

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom at Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 14th October 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 B.T. Price (Building Control Officer)

C02/10/01/01

MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on 9th September 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

C02/10/01/02

BUSINESS ARISING

None.

C02/10/01/03

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

C02/10/01/04

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

1. Village Christmas Trees

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The Chairman reminded all of those persons in the Village, who had been invited to indicate whether they were to participate in the Christmas tree scheme, to complete the form and return it to the Commissioners Office as soon as possible.

2. Ladies Choir Concert

The Chairman confirmed that he had been invited to a concert by the Ladies Choir, to take place on Wednesday 16th October 2002.

3. Onchan Bowling Club

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The Chairman congratulated the Onchan Bowling Club for their successes in the various competitions in the 2002 season.

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C02/10/01/05

QUESTIONS

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There were no questions submitted under the provisions of Standing Order Number 5.

C02/10/01/06

HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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The minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on Monday 16th September 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. There were no matters arising therefrom.

C02/10/01/07

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on 16th September 2002, be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C02/10/01/08

WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

1. **WC/02/9/2(a) – Extraordinary Meeting with DoT and the Police**

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr Parkin, reminded Members of the meeting to be held on Thursday 17th October 2002, with representatives of the Department of Transport and the Police.

2. **WC/02/9/4(b) – Civic Amenity Site**

Mrs. Kelly expressed opposition to the resolution of the Committee, which was to cease the collection of tyres fridges and freezers, believing that this would lead to an increase in fly-tipping within the District.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the Department of Local Government and the Environment had introduced a rule that it would not accept tyres and fridges/freezers at the landfill site. Arrangements were being made to dispose of tyres and fridges/freezers at separate specialised sites. A charge would be levied by private companies of £10 for each fridge/freezer and £2 for each tyre disposed of.

Mr. Norton enquired whether the Commissioners could continue to accept tyres and fridges/freezers, and pass on the charge to the resident.

Mr. Watterson agreed with the view of Mrs. Kelly, and considered that the Commissioners should continue to accept tyres and fridges/freezers. He believed that failure to do so would increase the possibility of abandonment of such items in back lanes and so on.

Mr. Parkin, confirmed that all of the issues had been discussed at the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting, but the judgement had been made that the Commissioners had little option but to cease to accept the units, since they could not go to landfill, and, in the case of the fridges/freezers, there was no disposal route after receipt of them. There was no storage space either. In relation to the receipt of monies, particularly at the Civic Amenity Site, Mr. Parkin confirmed that there was no facility for the receipt of monies at the site.

Mrs. Kelly made reference to previous arrangements for the receipt of money, for waste received at the Civic Amenity site by way of a van. Mr.

Quirk confirmed that this was a previous arrangement and as there was no provision in the current contract for this to occur, he asked that anyone who was charged at the Civic Amenity site refer this to the Chief Executive/Clerk

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that there was no provision for the receipt of monies at the site. Waste was either accepted or not. He reiterated that there was no disposal route for fridges/freezers. The Commissioners could not pass them on to anyone.

Mr. Crellin appreciated the comments made by the Chief Executive/Clerk, but felt that there would be an increase in the number of units being left around the Island.

Mr. Killey posed the question as to where the fridge/freezers would be stored if they were accepted.

Mr. Quirk understood that tyres would continue to be accepted at the landfill site until 19th October 2002, but not thereafter. He believed that those residents who were willing to dispose of their waste at the Civic Amenity site would seek out the alternative disposal route when provided.

Mr. Crellin hoped that the resolution would not add to the problem.

Mr. Parkin commented that if the Eastern Civic Amenity Site continued to receive tyres and fridges/freezers, it would be the only disposal route Island-wide and the site could be inundated.

Mr. Watterson advised that the idea of charging for the disposal of tyres was not a new one, in that some two years previously, he had changed the tyres on his vehicle and had been charged a £2.00 environmental charge for the disposal of the old tyres. This had been stopped but would, no doubt be re-introduced. Mr. Watterson added that the resolution referred to the collection of tyres and fridges/freezers on the Commissioners domestic rounds and special collection arrangements. If one item of the banned items was found in a refuse vehicle load, the whole load would be refused at landfill.

Mr. Quirk stated that in recent talks, the Department had confirmed that it would be making proper arrangements for the disposal of fridges and freezers under proper licence, but that the arrangements were not yet ready. He argued that the Commissioners may have to continue to store these units for some considerable time, before the new arrangement was in place. He reminded Members that the Local Authority was seen as a polluter and not as providing a disposal route.

Mr. Parkin urged Members to think long and hard about the repercussions before voting on this matter.

In answer to enquiry, the Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee had resolved not to accept tyres and fridges and freezers at the Civic Amenity Site.

It was proposed by Mr. Killey, seconded by Mr. Watterson, that the resolution be put to the vote amended to include the provision that the new arrangement only be in force until suitable disposal arrangements had been made by the Department.

A vote was taken and the amendment failed.

A vote was taken on the original proposal which carried on the casting vote of the Chairman. Mrs Kelly and Messrs. Crellin, Killey, Norton and Watterson voted against the resolution.

4. WC/02/9/2(a) – Extraordinary Meeting with DoT and the Police

Mr. Quirk made reference to the agenda for the meeting and in particular to agenda item 2.13 thereon. He advised that he would be requesting the establishment of a formal partnership with the police in this matter. Mr. Crellin cautioned that there would be financial implication in such a move.

Mr. Killey extended apologies for not attending the meeting.

C02/10/01/09

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 30th September 2002, be and are hereby received. It was further **RESOLVED** that the following resolution contained therein, requiring the consent of the Board, be approved:-

- 1. that the Onchan District Commissioners should no longer collect tyres, fridges and freezers either as part of their domestic/business collection service or their special collection service***

Mrs Kelly and Messrs Crellin, Killey, Norton and Watterson voted against.

C02/10/01/10

LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on Monday 23rd September 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. Skateboarding

Mr. Quirk proposed that the consideration of the private Minutes relating to skateboarding be brought into the public meeting for consideration. The proposal was seconded by Mrs. Kelly. A vote was taken and the proposal fell, with five votes, and the casting vote of the Chairman, recorded against.

2. LA/02/9/3(c) – Stadium Football Pitch

Mr. Watterson referred to the announcement on Manx Radio on the previous Saturday, that the Onchan Stadium football match had been postponed. He enquired whether the recent works to the football pitch were still seen as an improvement. On the suggestion of Mr. Quirk, it was agreed that this would be reported upon at the next meeting of the Leisure and Amenities .Committee.

The Chief Executive/Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from the secretary of Onchan AFC. The document was read to the meeting and it was noted that the Club had experienced some difficulty in obtaining specific public liability insurance in respect of the “tearoom” within the Stadium, at an acceptable cost. It went on to request that the Commissioners insurance cover the Club and that the cost of that insurance be added to the hiring charge.

The e-mail went on to request that there be a link established between the website of the Onchan District Commissioners and that of the Football Club.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that the Commissioners Public Liability Insurance covered the Commissioners and staff but could not be extended to members of the Football Club. He also confirmed that the Commissioners buildings insurance would cover against injury caused by defects in the property. The Commissioners insurance could not cover the members of the Football Club against accidents caused by their actions. He assumed that the Football Club would have Public Liability insurance

already, to cover the Club Members against claims in other activities. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Chief Executive/Clerk would discuss the matter with the Secretary of the Football Club.

In relation to the Commissioners providing an e-mail link to the website of the Football Club, Mr. Quirk commented that he thought that this was acceptable.

3. LA/02/9/10(d) – Commissioner Kelly

Mrs. Kelly enquired as to what was to happen to her suggestion about leaving the tennis courts unlocked during the winter. Mrs. Kelly stated that leaving the facility would mean that vandals would be deterred from damaging the fencing in order to gain entry. She felt that there were members of the public who would play tennis whether the nets were left up or not

Mr. Crellin enquired as to the purpose of the suggestion. Mr. Quirk expressed sympathy with the idea. Mr. Parkin felt that leaving the gates open would encourage activities other than tennis. Mr. Killey enquired as to who would be responsible for the wellbeing of those persons who availed themselves of the facility. The Chief Executive/Clerk responded and confirmed that if the Commissioners encouraged the use of the facility by leaving the gates unlocked, whether light or dark, the Commissioners would be responsible.

Mr. Quirk suggested that the topic be held over to discuss at the meeting with the Police, later in the week. After a further short discussion it was agreed that the matter would be linked to other topics to be discussed in Committee later that evening, and so the matter was held over until then.

4. LA/02/9/4(c) – Memorial Seats

Mr. Kennaugh advised that he had been thanked for permission granted for the siting of a memorial seat on behalf of Mr. Holt. He went on to enquire whether the Commissioners would permit the planting of a memorial tree in memory of another person. The Chief Executive/Clerk undertook to check whether there would be an opportunity at Heywood Court.

5. LA/02/9/11(b) – Christmas Trees

Mr. Killey expressed the hope that there would not be the annual saga in relation to the Christmas Trees for the Village. The Chairman advised that arrangements were in hand. Mr. Quirk enquired as to the date upon which the trees would be erected. The Chairman advised that the final date would have to be set after the other arrangements for the Festive Season had been made.

6. Memorial Tree

The Chairman advised that he had been approached by Mr. A. J. Earnshaw, MHK., who had suggested that he may be able to obtain a cutting from a Memorial tree, planted in Germany, in memory of the late Les Graham, TT competitor. Mr. Earnshaw had suggested that the cutting be planted in the Centenary Park, adjacent to the TT course. The Commissioners agreed that the matter could be progressed further.

C02/10/01/11

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

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

C02/10/01/12

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 7th October 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. PF02/10/01(a) – Internet and E-Mail Policy

Mr. Watterson commented that in the main, he agreed with the content of the draft policy, but asked that the Chief Executive/Clerk ensured that the policy was read and understood by all members of staff. He pointed out that a register should be kept of the signatures of all staff, who thereby signified that they had seen and understood the policy. *Noted.*

2. Refuse Disposal Charges

On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the recent developments in relation to the possibility of the introduction of

reuse disposal charges, already referred to in the private minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting of 7th October 2002, be considered in public.

The Chief Executive/Clerk reported that the Commissioners had received nothing in writing in the matter, but that recently, Mr. E. Lowey, MLC, Chairman elect of the Waste Management Board, had been interviewed by Manx Radio.

It was understood that in April 2003, the Waste Management Board would come into being and that the policy of Tynwald, known as “the polluter pays” principle, would be brought into effect. Charges would be levied for the disposal of all waste.

The Chief Executive/Clerk, however, understood that to effect the charges, Section 6 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act 2000 had to be activated by an Appointed Day Order and it was understood that this Order may be laid before Tynwald at its November sitting. It was further understood that if the Order was not “picked up” by a Member of Tynwald for debate, the Order would become law and would be operational. It was understood that the effect of the Order would be to allow the Waste Management Board to charge for all waste received at the disposal point and that charges would be effective from April 2003.

The Chief Executive/Clerk recalled that the issue had been previously discussed with the Department and the Commissioners had been assured that local authorities would be consulted in plenty of time, and that there had been an inference that the charges to local authorities would not be charged at the full rate. There may, for instance, be a grant system introduced, the effect of which would be that the charge would be reduced to perhaps 25% or 50%, the percentage not having been specified. The charges would be phased in.

It had been established, through the Local Government Management Unit of the Department of the Local Government and the Environment, from the Chief Executive of the Department, that there was no provision within the budget of the Department, for the payments of grants by that Department. It was further understood that not all of the details had been agreed by the Council of Ministers, which was to discuss the issue on Thursday 17th October 2002.

The Chief Executive/Clerk understood that the intent was that the charge to be levied for disposal at landfill, with effect from April 2003, was to be the same as would be paid at the Energy from Waste plant, when commissioned. Previous estimates of the charge that would be levied at the

Energy from Waste plant, ranged from £80 to £100 per tonne. He confirmed that in 2001, the Onchan District Commissioners had deposited 5527 tonnes of waste. At the rate of £80 per tonne, the additional cost of the introduction of the charge, on the rates of the Authority, would be £442,160, or a rate of 68 pence in the pound, an increase of 39%. At the rate of £100 per tonne, the cost would be £552,700, or a rate of 85 pence in the pound, an increase of 48%.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the Onchan District Commissioners were already commencing their estimate process for the 2003/04 financial year, and no information in relation to this issue had been forthcoming to date. He commented that the Commissioners had, for some years, been asking for early notification of any proposals for some years, but had received no comments.

Mr. Killey proposed that a letter be issued by the Chief Executive/Clerk, advising the Department of Local Government and the Environment of the concerns of the Onchan District Commissioners. In addition, that the letter be copied to the Members of Tynwald from the Onchan area, the press and to other Local Authorities. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Quirk.

Mrs. Kelly enquired whether the information meant that all households would pay the same. The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that the cost of the refusal disposal would have to be added to the rates charged of all households. The Commissioners already levied charges for the collection of trade waste. In relation to domestic refuse collection, the Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that most households had one wheeled bin with a capacity for 240 litres. There were a few 360 litre bins for larger households. Technology did now allow for the bins to be fitted with microchips to enable a computer on the wagon to record the weight of the bin as it was lifted. Households could then be charged on a quarterly or annual basis. Mrs. Kelly commented that such a scenario would certainly encourage households to recycle.

Mr. Quirk referred to the agreement between the Eastern District authorities and the Department of Local Government and the Environment for the operation of the Eastern Civic Amenity Site. The Department had previously undertaken to receive the waste deposited at the Civic Amenity Site without charge, but it now appeared that the agreement had been changed. He referred to a previous report issued by the Department of Local Government and the Environment in this regard. Mr. Quirk considered that the cost of waste disposal would be more appropriately borne through the income tax system and not via the rating system, as it was at present. He expressed disappointment that the Department had not entered into a consultation exercise with the local authorities. He added that the

Department had been aware of the Onchan District Commissioners wish to discuss the issue.

Mr. Astill agreed that the cost of waste disposal was better met through the taxation system.

Mr. Watterson reminded Members that the public already paid for the current cost of waste disposal in their income tax payments. He considered that it was unfair for the Department to levy a commercial rate of local authorities for the disposal of domestic waste, and that Government should provide grant aid to the authorities to give back the current charges. Furthermore, Mr. Watterson advocated that there should be no charges levied for waste disposal until all recycling facilities were up and running.

Mr. Parkin stated that the Onchan District Commissioners had always been forward thinking in relation to recycling issues, and in 1990, the authority undertook a trial kerbside collection of green waste. The Department had decided not to proceed with the scheme at that time, but had recently started anew. He suggested that the proposals were preposterous.

Mr. Crellin echoed the remarks of other Members in this regard.

The Chairman commented that this could mean a reduction in the number of waste collection authorities on the Island.

Mrs. Kelly advised that she had recently attended an event at Ballakermeen High School, at which the Minister for Local Government and the Environment had spoken. She had indicated that it was her view that whilst there were a number of smaller authorities around the Island, there could not be an integrated system. Mrs. Kelly wondered whether the collection of domestic waste should be left to Central Government to undertake.

Mr. Quirk reiterated that matters of this type had already been discussed between the local authorities and the Department of Local Government and the Environment, but that it appeared that this particular issue had not been discussed so far. He commented that the Onchan public appreciated the efforts of their local authority.

At the conclusion of the debate, it was **RESOLVED** that a letter be issued by the Chief Executive/Clerk, advising the Department of Local Government and the Environment of the concerns of the Onchan District

Commissioners. In addition, that the letter be copied to the Members of Tynwald from the Onchan area, the press and to other Local Authorities.

C02/10/01/13

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 7th October 2002, be and are hereby received. It was further **RESOLVED** that the resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board be approved as follows:-

1. *that the document be amended and adopted as this Authority's internet and e-mail policy*
2. *that the said payments from revenue account as detailed on the list attached to the minutes be endorsed.*

C02/10/01/14

RURAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2nd October 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matter was arising therefrom:-

1. **R/02/10/2(b) – Shooting Range – Slieu Lhost**

The Chairman of the Rural Committee, Mr. Watterson, explained the circumstances behind the planning difficulty in relation to the planting scheme at the Slieu Lhost shooting range.

C02/10/01/15

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 2nd October 2002, be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C02/10/01/16

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
02/0846	6 Dwellings to replace existing garages, Corner of Lhondhoo/Lhonvane Close	ODC Recommendation: Refusal Initial Planning Decision: Refusal Request for a review of decision received.
02/0696	Flat roofed extensions to side and rear of dwelling with balconies over, 2 King Edward Road	ODC Recommendation: Approval Initial Planning Decision: Refusal Request for a review of decision received.

PA Number	Description	Comment
02/0262	Change of use from workshop to dwelling at Alpine Mews, Strathallan Lane	ODC Recommendation: Refusal Planning Decision on Review: Refusal Appeal decision – dismissed and refusal of application confirmed – copy of decision to be circulated.
02/0504/A	Approval in Principle for dwelling at 14 Main Road	ODC Recommendation: Refusal Initial Planning Decision: Refusal Request for review of decision received.
02/0569/B	Dwelling at 19 Manor Park	ODC Recommendation: Approval Initial Planning Decision: Refusal Request for review of decision received.

2. Office of the Council of Ministers

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The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda, a copy of a letter received from the Secretary to the Council of Ministers, dated 3rd October 2002, explaining that the Council of Ministers were proposing some changes to Governments policy and Estimates process and that the proposals were being advanced under the heading of “Corporate Government and Business Planning”. It stated that the principal consequence of the changes was that a Government Corporate Plan

would be introduced each year in time for the Budget in February and that it would replace the Policy Document which had been traditionally circulated each October.

The letter went on to state that as part of the business planning process, it had been agreed that there should be a report produced annually to Tynwald, which would set out how Government had delivered the Government Plan throughout the previous year. The report would be published each October and would be known as the "Annual Report". It would be October 2004, following the end of the first year of the operation of the Isle of Man Government Corporate Plan, before such a document could be presented. Hence the 2004 Annual Report would be a report on the 2003/04 Isle of Man Government Corporate Plan performance. In the interim the Council of Ministers would produce an annual report on the previous year's activities, but not in the form of reports that would be produced from October 2004.

A copy of the 2002 report had been enclosed, in its interim form.

Mr. Quirk suggested that a copy of the report should be held by the Chief Executive/Clerk and a further copy should be placed in the Onchan Library. Finally, it was agreed that a third copy should be obtained and circulated to the Members for information.

3. Joint Women's Council (I.O.M.)

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The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda, a copy of a letter received from the Secretary and Treasurer of the Joint Women's Council (I.O.M.), dated 6th September 2002, which stated that at a recent meeting of the Joint Women's Council, some of the members had expressed concern about whether the local authorities knew of the existence of the Council. It explained that the Council had been in existence since 1977 and currently had a membership made up of delegates from nine women's organisations. The Council therefore represented over 3,500 of the women on the Island.

The letter explained that the Council's constitution stated that it should provide a common meeting ground for the exchange of information on matters of interest. In addition, it should promote and co-ordinate interest in Civic and Social questions in the Island and co-operate in schemes, as may be agreed, when approached by the Island Government and Local Authorities.

It stated that over the years the Council had been involved in many schemes on the Island. It confirmed that the purpose of the letter was to remind Commissioners of the existence of the Joint Women's Council and, in turn, for the Council to offer the Commissioners their help and co-operation in any matters which may be considered to be of mutual interest.

After a brief discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the letter be acknowledged, and an assurance be given that the Onchan District Commissioners would always be open to the suggestion of any schemes or ideas which might be made in respect of the Onchan District.

4. Police Consultative Forum – Membership of the Committee

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda, a copy of a letter dated 25th September 2002, from the Administrator and Secretary to the Police Consultative Forum. The letter confirmed that it was the end of tenure of appointment of the current membership of the Police Consultative Forum, on 31st October 2002. It advised that the purpose of the Forum was to obtain the views of the people of the Island with regard to the policing of the Island and the prevention of crime. Members of the Forum were required to have a sound understanding of their area of the Island together with the ability to work with the Isle of Man Constabulary and the Department of Home Affairs to improve Police and community relations.

The letter went on to confirm that the membership of the Forum acted as an independent body, with its own budget and was autonomous in its decision and recommendation making capacity. The secretarial and administrative function of the Forum was undertaken by the Department of Home Affairs, acting on the instruction of the Forum. An Inspector from the Isle of Man Constabulary was available to act as a point of liaison between the Forum and the Isle of Man Constabulary. The Forum had published four reports each containing recommendations that had been used by the Isle of Man Constabulary to ensure its plans for each year were adjusted to meet the needs of the Island's population.

It stated that the Department was now asking for nominations from or on behalf of individuals that wished to be considered for Membership of the Forum. In that connection both Members of Tynwald and Local Authorities were being approached with a view to providing nominations on behalf of persons that they considered would be suitable to serve on the Police Consultative Forum.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that one of the representatives of the Eastern Sector included Mrs. K. J. Corkill, former Onchan Commissioner. Mr. Quirk suggested and it was agreed that Mrs. Corkill be approached to ascertain whether she would be willing to be nominated for another term. Another name that was suggested was that of Mr. N. D. Caley, former Onchan District Commissioner.

The Chairman suggested that it was important for the nominees to understand that the meetings of the Forum may take place during normal working hours and it was agreed that the Chief Executive/Clerk should make enquiries in this regard and report back to the Board at an early date.

5. Isle of Man Constabulary

The Chief Executive/Clerk reported receipt of a letter, dated 9th October 2002, from the Chief Constable of the Isle of Man Constabulary, which he advised that with effect from Monday 6th January 2003, Inspector Paul Hoggett will become the Inspector in charge of "B" Division. The move was just one of a number of changes at Inspector level that the Chief Constable had made for various internal and operational reasons. He was confident that Inspector Hoggett would pursue the excellent work carried out by Inspector Peter Young. The Chief Constable trusted that the Commissioners and the Constabulary may continue to work closely for the benefit of the community of the future.

It was suggested that Inspector Hoggett, who would take responsibility for B Division, be invited to the meeting of the Commissioners with the police and the Department of Transport, although it was recognised that it would probably be too short notice.

C02/10/01/17

CLERK'S REPORT

None.

C02/10/01/18

DISTRICT SURVEYOR'S REPORT

None.

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C02/10/01/19

MOTIONS

1. Commissioner Mrs. E. J. C. Kelly moved:-

“(1) that this Authority is of the opinion that the “re-use facility” at the Eastern Civic Amenity Site where goods can be taken and made available for reuse by other people should be reinstated, and that.....

(2) the representatives of this Authority who are members of the Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee be instructed by this Authority to put forward a motion at the next meeting of the Joint Committee to reinstate the said facility.”

The Motion was seconded by Mr. Quirk.

Mrs. Kelly referred to the small reuse facility which had been operated at the Eastern District Civic Amenity site which had subsequently been withdrawn. She argued that the facility was successfully operated at other amenity sites across the Island, and stated that the facility should be reintroduced at the Eastern District facility.

Mr. Watterson advised that the Eastern Civic Amenity site presently occupied a very small site at the Snugborough Trading Estate. An open-sided shed had been provided from which a reuse operation had been undertaken. However, constraints on the operation due to the size of the site, meant that the shed had had to be used for the storage of fridges and freezers whilst there was a delay in disposing of those units. Once the issue of the disposal of fridges and freezers had been resolved, the reuse facility would be recommenced. The policy of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee had not been changed to withdraw the facility but it had not been practical to continue for the time being. It was already part of the policy of the Joint Committee and did not need, therefore, to be reinstated within policy. Mr. Watterson confirmed that this would not include electrical goods, which could not be included as the equipment had not been thoroughly checked.

Mrs. Kelly enquired whether the fridges and freezers had to be stored under cover. Mr. Watterson advised that they did not but that it was the only area on the site which could be safely used for this purpose. He also confirmed that the storage of these units was already taking place outside of the shed as well.

Mrs. Kelly enquired as to why electrical goods were not included in the reuse operation. Mr. Quirk advised that the Joint Committee had received confirmation from the Trading Standards office that it was unhappy about

the reuse of electrical goods. The question of legal indemnification was being investigated. The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the three participating authorities all had public liability insurance. There was no space for the reuse part of the facility. He confirmed that the policy had not changed to preclude a reuse facility.

Mrs. Kelly advised that she had recently collected some electrical goods from the Civic Amenity site in St. Johns. Mrs. Kelly did not believe that anyone would sue the Joint Committee should electrical equipment taken from the reuse facility subsequently not work. Mr. Watterson commented that this may be the case until there was an accident using the equipment.

Mr. Quirk suggested that the matter be raised again at the next meeting of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee. Mrs. Kelly reminded Members that the reuse operation would reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, and therefore, the charges to the authorities proposed for the disposal thereof.

M. Watterson gave an assurance that the question of the reuse of electrical equipment would be raised at the next meeting of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee. Mr. Killey advised that he was opposed to the introduction of the reuse of electrical goods at the Civic Amenity Site.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8.50pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 24th October 2002 beginning at 7.05 p.m.

Present: Mr M.J. Kennaugh (Chairman)
Mr S.T. Black, J.P.
Mr D. Crellin
Mrs E.J.C. Kelly
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)

H02/10/01/01
MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday 16th September 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

H02/10/01/02
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

-
None.

-
H02/10/01/03
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

-
None.

-
H02/10/01/04
HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES BUSINESS

-
1. Maintenance Report

-
The report of the Housing Maintenance Manager, in relation to housing and other estates business, copies of which having been circulated with the agenda was noted. There were no matters arising therefrom.

2. Deputy Clerk's Report

-
None.

3. H02/09/01/04(3)(a) – Abandoned Cars, Nursery Avenue

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that a number of vehicles had been removed already and that the vehicle which had suffered fire damage was to be removed shortly.

4. H02/09/01/04(3)(b) – Lane, Rear Nursery Avenue

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that debris was still evident within the land which was the site of the former Nursery Hotel. He confirmed that arrangements would be made for the removal of any debris which had been left on the fringe of that land. It was **RESOLVED**:-

That a letter should be issued to the residents of Nursery Avenue, advising of the action taken in relation to the lane. Further, that the residents be requested not to leave their wheeled refuse bin in the laneway after collection.

5. **H02/09/01/04(3)(c) – Footpaths, Ashley Park**

The Deputy Clerk reported his understanding that the question of the condition of the footpaths within Ashley Park had been discussed with the Department of Transport at the joint meeting between the Commissioners and representatives of that Department which had taken place on 17th October 2002. The Deputy Clerk understood that the representatives had undertaken to investigate the condition of the footpaths and carry out any necessary patching thereof to eliminate danger. However, a full scheme would be considered for the repair of the footpaths in that area in due course.

6. **H02/09/01/04(3)(d) – Street Light, Ashley Park**

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that a request had been passed to the District Surveyor for the Works and Cleansing Committee to consider the incorporation of an extending arm to the lamp head of the lamp in front of the bungalows within Ashley Park, to extend the light its self away from the trees within which it currently sat.

7. **H02/09/01/04(3)(j) – Concrete Apron, Ballachrink Drive Flats**

The Deputy Clerk understood that the question of creating a lay by in front of the Ballachrink Drive flats had been discussed with representatives of the Department of Transport at the recent joint meeting between the Department and the Onchan District Commissioners. During those discussions it was understood that the Department confirmed that Isle of Man Transport did not favour the introduction of bus lay bys and that as such, it was unlikely that the Department would be able to participate in a scheme to assist with the concrete apron.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that no provision had been made within the final budget for the current financial year in relation to that area and that

the matter would once again have to be considered for inclusion in the estimates for 2003/04.

8. **H02/09/01/04(4) – Ashley Park – Trees**

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that all works in relation to the felling and limbing of trees to the rear of the bungalows within Ashley Park had been completed. A notice prohibiting the disposal of waste material in that area had yet to be erected. Arrangements would also be made to clear any debris in that area on a one-off basis.

9. **H02/09/01/04(7) – Nursery Avenue Lane – Hedge**

-
The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that arrangements had been made with a Contractor to take away that portion of the hedge at the Nursery Avenue lane which had been damaged, and to replace same with a post and wire fence so as to simply mark the boundary of the property in question. It appeared that the damage had been caused by heavy vehicles traveling in that lane.

10. **Complaint – Rubbish in Molly Quirk’s Glen**

The Deputy Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of correspondence received from a rate payer, complaining about the disposal of household waste over the bank to the rear of the Ballachrink Drive houses, and in to Molly Quirk’s Glen. The Deputy Clerk had written to the tenants of the Commissioners’ properties abutting Molly Quirk’s Glen in the area, and had asked that they notify the Commissioners of any instances where they witnessed waste being disposed off from the rear footway and into Molly Quirk’s Glen in order that this may be investigated further.

H02/10/01/05

SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

-
1. **Maintenance Report**

-
A report had been prepared in relation to maintenance matters at Springfield Court by the Housing Maintenance Manager, such report having been circulated to the Members with the agenda. The report was noted and there were no matters arising therefrom.

H02/10/01/06

GARAGE MATTERS

-
None.

H02/10/01/07

PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE

None.

H02/10/01/08

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 that Committee. It was also noted that all electrical appliances and safety equipment would be prepared for inspection on 31st October 2002.

H02/10/01/09

OFFICERS REPORT

None.

H02/10/01/10

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

H02/10/01/11

FINANCIAL MATTERS

-
The Chief Finance Officer had prepared financial reports in respect of income and expenditure for the activities of the Housing Committee for the current financial year to date. There were no matters arising therefrom.

H02/10/01/12

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

-
None considered this month.

H02/10/01/13

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

-
H02/10/01/14

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Commissioners' Surgery**

-
It was noted that the next Commissioners' Surgery would take place on Thursday 21st November 2002 commencing at 6.30 p.m.

2. **Date of Next Meeting**

-
It was noted that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 25th November 2002, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.59 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS & CLEANSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 28th October 2002 at 7.00pm.

Present: Messrs H.L.G. Parkin (Chairman) Mr D. Crellin, Mr D.J. Quirk, Mr J.K. Watterson and Mr S.T. Black JP

In attendance: Mr J.E.S. Smith (Chief Executive/Clerk), Mr E.K. Convery (District Surveyor)

-
WC/02/10/1

NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

-
The Chairman referred to the recent discussion by the Board with regard to committees. He stated that if any member of the Board who was not a member of the Works and Cleansing Committee had an interest in a particular subject and wished to attend a meeting of the committee to join in the discussion on that particular subject that he would have no objection. He clarified however that any such attendance by a non committee member would be for consideration of a specific subject only and not for the entire meeting and that that member would

not have a vote. Members generally agreed with the Chairman's view but Mr Quirk reserved his remarks for the Board meeting.

WC/02/10/2

MINUTES

- **Minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.**

- **WC/02/10/3**

MATTERS ARISING

- There were no matters arising from the public minutes other than those items listed separately on the agenda paper.

- **WC/02/10/4**

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from previous meetings for discussion in public other than items listed separately on the agenda paper.

WC/02/10/5

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 matters being discussed further:-**

- i) **Staff Vacancy**

- **The Building Control Officer confirmed that a collector in the department with a HGV driving licence had been promoted to the position of driver and that the collector's position presently filled by a temporary employee would be filled on a permanent basis in due course.**

- ii) **Delays**

The Building Control Officer was pleased to advise that the collection service had returned to normal following the recent problems with staff and vehicles.

iii) New Vehicle

It was confirmed that the new refuse collection vehicle was due to be delivered in the week commencing 11th November 2002.

iv) Charging for Waste Disposal

The Clerk reported copy correspondence from Douglas Corporation, Braddan Parish Commissioners and Port St Mary Commissioners to the Department of Local Government and the Environment with regard to the proposed introduction of charges by the department for waste disposal by local authorities.

Read letter from Mr E. Lowey MLC the Chairman Designate of the Waste Management Board confirming that the board would come into being on 1st April 2003 and that it had long been the intention of the department that local authorities would be charged for waste disposal. The Waste Operations Management Unit of the department had carried out a considerable amount of work to ascertain the true cost of disposing of waste on the Island and had concluded that this approximated to £100 per tonne or roughly £2 per week per household. The department was proposing to submit draft proposals to the Council of Ministers on the subject of charging for waste and these would include various options for charging. Acknowledging the fact that it was the Island's population that must bear the cost of waste disposal Mr Lowey stated that the key question was the extent to which this should be met through the domestic rates and over what period the cost should be phased in. He sought the views of local authorities on this important subject in the knowledge that they had been made aware previously in general terms that the introduction of charges through the rates was envisaged. The views of local authorities were requested within two weeks of the date of the letter so that they could be taken into account by the department in deciding how best to move forward.

A discussion ensued during which it was agreed that an acknowledgement be sent to Mr Lowey expressing the view that less than ten working days was too short notice for local authorities to prepare their submissions on this very important subject. The Chairman of the Board agreed to call an extraordinary meeting of the Commissioners to consider the matter to commence at 5.30pm on Tuesday 5th November 2002.

-

v) Kerbside Collection of Green Waste

-

There was a discussion on the possible introduction of a scheme for the kerbside collection of green waste now that the Department of Local Government and the Environment had established a composting facility at the Southern Civic Amenity Site. Reference was made to the fact that Onchan had on a number of occasions advised the department that they wished to introduce such a scheme if the department was to provide the composting facility. This had followed a pilot scheme which the Commissioners had operated for a nine month period in conjunction with the department in 1991/92.

-

Discussions had recently taken place between Douglas Corporation, Braddan Parish Commissioners and Onchan District Commissioners with regard to the possible introduction of kerbside collection of green waste by the three authorities and such a scheme would have more relevance with the introduction of waste disposal charges.

-

The Clerk referred to the fact that a new refuse collection vehicle was due to be delivered to this Authority in November which was intended to replace a 1995 Seddon RCV. If the older vehicle was retained for a limited period it could be used to commence the kerbside collection of green garden waste although there would still be an additional cost implication with the purchase of additional bins for those residents participating in the scheme and with the employment of additional staff in order to undertake the collections.

-

After discussion it was agreed that this subject should also be placed on the agenda for consideration at the extraordinary meeting of the Board to be held on 5th November 2002.

-

The Clerk was requested to prepare a full report for the information of members on the proposed introduction of waste

disposal charges and the possible introduction of a kerbside collection of green waste.

-
WC/02/10/6

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 following points being discussed further

i) Church Avenue and Church Road

It was confirmed that the installation of new street lighting columns in Church Avenue was complete and that instructions had been given to the contractor to progress the proposed street lighting improvement works in Church Road.

ii) King Edward Road/Port Jack

The Surveyor confirmed that the replacement of street lighting columns on King Edward Road from the Douglas boundary to Port Jack had commenced.

iii) Street Light Cul-de-Sac Ashley Park

The Surveyor confirmed that instructions had been given for an angle joint to be fitted to the street lamp which was obscured by a tree in the cul-de-sac at Ashley Park.

WC/02/10/7

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 matters being discussed further:-

-
i) Flooding Summerhill Road

-

Copies had been circulated of a letter from a resident of Summerhill Road concerning further problems of flooding which affected the properties numbered 82, 84 and 86. This was a recurring problem and the District Surveyor advised that it would be investigated in order to establish what remedial work was required and by whom.

-
ii) Flooding Church Road

-
Copies had been circulated of a letter from a resident of Church Road with regard to the flooding on 21st October 2002 at "The Butt", Church Road. The resident asked a number of questions and expressed the view that there was a need to get a clear and full understanding of how the flood happened and what could be done to prevent it in the future.

-
The Surveyor reported that the flood had occurred during exceptional rainfall which had caused flooding at a number of locations throughout the Island. He referred to the fact that there was an old millrace which ran alongside the Village Green and entered a storm water sewer at that point which passed under Church Road and on down Royal Avenue. At a time of exceptional rainfall the storm water sewer was insufficient to cope with the volume of water that travelled down the millrace and floodwater emanated from this bottleneck.

-
The Surveyor referred to the phase 3 report of the Drainage Area Study which indicated the options available for relieving the flooding problems experienced in Derwent Drive, Church Road and Royal Court. Of the six options considered three were discounted due to impracticalities of actually carrying out the necessary works and the preferred option was for upsizing the existing sewers through the back of Royal Court and down Royal Avenue at an estimated cost of some £500,000. The Department of Transport was considering the matter. It was however difficult to design a system that would cope in such exceptional conditions as occurred on 21st October 2002.

-
The Surveyor was requested to reply to the residents of Church Road and Summerhill Road advising what action was being taken concerning the problems of which they had complained.

iii) Sewer Outfall

The Chairman requested clarification with regard to the use of the sewer outfalls in Douglas Bay following the completion of the IRIS Scheme. The Surveyor advised that the outfalls would act as a safety valve overflow when the storage tanks were unable to cope with the amount of storm water following substantial and exceptional rainfall entering the IRIS System. Note: At the present time the Conister Outfall was still in daily operation pending completion of the Meary Veg treatment works and connecting mains/pumping stations.

WC/02/10/8

PLANNING MATTERS

a) **Planning Communications**

There was one planning application where the decision of the Planning Committee differed from the recommendation of the commissioners viz:-

PA 02/00631 Alterations and extension to dwelling 6 Groudle Road -

The commissioners had recommended refusal but the Planning Committee had approved the application on Review. After consideration it was decided not to lodge an Appeal against the decision.

The following three communications were noted

PA 02/00504 Approval in principle for erection of dwelling Greenfields, 14 Main Road – Refused by the Planning Committee as recommended by the Commissioners – Applicant had lodged an Appeal.

PA 02/0304 Erection of apartment building Park Hotel, Royal Avenue – Application was to conform with planning conditions –detail of railings.

PA 02/0186 Development of land off Kerrocoar Drive – Planting/landscaping detail lodged to conform with planning conditions.

b) **Applications**

- i) The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Works and Cleansing Committee held on 26th September 2002 called to consider planning applications copies of which having previously been circulated were taken as read confirmed and signed.

ii) **New Applications**

After consideration it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Planning Committee of the Department of Local Government and the Environment that the following applications be approved:

PA 02/1408 - 6 Maple Avenue – Erection of conservatory

-

PA 02/1429 - 5 Furman Close – Fix new garage door to existing car port

c) **Building Control**

There were no matters for discussion or consideration.

-

WC/02/10/9

HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

a) **Blackberry Lane/Summerhill Road – Option 4 – Mini Roundabout**

The Committee considered a plan submitted by the Department of Transport showing a possible traffic management scheme for the junction of Summerhill Road and Blackberry Lane. The plans showed a widening of the junction and the installation of a mini roundabout. Members referred to drainage problems that occur during heavy rainfall at this particular junction and felt that the proposed scheme would be an opportunity to improve the drainage in the area. After further discussion it was

***RESOLVED**

“that the Department of Transport be advised that the Commissioners are in agreement with the proposed scheme for the creation of a mini roundabout at the junction of Blackberry Lane and Summerhill Road subject to necessary drainage works being carried out and an appropriate relocation adjacent to the site of the public seat”.

Note: The standard of street lighting at the junction may have to be improved.

- WC/02/10/10

FURTHER REPORTS

- There were no further reports from the Clerk or Surveyor.

- WC/02/10/11

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

- None.

- WC/02/10/12

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Copies of the list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting and after due consideration was noted.

- WC/02/10/13

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no matters referred by the Board or other committees but Mr Quirk referred to the submission made by the Commissioners to the Department of Local Government and the Environment with regard to proposed changes in the planning procedures. Although he was not in attendance at the Board meeting when the submission was agreed he advised that contrary to the submission made by the Board he was of the opinion that the Planning Committee should meet in public – Noted.

Mr Watterson advised that he had attended the meeting of local authority representatives held in St Johns to discuss the proposed changes in the planning procedures. Representatives of six authorities had attended the meeting and it had been agreed that each of those authorities submissions be circulated to the other authorities attending – Noted.

WC/02/9/14

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Quirk reported the following matters for the attention of the District Surveyor:

Marion Court Lane condition

Kaighens Lane – overgrown hedges

Nursery Avenue Lane – litter etc

a) **Meeting Date**

- It was agreed that the next meeting of the committee be held at 7pm on Monday 2nd December 2002.

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There being no further business the meeting terminated 10.13pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 4th November 2002 at 7.00pm.

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

- **In attendance:** Mark Williams (Administration) and Ray Quane (Amenities Officer)

LA/02/11/1

MINUTES

- **Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.**

LA/02/11/2

MATTERS ARISING

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

LA/02/11/3

PLAYGROUNDS/PARKS

-

a) **Playground Log Books**

-

The Amenities Officer confirmed that the playground log books were available for signing by the Chairman.

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) **Park Roundabout**

Having noted that repairs had been carried out to the roundabout at the park, Mr Quirk commented that the unit was passed its prime, and that the commissioners should look to replace that unit. Mr Watterson commented that the "rocking horse" unit within the park should also be replaced.

ii) **Football Pitch**

Further to his report, the Amenities Officer confirmed that the recent works to the football pitch appeared to have been working well, adding that the pitch was taking some two to three days to recover following a two or three day wet spell. Furthermore, Onchan AFC were being very responsible in their approach to the use of the pitch, acknowledging that play thereupon in dubious conditions may well damage the pitch to the extent that it could not be used for some time thereafter.

Mr Quirk commented that the camera survey had yet to be completed in relation to the football pitch drainage, and also suggested that some additional jetting may be necessary. Mr Watterson made reference to the tail drains and a discussion ensued as to whether holes should be created, perhaps outside of the pitch, to view the condition thereof. It was, however, agreed that no works be undertaken to the tail drains at present, whilst the pitch was in use.

Mr Quirk advised that he was aware of a machine which could be used to identify where the drains were within the pitch, such machine operating in a similar fashion to radar.

It was agreed that a further report in relation to the works for the pitch be submitted to the committee at its next meeting.

iii) Changing Room – Showers

The Amenities Officer advised that the price of the replacement units, of the type specified by the commissioners, had yet to be confirmed. Mr Quirk estimated the cost to be in region of £1,500 for materials, but the time of the contractor in fitting the units would have to be added. Mr Quirk urged the committee to proceed with the project. The Deputy Clerk, however, was unaware of specific funding being available for the works from within the current budget, and in the absence of the Administrative Officer and the Finance Officer, had been unable to confirm funding could be found from within that budget.

iv) Lady Taverners Playground

In his report, the Amenities Officer had advised the committee that the play train in phase 1 of the scheme was in need of some major repair work. He had identified a budget price of £10,300 for replacement with a similar unit coated in high-density plastic, which would help to reduce maintenance thereupon. Mr Watterson reminded members that the principle behind the Lady Taverners Playground was that it should be used both by able bodied and disabled children and confirmed that the commissioners should retain that concept. Mr Quirk also referred to a springer which had been removed and which required replacement. He suggested that a budget of £15,000 may be required to achieve the replacements. He added that when considering replacement of the springer, units were now available which could be utilised by the disabled and suggested that this to should be borne in mind.

Mr Norton expressed some concern with regard to the standard of lighting at the Lady Taverners Playground.

Mr Watterson made reference to the commissioners wish to proceed to introduce phase 3 of the playground development at Onchan Park and suggested that the works to the Taverners

Playground and the previously discussed replacement of the roundabout and “rocking horse” could be incorporated into a larger scheme. It was

RESOLVED

“that the replacement of old playground equipment at Onchan Park, together with the play train and springer units within the Lady Taverners Playground, and the standard of lighting, be referred to an extraordinary meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee for detailed consideration”.

v) Tractor Bucket

Upon noting that the tractor bucket sited at the rear of the garage within the park did not belong to the commissioners but to one of the concessionaires within the park, it was agreed that the concessionaire be asked to relocate the tractor bucket to a more appropriate location.

Mr Watterson suggested, and it was agreed, that the spiker, which had also been left within the stadium, should be removed and properly stored.

c) Pennington Hall

The Deputy Clerk advised of his understanding that the District Surveyor had commenced arrangements for the drawing of plans, obtaining of estimates etc.

Mr Norton advised that he had again been contacted by a resident with regard to the untidiness of the yard at Pennington Hall, particularly referring to the benches stacked therein. Mr Quirk confirmed that he had recently visited that yard and that there had not been much in way of improvement following a previous visit. Mr Quirk suggested that a large skip be brought in and any waste material be disposed of.

Mr Norton asked that the District Surveyor contact the complainant, of whom he was aware, to advise of the latest circumstances.

Mr Quirk expressed concerns relating to internal storage within the Pennington Hall building. It was

RESOLVED

“that the Leisure and Amenities Committee would meet in approximately one month, to carry out a further inspection of Pennington Hall”.

d) **STRI Report**

The Amenities Officer confirmed that works to the bowling greens were continuing in accordance with the recommendations within the report.

e) **Jubilee Playground**

-

The Deputy Clerk advised that the extraordinary meeting of the committee in relation to the Jubilee Playground had yet to be convened and would await the return of the Administrative Officer following his recent absence.

f) **School Road Recreation Ground**

-

The Amenities Officer confirmed that the goalposts had been painted white and fitted as required.

LA/02/11/4

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 points being discussed further:-

i) **Christmas Trees**

It was noted that the Christmas trees for Lazy Corner, the Commissioners Office and Springfield Court were to be delivered on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th November 2002.

ii) **Small Christmas Trees**

The Amenities Officer reported receipt of 31 requests for the small Christmas trees to be provided, and approximately a dozen or so responses had yet to be received.

It was further noted that a list of those properties taking part in the scheme would be provided to Mr Black, and that it was envisaged that preparations for all Christmas trees and decorative lighting would commence on Monday 25th November 2002 which would be operational for Monday 2nd December 2002. Upon enquiry by the Deputy Clerk, the Amenities Officer confirmed that the testing of the small sets of lights for the small trees would be carried out by the Amenities Officer and Mr Black. He anticipated the need to replace 8 to 10 sets of lights. The Amenities Officer also confirmed that the parks staff would place the lights upon the small Christmas trees, but the connection of the lights to the electricity supply would be the responsibility of the occupier.

iii) Rotary Topper/Mowers

The Amenities Officer corrected the typographical error and confirmed the budget price of £1,264. In answer to enquiry, the Amenities Officer confirmed that he did not consider the purchase of the rotary topper/mowers to be necessary.

b) Port Jack Glen

Mr Quirk commented that it was unlikely that any works would be carried out to Port Jack Glen until the next financial year. He sought the resurfacing and widening of footpaths, together with the installation of ducting to allow the placement of electricity cabling therein. He suggested that prices be obtained for the works to be carried out.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that he had spoken with the District Surveyor with regard to the wish of the committee in relation to the lower entrance to the glen, and the placement of the name "Port Jack Glen" on the shelter at the bottom of Royal Avenue.

c) Memorial Seats

The Amenities Officer confirmed that the necessary works in relation to the memorial seats had been completed.

d) Jubilee Playground

-

The Deputy Clerk was unable to confirm any progress in relation to the hand over of land.

e) Centenary Park

- The Deputy Clerk reported his understanding that arrangements with Mr Pearn from Rainbow Borders, in relation to the provision and planting of oak trees in lower triangle were in hand.

Mr Black reminded officers of the offer from Mr Earnshaw, MHK , in relation to the provision of a cutting from an oak tree, which the Board had agreed should be taken up.

- LA/02/11/5

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

- a) Amenities Officer's Report

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

i) **Main Road – Gents**

After noting detail of the damage caused to the gents toilets on Main Road, and that work to repair the units had yet to be completed, Mr Quirk enquired whether an estimate of the cost of damage had been prepared.

The Amenities Officer reported further damage caused to public conveniences, the previous evening, when a toilet pan had been shattered within the Port Jack facilities. These were now locked as well. Members instructed that repairs to the public conveniences be expedited.

In answer to enquiry from Mr Watterson, the Amenities Officer confirmed that the reason why the ladies toilets had been closed was that the water supply had had to be disconnected at the stop tap, the supply serving both sets of toilets. This was to be investigated.

ii) **Park Stadium – Toilets**

It was noted that there was no supply of hot water to either the gents or ladies toilets at the Park Stadium, both water heaters having failed. Mr Quirk suggested that the possibility of connecting the provision of hot water within the ladies toilets to the same

supply as that for the new shower units within the stadium be investigated. It was recognised, however, that the gents would still require a separate heater.

LA/02/11/6

PUBLIC LIBRARY

-
a) **Librarian's Report**

-
Copies of the Librarian's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

b) **Amenities Officer's Report**

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

i) **Fire Exit Lighting**

After noting the replacement of the fire exit lights, Mr Quirk sought and was given confirmation that the Librarian was responsible for the maintenance of the necessary fire precautions log book.

LA/02/11/7

PROMOTIONS/ADVERTISING/PUBLIC INFORMATION

-
There were no matters arising for discussion.

LA/02/11/8

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

-
a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

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

i) **Radiators**

Consideration was still awaited to the question of the radiators in the Sports Hall.

ii) Sports Hall Lighting

Upon noting the report of the commissioners' electrical contractor that the lighting units within the sports hall of the community centre were showing signs of deterioration. It was agreed that provision be made within the estimates, for consideration by the Board, of an amount to cover the replacement of the lighting units, as suggested by the contractor.

iii) Fascia Board

The Amenities Officer confirmed that he had received a budget price for the replacement of the fascia boards around the community centre and it was agreed that financial provision be made within the estimates, for consideration by the Board, for the replacement of fascia units at the community centre.

iv) Curtains

The Amenities Officer had confirmed that the curtains within the community centre had begun to deteriorate, and ought to be replaced. A budget price for such replacement had been received and it was agreed, once again, that financial provision be made within the estimates, for consideration by the Board, for the replacement of the curtains within the community centre.

v) Drainage

Members were aware of difficulties with drainage of surface water from the car park, and particularly from the area at the bottom of the ramp near to the lower entrance alongside the sports hall. The Amenities Officer had obtained a budget price for works to be undertaken in that area, to create a gully to allow water to soak away from that area and into the playing field area. It was agreed that financial provision be made within the estimates, for consideration by the Board, for works to be undertaken to improve drainage from the area of the lower entrance to the sports hall.

vi) Ramp - Handrail

The Amenities Officer confirmed continuing difficulties with the handrail which had been fitted to the wall alongside the newly installed ramp. Proper fixing of the handrail to the sand and lime brick had proved difficult and investigation as to the necessary remedial works, was underway including the question of the inadequacy of the fixings.

- LA/02/11/9

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

- No list of outstanding matters had been circulated due to the absence of the Administrative Officer.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that no correspondence had been received. Mr Quirk raised the following matter:-

i) **Green Waste**

Mr Quirk enquired as to the procedure adopted by management for the disposal of green waste. The Amenities Officer confirmed that a disposal arrangement was in place with a contractor for the receipt of grass cuttings and the like, for a reasonable cost, the material having to be delivered to the contractor at his own site in Braddan. Where possible, materials such as tree branches were shredded using the commissioners own machinery although, due to the stiff health and safety brushes in place at the head of the shredding unit, the branches had to be robust enough to pass through those brushes before shredding. There were occasions when smaller branches had to be disposed of in the same manner as grass cuttings, before shredding, because they would not pass through the equipment.

Mr Quirk suggested and it was **RESOLVED**

“as a matter of policy all garden materials such as branches etc should be shredded before being passed on to the next stage of disposal”.

Mr Quirk also questioned the necessity for two staff to be involved in the transportation of the material from Onchan to the disposal site in Braddan.

- LA/02/11/10

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Date of Next Meeting

- Monday 9th December 2002 at 7pm.
-

Meeting terminated 10.35pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICYANDFINANCECOMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom at Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday, 11th November 2002, at 7.00 p.m.

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

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

PF02/11/01

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting held on 7th October 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PF02/11/02

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.

PF02/11/03

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

PF02/11/04

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. Rates Collected

It was noted that the total estimated collectable rates and cash received in the current financial year to 5th November 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 5 th November 2002 less refunds	£1,038,760 (94.57%)

Comparative figures

2001/02 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,031,869
2001/02 collected to 5 th November 2001 less refunds	£ 984,136 (95.37%)

2. Revenue Account Payments

The list of payments from revenue account during the month of October 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.***

PF02/11/05

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

1. Rateable Values – Rural Ward of Onchan District

Copies had been circulated of a letter from the Treasury Valuation Office with regard to a list of properties in the Rural Ward which the Commissioners had forwarded to the Valuation Office for enquiries to be made in connection with rating valuation classification. Enquiries had been made at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and

as a consequence a number of properties which were listed had been reclassified as residential and had been included on the 1st December 2002 supplemental rating list. There were other properties which continued to make yearly agricultural returns to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and these therefore retained their agricultural rating status. Two properties had been included on the December supplemental valuation list at zero rate due to their condition.

Clerk confirmed that the letter had been reported to the Rural Committee and it was agreed that the same be noted.

2. Third Supplemental Rating Valuation List 2002

-

Copies had been circulated of the third supplemental rating list which had been received from the Treasury Valuation Office. In addition to the properties in the Rural Ward as referred to in the previous item it was noted that a number of new properties were listed including the apartments at Heywood Court, Corrin House (Manx Blind Welfare) a number of the Majestic Apartments and the new office block on the Douglas Bay Hotel site. Subject to final valuation the net rateable value of the district would increase by £23,957. *Noted.* _

PF02/11/06

MATTERS REFERRED BY COMMISSIONERS/OTHER COMMITTEES

1. Standing Orders

-

The Board had referred to the Committee for consideration the suggestion that Standing Orders be varied to require ordinary meetings of the Board to finish no later than 11.00 p.m..

During discussion it was pointed out that should only a short time be required to complete the business at such meetings that it could be proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to complete the business but Members were in agreement with the exception of Mr Black that meetings should not generally finish later than 11.00 p.m..

Clerk advised that it was necessary for a Notice of Motion to be put before the Board to add, vary or amend Standing Orders and that such motion had to be proposed and seconded at a meeting and debate deferred until the following ordinary meeting of the Board.

Mr Kennaugh undertook to submit a Notice of Motion in the matter.

2. Consideration of Plans

Arising from consideration of the preceding matter it was agreed that all planning applications should be considered by the Works and Cleansing Committee under delegated powers and only proposed large developments or potentially controversial applications should be referred to the Board for consideration.

PF02/11/07

RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY OR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

PF02/11/08

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for consideration in public.

PF02/11/09

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be held at 5.30 p.m. on Monday 16th December 2002.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8.05 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Wednesday 6th November 2002 at 5.19pm.

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

Apologise: Mrs E.J. C. Kelly

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

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R/02/11/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2002, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

R/02/11/2
MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) **Beating the Bounds**

-

The Building Control Officer advised that there was nothing further to report on any of the items noted during the visit or subsequently raised. Mr Moore commented that nothing seemed to be happening at the Peveril Motorcycle Club Scramble Track which was confirmed by Mr Bulley. There was nothing to report in respect of the break up of the road surface in this area which had been referred to DoT.

b) **Shooting Range – Slieu Lhost**

The Building Control Officer again advised that there was nothing further to report it was now a matter between Planning Enforcement and the applicants in respect of screen planting. After a further brief discussion it was agreed that this item should be removed from the future agendas unless there was something to report.

c) **DoT Matters**

-

The Administrative Officer and Chairman reported on the recent joint meeting of the commissioners with representatives of DoT and the police. With regard to the Scollag Road there had been no expenditure on this scheme during the current financial year but the department were contemplating a larger scheme which would come into operation in two years time. There was also suggestion of road build outs to restrict the

speed of traffic even further although the chairman felt this could present traffic delays if motor vehicles were held up behind horse drawn vehicles.

Drainage Work on the Coanrhenne Road had been successfully undertaken. Instructions had been given for work to be undertaken on the Abbeylands Road and the various site huts etc had now been installed in advance. With regard to the setting back of the hedge around Brandish Corner this work was held in abeyance as the lizards were now hibernating.

R/02/11/3

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Planting at the Pinfold

-

The Administrative Officer reported that this had been discussed at the recent joint meeting of DoT and the police and it was accepted that in fact there was a good hawthorn hedge around the perimeter of the site which provided a perfect screen during the summer but obviously in the winter without the leaves presented a different picture. DoT had promised however to keep the site as tidy as possible. Under the circumstances it was agreed that the item should be removed from the list of outstanding matters.

R/02/11/4

MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

-

Nil.

R/02/11/5

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

R/02/11/6

PLANNING MATTERS

-

a) Planning Decisions

The Building Control Officer reported receipt of the following planning decisions at the initial stage:-

PA 02/986 Approval in principle for conversion and extension of building to form dwelling at Ballacashin Farm, Abbeylands for Mr & Mrs G. Owen – Refused on the grounds that the cottage’s habitable and residential status has already been used to justify the newer bungalow “Ballacashin” and any reestablishment of the residential use in the derelict cottage would thus be in conflict with the original application for the bungalow as well as representing the development of a new dwelling which would be contrary to the provisions of the Onchan Local Plan.

- There was a note attached to the refusal advising the applicant that Japanese Knotweed is believed to exist on the site and DAFF should be consulted in order to properly dispose of this evasive plant which is prevented by the Wildlife Act 1990 – Noted.

b) Reviews

- The Building Control Officer reported that a Review had been sought in respect of

PA 02/986 Approval in principle for the conversion and extension to dwelling, Ballacashin, Abbeylands

After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED

“to continue with the opposition to this application on the grounds previously stated”.

R/02/11/7

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 11th December 2002 at 5.15pm.

b) Enamona Road

- Mr Moore pointed out that that the road sign on the Enamona Road was hanging off one of its supports. Matter to be rectified.

c) Begoade Road

Mr Bulley made reference to the recent all Island flooding and in particular regard to Begoade Road. He accepted that sometime ago DoT extended the drainage by placing gullies higher up the road but he noticed that during the flood conditions that the water was running straight over the gullies and consequently flooding occurred to property lower down on the road. He suggested that perhaps that the drains could be further extended and additional gullies placed even higher up the road in an effort to catch some of the water. He also made reference to what would appear to be a natural drainage route into an adjoining field being blocked by debris. After further consideration it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Department of Transport to see if there was any way that the position could be remedied and Mr Bulley offered to meet representatives of the department to indicate the problem.

d) **Waste Oil Storage**

-

The Building Control Officer reported that a letter had been received from government in respect of sites for temporary waste oil storage one of which was in the Rural Ward at the Pinfold Site. Some concern was expressed over the fact that this joined a watercourse but members were advised that the system of storage was such that waste oil would not escape. After further consideration it was

***RESOLVED**

“to recommend to the Board that the Rural Committee has no objection to the temporary use of the Pinfold Site for the storage of waste oil containers”.

Meeting terminated 6.26pm.