

27th June 2002

PLEASE NOTE:

The attached Minutes are yet to be confirmed by the Commissioners as a true and correct record of proceedings at the various meetings, and the recommendations of the various committees are yet to be approved by the Commissioners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.E.S. Smith', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**J.E.S. SMITH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CLERK**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom at Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Tuesday 28th May 2002 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr S.T. Black, J.P. (Chairman)
Mr G.K. Astill
Mr D. Crellin
Mrs E.J.C. Kelly
Mr M.J. Kennaugh
Mr E.D.R. Killey
Mr A.T.W. Norton
Mr H.L.G. Parkin
Mr D.J. Quirk
Mr J.K. Watterson

In Attendance Mr J.E.S. Smith (Chief Executive/Clerk)
Mr M.J. Williams (Deputy Clerk)
Mr E.K. Convery (District Surveyor)

C02/05/02/01

MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 22nd April 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Onchan District Commissioners which had been held on Tuesday 7th May 2002, copies of which had also previously been circulated, were considered. Apart from an amendment to the attendances, the minutes were agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

C02/05/02/02

BUSINESS ARISING

1. **C01/04/01/18(3) - Human Rights Act 2001**

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that he and the Deputy Clerk had attended the introductory talk, given by Ms Sophie Lavin, Human Rights Co-Ordinator, in respect of the Human Rights Act of the Isle of Man. The talk which had taken place on 9th May 2002 had been attended by representatives of the Eastern Sector Local Authorities, and had proved to be very informative indeed. During the talk, Ms Lavin had indicated that she would be prepared to give additional talks for the Commissioners themselves at a separate session. On the proposal of Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Watterson, it was **RESOLVED** that the Human Rights Co-Ordinator be requested to present a further talk to the elected Members of the Onchan District Commissioners, in relation to the Human Rights Act of the Isle of Man .

C02/05/02/03

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None .

C02/05/02/04

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

1. **Village Fair - Saturday 1st June 2002**

The Chairman advised that a Village Fair was to be held, at the Village Green, at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday 1st June 2002, as part of the Onchan celebration to mark the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

2. Civic Sunday - 26th May 2002

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to all persons who had attended the Onchan Civic Sunday parade and service on Sunday 26th May 2002. He also thanked those who had been involved in the organisation of the event.

3. Onchan Scout Hall - Official Opening

The Chairman congratulated the Second Onchan Scout Group on their efforts to extend and improve their Onchan Scout Hall on School Road, which had culminated in the official opening of the facility on Sunday 26th May 2002.

4. The F.I.M. World Trials Championship

The Chairman congratulated the organisers of the F.I.M. World Trials Championship which had taken place recently, and which had, once again, been a great success. In particular, the Chairman congratulated the Peveril Motorcycle Club and the Department of Tourism and Leisure for their work in this regard.

5. Golden Jubilee Presentations

The Chairman advised that the Onchan District Commissioners had resolved to present a mug to each of the primary school children attending Ashley Hill and Onchan Schools, to mark the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. Presentations had already been made at Ashley Hill School, and the presentations to Onchan Primary School were to take place the following morning. The Chairman suggested that other Members of the Authority would be welcome to attend.

C02/05/02/05

QUESTIONS

None.

C02/05/02/06

HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on Monday 29th April 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. There were no matters arising therefrom.

C02/05/02/07

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on 29th April 2002, be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C02/05/02/08

WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30th April 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. WC02/04/02/04(c) - New Refuse Collection Vehicle

Mr Parkin advised Members that the new refuse collection vehicle was due to arrive in September.

2. **WC02/04/02/04(d) - Visit to Show/Conference**

Mr Parkin drew attention to the minute confirming that a memorandum giving a report on the Refuse Collection Vehicle Show and Conference held at Anglesey, attended by the Chief Executive/Clerk, the Building Control Officer and Commissioner Watterson had been distributed and noted.

3. **WC02/04/02/09(b) - Bemahague Sheltered Housing Complex**

Mr Parkin advised that the Commissioners had recently had the opportunity, for the first time, to visit the construction site of the Sheltered Housing Complex at Bemahague. He had been impressed by what he had seen so far, and looked forward to the opening of the Complex.

The Chief Executive/Clerk reminded Members that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor had expressed a wish to view the progress at the Complex, and it was suggested that this might be possible in the next month or so. The District Surveyor confirmed that this would be discussed with the site operatives at their next meeting on 20th June 2002.

Mrs Kelly made reference to the design of the windows at the Complex, and suggested the removal of the decorative bars thereupon. Mr Parkin confirmed that the Group with which he toured the Complex had not appreciated any difficulty with regard to the design of the windows. They had subsequently been advised that the decorative bars may be removed but the residue of the fixing material would remain upon the glass.

Mr Parkin suggested that the matter be considered further at the Works Committee. The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that he had asked the Architect to investigate further the costs of removing or replacing the window bar design. Mr Quirk expressed concern about the possible time delay in amending the window design, a matter which the District Surveyor would consider.

The Chairman enquired as to why the design had been undertaken in the way that it had. The District Surveyor confirmed that it was part of the overall Architectural concept for the building its self.

4. **WC02/04/02/09(f) - Port Jack Railings Refurbishment**

In answer to enquiry from Mr Watterson, the District Surveyor confirmed that the proposed Port Jack railing refurbishment included that section which was below Port Jack.

5. **WC02/04/02/04(a)(ii) - Mount View Close**

In answer to enquiry from Mr Crellin, it was confirmed that the proposed list of deteriorating paths which was to be produced based on the observations of the pavement sweeper driver, would be reported in due course to the Works and Cleansing Committee.

6. **WC02/04/02/02(d) - Land Covenant, 19 Bay View Road**

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the question of the removal of the land covenant by the Commissioners had been resolved, and that the Company in question, RoseLane Limited, had agreed to donate £10,000 to the fund for the next stage of the upgrade of the playground in Onchan Park,

known as the Lady Taverners Playground. In addition, the Commissioners' legal fees in this matter would be met.

7. WC02/04/02/03 - Roads, Snugborough Trading Estate

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that he had checked the Abstract of Title in respect of the land on the Snugborough Trading Estate, upon which the Commissioners' refuse vehicle garage had been constructed. He confirmed that the Onchan District Commissioners were responsible for the maintenance cost of half of the road abutting the garage site, and for a percentage of the cost of the service roads. This included the drains, street lighting and road maintenance and equated to a percentage of 1.875%. He suggested that this was a very complex matter, which ought to be discussed with the Commissioners' Advocate in order to form a plan of action.

Mr Quirk enquired whether a letter has been sent to the management company who were responsible for the co-ordination of road maintenance etc. the Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that such an approach had already been undertaken by Braddan Parish Commissioners, the Authority with responsibility in that area. *Noted.*

8. WC02/04/02/04(f) - Bus Shelters

In answer to enquiry from Mr Norton, the District Surveyor confirmed that contact had been made with the Department of Tourism and Leisure in respect of the missing bin from the Central Drive Bus Shelter.

Mrs Kelly made reference to the condition of the bus shelter at Port Jack opposite "Port Jack Chippy". She regarded the bus shelter as an eye sore, pointing out that the shelter seemed to be continually filled with litter. Furthermore, there was water ingress from the rear of the shelter. The District Surveyor pointed out that the shelter was the responsibility of the Department of Tourism and Leisure. He added that the pavement sweeper was in that area every day. Mrs Kelly commented, however, that some of the rubbish within the shelter had not been deposited recently.

9. WC02/04/02/11(a) - Abandoned Vehicles

Mr Norton enquired whether there had been any feedback with regard to the question of abandoned vehicles. The District Surveyor confirmed that there had been none at present. Mr Quirk confirmed that he had spoken to P.C. Alan Wright, Community Constable, in respect thereof. *Noted.*

10. WC02/04/02/04(b) - Civic Amenity Site

Mrs Kelly enquired as to why the Joint Committee had suspended the opportunity for the public to recycle items through the Civic Amenity Site. The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that there was a question of liability upon the Joint Committee in relation to items which were left at the site, which may or may not prove to be unsafe or unusable. Mrs Kelly suggested that a disclaimer notice be displayed in this regard. Mr Killey pointed out that this had been investigated and would not satisfy any claim against the Joint Committee. Mr Quirk pointed out that the Joint Committee was taking advice from their insurers in this matter, and it was hoped that the opportunity to recycle items through the Civic Amenity Site would be recommenced in time for the opening of the Commissioners' new site in due course.

11. WC02/04/02/02(c) - Marion Road/Court

In answer to enquiry from Mr Quirk, the District Surveyor confirmed that he had not yet spoken with the Department of Transport. The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the lane between The Park and Royal Avenue was a pedestrian right of way. Mr Quirk suggested that the question of adding spoil to the public footpath to avoid any difficulties due to the condition thereof should be investigated at an early date. Mr Crellin added that the adoption of such roads helped the Police with the enforcement of regulations. The District Surveyor pointed out that the adoption of roads in the area by the Department of Transport would not affect the car park area at Marion Court.

12. WC02/04/02/11(k) - Speed Humps

Mr Parkin repeated his comment that he believed that the new humps installed within the estates could hardly be felt.

13. WC02/04/02/11(l) - Manhole

In answer to enquiry from Mrs Kelly, the District Surveyor confirmed that he had received requests from the Department of Transport for the reinstatement of 50 manholes within the district. He had formed the view that it was unlikely that this could be carried out by the Commissioners' own staff, but would probably form a major contract, the cost of which would have to be funded by the Department of Transport. *Noted.*

C02/05/02/09

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 30th April 2002 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein, requiring the consent of the Board.

C02/05/02/10

LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on Monday 13th May 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. LA02/05/04(b)(ix) - Boat Attendant

Mr Parkin made reference to the minute, and reminded Officers that, under the terms of the Sex Discrimination Act, it was now inappropriate to refer to the position of a "Boatman" or "Boatboy". The term Boat Attendant had been adopted and should be used in future.

2. LA02/05/04(b)(iii) - Portacabin

In answer to enquiry, the District Surveyor confirmed that the Parks Staff were now using the portacabin facilities provided by the Commissioners, and that he understood that the old mess room had been locked off that day.

3. LA02/05/04(b)(vi) - Large Roundabout

Mrs Kelly enquired as to why safety matting had not been fitted around the large roundabout at Onchan Park. Mr Quirk advised that the roundabout was an old installation and was due to be replaced, it was hoped sooner rather than later. Mr Watterson stated that providing no upgrade works were undertaken the roundabout could remain insitu. However, if any upgrade works were undertaken, the whole of the installation would have to be addressed.

4. LA02/05/05(b) - Port Jack Glen - Water Feature

Mr Parkin expressed the hope that any lighting to the footpaths at Port Jack Glen would remain within acceptable light pollution standards.

Mrs Kelly made reference to the entrance to the Port Jack Glen, which had incorporated a bus shelter. Mrs Kelly felt that the structure was not effective as a shelter, as wind blew through the shelter and there was water ingress and ponding therein. The District Surveyor suggested that the design had taken into account that any person waiting therein could always get shelter but Mrs Kelly did not agree. The District Surveyor added that the structure was primarily to mark the entrance to the Port Jack Glen, by way of a feature, and the original concept was not to provide a bus shelter.

5. LA02/05/08(b) - Queen's Golden Jubilee

Reference was made to the resolution of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, when Mr Quirk proposed that the amount on the voucher to be issued in Onchan Park on the day of the competition be increased from 50p to £1. Mr Parkin seconded the proposal.

Mr Killey advised that he had no objection to the increase of amount from 50p to £1, but felt that the Commissioners should only be charged the correct amount of the sale and if that amount was less than £1, the concessionaires should claim appropriately. In addition, Mr Killey expressed concern about youngsters being allowed to ride on the go-karts in the stadium. Finally, Mr Killey pointed out that in his view, the vouchers should be only available to be used on the day of issue, the day of the competition.

It was pointed out that the go-kart operator had strict rules with regard to the use of the go-karts by young persons and that it was unlikely that this would prove to be a difficulty.

6. LA02/05/08(g) - M.E.R.

In answer to enquiry with from Mr Kennaugh, Mr Quirk confirmed that boards were to be placed at the Manx Electric Railway site advertising Onchan Park, and the permission had been given provided that they be dismantled during the winter. *Noted.*

7. LA02/05/07(a)(i) - ADSL Telephone Line

The Chief Executive/Clerk made reference to an email received from Webone UK, and confirmed that the contents system for the Library was complete. The system would allow the Librarian to add book reviews, submitted by readers, amend and delete as she will, all from the Library computer. The system incorporated a mini-word processor which turned text into HTML and stored it in a database. Visitors to the site would then see a page with the reviews listed and a small précis of each review. From this, they were linked to the full review.

The system was scalable in that, if the Commissioners received hundreds of reviews, it would cope. It may become unwieldy at that stage because it would be driven by a database but then search facilities could be added and these would enable visitors to just display reviews of books for children or crime, etc.

It was noted that the Librarian had a few reviews awaiting publishing and so this would be undertaken in the near future. The following day, it would be live to the public. *Noted.*

8. LA02/05/12(e) - Ferguson Tractor

Mr Parkin made reference to the resolution of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, asking the Board to consider disposing of the Ferguson Tractor by sale, permanent loan or gift, or the storage of the vehicle elsewhere to its present location as the space was required for the new gang mowers. Mr Parkin expressed opposition to the sale or permanent loan of the tractor, commenting that all that was required was limited storage. Mr Crellin agreed with these views.

Mr Quirk advised that the Ferguson Tractor had been stored at the Park, and there was a shortage of space. To loan the equipment to another party would see it in use rather than simply stored. Mr Parkin agreed that

the machine should not be left to rot, and suggested that it be transferred to the refuse vehicle garage at Snugborough where it could be stored safely. Mr Quirk expressed the view that he would rather see the unit being used.

Mr Parkin proposed that the Ferguson Tractor be moved to the refuse vehicle garage at Snugborough for storage, and that the unit be retained. The proposal was seconded by Mr Crellin.

Mr Watterson compared the Ferguson Tractor with a Morris Minor, pointing out the sentimental value attached to the unit and to the constructor. He suggested that if the vehicle was to be loaned, it be loaned to an individual rather than a club or society, since in his view, an individual would be more likely to maintain the unit to an acceptable standard.

Mr Quirk proposed an amendment that the Ferguson Tractor be moved to the Refuse Vehicle Garage at Snugborough for storage and the Leisure and Amenities Committee investigate the future of the Ferguson Tractor. The amendment was seconded by Mr Norton. It was pointed out that the matter would return to the Board for final determination. A vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the proposal and it was subsequently **RESOLVED** that the Ferguson Tractor be moved to the Refuse Vehicle Garage at Snugborough for storage and the Leisure and Amenities Committee investigate further the future of the Ferguson Tractor. Messrs Astill, Crellin, Killey and Parkin voted against the resolution, and Mrs Kelly abstained from voting.

C02/05/02/11

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 13th May 2002 be and are hereby received.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the following resolution contained therein, which had required the consent of the Board, be approved, subject to the amendment made by the Board:-

- (a) *that the Commissioners should provide each competitor in the Queen's Golden Jubilee Under 8's Football Competition with a £1 voucher to issued in Onchan Park on the day of the competition, either on facilities run by the Commissioners or the concession holders. In the case of the latter, the concession holders to be reimbursed for each voucher handed in;*

Mr Killey voted against the resolution.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the following resolution contained therein which had required the consent of the Board be approved as follows:-

- (b) to request the Board to consider deposing of the Ferguson Tractor by sale, permanent loan or gift as felt appropriate or the storage of the vehicle elsewhere to its present location as the space is required for the new gang mowers.

*This matter was considered by the Board when it was **RESOLVED** that the Ferguson Tractor be transferred to the Refuse Vehicle Garage at Snugborough, and that the Leisure and Amenities Committee investigate further the future of that Tractor.*

C02/05/02/12

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 20th May 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matter was arising therefrom:-

1. **PF02/05/04(1) - Rates Collected**

Mr Killey commented that the payment of rates was proceeding satisfactorily.

C02/05/02/13

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 20th May 2002, be and are hereby received. It was further **RESOLVED** that the resolution contained therein requiring the consent of the Board be approved as follows:-

1. *That the said payments from revenue account as detailed on the list attached to the minutes be endorsed.*

C02/05/02/14

RURAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matter was arising therefrom:-

1. **R02/05/07(a) - Planning Decisions - PA01/338 - Conversion of Part of Outbuilding to Create Dwelling and Extension to provide three holiday units, Glenville Farm, Scollag Road, Onchan, for Mr B. Stowell**

It was noted that the District Surveyor and Building Control Officer would draft a suitable response to Mr Stowell, following his letter and comments in relation to the Commissioners' views on the planning application.

C02/05/02/15

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 15th May 2002 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**1. Planning Decisions/Communications from the Department of Local Government and the Environment Planning Committee**

PA Number	Description	Comment
01/2467	Temporary vehicular access, land of Groudle Road	ODC Recommendation: Observation Initial Planning Decision: Approval Approval not taken up, the conditions attached to approval were reported.
01/2115	Extension, 8 Whitebridge Road	ODC Recommendation: Refusal Planning Decision On Review: Refusal Request for an appeal received - ODC to continue objection.
01/1575	Building Housing Generator, Former Douglas Bay Hotel Site	ODC Recommendation: Initial Plan Refused - Amended Plan Approved Planning Decision: Application withdrawn
01/2087	Approval in principle for extension, 85 Wybourn Grove	ODC Recommendation: Refusal Planning Decision on Review: Refusal Request for an appeal received to be heard on written evidence.
01/2685	Additional garage block of 5 garages, Majestic Apartments, King Edward Road	ODC Recommendation: Refusal Initial Planning Decision: Refusal Request for a review of decision received from the applicants.
01/1751	73 Bedroom Hotel - 28/38 Main Road	ODC Recommendation: Refusal Planning Decision on Review: Approval Appeal to be heard 12 th June 2002 - Chairman to represent Board.

2. Road Transport Licensing Committee

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of Applications, Decisions and Notices issued by the Road Transport Licensing Committee dated 23rd April 2002. The notice contained details of the approval for maximum fares to be charged by operators of vehicles standing or plying for hire under Section 29 of the Road Transport Act 2001.

Mr Killey expressed the view that the Isle of Man Taxis were pricing themselves out of business. He compared Isle of Man prices to those in the U.K. when it was possible to travel from Liverpool to Chester for £17. He suggested that the Road Transport Licensing Committee should have regard to the pricing structure in the United Kingdom when determining tariffs.

Mr Watterson pointed out that he was a Member of the Road Transport Licensing Committee although was not there as a representative of the Onchan District Commissioners or any other Authority. He confirmed that there had been a number of submissions by the trade. There appeared to be a discrepancy with the charges between the operators within the Douglas and Onchan area, in comparison with their colleagues outside of that area.

Mr Watterson made reference to the rumour that 90% of the trade were unhappy in relation to the new tariffs, but having spoken to a number of operators, Mr Watterson felt that this rumour was probably inaccurate. Mr Watterson was also able to confirm that the prices specified in the

Notice were the maximum fares which could be charged, and that the public could negotiate a lower price at the commencement of a journey if they so desired.

3. Isle of Man Municipal Association

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda, a copy of the agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Isle of Man Municipal Association, which is to be held on Thursday 30th May 2002.

4. Richmond Hill Consultative Committee

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda, a copy of a letter dated 20th May 2002 from the Secretary of the Richmond Hill Consultative Committee together with the approved minutes of the meeting of that Committee held on 31st January 2002. It was noted that, as usual, the minutes would be available at the Onchan Library for perusal.

Mr Quirk enquired whether the Air Quality Report prepared by the Department of Local Government and the Environment was in the public domain.

5. Adopt a Beach - Isle of Man

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of a letter received 14th May 2002, from the Department of Local Government and the Environment, which enclosed a list of beach cleans which were scheduled to take place during the Summer. It pointed out that the events were being organised by Mr H. Grant from Manx Enviro-Clean, in conjunction with the Manx Wildlife Trust. It was reported that the first one, which took place at Glen Whyllin over the weekend prior to the letter, was very successful and attracted some new volunteers. The letter asked that the list of beach cleans be displayed in prominent positions within the Commissioners' premises and welcomed any other initiatives which the Commissioners may wish to undertake in order to publicise these very worthwhile events.

It was noted that the lists provided did not cover beaches within the Onchan district, either at Groudle Glen or Happy Valley. It was suggested that the Department be asked for comments in this regard.

Mr Watterson offered to help to set up a working party in respect of the beaches at Groudle and Happy Valley. He considered that it was the Commissioners' responsibility and took the view that the lists provided included only those beaches which were to be dealt with up to the end of July 2002.

The District Surveyor pointed out that there was an individual within the district who regularly cleaned the beach at Happy Valley and the Commissioners' Refuse Department assisted in the clearance of the collected waste. *Noted.*

6. Meary Veg Sewerage Treatment Works

The Chief Executive/Clerk reported receipt of a letter that day, dated 21st May 2002, from the Director of Drainage at the Department of Transport, inviting representatives of the Commissioners to a visit of the construction work currently being undertaken at the site of the Meary Veg Sewerage Treatment Works. The Contractor, Charles Brand Limited, had kindly agreed to the visits being undertaken in the late afternoon/early evening, during the week commencing 17th June 2002. The Onchan District Commissioners had been invited to attend on 17th June 2002 at 5.00 p.m. but

that, in order that the visit could effectively and safely carried out, the numbers must be limited to 12 persons for each one hour session. The Onchan District Commissioners were offered four places on the visit. After a short discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Mrs Kelly, Messrs Parkin and Watterson and the Building Control Officer would attend. It was further suggested that if insufficient representation was available from Douglas Corporation or Braddan Parish Commissioners who would be represented at the visit, such places be offered to the Onchan District Commissioners.

C02/05/02/17

CLERK'S REPORT

None .

C02/05/02/18

DISTRICT SURVEYOR'S REPORT

None .

C02/05/02/19

MOTIONS

None .

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 3rd June 2002 beginning at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr M.J. Kennaugh (Chairman)
Mr S.T. Black, J.P.
Mr D. Crellin
Mrs E.J.C. Kelly (until 9.00 p.m.)
Mr A.T.W. Norton

In attendance: Mr M.J. Williams (Deputy Clerk)
Mr A.B. Sutherland (Housing Maintenance Manager)
Mrs S. Dougherty (Administrative Assistant)

H02/06/01/01
MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday 29th April 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

H02/06/01/02
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

H02/06/01/03
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Tour of Onchan District Commissioners' Housing Estates

The Deputy Clerk reminded Members that the previous Housing Committee had suggested that it would be appropriate for the new Housing Committee to tour the Commissioners' housing estates, at an early stage in the municipal year. The Deputy Clerk raised the issue as this was the first ordinary meeting of the Housing Committee in the new municipal year.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the Housing Committee should arrange to tour the Housing Estates within the District, on a date to be fixed by Officers, and the non-Housing Committee Members of the Authority would be invited to attend.

H02/06/01/04
HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES BUSINESS

1. Replacement of Fencing - School Road

In his report, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that the contractor was expected to commence work to replace the fencing alongside number 24 School Road and number 72 School Road and realigning same in week commencing 10th June 2002.

2. Cleaning of Roofs - Meadow Close, Hackett Close and Nursery Avenue

In his report, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that contractors had commenced the cleaning of roofs of identified properties in Meadow Close, Hackett Close and in Nursery Avenue, to clear such roofs of moss, prior to the submission of a petition for borrowing powers, to undertake the replacement of fascias, soffits and rainwater goods to the same units. The Housing Maintenance Manager also confirmed that there had been one comment received from a tenant in Meadow Close about the timing of the cleaning of the roofs, during the growing season for the garden. However, the previous Housing Committee had commented that the cleaning of roofs should be undertaken prior to the fitment of fascias, soffits, etc, a project which would require submission of a petition subject to consideration of the tenders received, in the near future. Any disturbance was regrettable, but unavoidable.

H02/06/01/05

SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

1. H02/04/02/05(1) - Decoration of External Doors, Phase 2

In his report, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that the contract for painting of external flat doors to Phase 2 of Springfield Court had been completed to a satisfactory standard.

2. H02/04/02/05(2) - Decoration of Fascias and Balustrades

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that he continued to gather prices for the possibility of external maintenance works at Springfield Court. He hoped to prepare a programme of maintenance over a two year period, and to provide budget costs for such repairs.

After noting the works would include the repainting of fascias and soffits at Springfield Court, Mr Crellin suggested that consideration be given to the replacement of such fascias and soffits with uPVC units, to reduce maintenance costs in the long term.

3. H02/04/02/05(3) - Heating System - Phase 2

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that the heating control system at Springfield Court Phase 2 was on a par with that installed at Phase 1 of the complex. *Noted.*

4. Internal Corridor

Members noted comments made during a recent visit to the sheltered housing complex site at Bemahague, relating to the appearance of the internal corridor, both ground and first floor at the Springfield Court Elderly Persons Complex. It was suggested that consideration be given as to whether any works could be undertaken to try and brighten the internal corridors.

H02/06/01/06
GARAGE MATTERS

1. Garage Doors - Ballachrink Drive

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that he hoped that the garage doors of those units on Ballachrink Drive, five in total, would be repainted within the next two weeks.

H02/06/01/07
PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE

None.

H02/06/01/08
HEALTH AND SAFETY BUSINESS

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that there had been no accidents or incidents in relation to the Housing Committee activities since the last meeting of the Committee.

H02/06/01/09
OFFICERS REPORT

1. Ashley Park - Trees

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that he had investigated concerns over the condition of the trees behind the bungalows in Ashley Park, and had involved the officers of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in that investigation. It had been agreed that the trees should be cut back. In addition, permission had been granted for the removal of one large tree and of four smaller trees which were causing difficulty.

The Housing Maintenance Manager had obtained a budget price for the removal of the trees by a professional in the amount of £350 and after consideration, it was RESOLVED:-

That the Housing Maintenance Manager arrange for the removal of the trees, as agreed by officers of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, at a budget price of £350.

Mrs Kelly suggested that the Commissioners should look at planting replacement trees, such consideration to be given during the tour of the housing estates to be arranged.

Mrs Kelly left the meeting at 9.00 p.m.

H02/06/01/10
OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

H02/06/01/11

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Deputy Clerk advised that there was no financial report in respect of the activities of the Housing Committee for the current financial year. There was little to report on activities so soon in to the new financial year.

H02/06/01/12

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

None considered this month.

H02/06/01/13

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

H02/06/01/14

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Commissioners' Surgery would take place on Monday 8th July 2002 at 6.30 p.m..

It was further agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee would be held on that same date, Monday 8th July 2002, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS & CLEANSING COMMITTEE**, held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 10th June 2002 at 7.00pm.

Present: Messrs H.L.G. Parkin (in the chair) S.T. Black JP, D. Crellin, D.J. Quirk (from 7.52pm) and J.K. Watterson.

Apologies: Mr Quirk sent apologies in advance of his late arrival.

In attendance: J.E.S. Smith (Clerk), E.K. Convery (Surveyor) and Peter Kelly (Administration)

WC/02/6/1
WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all members to the first meeting of the committee in the new municipal year. He extended a special welcome to Mr Black the Chairman of the Board and also to Mr Watterson who was returning to the committee.

WC/02/6/2
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

WC/02/6/3
MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising:-

a) **White City - Wayleave**

The Surveyor advised that he had made reference to this in his street lighting report. He further added that Mr Hugh Logan from Heritage Homes had undertaken to do the design works for the refurbishment. Noted.

b) **Land Covenant 19 Bay View Road**

The Clerk advised that the Deed of Release had been received and signed but the cheque was awaited. Noted.

WC/02/6/4
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None for discussion in Public.

WC/02/6/5
REFUSE COLLECTION AND OTHER CLEANSING BUSINESS

a) **Officer's Report**

Copies of the Building Control Officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with the following matter being discussed further:-

Delays in Refuse Collection

The Surveyor commented that as everyone would be aware there had been major problems for the previous two weeks resulting in great delays with the refuse collection. Initially there were two employees off sick one with a back problem and another with a broken arm. Then other members went sick with the result that eventually only one crew was attempting to carry out the full collection. The Building Control Officer even turned in on the Bank Holiday Monday to work alongside the men in an effort to improve the situation. Some men worked on Senior Race Day and eventually employees were hired from a contracting firm which has brought the collections more or less back to normal. He further added that the men worked extremely hard, virtually to the point of dropping, in an effort to ensure a service was provided. On behalf of the committee the Chairman expressed thanks to the operatives and also to the Building Control Officer for everything which they had done.

b) Civic Amenity Site

Copies of the draft agreement had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Crellin made reference to the section referring to service by post and suggested that this should be amended to service by recorded delivery or registered post as the case may be. Agreed to refer this to the advocates. The Clerk pointed out that under item(3) the joint committee can determine what type of materials can be deposited for disposal/recycling as opposed to the managing authority. Noted. It was further noted that the next meeting of the joint committee was on 21st June 2002.

c) New Refuse Collection Vehicle

The Clerk informed members that he had received an e-mail from FAUN Municipal Vehicles Limited advising that the chassis for the commissioners' order was scheduled by DAF for building in week 33 (week commencing 12th August) and that they would anticipate to receive the chassis in order to attach the body on week commencing 19th August. Noted.

d) Overloaded Vehicles

Letter as received from the Waste Manager of DOLGE with regard to overloaded vehicles arriving at the landfill site had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that a number of refuse vehicles from the various authorities were arriving at the landfill site with loads that exceeded the public highways legal limit. Consequently as from 15th May any vehicle arriving overloaded will be reported to the police. The Surveyor advised that all drivers had been made aware of the content of the letter and the load indicator on each vehicle had been re-calibrated. The difficulty was that once the vehicles went on to the tip the conditions are such that quite often the calibrations are knocked out. This could result in the vehicles having to be re-calibrated almost on a daily basis. The Clerk enquired whether it was not possible for the vehicles to dump on the concrete flat at the tip and for the department then to bulldoze the refuse into position. The Surveyor advised that he expected the tip operatives would advise the drivers if they were coming over weight and as a result the calibrations could then be checked. It was further noted from the letter that a charge of £10 per tonne for none household and civic amenity waste was the established rate. The Clerk pointed out however that there was no charge for civic amenity waste. Agreed that a suitably worded reply be sent.

e) Kerbside Collection

Letter as received from Mr Peter Karran MHK enquiring if the commissioners would look into the possibility of being the first local authority to carry out a roadside collection for recycling, had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members were reminded that this scheme entirely in the hands of the Department of Local Government and the Environment who had previously indicated that they would be experimenting on such a scheme with plastic waste. There was also moves by the department to introduce a composting scheme but everything lay in their hands. There was nothing within the current estimates of the commissioners to finance a kerbside collection. Agreed that a response be sent to Mr Karran advising that the authority had always tried to

work in close liaison with the Department of Local Government and the Environment and that the commissioners were keen to see more recycling taking place.

f) IWM Exhibition

The Clerk advised that between 18th and 21st June 2003 there was to be a waste management exhibition at Torbay. He felt it would be beneficial for representatives of the commission to attend. Agreed that any literature received on same should be circulated in time for discussion at the next meeting. Mr Black commented that he felt government should send representatives and then they should provide a report to the local authorities rather than the local authorities attending.

g) New Vehicle – Port Erin

An invitation had been received from Port Erin Commissioners inviting the Chairman and Clerk of Onchan District Commissioners to the hand over of the board's new Dennis Eagle Refuse Collection Vehicle on Monday 17th June 2002 at noon. Members were advised that the Board Chairman would be present together with the Building Control Officer who was in charge of the refuse section, and Mr Parkin stated that he would also be present if possible.

h) Pavement Sweeping

The Chairman advised that he had been contacted by Commissioner Kennaugh on behalf of a resident in Harbour Road who said he had never seen the pavement sweeper in that vicinity. The Surveyor responded that there was a schedule for sweeping all the pavements in Onchan and certainly Harbour Road is undertaken in conjunction with The Butt.

j) Mount View Close

Mr Crellin commented that the lane to which he referred leading off Mount View Close was the first on the left and did not have any barriers that would prohibit the pavement sweeper from passing through. Noted.

WC/02/6/6

STREET LIGHTING

a) Officer's Report

Copies of the District Surveyor's report in respect of street lighting, had been circulated prior to the meeting, and was noted with the Surveyor reiterating the following points:-

i) Second Avenue

Two out of the three new columns were now in position.

ii) Church Avenue

The columns were now in position awaiting the heads to be attached.

iii) Church Road

Hopefully the concrete bases for the lamp standards would be put in position during the coming week.

b) Street Lighting Capital Improvement Schemes

The Clerk advised that he understood the Minister had now approved the new schemes in accordance with the petition submitted. Noted.

c) **Wybourn Drive**

Mr Watterson commented that the new lights in Wybourn Drive looked good and appeared affective. This was confirmed by Mr Crellin.

d) **Bemahague Road**

Mr Quirk commented that there were some lights on all day in the vicinity of Heywood Park and The Nook. Noted.

WC/02/6/7

DRAINAGE FUNCTION

a) Officer's Report

Copies of the District Surveyor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with the following matter being discussed further

Manhole Cover Refurbishment

The Surveyor explained that DoT wished to introduce a new system for the replacement of manhole covers working to a set specification. It was a requirement of theirs that persons or firms undertaking this work would have to hold a licence to use the system they were proposing. Noted.

WC/02/6/8

PLANNING MATTERS

a) **Planning Communications**

There were no items to report where the decision of the Planning Committee differed from the recommendation of the commissioners. The Surveyor advised that notification had been received over a forthcoming Appeal in respect of the application for 12 apartments to be located outside the perimeter wall of the former Majestic Hotel. No submission had been made by the applicant. Noted.

b) **New Applications**

The following applications were considered:-

PA02/339 Rear extension, pitched roof over garage and conservatory 1 Alpine Close for Mr & Mrs D. Crellin

Commissioner Crellin declared an interest in the application and took no part in the discussion or decision – *Approved subject to notifying the neighbours.*

PA02/346 Extension 12 Seafeld Crescent for Mr & Mrs P. Leivers – *Approved subject to notifying the neighbours.*

PA02/380 Alterations and extension 3 Seafeld Crescent for Mr & Mrs S. Cowan – *Approved subject to notifying the owners/occupiers of 40 Seafeld Close.*

PA02/384 Development of roof space and insertion of two Velux windows 15 Alberta Drive for Mr A. Roberts – *Approved.*

PA02/389 Alterations, garage extension and replacement porch with conservatory 12 Birch Hill Grove for Mr D. Halsall – *Approved subject to notifying the owners/occupiers of 11 & 12A.*

c) **Meeting with Director of Planning**

A draft agenda was circulated at the meeting and noted. Mr Quirk suggested that a section to cover any other business should be added. Mr Watterson suggested that provision should be made for small workshops within the district which had been omitted from the Local Plan.

WC/02/6/9

HEALTH AND SAFETY BUSINESS

a) Officer's Report

Copies of the report prepared by the Building Control Officer had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with particular regard to the comments in connection with collection of refuse from the Mount Murray Development. The Building Control Officer had attached a copy of the reply from Braddan Commissioners to his letter pointing out the difficulties in refuse collection due to the narrowness of roads and the necessity of having to manhandle the refuse into a smaller vehicle. The Clerk commented that under the agreement for collection of refuse in Braddan the position for the wheelie bin shall be determined by the contractor after consultation with the customer. Mr Watterson pointed out that the refuse vehicles of the commissioners were little different in size to a fire engine the only difference being that in the event of fire the fire engine would push obstacles out of the way. The Surveyor added that the road was designed to fit around the existing trees and consequently was not practical in terms of large vehicles. Mr Watterson then commented that the commissioners should treat these narrow roads similar to farm lanes and the occupiers should be required to bring their bins to an agreed collection point.

WC/02/6/10

CAPITAL AND REVENUE PROJECTS

a) **Officer's Report**

Copies of the officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted without further comment.

b) **Bemahague Sheltered Housing Complex**

Reply read as sent to the Private Secretary to His Excellency advising that the commissioners would be delighted to show His Excellency around the Bemahague Elderly Persons Complex currently under construction and suggested that in order to minimise risk such an inspection takes place at 5pm when construction work had finished for the day. A request for dates convenient to His Excellency was requested. Noted.

c) **Main Road Public Toilet Project**

The Surveyor advised that there had been a hiccup in respect of this scheme. At the previous meeting he reported that application had been made for stage 5 approval but he had only just found out that the architects had expected the commissioners to submit the application rather than themselves. Mr Quirk enquired whether the scheme was still

proposed to go ahead during the current year. To which the Surveyor replied in the affirmative.

d) **Main Road Streetscape Project**

The Surveyor showed a series of photographs taken at high level of the areas in Main Road where it was intended that the architects should produce a scheme for enhancement. A sketch perspective drawing was also shown which outlined paving blocks in the bus lay-by and tree planting in the forecourt in front of the Manx Arms Hotel toilets. The Surveyor advised that further details would be available at the September meeting.

e) **Hawthorn Villa Project**

The Surveyor advised that he was still in ongoing discussion with the architects as he was not one hundred percent happy with the external ancillary accommodation. Plans would be shown to the committee when he was satisfied.

WC/02/6/11
BUILDING CONTROL

There were no matters for discussion or consideration.

WC/02/6/12
HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

a) Disabled Parking Spaces

Letter reported as received from a resident living in Lakeside Gardens in respect of the lack of reserved spaces for the disabled in Avondale Court, Elm Tree Road and the abuse of the disabled space at the side of the post office in Kelvin Road. Members agreed that Avondale Court was a private area but a letter should be sent to the owners to see if they were prepared to create a disabled person's space within their car park. Mr Crellin pointed out that on the opposite side of Avondale Road, in Stoney Road there were two reserved spaces one for the doctor and the other for a person who had recently moved from that area. He suggested that one of these spaces could become a disabled persons space.

With regard to Elm Tree Road the Surveyor commented that had been discussed in the past with DoT and he would refer to it at the next Easter Sector meeting. The question of abuse of the disabled persons space alongside the post office was a matter for the police.

b) Visibility Summerhil Road/The Park

Letter and photographs reported as received from a resident in The Park concerning the difficulty in exiting on to Summerhill Road. Members concurred with the concern expressed and agreed that this should be brought up with the DoT.

c) Belgravia Road

Mr Quirk informed the meeting that there were two vehicles in Belgravia Road which had fixed penalties attached to their windscreen and they had been in position for three weeks since the penalties were applied.

WC/02/6/13
FURTHER REPORTS FROM CLERK/SURVEYOR

There were no further reports.

WC/02/6/14
CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

WC/02/6/15

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Copies of the list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with the following matters being discussed further.

WC/01/07/04(a) New Refuse Vehicle – Order January 2002 – Delete as order now placed.

3(1) Street Lighting Improvement Scheme –Wybourn Drive – Delete as scheme now complete.

WC/02/04/24(a) Alpine Mews – Change of Use – Delete as planning application now made.

WC/02/6/16

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Bemahague Sheltered Housing Complex

The Surveyor made reference to the on site visit when comment was made regarding glazing bars on windows. He personally felt the commissioners would be better to wait until the scheme was finished before making a decision. Mr Quirk commented that he didn't see a problem with the bars whilst Mr Watterson said he did not like them if it was intended that people should look out through the windows. Mr Black was happy with the situation whilst Mr Crellin said that they would be better without but he would prefer to make up his mind after a further visit. The Surveyor told members that he felt they should give the architect credit for his design. The Chairman stated that he felt they were fine. The Surveyor advised that he had requested a costing for the removal of the bars which would in fact necessitate re-glazing. Mr Quirk proposed that the windows should be kept. There was no seconder to the proposal. Mr Watterson proposed that they should be removed subject to a cost being obtained. There was no seconder to the proposal. Agreed to await receipt of costing before discussing the matter further.

b) Beach Clean

The Clerk made reference to the letter received in May advising as to areas where a beach clean was to take place and the concern of the Board that this did not include any beaches in Onchan. The Clerk informed members that a gentleman from Majestic View did his own cleaning of Onchan Harbour the refuse staff collected the bags he filled. The beach at Groudle above high water mark was privately owned. Noted.

WC/02/6/17

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Next Meeting

Monday 15th July 2002 at 7pm.

b) Vice-Chairman

On the proposal of Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Crellin it was unanimously agreed that Mr Watterson should be the Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

c) **Maple Avenue Footpath etc**

Mr Quirk enquired as to the position regarding the footpath, the road surfacing and street light. The Surveyor advised that the road surfacing and street lights were being chased by his department and the footpath across the land was a matter for the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

d) **Site Visit**

The Chairman suggested that perhaps arrangements should be made for the committee or commissioners to make a site visit to the Majestic Apartments and also the office block on the site of the former Douglas Bay Hotel. The Surveyor advised that the show apartment was open to the public at the Majestic and the office block was too much still under construction to be viewed with any safety.

e) **Police Station**

Mr Crellin commented that something should be done with the police station in Elm Drive as it was 'falling down' and the paint work was in desperate need of re-coating. Mr Quirk commented on a fence that had been removed from the rear boundary.

f) **White City Wayleave**

Mr Quirk apologised that he was not present at the beginning of the meeting when the question of the wayleave was discussed. He added that he trusted the commissioners were not going to trade off against the £15,000 fee which the Board had agreed to request. The Clerk replied that there had never been a decision by the Board although Mr Quirk had mentioned this figure on several occasions. The Clerk added that what was anticipated was a favourable design and build scheme from the contractors in question.

Meeting terminated 9.42pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 17th June 2002 at 7.02pm.

Present: Mr G.K. Astill (in the chair) Messrs S.T. Black JP, A.T.W. Norton, D.J. Quirk and J.K. Watterson (from 7.04pm)

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration) and R.C. Quane (Amenities Officer)

LA/02/6/1

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

LA/02/6/2

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not already on the agenda.

LA/02/6/3

PLAYGROUNDS/PARKS

a) Playground Log Books

The Chairman advised that he would call in to the office the following day to sign the log books. Mr Quirk enquired whether there were any pieces of equipment with which the Amenities Officer was not happy. The officer replied that the cradle swings at Jubilee Park were getting old but were safe enough. Mr Quirk advised the Chairman that by signing the log book he was party to accepting the safety of the equipment. Mr Watterson advised that this was not correct but the Chairman was merely signing them to confirm that they had been completed. Mr Watterson then queried whether the log book recorded whether any equipment needed attention. The Amenities Officer replied in the affirmative. Mr Watterson then enquired whether it would be possible from the log book in the event of a subsequent accident to establish on a set of swings which seat had been replaced. The Amenities Officer replied that in some instances that would be possible but not all. Reference was then made to the pending visit from the commissioners' insurers representative who was going to advise on playground inspections. He was anticipated to be on the Island at the end of June or the beginning of July. Mention was then made to the station master springer and the fact that whilst the station master had been removed there was a connecting piece of metal proud of the ground. It was agreed that this should be covered over in some temporary form and highlighted.

b) Amenities Officer's Report

Copies of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with the following matters being discussed further:-

i) Relief Boat Attendant

The Amenities Officer reported that a new employee was starting on Thursday of that week. Noted.

ii) Play Train

Mr Quirk expressed his concern over the general condition of the play train and enquired when the Amenities Officer intended to have the carriage rebuilt and returned. He also enquired as to what was being done with the rest of the train. The Amenities Officer made reference to his report in the suggestion that a contractor be employed to manufacture the replacement carriage. Agreed that this should go out to contractors immediately rather than wait for the commissioners' own staff to be available.

c) Pennington Hall

Members noted from the Amenities Officer's report that the structural engineer was currently on holiday but upon his return to work on 24th June he would commence compiling his report in respect of the internal wall at Pennington Hall.

d) SMP Equipment

The Administrative Officer reported that he had written to Alexander Agencies accepting the kind offer of SMP to replace the 2-2-7 unit in the Taverners Playground free of charge. Noted with pleasure.

e) Jubilee Playground

The Administrative Officer confirmed that schemes had been received but amended schemes were still awaited from other suppliers. It was anticipated that work would not commence until September/October. Letter reported as received that day from a resident in the area complaining over children playing football in the lower end of the play area despite the notice advising that it was to be played in the upper area. In discussion it was noted that the new play equipment would be so located that it would be difficult to play football in the lower area but in the meantime it was agreed that two temporary seats be positioned to try and sterilize the area from football playing in an effort to encourage youngsters to use the goalposts provided higher up in the playground. It was further agreed to view the area when an open spaces walk around was arranged.

f) Street Map

The Administrative Officer reported having written to Atlas UK Limited the day after the previous meeting and also having telephoned them and spoken to the contracts manager on Monday 10th June. The firm were updating the map in accordance with the corrections given by the Administrative Officer and it was anticipated that they would be in contact shortly. Noted.

g) Bowls - Floodlighting

Mr Quirk reported that during the site visit held by the committee members they were of the opinion that two of the floodlight poles could be reached by a cherry picker and the other two could possibly be reached by a scissors lift with extending top. This was battery powered. Agreed that the Amenities Officer make enquiries of hire companies with particular regard as to whether it was possible to try out the scissors lift to see if it were practicable. The Amenities Officer advised that it may be necessary to widen the entrance gate into the green to facilitate access. Noted.

h) Safety Flooring Information

At the request of Commissioner Watterson copies of an article indicating that the presence of safety flooring did not have any marked effect on the number of playground accidents that take place annually, had been circulated and they were noted. The Amenities Officer commented that on the continent the only safety flooring used appears to be sand.

j) The Big One

Mr Watterson advised that he had been on duty at the go-kart garage and he was happy to report that nobody gained access to the roof. It was noted however that there were about 20 people on the roof of the toilets at the concrete grandstand entrance. Mr Quirk stated that the fencing off at the side of the concrete stand seemed to have worked and then reminded the Amenities Officer about a bush which required to be removed. Mr Watterson informed members that a hole had been made in the perimeter fence in the vicinity of the children's playground and access was being gained here. The Chairman commented that it was nice to see the stadium full. After further general discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Derry Kissack wishing him a speedy recovery from his recent motorcycle accident.

k) Park Takings

Copies of the financial report showing the takings at Onchan Park for the season to date had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted. Members noted the drop in takings compared with 2001 but equally noted that the takings for Easter 2002 were not included as this fell within the previous financial year. Consequently the comparison was not direct and it was suggested that the Finance Officer should adjust the figures to allow for Easter despite the receipts being in the previous financial year but at least it would achieve a better comparison for the benefit of members.

m) **Kickabout**

The Amenities Officer informed the meeting that he had instructed the staff to remove the square goalposts on the grassed area outside the stadium. Members stated that they looked forward to seeing the round posts being installed.

LA/02/6/45

OPEN SPACES

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

Copies of the Amenities Officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted with the following point being discussed further:-

The Rec

The Amenities Officer advised that a member of the labouring staff who had been on leave had returned that day and hopefully the jetting work could be undertaken shortly. Noted.

b) **Port Jack Glen – Water Feature**

Mr Quirk commented that once the Surveyor had returned from vacation on Thursday he would meet with him to prepare the specification of work required. He further added he thought the Onchan Rotary Club were loosing interest but there were a number of residents in the area who would like to become involved. Mr Watterson made reference to the fact that it would be the longest day at the end of the week and time was passing. The Amenities Officer reported that he had studied the catalogue provided by Mr Quirk and the floating fountain selected needed a minimum of 1 metre of water beneath it or 1.5 where there was a muddy bottom. Mr Quirk viewed the catalogue and advised that his selection was in fact a different model. Further enquiries to be made by the Amenities Officer.

c) **Seat at Isle of Man Bank**

The Amenities Officer reported that the replacement seat had arrived that day. It was yet to be treated with Sadolins and left to dry before being put in position. Noted.

d) **Island in Bloom**

The Amenities Officer reported that he had attended the slide presentation in the company of the parks chargehand and another member of staff. The presentation was not what they expected on the lines of assisting in the choice of plants, method of planting etc but in fact was related more to tips from a judge on what to do and what not to do. Examples were not to choose a house for the best garden if the other gardens around it were not up to standard as this would be taken into account. Equally if the name of the judge could be established in advance and a knowledge of his favourite plants was obtained then various areas could be planted up accordingly. Noted.

e) **Tree Stump**

Mr Watterson made reference to the previous minutes with regarding to the removal of tree stumps from Onchan Park. He accepted that the best type of equipment, whilst in the catalogue of the local hire firm was not actually held on the Island. The Amenities Officer reported that the staff were behind with grass cutting due to the inclement weather and had been unable to get to all the tree stumps that needed removing. Mr Quirk repeated the advice he had given at the previous meeting in respect of metal poles and plastic netting to be placed around the stumps in the meantime. Mr Watterson asked if it was policy to plant new trees when trees were removed to which the Amenities Officer replied that we did but these were left until the autumn for replanting. The Amenities Officer was requested to produce a list of where trees had been removed and were yet to be replaced.

LA/02/6/5

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

Copies of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted. The Amenities Officer added that he felt one of the optimizers at the toilets in Onchan Park was not working properly and he was having this checked out. Mr Quirk enquired whether the optimizers had saved on water since their installation. The Amenities Officer responded that until an account was received he was unable to make a comparison. Noted.

b) Main Road Toilets Scheme

The Amenities Officer advised that at the recent meeting of the Works and Cleansing Committee the members had been informed by the Surveyor that contrary to his statement five weeks earlier the stage 5 application had not been made by the architects as they thought the Surveyor was doing so.

LA/02/6/6

PUBLIC LIBRARY

a) Librarian's Report

Copies of the Librarian's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted with the particular regard to the continuing increase in the issue of nonfiction, audio and video. Members were pleased to learn of the return to work of Mrs Evelyn Bevan following her recent illness. With regard to the request for a replacement computer tower unit at approximately £400 it was agreed that this should be purchased out of the overall library budget. Mr Quirk queried whether in fact a complete new computer should be purchased but members noted the librarian's comments that the keyboard and monitor were in good working order.

b) Amenities Officer's Report

Copies of the Amenities Officer's report had been circulate prior to the meeting and was noted that no maintenance had been necessary in the library during the past five weeks.

LA/02/6/7

PROMOTIONS/ADVERTISING/PUBLIC INFORMATION

a) Newspaper Advertising

The Administrative Officer reported that within a day of the Church Leader being published three calls had been received enquiring as to Onchan Park for use in Sunday School picnics or church outings. Noted.

c) Queen's Golden Jubilee

i) Mugs

The mugs arrived on the day they were due for presentation at Ashley Hill School. They were collected from the Fat Stock Marketing to whence they had been delivered and were taken direct to the school for a nominal presentation in the afternoon by the board chairman. The following morning he undertook a similar exercise at Onchan Primary School.

ii) Street Parties

The Administrative Officer reported that requests for three road closing orders had been made for street parties to take place in Buttermere Drive, Sea View Road and Wentworth Close. The trestles were to be collected later during the week ready for the events which were all to take place on 4th July.

iii) Golden Jubilee Fair

The Administrative Officer reported that this had taken place and that the weather obviously greatly assisted the popularity of the event. Thank you letters had been sent and a couple of thank you letters had been received from groups thanking the commissioners for the opportunity of setting up stall on this occasion. The Chairman requested that the thanks of the committee to the Administrative Officer and his secretary be recorded.

iv) Golden Jubilee Football Competition

The Administrative Officer reported having liaised with Mr Brian Callow and listed the organisations to whom an application form had been sent separate from Mr Callow's issue to junior football clubs. Mr Quirk advised that there were going to be two referees and suggested that some token of appreciation be given to them. The Administrative Officer advised that two trophies and twenty medallions with ribbons had been ordered for presentation by the Board Chairman to the winning team and the runners up.

d) Talks/Enquiries

i) School Talk

The Administrative Officer referred to the previously reported talk on Onchan which he had given at Ashley Hill School to four classes. Since then 23 individual letters of thanks had been received from one of the classes. Three examples were read from which it was noted that the children had gone home and impressed their parents as to what they had learnt about Onchan which their parents did not know. Mr Black requested that the thanks of the committee be recorded to the Administrative Officer for the work which he does with the schools and young people.

ii) Former Resident

The Administrative Officer then reported that on the previous Friday afternoon he had been in the Onchan Library when an elderly lady came in and announced that she was born in one of the shops which formerly stood on the site. It transpired that she was the daughter of Mr Roth the photographer who had a stall at White City and also at Glen Helen. The lady and her family were brought to the boardroom and shown the old rate books which listed her father's name both for his photographic stall and the shop in Main Road. It is anticipated that copies of some of the photographs taken by Mr Roth will in due course, be forwarded to the commissioners for inclusion in their archive.

e) Car Stickers

The Administrative Officer reported that he had spoken with a member of the Friends of St Judes who had advised that the car stickers they used were produced in Douglas but another member of the committee had been responsible for their ordering. Further details to be obtained.

f) Web Site

Mr Norton enquired whether any additional information had been placed on the web site. The Administrative Officer reported that owing to the absence of his secretary there was nothing further which he had added to the web site although there were a couple of changes of names and addresses in respect of clubs and societies waiting to be made. To the best of his knowledge he was not responsible for the web site but members advised that at a recent meeting of the Board they were informed that the Administrative Officer was now in charge of the web site.

LA/02/6/8

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) Amenities Officer's Report

Copies of the Amenities Officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted with the following matters being discussed further:-

i) Water Heating

The amenities Officer confirmed that the new water heating system was up and running.

ii) New Ramp

Mr Watterson made reference to the hand rail which appeared to be supported by the brickwork and relying entirely on the rawlbolts for their strength. The Amenities Officer reported this had been noticed by the Surveyor whom he thought was following up the matter. Mr Quirk made reference to ponding which is taking place at one end of the ramp.

LA/02/6/9

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Copies of the list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted without further comment.

LA/02/6/10

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Wild Flowers

Letter reported from a resident of Bristol who also has a house in Onchan. The letter concerned the plant commonly known as "fox and cubs" which was like a bright orange dandelion. The writer advised that the plant grows well in St Peter's Churchyard and also on the verge opposite around the wooden seat. Each year at the height of the flowering season both sites are strimmed robbing the public of the opportunity of seeing the plant. Reference was also made to the dark green Fritillary butterflies which were attracted to these flowers. Mr Watterson suggested that the Amenities Officer look at the possibility of cutting just around the seat until the flowers had died and then trimming the grass in the usual manner.

LA/02/6/11

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Date of Next Meeting

Monday 22nd July 2002 at 7pm.

b) Tom Christain MBE

The Administrative Officer reminded members of information sent to them by Mrs Pat Griffin to advise that Mr Tom Christian MBE from the Pitcairn Islands was coming to the Isle of Man for Tynwald Day. He was a direct descendant of Fletcher Christian and she wondered whether the commissioners could welcome him in some way. The matter was discussed briefly and agreed that he should be invited to the boardroom at sometime to fit in with whatever itinerary was already prepared for him. This may necessarily be in the day time rather than a full evening reception. After further discussion it was

***RESOLVED**

"that Mr Tom Christian MBE should received in the boardroom by the Chairman of the Commissioners and any other commissioners available subject to timing and date yet to be agreed".

c) Park Café

The Chairman advised that he had been speaking to some visitors in Onchan Park who told him that the café in the park was extremely good and the prices were very reasonable.

d) Advertising

The Chairman further advised that some of the visitors he met in Onchan Park said they did not know it existed. He queried then whether there should be more advertising. Members commented that the visitors in question had obviously found the park and furthermore there had been greater expenditure on advertising during the current year than of recent times. Members accepted that advertising will not reach everybody.

e) Park Visit

The Chairman suggested that in his opinion the committee should do a tour of Onchan Park at the end of the season so that a list of works required can be drawn up at that stage.

f) Youth Fund

The Chairman extended his thanks to Commissioners Crellin and Norton for taking collection at the Golden Jubilee Fair in order to assist the Onchan Youth Development Fund to the tune of £130.

Meeting terminated 10.20pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom at Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday, 24th June 2002, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr E.D.R. Killey (Chairman)
Mr G.K. Astill
Mr S.T. Black, J.P.
Mr M.J. Kennaugh
Mr H.L.G. Parkin

In Attendance Mr J.E.S. Smith (Chief Executive/Clerk)
Mr A.S. Booth, F.C.A. (Finance Officer)

PF02/06/01
MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting held on 20th May 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PF02/06/02
BUSINESS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting other than those dealt with in the Clerk's and Finance Officer's reports and those matters listed separately on the agenda paper.

PF02/06/03
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Rateable Values - Rural Ward of Onchan District

Copies had been circulated of a letter from the Valuation Assistant of the Treasury with regard to possible rating anomalies in the Rural Ward of Onchan District as notified by the Commissioners. The Officer advised that these properties would be investigated and if necessary any subsequent amendment to their rateable values would be included on the next available Rating Supplementary Valuation List back-dated to 1st April 2002. It was hoped to complete the investigation by the end of June 2002. The letter was noted.

PF02/06/04
FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Finance Officer's report, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered and arising therefrom:-

1. I.T. - Internet/Website

The latest Webone UK statistics on the viewing figures for the Commissioners' website showed that for the month of May 2002 – 2,608 pages had been viewed (in April – 2,602). Finance Officer confirmed that the Internet Service Provider had now been changed to Manx Telecom who at the same time had installed an ASDL line in place of the ISDN line which would give an improved service.

2. Rates Collected

It was noted that the total estimated collectable rates and cash received in the current financial year to 18th June 2002 compared with the previous financial year were as follows:-

2002/03 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward
£1,098,373

2002/03 collected to 18th June 2002 less refunds £ 491,889
(44.78%)

Comparative figures

2001/02 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward
£1,031,869

2001/02 collected to 18th June 2001 less refunds £ 443,040
(42.94%)

3. **Revenue Account Payments**

The list of payments from revenue account during the month of May 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered and it was RESOLVED*:-

... *That the said payments from revenue account as detailed on the list attached to the minutes be endorsed.*

PF02/06/05

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Isle of Man Local Government Pension Scheme**

Copies had been circulated of a letter from the Borough Treasurer of Douglas together with copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001 in respect of the Isle of Man Local Government Pension Scheme. The Borough Treasurer advised that a triennial valuation was also at last nearing completion which he would forward once completed and apologised for the delay which had been caused by difficulties with information required and changes in personnel involved.

After consideration of the report and accounts a discussion ensued at the conclusion of which it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Borough Treasurer thanking him for the accounts to 31st March 2001 and expressing the hope that the long awaited triennial valuation together with the accounts for the year to 31st March 2002 would be forthcoming in the near future.

PF02/06/06

MATTERS REFERRED BY COMMISSIONERS/OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no matters which had been referred to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration in public.

PF02/06/07

RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY OR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

It was **RESOLVED** that the following recommendation from the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held 17th June 2002 be endorsed:-

1. *That Mr Tom Christian, MBE, of Pitcairn be invited to the Boardroom during his visit to the Island and hospitality be afforded to him.*

PF02/06/08

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Report of Attendance Allowances Paid to Members of the Authority for Year to 31st March 2002

Copies had been circulated of the Report of Attendance Allowances Paid to Members of the Authority for the financial year ended 31st March 2002. The resolution passed on 15th January 2001 was "to pay to Members of the Authority during the financial year to 31st March 2002 for attendances at the ordinary meetings only of the Authority, the four Standing Committees and the Joint Hackney Carriage Licensing Committee". The Report showed the total number of attendances and the total sums paid to each of the Members during that financial year. The total sum paid by the Authority amounted to £7,275.

As required under the Local Government Act 1985 a copy of the Report together with a Certificate of the Auditors would be forwarded to the Department of Local Government and the Environment in due course. *Noted.*

PF02/06/09

MEETING DATE

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 29th July 2002.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Wednesday 19th June 2002 at 5.18pm.

Present: J.K. Watterson (in the Chair), Mrs E.J.C. Kelly, Messrs J.M. Bulley, B.H. Moore and A.T.W. Norton

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration) & B.T. Price (Building Control Officer)

R/02/6/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

R/02/6/2
MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes for discussion in public.

R/02/6/3
OUTSTANDING MATTERS

The list of outstanding matters had been circulated and the following matters were discussed further:-

a) **Planting at the Pinfold**

The Building Control Officer advised that he had received an acknowledgement card from the Department of Transport in respect of his latest reminder letter. Noted.

b) **Amal Road Sign**

The Administrative Officer reported that he was still awaiting for the Amenities Officer to have the sign erected but there had been staff illnesses during the past month which was confirmed by the Chairman. It was noted that the sign would be erected as soon as possible.

R/02/6/4
MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

R/02/6/5
MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

R/02/6/6
PLANNING MATTERS

a) **Planning Decisions**

The Building Control Officer reported on the receipt of the following planning decisions:-

PA 01/2571 Additional use of part of the farm for storage of building equipment, Ballig Farm, Little Mill Road for Mr J. Callow – *Refused on the grounds that the Planning Committee is not persuaded that the additional traffic generated by the proposed use is warranted or acceptable in an area where the existing road network is not considered suitable for such additional traffic.*

PA 02/99 Approval in principle for erection of dwelling, part fields 914, 917 & 918 Sir George's Bridge, Abbeylands for Dr & Mrs James - *Refused for reasons that the site is not designated for development on the Onchan Local Plan and would represent building in the countryside which is generally discouraged by the department.*

PA 02/112 Erection of conservatory Fy-Yerrey, Creg-na-Baa Back Road for Mr P. Scott - *Approved. It was noted that the Rural Committee had asked for further information.*

PA 02/292 Conversion and extension of industrial unit into two holiday cottages, Ballacain House, Little Mill Road for Mr & Mrs R. Corkill – *Approved subject to the accommodation being used by bona fide tourists with no individual tenancy exceeding two consecutive weeks.*

b) Reviews

The following decision had been received following the hearing of a Review

PA 01/2413 Approval in principle for erection of dwelling to replace former farmhouse and barn, Ballairgey, Abbeylands for Mr T.A. Harvey – *Refused on the grounds that the existing dwelling had lost its habitable status through abandonment, the proposal would constitute a new dwelling in the countryside and no agricultural justification brought forward for the proposal.*

c) Appeal

The following decision has been received following the holding of an Appeal hearing

PA 01/1425 Approval in principle for conversion of part stables to create two tourist units, Ballakaighen, Whitebridge Road, Onchan for Mr & Mrs P. Simpson – *Appeal dismissed refusal confirmed.*

R/02/6/7

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of next meeting

Wednesday 24th July 2002 at 6pm.

b) Beating of the Bounds

After discussion it was agreed to hold the Beating of the Bounds at 7pm on 24th July, immediately following the completion of the Rural Committee meeting.

c) Creg-na-Baa Back Road

Mr Bulley reported that following recent rain, flooding was again occurring on the Creg-na-Baa Back Road. Agreed that this would be viewed during the Beating of the Bounds.

d) **Motor Cross Course**

Mr Bulley gave confirmation that no work had taken place on the site of recent and to the best of his knowledge the course had not been used. He further added that where construction vehicles had been entering/exiting the site the road surface was breaking up. Agreed to refer the matter to DoT.

e) **Grass Cuttings**

Mr Moore made reference to the grass verges at the entrance to Bibaloe Beg Road and reported that whoever was cutting the grass in these areas was dumping the cuttings on the edge of the site. Matter to be referred to DoT.

Meeting terminated 6.04pm.