops. It was *AGREED* to look at extra permanent signage.

This part of the meeting ended at 8.10p.m.

