

GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of a GENERAL MEETING held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 15th April 2014 at 7.00p.m.

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

In attendance Mr. P G Leadley (Town Clerk)

Action

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME | 13/593 | The Chairman welcomed the Press to the second meeting of April 2014 and wished to record his thanks to Mrs Horton, Ward Librarian, upon her retirement after thirty years devoted service to the Ward Library. Mrs Horton was presented with a retirement gift by the Chairman on behalf of the Commissioners and staff. In response Mrs Horton indicated her thanks to the Commissioners over the past thirty years who have helped her to make the Ward Library such an important part of the community. She extended her thanks also to the various Town Clerks and Town Hall staff for their help over the years. In particular Mrs Horton made special mention of the relief staff who had provided holiday and sickness cover over the years. |
| MINUTES | 13/594 | The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2014 were taken as read and <i>CONFIRMED</i> . |
| WARD LIBRARY REPORT | 13/595 | Mrs Horton presented her final quarterly report for the Ward Library. It was <i>NOTED</i> that the total number of borrowers had shown a sixteen per cent rise. Mrs Horton wished to comment on |

the completion of the junior section which would now prove to be a bonus to the young users of the Library. In conclusion Mrs Horton expressed her thanks to the assistance given by Chris Littler over the Library element of the Commissioners website.

The Town Clerk advised that Mrs Horton's replacement Gemma Quilliam would officially commence her duties as Ward Librarian on 28th April 2014.

CLOSE Y CHIARN 13/596

The Town Clerk referred to the receipt of a recent letter dated 14th April 2014 from the Manx Utilities Authority. It was *AGREED* that the proposals within the letter concerning the street lighting at Close y Chiarn and the condition of the road be discussed in detail at the next meeting on 1st May 2014.

DOMESTIC RATING SYSTEM 13/597

Members gave consideration to a letter from the Deputy Clerk of Tynwald regarding a Select Committee of Tynwald investigation in to a petition for redress of grievance submitted by Mr David Buttery concerning the proposed abolition of the domestic rating system and its replacement with a uniform local services tax payable by all Isle of Man residents from working age up to 75 years old.

Letter sent

Mr Jones indicated that reform of the current rating system was necessary but there was no easy solution. He indicated that the UK poll tax had its faults but there was a need for a much fairer local tax rating system. The cost for an all island rate review would be expensive.

Reference was also made to a proposal that the water rate element of the annual rating bill be separated from the local authority rate element. It was suggested that the provision of water to all Island residents was of a uniform standard and should therefore be more equally paid for by users.

Members expressed their concern that the proposed deadline for submission of views by local authorities was 28th April 2014.

The Chairman suggested that the matter be listed on the Commissioners website seeking residents' views and that a request be made to the Deputy Clerk of Tynwald that more time was needed to enable public consultation on this important matter.

REAYRT NY CRONK 13/598
PLAYGROUND

The Town Clerk referred back to Minute 13/587 and reported that the developer of the estate and playground had indicated that it would not be practical to provide an item of play equipment for use by disabled children due to the lack of space.

Reference was also made to an email from a nearby resident complaining about the proposed location and its extension. It was *NOTED* that the playground was part of the conditions granted under the planning application submitted by Heritage Homes Limited and it was not in the power of the Commissioners to consider its relocation to another site.

Consideration was given to the suggestion from Heritage Homes Limited that the new development joining Reayrt Ny Cronk be named Patrick View (Reayrt Pherick). The Commissioners did not favour this name as it clashed with another estate within the town and after some consideration members indicated that the new development should be called Slieau Whallian View. The various roads within the new development would also need to be named and it was *AGREED* that the Commissioners give this matter further consideration.

ISLE OF MAN FOOD 13/599
PARK

The Town Clerk referred back to the Minute 13/592 and indicated that the Commissioners concerns regarding the suggested inadequate design of the area

surrounding the fish processing units had been conveyed to Mr Hamilton of the Isle of Man Food Park. Mr Hamilton had indicated that the design was felt to be more than adequate.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LEECE MUSEUM | 13/600 | Members <i>NOTED</i> the Leece Museum quarterly report for April 2014. The Curator was currently off Island and unable to present his report in person and the Chairman requested that he be invited to a future meeting to discuss the work of the museum. |
| DARK SKIES TOURISM | 13/601 | Consideration was given to a letter from Mr Howard Parkin regarding “Dark Skies Tourism”. It was <i>NOTED</i> that the Isle of Man had been cited as having the largest concentration of dark sky sites in the British Isles. As a result Mr Parkin had requested local authorities to consider the use of LED street lights which were more environmentally friendly, more cost efficient and also led to a considerable reduction in light pollution. Members indicated that the provision of street lighting in new housing developments was subject to the provision of LED lights. |
| PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT | 13/602 | The following planning applications were considered as follows:- PA 14/00389/C Additional use of residential apartment as tourist accommodation Apartment 3 Castle View Apartments, Marine Parade, Peel. <i>RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.</i> PA 14/00393/B Erection of a detached garage, 38 Derby Road, Peel. <i>RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.</i> PA 14/00397/B Erection of a conservatory to front elevation of dwelling, 25 Ballaquane Park, Peel. <i>RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.</i> PA 14/00407 Demolition of existing two storey projection to rear and construction of new single storey extension, Geay Varrey, 1 Ballaquane |

Road, Peel.
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

PA 14/00421 Demolition of existing garage workshop accommodation and erection of single replacement dwelling. Car parking to ground floor and amenity space to rear. Site at eastern corner of Stanley Mount and Circular Road, Peel.
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

PA 14/00424 Erection of an extension with alterations to convert the garage. 15 Imman Stronnag, Reayrt Ny Cronk, Peel.
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

PLANNING 13/603
DECISIONS NOTIFIED

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

PA14/00233/B Installation of replacement windows to front elevation, 9 Church Street, Peel for Ms Suzanne Williams and Mr Daniel Walker
APPROVED.

PA14/00222/B Installation of a replacement front door, 4 Bridge Street, Peel for Mr Simon Brummitt
APPROVED.

PA14/002259/B
Erection of an extension to rear elevation, 3 Cubbons Close, Peel for Mr & Mrs Gilbert Hill
APPROVED.

RATING APPEAL, 55 13/604
KERROO COAR

Members *NOTED* receipt of the statement of case in respect of the appeal for a reduction in rates at 55 Kerroo Coar, Peel by Mr E Cawley. The rating appeal was due to be heard on 17th April 2014.

SECRET GARDENS 13/605

Consideration was given to an email request from the Chairman of the Peel Secret Gardens Organisation which indicated that the Secret Gardens event in Peel would take place on 12th and 13th July 2014. The organisers had asked whether the Commissioners could

assist in contributing to the weekend event with provision of signs and publicity. The matter was discussed and Mr Davison indicated that he would arrange for three or four banners to be made up which could be displayed in the lead up to the event. *AGREED*.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| ONCHAN CIVIC SERVICE | 13/606 | Members <i>NOTED</i> receipt of an invitation from Onchan District Commissioners to attend their Civic Sunday Service on 18 th May 2014 at 2.25pm. | |
| TRADITIONAL BOAT FESTIVAL | 13/607 | Members gave consideration to a letter from Mr Mike Clark Chairman of the Peel Traditional Boat Festival which thanked the Commissioners for their donation to support the event and indicated whether consideration could be given to increasing the amount provided in 2015. It was <i>AGREED</i> that the matter be considered during the budget consideration for 2015/16. | |
| FLAG DAY | 13/608 | Consideration was given to a request from the Peel RNLi Fund Raising Committee for permission to hold an annual flag day street collection on 5 th June 2014. <i>AGREED</i> . | Letter sent |
| | | Upon enquiry from Mrs Moughtin the Town Clerk advised that an application had not yet been received from Mr Watterson of the Peveril Motorcycle Club for the usual staging of the sand races on the Thursday of TT week. It was <i>AGREED</i> that the Town Clerk contact Mr Watterson accordingly. | |
| REDUCTION IN COMMISSIONERS NUMBERS | 13/609 | The Town Clerk referred to the public consultation undertaken in respect of the Commissioners proposal to reduce the number of Commissioners from nine to seven. It was <i>NOTED</i> that one email response had been received in support of the proposal and the Chairman indicated that he had also been advised verbally that the proposed reduction was supported by the general public. It was <i>AGREED</i> that the Town Clerk progress this matter with the | Letter sent |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| | | Department of Infrastructure accordingly. | |
| HGV VEHICLES | 13/610 | The Chairman referred to the Department of Infrastructure matter regarding the increased tonnage permitted on the A1 road as far as St Johns only. The question was asked as to where these heavier HGV vehicles would go beyond St Johns. It was <i>AGREED</i> that the matter be investigated with the Department of Infrastructure. | |
| HOUSE OF MANANNAN | 13/611 | The Chairman referred to the problem of coaches turning and parking at the House of Manannan. Space had been taken up by workers in the Food Park utilising the House of Manannan overspill car park thereby preventing coaches from dropping off and parking at this location. It was <i>AGREED</i> that the Town Clerk contact Manx National Heritage with a view to a joint approach to the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture (owner of the Food Park) regarding this issue. | PGL |
| GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS | 13/612 | <p>Consideration was given to three consultation documents issued by central government.</p> <p>The first related to a proposal by the Civil Service Commission to establish a Public Service Commission. The Chairman requested that the matter be deferred to the next meeting for more detailed consideration. <i>AGREED</i>.</p> <p>A Shared Equity Scheme Consultation Document issued by the Department of Social Care. Mr Jones referred to this document and indicated his support in that it would encourage members of the public to become home owners. Some concern was voiced over the limit for assistance and the limit on salaries applicable for applications to the scheme. However Mr Jones was of the view that any government intervention to help the public to buy their own homes should be encouraged and supported. Mr Davison referred to the</p> | |

Lake District whereby numerous static caravan sites were located and suggested that this type of housing provision could be considered as a cheaper option for members of the public to purchase their own property. Mr Jones suggested that the lifespan of these types of property was limited and that they provided no equity in terms of selling onwards. However Mr Davison was of the view that it would give people a chance to save deposits whilst being housed at a reasonable cost. Mr Lace referred to the social housing rents that in his opinion were too high following annual increases which resulted in tenants being unable to save for deposits to purchase their own properties. However Mrs Moughtin indicated that if people were prepared to make sacrifices then it was possible to get on the housing ladder. The Chairman indicated that there should be a simplified grant system to enable people to afford deposits which could then be paid back at a later date. In conclusion members were supportive of the consultation document.

The final consultation document related to the preservation of War Memorials and was a Private Members Bill promoted by Mr Juan Watterson MHK. Mr Jones indicated that the proposals provided for a positive step forward and that in respect of Peel the War Memorial was not owned by the Commissioners and would therefore be the ultimate responsibility of St Germans Cathedral.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| VALUATION LIST | 13/613 | Members <i>NOTED</i> receipt of the Supplemental Valuation List for 2014. | |
| CRUISE BEREAVEMENT CARE | 13/614 | The Town Clerk referred to a letter he had received from Cruise Bereavement Care in which the charity had made arrangements to hold a Memory Walk along the former railway line from Peel to St Johns on 15 th July 2014. It was estimated that there would be sixty to eighty walkers taking part and after | Letter sent |

consideration the Commissioners had no objection to the event being arranged by Cruise Bereavement Care.

WAR
COMMEMORATION
COMMITTEE

13/615

Mr Jones reported that he had been appointed as a member of the War Commemoration Committee and that it had held its first meeting the previous week. The Committee had suggested that local authorities check back on their records to ascertain what the Minutes indicated from the 1914 to 1918 period. It was *AGREED* that this matter be researched by the Town Clerk. Arising therefrom Mrs O'Halloran indicated that she had made contact with fishing boat owners and the Peel RNLI to discuss the proposed commemoration of the sinking of the Lusitania on 6th May 2015. It was suggested that the lifeboat could lead out the flotilla on this date and that wreathes and flowers could be dropped onto the sea at the back of the castle. Mrs Moughtin suggested that the British Legion be contacted to see if poppies could be obtained for this commemoration.

PLAYGROUNDS

13/616

The Town Clerk tabled a report from Wicksteed in respect of the condition of the playground equipment in Peel. It was *NOTED* that the Technical Officer would arrange for the necessary maintenance and repairs as reported within the document.

YOUTH POD

13/617

Mr Davison reported that the proposed site for the new youth pod was being frequented by youths who were leaving broken bottles on the concrete base. It was *AGREED* that this matter be referred to the police to monitor the situation.

Arising therefrom the Town Clerk indicated that the four items of new play equipment would shortly be installed in West View play park.

PEEL HILL

13/618

Mr Davison indicated that he had spoken to Mr Keith Horne who had

proposed that elderly residents of the town be offered the opportunity to travel up onto Peel Hill in four wheel drive vehicles to take in the view. It was suggested that a temporary tent could be erected to provide refreshments and a seat. An insurance provider had *AGREED* provisionally to sponsor the public liability aspect of this proposal and after discussion the Commissioners *AGREED* that the matter be investigated further.

This part of the meeting ended at 8.10pm

