

# GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 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

Apologies                Mrs. C A Moughtin  
                                 Mrs. J O'Halloran

In attendance            Mr. P G Leadley (Town Clerk)  
                                 Miss P L Bampton (Finance Officer)

## Action

|                        |        |  |
|------------------------|--------|--|
| CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME     | 14/088 | The Chairman welcomed Members of the public and press to the second meeting of June. He referred to the recent passing of Mr. Bernard Caine who was a former Chairman of Manx National Heritage and wished to extend his condolences to his family. A minute's silence was observed.   |
| MINUTES                | 14/089 | The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2014 were taken as read and <i>CONFIRMED</i> .  |
| 2013/14 DRAFT ACCOUNTS | 14/090 | <p>The Chairman welcomed Mr. Ian Begley, Commissioners accountant to the meeting to discuss the draft accounts for the year ended 2013/14.</p> <p>Mr. Begley provided an overview of the draft accounts and indicated that finances were in a settled position with the increase in properties being built in the Town rate income had subsequently increased and totalled in the region of £1.2 million - up £75,000 on the previous year. However, costs had also increased with particular reference to the refuse rate being increased over a five year period. The Commissioners currently held just over 20% of the annual rate income in its reserve account. This figures was within the accepted guidelines required by the Department of Infrastructure.</p> |

Whilst housing rents had increased in recent years loan capital repayments for housing improvement schemes had also increased. This shortfall was met from the Central Government housing deficiency arrangement. Following a property revaluation in 2013 the Commissioners properties including the housing stock had increased in value by £1.9 million to £40.5 million.

In conclusion Mr. Begley indicated that the Commissioners accounts were currently in a sound financial situation and that the auditors, following their field work, were happy with the current position.

Mr. Begley and Miss Bampton left the meeting at 7.15p.m.

PEEL BAY WATER      14/091  
QUALITY

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John Griffiths to the meeting to discuss the issues regarding water quality in Peel Bay and the Neb River and harbour.

Mr. Griffiths referred to the pumping of sludge from the harbour into the bay which would have consisted of decaying vegetation. Reference was made to the Raggatt landfill site and Mr. Griffiths was of the view that discharge from the tankers taking material from the Raggatt site and emptying it into the harbour would result in polluted water containing fines made up of metals such as zinc, copper, iron and manganese oxide. It was suggested that sampling of the water in the Neb River and the harbour could be of value. Mr. Griffiths suggested that if a sample was also taken up river of the Raggatt a comparison could then be made of the relative water quality in the harbour. It was Mr. Griffiths view that the bathing water quality standards may still not be met when the new sewage treatment plant was built in Peel.

Mr. Griffiths suggested that one issue related to run-off from agricultural land which may include waste from cows and create a problem with water quality. This could also contribute to prevent Peel Bay from achieving a satisfactory water quality standard. It was suggested by Mr. Griffiths that contact be

made with the Public Analyst to obtain technical advice on the acquisition of water samples for analysis. Mr. Griffiths also suggested that seagull droppings on the beach which were at a high level due to the ban on dogs being allowed onto the beach during the summer period was more noxious than dog waste itself.

The Chairman referred to the various issues raised by Mr. Griffiths and was of the opinion that these problems were solvable and that there should be no need to pollute either the River Neb or Peel Bay. The Commissioners were concerned at the current stance of Manx Utilities in providing a solution to deal with sewage in Peel Bay which had previously been promised by 2016. In conclusion the Chairman indicated that effort was needed to bring this issue to the forefront of the Manx Utilities attention with a view to early resolution of the sewage problems in Peel.

Mr. Griffiths was thanked for his time and left the meeting at 7.30p.m.

WESTERN  
SWIMMING POOL

14/092

Reference was made back to Minute 14/080 and Mr. Davison indicated that despite the Board decision that he should attend the meeting due to a restriction on numbers imposed by the Cabinet Office he was unable to be present. Mr. Davison indicated that he would obtain an update from Mr. Dale at the next meeting of the Western Pool Authority and report back to the Board in due course.

IGD

REDUCTION IN  
COMMISSIONERS  
NUMBERS

14/093

Reference was made to the application by the Commissioners to reduce its numbers from nine to seven and indicated that an objection had been received from a resident of the Town, Ms. Pat Ayres who had expressed an interest in standing for the recent vacant post of Commissioner. It was noted that she had unfortunately not applied when the vacancy was advertised earlier in the year. The Board discussed Mrs. Ayres email and remained committed to its previous decision to reduce its numbers from nine to seven at the next general election. It was *AGREED* that the Town Clerk advise the Department of Infrastructure accordingly and request that the matter be progressed.

PGL

|                            |        |   |           |
|----------------------------|--------|---|-----------|
| BOATYARD<br>RESTAURANT     | 14/094 | <p>The Town Clerk reported on his attendance at the Licensing Court the previous week when an application by Tartan Group for a variation of its drinks licence had been called. It was noted that the restaurant did not intend to operate as a full public house with a bar but only wished to amend its current restaurant licence which enabled alcohol to be served with a substantial meal so that a customer could purchase a glass of wine with a snack or on its own during the afternoon period between lunchtime and evening meal sittings. The Town Clerk advised that the application had been adjourned to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and that after due consideration the Board agreed to withdraw its objection.</p>   |           |
| CASTLE STREET<br>GARDENS   | 14/095 | <p>Consideration was given to a letter from Mrs. Kermode of 13 Castle Street, Peel concerning an incident on the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014 when her husband on returning to his home was attempting to park his car and was accosted by a gang of youths who banged the roof of his car and chased him into his house. The matter had been reported to the police who apparently were in the area at the time of the incident which was 11.45p.m. The youths were also congregating in the Castle Street garden and throwing bottles over the wall into Mr. &amp; Mrs. Kermode rear yard. Litter was another problem. It was requested that the bench in the Castle Street garden be removed and that the street lighting be increased.</p> <p>The matter was discussed by Members and concern was expressed over the incident alleged by Mrs. Kermode. It was <i>AGREED</i> that a meeting be arranged with the Police and Mr. Crookall, M.H.K., to discuss the issue of youths about the Town causing problems. Mr. Jones stated that whenever an incident arose involving youths it needed to be reported to the police to ensure appropriate action was taken.</p> |           |
| STREET TRADING<br>LICENCES | 14/096 | <p>Consideration was given to two applications for street trading licences namely from Mr. Martin Birchenough and Mrs. Joanne Reid who wished to operate their mobile catering units on East Quay on the Viking Longboat race day which was 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014. It was</p>   | Completed |

*AGREED* that permission be granted to both applicants to place their units on the Quay subject to Harbour Division approval.

DOMESTIC RATING 14/097  
REVIEW

Mr. Jones referred to discussion at the Municipal Association with regard to Mr. Buttery's petition seeking a review of the Island's rating system. The Commissioners had not expressed a strong view on the matter and it was *AGREED* that Mr. Jones advise the Municipal Association accordingly. As Mr. Jones was unable to attend the next meeting of the Municipal Association it was *AGREED* that Mr. Lacey attend in his place. DJL

REARYT NY 14/098  
CRONK PLAY AREA

Mr. Davison referred to an email he had received from Mr. Stoddart of Close Caaig, Rearyt ny Cronk regarding issues involving youths congregating at the play area which involved underage smoking, swearing, litter and other issues. The police had been called due to residents' concerns. Mr. Stoddart was of the view that the proposal to extend the existing play park should be curtailed and that the area at Rearyt ny Keylley previously earmarked for a play area be utilised instead. The matter was discussed and it was noted that the Commissioners had approved the planning condition for the extension of the existing play area and that Heritage Homes Limited would provide a further four items of play equipment. It was suggested that to create a second play area at Rearyt ny Keylley would only move the problem and raise concerns with other residents of the estate. The Chairman, however, suggested that the Rearyt ny Keylley area be developed for play equipment and it was *AGREED* that this matter be further considered.

RECYCLE BINS 14/099  
SHOPRITE CAR  
PARK

Reference was made to issues of overfull recycle bins at the Shoprite car park. The Town Clerk advised that he was aware of the issue and that the contractor employed to empty the bins would only take one specific type of item per day namely glass on one day and metals on another etc. The Town Clerk advised that in conjunction with the Technical Officer he was looking at preparing a paper for consideration by Members for an alternative recycling site within the Town. PGL/TQ

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Ann Reynolds, Director of Ports to the meeting to discuss matters of mutual interest regarding the harbour. It was noted that Mr. Christopher, Director of Properties at the Department of Infrastructure had tendered his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting and it was *AGREED* that an alternative date be arranged with Mr. Christopher to discuss parking issues and pay and display in the Town.

The Chairman wished initially to thank Mrs. Reynolds for the Department's reconsideration of the application by Mr. Barrow to site his mobile fish unit on the harbour tongue.

Reference was made to the Commissioners ongoing concerns over the parking of large numbers of campervans at the Fenella Beach car park especially during the T.T. and Manx Grand Prix fortnights. Issues over the emptying of waste from the vehicles onto the rocks was highlighted together with litter problems. Mrs. Reynolds indicated that the Department through Mr. Christopher was currently working to introduce a new car parking order for the Harbour Division car parks which would provide greater powers to police these areas. Mrs. Reynolds also indicated that during the recent T.T. fortnight the car park had been monitored by Harbour Division staff. It was reported that there were at least seventeen mobile campervans using the car park during the T.T. fortnight. The Chairman indicated that the Commissioners were keen to take over supervision and control of Fenella Beach car park from the Department. Mrs. Reynolds indicated she would refer the matter back to the Department for discussion.

Mr. Lace referred to the accumulation of silt in the harbour marina area and suggested that the river silt could be diverted into the old dry dock area upside of the harbour road bridge. This area could then be emptied on a regular basis when the tide was out. It was confirmed that this proposal would be considered by the Department. Mrs. Reynolds referred to the recent publicity over the removal of silt from

the marina and indicated that 10,000 tonnes was required to be shifted. She stated that a preventative maintenance scheme was required rather than allowing the silt to accumulate over years as had occurred. Dispersal modelling had taken place and the best way to dispose of the sludge was over the end of the breakwater. So far 4,000 tonnes had been removed from the marina. Work would now take place over the next two weeks to increase the depth of the river by one metre for a hundred metre stretch from the start of the marina pontoons. Concerns were voiced over possible damage to the pontoons and pleasure craft in the marina due to an accumulation of silt. Mrs. Reynolds indicated that any possible claims would be looked at by herself. Mr. Beale was of the view that the sludge should be piped out via Fenella Beach rather than over the end of the breakwater. Reference was also made with regard to the Food Park controlled by the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture and whether there had been a problem with a cross connection in respect of the sewer pipes. It was alleged that waste was emptying into the harbour. Mrs. Reynolds agreed that she would also look into this matter. Mr. Davison raised the issue over the poor condition of the pavements on the Quay particularly in front of the House of Manannan and Filbey's Restaurant. It was also requested by Mr. Lace that consideration be given to more electrical connection points around the harbour. The Town Clerk referred to the Commissioners proposals to mark the sinking of the Lusitania with a ceremony involving a flotilla of boats from Peel next May. Mrs. Reynolds requested that she be kept updated in respect of this event.

In conclusion it was *AGREED* to meet with Mrs. Reynolds further in three to four months' time.

Mrs. Reynolds left the meeting at 9.00p.m.

This part of the meeting ended at 9.00p.m.