

GENERAL MEETING

The MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on Tuesday 2nd September 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 Mrs. J O’Halloran Mr. D J Lace Mrs. C A Moughtin
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In attendance	Miss P L Bampton (Finance Officer) Mr. J T Quayle (Technical Officer)
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Action

CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME	14/201	The Chairman welcomed the press to the first meeting of September.
MINUTES	14/202	The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 th August were taken as read and <i>CONFIRMED</i> .
POST OFFICE LETTER BOX	14/203	The Chairman referred back to Minute 14/184 and updated Members on the position regarding the removal of the old style post box outside the Douglas Street Post Office. A letter had been received from Mr. Geoff Rickard, General Manager of the Isle of Man Post Office dated 26 th August 2014. Mr. Rickard explained that the Post Office was pleased to inform the Commissioners that they would be able to re-site the box at the House of Manannan.

Mr. Rickard stated that his colleague who was responsible for post boxes would liaise with the Commissioners when he returned from annual leave as to where the best location would be.

Mr. Rickard informed the Board that he would investigate the Commissioners request as to whether the old style post box that was removed from outside the Town Hall could be re-instated.

Arising therefrom Miss Felton enquired whether it would be possible to contact the Post Office to see if they had a spare box that the library could use for people to post books in for a scheme that they were undertaking. *AGREED* Letter sent

PEEL IN BLOOM 14/204

Mr. Davison referred back to Minute 14/186 and it was *NOTED* that some twenty five entries had been received. Letters sent

Mr. Davison reported that he had been approached by Peel Gardeners Association who enquired if Peel Town Commissioners would be able to run their Gardeners Competition in conjunction with their own. There had however been confusion over when the prizes would be presented. The Association wanted to present the awards on the evening of their gardens show. The Board *AGREED* that the prizes would be presented at Peel Achievers Evening.

Mr. Davison informed the Board that next year to avoid confusion the Gardeners Association and Peel Town Commissioners would run their gardening competitions separately to avoid any confusion.

The winners of Peel in Bloom 2014 were announced as follows:-

Commercial premises

- 1st Nigel Sperring, Albany House
- 2nd Dawn Kelly, Peveril Hotel

Hanging Baskets

- 1st joint Mrs. J Griffiths, 31, Douglas Street and Mrs. M Rothwell, 33 Douglas Street
- 3rd Nigel Sperring, Albany House

Commissioners Gardens

- 1st Mrs. L Maddrell, 23 Heathfield Drive
- 2nd Miss L Callister, 66 Kerroo Coar
- 3rd Mrs. C R Barlow, 28 Boilley Spittal

Garden/Patio

- 1st Mrs. S Williamson, 45 Bluebell Close
- 2nd Nigel Sperring, Albany House

3rd Mrs. E McLean, 2 Albany Close

EQUALITY BILL	14/205	<p>The Chairman referred back to Minute 14/193 regarding the Draft Equality Bill. The Board <i>AGREED</i> that as submissions were not required until 14th November 2014 they would defer the matter to the first meeting in October for further consideration and discussion.</p>	
KNOCKALOE FARM	14/206	<p>Members considered a letter from Mr. Ian Maule, Clerk to Patrick Commissioners. Mr. Maule informed the Board that they may have seen an item in the Manx Independent that week where Patrick Commissioners were quoted as expressing concern about the future of Knockaloe Farm which was currently owned by the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture. Mr. Maule stated that the Commissioners were calling a public meeting for Tuesday 9th September 2014 to be held in Patrick Schoolroom at 7.30p.m</p> <p>The Board <i>AGREED</i> that they shared Patrick Commissioners' concerns regarding the Department selling Knockaloe Farm. It was further <i>AGREED</i> that Mrs. Moughtin, Mr. Davison, Mrs. Felton and Mr. Lace attend the meeting.</p>	Letter sent
PROMENADE RAILINGS	14/207	<p>Members <i>NOTED</i> a letter from Vanessa Gray, Secretary to Highway Services at the Department of Infrastructure informing them that the Town Clerk's letter dated 13th August 2014 concerning repairs to the promenade railings had been forwarded on to their Engineering Department for response.</p>	
GRASS CUTTING COSTS	14/208	<p>Consideration was given to a letter from Mr Cowin who stated that he had recently discovered that the Commissioners workforce had been cutting large areas of grass, including verges, hedges and open space in Ballawattleworth Estate and Rearyt ny Keylley and Rearyt ny Cronk, which Peel Town Commissioners did not own as the land has not been transferred to them and was still owned by the developer of these estates, Heritage Homes Limited.</p>	Letter sent

Mr. Cowin reported that he had also discovered that the Commissioners do not have any responsibility for cutting the roadside hedges and verges around the roundabout on Derby Road that were still owned by the developer as the Highways Division of the Department of Infrastructure had not yet adopted them. The Commissioners workforce had however been cutting them.

Mr. Cowin stated that as a rate payer he was concerned that his rates were in effect being spent subsidising the developer, which was a private limited company. In Mr. Cowin's opinion this was an unlawful use of rate payer's money.

Mrs. Moughtin informed Members that the residents who lived on these estates paid their rates and were entitled to have their grass cut. The Board *AGREED* to continue cutting the grass and maintaining the public open space on these estates.

Arising therefrom Members *AGREED* to pursue Heritage Homes Limited to complete the transfer of the ownership of the land.

PLANNING
APPLICATIONS FOR
COMMENT

14/209

The following planning applications were considered for comment:- Letter sent

14/00977/B

Installation of two roof lights, 6 Charles Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

14/01000/B

Replace casement and sash windows on rear of property (not kitchen outlet) with sliding sash UPVC white windows, 21 Mona Street, Peel. *RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.*

PLANNING
DECISIONS
NOTIFIED

14/210

The following planning decisions were noted:

PA 14/00572/B Removal of existing sod hedge at boundary and replacement with timber fence at 1 Fuchsia Road, Rearyt ny Keylley and part garden of 3 Lhoan Pibbin Vane, Rearyt ny Cronk, Peel for Mr. Eric Lee. *APPROVED*

PA 14/00228/B Erection of two dwellings at Plots 25 and 26 Field 311037 Ramsey Road, Peel for Time and Tide Homes Limited.
APPROVED

PA 13/91289/B ON APPEAL	14/211	<p>Members <i>NOTED</i> a letter from Mr. Johnstone, Planning Appeals Administrator from the Cabinet Office. Mr. Johnstone informed the Board that the appeal regarding planning application reference 13/91289/B submitted by Heritage Homes Limited for approval for a residential development of 144 dwellings with associated highway and drainage works, public open space and landscaping in fields 311826, 311827 and 314444 between Poortown Road and QE11 High School east of Rearyt ny Cronk, Peel was due to take place on 25th September 2014 at 9.30a.m.</p> <p>The Board <i>AGREED</i> that Mr. Beale and Miss Felton attend the hearing along with the Town Clerk.</p>	Letter sent
CIVIC SUNDAY SERVICES	14/212	<p>Consideration was given to the following invitations to Civic Services namely:-</p> <p>Marown Parish Commissioners on 21st September 2014</p> <p>Ramsey Town Commissioners, Patrick Parish Commissioners and Castletown Town Commissioners on 28th September 2014</p> <p>Lonan Parish Commissioners on 5th October 2014.</p> <p>The Board <i>AGREED</i> that with regret that there were no Members available to attend Marown's Service as the Commissioners were attending their own Civic Sunday. It was further <i>AGREED</i> that the Chairman attend Ramsey's and Lonan's Service, and Mrs. O'Halloran attend Castletown's Service and Mr. Jones and Miss Felton attend Patrick's Service.</p>	Letters sent
PUBLIC ART	14/213	<p>The Chairman reported that the Finance Officer was in the process of setting up a bank account. Details of which would be placed on the Commissioners website. This</p>	Emails sent

would enable people who wished to donate money towards the seal sculpture and other art projects to do so.

The Chairman informed Members that Stephanie Quayle wished to meet with the Commissioners to discuss costings for the seal sculpture. The Board *AGREED* to invite Ms. Quayle to a future meeting.

The Chairman enquired if the Commissioners would be able to purchase a projector to display some of the art. Members *AGREED* to look at whether there was funding available at a future budget meeting.

LEECE MUSEUM 14/214

Members *NOTED* a letter from Kevin Callow who had recently held a photographic exhibition in the Leece Museum entitled “Take a Close Look” which was a study of the variety of species of birds. Mr. Callow informed Members that his exhibition was a great success and he wished to personally thank the Board for allowing him to show his work. The Board *AGREED* that a copy of Mr. Callow’s letter be forwarded on to Mr. Baker, Curator of the Leece Museum.

WORLD SPIN IN PUBLIC DAY 14/215

Members considered a request from Mrs. Davidson, who informed the Board that the third Saturday in September was World Spin in Public Day. Mrs. Davidson wished to spin wool outside Shoprite in Michael Street from 10.00a.m. – 4.00p.m. on Saturday 20th September 2014. *AGREED*. The Board further *AGREED* to contact the schools in Peel to see if they would be interested in attending the event.

Letters sent

CHRISTMAS MUSIC 14/216

The Board *AGREED* to a request from Crosby and District Silver Band who wished to play seasonal music in Michael Street, Peel on the approach to Christmas on each of the Saturday mornings in December for approximately an hour between 10.30a.m. – 11.00a.m.

Letter sent

WORLD WAR TWO EVENT 14/217

Members considered an email from Mr. Max Christiaen who enquired if the Commissioners would be willing to support

Email sent

an initiative that would refer to the World War Two internees from Camp X who specifically lived on Peveril Terrace. Mr. Christiaen stated that he had a unique picture of several groups of internees that was taken in front of the houses of Peveril Terrace almost 75 years ago during World War Two. Mr. Christaen was of the opinion that it would be interesting for tourists visiting Peel to learn more about this specific part of the Town's history. He proposed to do this by placing some of the pictures on the houses that were used. The Board *AGREED* that they supported his idea in principle. However a further detailed proposal was required.

ST GERMANS
PLACE/WEST VIEW
PLAY PARK

14/218

The Board considered a letter from Ms. Atkin who enquired if action was being taken to fix the issue of multiple deep pot holes and raised iron work in the turning area at the bottom of St. Germans Place. The Technical Officer informed the Board that the turning area was due to be paved in the next two weeks. *NOTED*

Letter sent

Ms. Atkin stated in her letter that she wished to express her disappointment that when the play equipment was replaced in the West View Park the choice of equipment was totally unsuitable. Mr. Davison reported that he had consulted with 5 or 6 parents regarding the type of equipment that they wished to have in the play park. The parents had chosen this equipment themselves. The Technical Officer reported that the play equipment was only ever meant to be used by children up to 7 years old. However older children were using it even though the Commissioners had fenced off the area. The Chairman suggested that the Commissioners consider putting up a basketball net. Mr. Quayle advised this would cost £1,500.00

TQ

Miss Felton enquired if flood lights were going to be erected in the park. The Technical Officer reported that the residents did not wish for the area to be lit up. Mr. Quayle proposed that a solution to this problem would be to adapt the current street lighting.

The Board *AGREED* to consider whether they would provide additional equipment for older children to use for example a basketball net when they considered their budgets for 2015. It was further *AGREED* to arrange a meeting with the police to discuss the issue of older children causing damage to the play equipment.

CASTLE STREET
GARDENS

14/219

Consideration was given to an email from Ms. Hickson who explained that she was writing to complain about the anti-social behaviour in Castle Street Gardens. She stated that teenagers were congregating there, behaving aggressively and creating a lot of noise, trespassing in neighbouring gardens, drinking and smoking cannabis. More recently she had witness adults dealing and taking drugs which was extremely intimidating.

Email sent

Ms. Hickson had spoken to the police about these problems on a number of occasions. Although the police had been helpful a long term solution was needed for example CCTV. Ms. Hickson suggested that the Commissioners also needed to look at making the gardens more attractive to other users and hopefully less attractive to people who wanted to behave in an anti-social manner, for example seating could be installed for older people and more play equipment added for younger children.

The Technical Officer informed Members that Manx Utilities were due to install a pillar box in the gardens within the next two weeks. The CCTV would then be installed. It would then be possible to ascertain what lighting would be required. The Chairman suggested that the Commissioners needed to consider protective planting to stop people congregating in areas where they were not automatically visible.

TQ

Miss Felton reported that she had been in contact with the police who were in possession of a number of old bicycles. She suggested that a couple of these could be utilised to hang hanging baskets from. The Board *AGREED* that Castle Street Gardens would not be a suitable location for the

Miss Felton

bikes, they could however be utilised in another one of the Commissioners gardens. Miss Felton undertook to liaise with the police regarding obtaining a couple of the bicycles.

The Technical Officer indicated he would look at relocating the benches with lighting around into the middle of the gardens once the CCTV had been installed. The Finance Officer undertook to write and inform Miss Hickson that the Commissioners were aware of the problems and were in the process of undertaking measures to try and stop anti-social behaviour in the gardens.

POLICE BUDGET CUTS 14/220

Mr. Jones referred to an email received from Mr. Walter Gilbey, Western Representative on the Police Consultative forum. Mr. Jones informed Members that he would be attending the meeting on Tuesday 23rd September 2014 at 7.00p.m. at the Centenary Centre to discuss police budget cuts and restructuring. The Board *AGREED* that as many Members as possible would attend.

PEEL HERITAGE TRUST 14/221

The Chairman informed the Board that he would defer considering Peel Heritage Trust request for support from the Commissioners to help pay for the annual maintenance of its new culture website to the next meeting. *AGREED*

REGENERATION IN PEEL 14/222

Mr. Jones reported that he had been contacted by the Blind Welfare Society who had expressed their concern regarding the recent regeneration scheme which had been undertaken in Ramsey. The Society had informed him that the grey paving used was causing problems for visually impaired people as they were unable to tell where the kerb ended and the road began. The Trust did not want the same type of paving used in Peel. The Board *AGREED* to contact the Regeneration Committee and inform them of the Blind Welfare Society's concerns.

Email sent

PEEL BEACH 14/223

Mr. Davison enquired if the Commissioners had any plans to stop the sand blowing through the drainage holes onto the promenade. The Technical Officer reported

TQ

that the Department of Infrastructure used to erect boards to prevent the problem, however they were no longer undertaking this type of work. Mr. Davison suggested that sand bags would solve the problem. *AGREED*

Arising therefrom Mr. Davison informed the Board that he would like to thank the Community Workers for all their hard work around the Town. *NOTED*

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION 14/224

Mr. Jones informed Members that he had recently attended the Municipal Association meeting on 28th August 2014 which had been attended by the Hon. Mr. Teare, MHK, Treasury Minister. Minutes of the meeting would be circulated to the Board in due course. *NOTED*

PEEL BOXING CLUB 14/225

Miss Felton referred back to Minute 14/191 and informed Members that she had been contacted by Mr. Marshall who was in the process of building a three storey building at Ballawattleworth which he intended to use as a gym. Mr. Marshall suggested that his facilities could be utilised by Peel Boxing Club when it was set up. *NOTED*

Miss Felton

7 PATRICK STREET 14/226

Mrs. Moughtin referred to the detached garage being built by Mr. Dunworth of 7 Patrick Street. Due to the rear outlet being rebuilt Mr. Dunworth would be required to realign the proposed spaces within the car park. Mrs. Moughtin stated that under the Town and Country Planning permitted development Order 2012 that “every part of the garage or car port must be a minimum of 7 metres from a highway”. The Technical Officer informed the Board that this condition did not apply as Mr. Dunworth had received planning permission.

TQ

Mrs. Moughtin expressed her concern that the Planning Department did not contact Peel Town Commissioners and speak to them before granting permission as the garage was encroaching on their car park. Mrs. Moughtin commented that this would set a precedence for other residents whose properties backed on to the car park. Mrs. Moughtin stated that the Commissioners

would end up losing valuable car parking spaces.

Mrs. Moughtin informed the Board that she had no objection to Mr. Dunworth having a garage however she did object to the Commissioners losing car parking spaces.

The Board *AGREED* that the Technical Officer contact the Planning Department to ascertain exactly what Mr. Dunworth's planning permission comprised of and if necessary take action to stop the work if the space the garage would occupy was deemed unacceptable to the Commissioners.

6 ORRY LANE

14/227

The Chairman enquired if any action had been taken by the Commissioners regarding 6 Orry Lane. A passer-by had been hit by a tile which had fallen from the building. The Technical Officer reported that he had previously visited the property with Mr. Blacker, Environmental Health Officer but no action was taken. The Board *AGREED* that Mr. Quayle contact Mr. Blacker again and revisit the site. TQ

This part of the meeting ended at 7.55p.m.