

IN PUBLIC

3rd October 2003

PLEASE NOTE:

1. *That the attached Minutes have yet to be confirmed by the Authority/Committees as true and correct record of proceedings at the various meetings; and*
2. That the resolutions of the various Committees, marked with an asterisk (*), are subject to the approval of the Authority.

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

*IN PUBLIC***ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**

*Hawthorn Villa,
Main Road, Onchan.*

IN PUBLIC

3rd October 2003

Sir/Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend an ORDINARY meeting of the Authority to be held in the boardroom at the offices of the Board to transact the undernoted business at:

7.00 p.m. on Monday, 6th October, 2003

which will be followed by a meeting of the Board in Committee.

Yours faithfully,

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

AGENDA

The order of business at every meeting of the authority shall be in accordance with that laid down in Standing Order No 4 unless varied by the Chairman at his discretion or by a resolution duly moved and seconded and passed on a motion which shall be moved and put without discussion.

1. To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the:-
 - 1.1 Ordinary meeting held on 1st September 2003 *(Minutes - APPENDIX 2)*

2. To dispose of business (if any) remaining or arising from the above said meeting
 - 2.1 Onchan District Act 1986 – Rural Ward Rate: To approve – the Onchan District (Differential Rating) Order 2003 (circulated)
 - 2.2 Recycling Committee (Letter/Agenda circulated)
 - 2.3 Any other business arising

3. To dispose of business (if any) remaining or arising from meetings held prior to the last ordinary meeting.
 - 3.1 Litter Act 1972 – Fixed Penalty Notices (Letter/Notes circulated)
 - 3.2 Any other business arising

*IN PUBLIC***ODC MEETING 6th October 2003****IN PUBLIC**

4. Chairman's Announcements

5. Questions - As may be asked by members under the provisions of Standing Order No 7(2).

6. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of committees. The chairman of the respective committees to report.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------|
| 6.1 | Housing Committee
- Meeting held 8 th September 2003 | <i>(Minutes – APPENDIX 3)</i> |
| 6.2 | Works and Cleansing Committee
- Meeting held 15 th September 2003 | <i>(Minutes – APPENDIX 4)</i> |
| 6.3 | Leisure and Amenities Committee
- Meeting held 22 nd September 2003 | <i>(Minutes – APPENDIX 5)</i> |
| 6.4 | Policy and Finance Committee
- Meeting held 29 th September 2003 | <i>(Minutes – APPENDIX 6)</i> |
| 6.5 | Rural Committee
- Meeting held 24 th September 2003 | <i>(Minutes – APPENDIX 7)</i> |
-

Note:

Standing Order No 7(1) provides that “A member of the Authority may ask the chairman of a committee any question upon an item of the minutes, report or recommendations of a committee when that item is under consideration by the Authority.”
Other questions may be asked, after due notice in writing under the provisions of Standing Order No 7(2).

7. To consider letters, petitions, memorials and other communications.

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 7.1 | Planning decisions/communications from the D.L.G.E. Planning Committee
<i>(Schedule - APPENDIX 8)</i> |
| 7.2 | DOLGE – Minutes of the Richmond Hill Consultative Committee <i>(Circulated)</i> |
| 7.3 | Any Other Communication |
-

8. To consider any report from the Clerk or the Surveyor.

9. To consider Motions in the order in which notice has been received. *(ref Standing Order No 5)*

IN PUBLIC

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom at Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 1st September 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr E.D.R. Killey , J.P. (Chairman)
 Mr G.K. Astill
 Mr S.T. Black
 Mr D. Crellin
 Mrs E.J.C. Kelly
 Mr M.J. Kennaugh
 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 E.K. Convery (District Surveyor)

C03/09/01/01
MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on 28th July 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

C03/09/01/02
BUSINESS ARISING

1. Waste Management Report

Copies had been circulated of a report prepared by the Waste Operations Development Officer which covered the subjects of bin weighing, refuse collection vehicles, compost bins, recycling, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles.

The report was considered and arising therefrom:-

1.1 RCV Servicing and Repairs

It was **RESOLVED** that a notice be placed in the Press inviting mechanical service contractors to submit their names for consideration for addition to a selected tender list to undertake the servicing and repairs of the Commissioners' fleet of refuse collection vehicles. Responses to the notice to be reported to the Works and Cleansing Committee for consideration.

1.2 Abandoned Vehicles

It was **RESOLVED** that:-

- (1) final seven day notices be placed on the three abandoned vehicles in Stoney Road and the two in Manx Arms Car Park; and
- (2) notices be erected in the Commissioners' Onchan Park Car Parks prohibiting overnight parking.

IN PUBLIC

Further arising from consideration of the report Mr Norton expressed concern that the Waste Operations Management Unit of the Department of Local Government and the Environment had discontinued the collection of bottles from public houses, restaurants, etc. He stated that it was a further indication of the Department's lack of interest in promoting the recycling part of the waste management strategy.

2. Pennington Hall Project

The District Surveyor reported receipt of draft plans from the Architect which had been viewed by the Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee. He further advised that an estimated costing would be obtained from the Quantity Surveyor and the plans together with costings presented to the next meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee. The report was noted.

3. Waste Collection Service

Copies had been circulated of a questionnaire received from the Waste Operations Management Unit with regard to the Authority's refuse collection service. The replies submitted to the Department were noted.

4. Refuse Collection and Disposal Costs – Rural Ward

Copies had been circulated of a memorandum prepared by the Chief Executive/Clerk which referred to a debate which took place at a meeting of the Board held on 3rd February 2003 when he reported that a Local Authority may under the provisions of Section 65 (5) of the Public Health Act 1990 make reasonable charges as it may determine in respect of the collection of household waste. It was therefore suggested that the domestic rate payers in the Rural Ward who paid only 50% of the general rate paid by rate payers in the Urban Ward could be charged in 2003/04 for the 50% balance of the cost of refuse collection and disposal. The estimated net refuse collection and disposal cost for 2003/04 were £262,930 and there were 4,150 households in Onchan district which equated to an average cost of £63 per household. The Chief Executive concluded by stating that if the Board resolved to so charge the domestic rural rate payers for the balance of the said average cost each ratepayer would receive an invoice for £31.50 (50% of the total average cost per household). A debate ensued during which Members expressed views in favour of the proposal but Mr Watterson was of the opinion that the matter should in the first instance be referred to the Rural Committee prior to the Board passing a resolution to implement the charge.

After further debate Mr Quirk proposed, Mr Black seconded, that the charge be implemented forthwith. Mr Parkin proposed an amendment which was seconded by Mr Watterson and **RESOLVED** that the proposal be submitted to the Rural Committee for consideration before a resolution to implement the charge is passed by the Board.

5. Refuse Collection and Disposal Costs – Exempt Properties

The Chief Executive/Clerk reported that a number of properties within the district which were used for charitable or social purposes were exempt from paying rates. He enquired whether the Board wished to make a charge to such organisations for the collection and disposal of waste which was classified as household waste. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** not to charge such organisations for refuse collection and disposal in 2003/04 but to chip the bins so that the waste can be weighed with a view to imposing a charge in 2004/05.

6. Onchan District Act 1986 – Rural Ward Rate - Order

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that he had written to the Legislative and Policy Section of the Department of Local Government and the Environment to further investigate procedures for the

IN PUBLIC

making of an Order to amend sub-section 4(1) of the Onchan District Act 1986 so as to alter the factor by which the general rate is reduced in respect of any hereditment within the Onchan Rural Ward. He had advised the Department that the Commissioners wished to make an Order to the reduce the factor by which the general rate is reduced under sub-section 4(1) of the Onchan District Act 1986 as follows:-

For year commencing 1 st April 2004	-	0.25
For year commencing 1 st April 2005	-	Nil

The Department had been asked to clarify the procedure to be followed to obtain Tynwald approval to the proposed Order.

Mr Quirk enquired as to the timetable for the submitting of the Order to Tynwald. Chief Executive/Clerk replied that prior to the Order being placed before Tynwald the Department, Treasury and possibly the Council of Ministers may have to approve same. It was likely, therefore, that the Order would not appear on the Tynwald Agenda until December 2003.

The report was noted and the Chief Executive/Clerk was requested to supply the Administrative Officer with copies of the correspondence and draft Order when received so that he may place the item on the agenda for the information of the Rural Committee.

7. Structure of Local Authorities – DOLGE Presentation – Change of Date

Copies had been circulated of an email received from the Department of Local Government and the Environment advising that most of the Local Authorities had responded to the Minister's invitation to attend a meeting at Ballakermeen High School on 16th and 17th September 2003 to discuss the future of the Local Authorities on the Island. A small number of Authorities together with the Executive Committee of the Isle of Man Municipal Association had requested that the presentation be held on 1 night only. The Department had therefore decided that there would be only one meeting and that it would be held on Tuesday 16th September 2003 at Ballakermeen High School at 7.00 p.m.. The revised arrangements were noted.

8. Energy From Waste Plant – Site Visit

Copies of a memorandum from the District Surveyor had been circulated confirming that a visit by the Commissioners and Officers of the Authority to the new Energy from Waste Plant at Richmond Hill had been arranged for Friday 5th September at 2.30 p.m.. The Chairman gave his apologies for being unable to attend but the remaining Members and Officers noted the arrangements.

9. Energy From Waste Plant – Licence – Public Consultation

Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that copies of the licence application had been received one of which was held in the Library for perusal by the public and the other copy was held in the office for the Authority to peruse and submit any views by the 5th September 2003.

Mr Quirk stated that he had briefly perused the document and had one query. He had understood that tyres would not be burnt at the plant but the licence application indicated that they would. It was agreed that the matter be clarified.

Arising therefrom, Mr Black enquired where the general public could presently dispose of tyres if they were not having new tyres fitted by a dealer. The District Surveyor undertook to supply the information to Mr Black the following day.

*IN PUBLIC***C03/09/01/03****BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There were no matters arising from meetings held prior to the last ordinary meeting.

C03/09/01/04**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

1. Proposed Skateboard Facility and Kickabout Area

He advised that there was an article in the Isle of Man Examiner with regard to the proposal and also that he had been interviewed by Manx Radio following the submission of the planning application for the proposed facility which was to be sited on the top three tennis courts at Onchan Park.

2. Reverend N. Wells

He requested and it was unanimously endorsed that a letter be sent to Reverend Wells thanking him for his services during his period as Vicar of St Peter's Parish Church in Onchan and wishing him well in his new appointment as Vicar in a Parish in Liverpool.

3. Concert

Chairman advised that he and the Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee had organised a concert which was to be held in St Peter's Church on Friday 26th September 2003 for which tickets were £5 each and the proceeds would be in aid of the Restoration of the Parish Hall in Royal Avenue.

C03/09/01/05**QUESTIONS**

The following questions had been submitted by Commissioner Quirk to the Chairman of the Board under the provisions of Standing Order No 7:

Ref: Planning No: 03/00127/b – 135 Dwellings at Ballachrink Farm

- 1) *Can you tell if we have received an outcome to this planning application?*
- 2) *Has this application been altered/been re-submitted?*
- 3) *Is there a time limit constraint for the Planning Committee to come to a decision?*
- 4) *Can you tell me the number of objectors to this particular application?*

The Chairman of the Board responded as follows:-

- 1) No decision has been made. The applicant has sought a deferral of the consideration of this application pending further enquiry.
- 2) No. If however there is further information submitted, the application will be re-advertised in the press. In such instance the Commissioners will be invited to make further comments.
- 3) There is no time limit on the Planning Committee to reach a decision unless they are specifically requested to do so by the applicant.
- 4) We understand that in the region of 200 persons/organisations have submitted views and it is assumed that they will mainly be from objectors to the application.

*IN PUBLIC***C03/09/01/06****COMMITTEES – SUMMER RECESS**

In accordance with the policy of the Board no Committee meetings had been held during the month of August and therefore there were no minutes for consideration.

C03/09/01/07**LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS****1. Planning Decisions/Communications from the Department of Local Government and the Environment Planning Committee**

The following planning communications were considered:-

PA Number	Description	Comment
02/1755	Four Apartment Blocks with parking provisions, land adjacent to and including "Far End", King Edward Road, Onchan.	ODC Recommendation – refusal Planning decision – refusal Appeal decision reported – refusal
98/1278	Supermarket Retail Store site of former Nursery Hotel	Letter received advising that the current approval was due to expire on 20 th September 2003 and that the Planning Committee had granted an extension of same to 20 th September 2004.
03/0276	Approval in Principle for three storey extension, 1a Royal Terrace.	ODC Recommendation – refusal Initial Planning Decision – refusal Review decision reported – refusal
02/0820	Create grass verge on east side of highway, section of road north and south of Brandish Corner, Mountain Road, Onchan	ODC Recommendation – approval Letter reported that the application had been withdrawn
02/1894	Convert garage to create private study area, Majestic Apartment King Edward Road, Onchan	ODC Recommendation – refusal Planning decision – refusal Appeal decision reported – refusal
03/0622	New building of 30 apartments and parking, Main Road, Onchan.	ODC Recommendation – approval Initial Planning decision reported – approval which included a note at the Commissioners' request – that consideration should be given to the making up of the rear lane.

2. Richmond Hill Consultative Committee

Copies have been circulated of the minutes of a meeting of the Richmond Hill Consultative Committee held on 26th June 2003. Arising therefrom Mr Quirk referred to the minute headed procedures for Waste Collection Authorities delivering to the site in which he as a Member of the Committee expressed the need for the Waste Collection Authorities to meet with representatives of SITA to discuss training requirements for the operatives who would visit the site, the suitability or otherwise of existing vehicles for use at the site and to establish all of the administrative procedures that would need to be put in place once the use of the site commenced.

IN PUBLIC

He requested that the matter be progressed with SITA and/or the Waste Operations Management Unit of the Department.

3. IOM Arts Development Strategy

Copies had been circulated of an email message from Professor Anthony Everitt concerning the Arts Development Strategy which the Isle of Man Arts Council was preparing. The Professor in his role as consultant hoped that the Commissioners would wish to make a contribution in the preparation of the strategy. In the early Autumn draft priorities of the Strategy would be presented to facilitated workshops in Castletown, Douglas, Peel and Ramsey for artists, arts managers, members of the public and others with the aim of seeking views on the future needs of the arts on the Isle of Man. Town and District Commissioners would be most welcome to attend and take part in the discussions.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the communication should be noted on the minutes and that the Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee attend any relevant meetings/workshops to which the Commissioners are invited to be represented.

4. Proposal to Set Up a Recycling Committee

Copies had been circulated of a letter received from Mr Rodger Gimbert of Derby Road, Peel, who stated that he was very keen to see proactive action over recycling and proposed to set up a Committee with a Member from each set of Commissioners with a view to centralising the recycling effort and allow cost sharing and economic recycling.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Mrs E.J.C. Kelly be nominated to attend any such Committee meeting and to report back on any proposals that were made.

5. Heritage Homes Site at Groudle View

Read letter from Mr T. Baker of Groudle View requesting clarification on a number of issues in relation to the Groudle development and Groudle Glen as follows:-

- (i) he referred to the grassy public open spaces throughout the estate which he considers not to have been properly managed by Heritage Homes and enquired how the Commissioners would tend to these areas when they assumed responsibility for same in the future;
- (ii) he referred to dog owners allowing their dogs to run free in Groudle Glen and to foul and requested the Commissioners to consider signage to insist that dogs are kept on leads and that the area is for general public appreciation and not for dog fouling;
- (iii) as in his opinion children would be unable to play in the glen, would the Commissioners consider signage on the roadside within the estate to warn drivers that children may be playing on the pavements and road and to drive slowly.

District Surveyor advised that the last house on the estate was being finished, the road surfaced and paths laid through the open spaces to Groudle Glen in accordance with the approved plan. Heritage Homes were generally tidying up the area for which the Commissioners would take responsibility after the five year maintenance period during which time it was the responsibility of Heritage Homes Limited.

Chief Executive/Clerk referred to the Dogs Act and the Control of Dogs Byelaws and advised that dogs do not have to be kept on leads in public open spaces and in the glen but they have to be kept under control and fouling of footpaths is an offence under the legislation but that rule did not apply to any other part of the Glen.

IN PUBLIC

It was agreed that a suitable reply be sent to Mr Baker.

Arising therefrom Mr Quirk proposed that the Board Members visit the Groudle Development Site to view the open spaces, paths, etc for which they would become responsible in due course. It was agreed that the Surveyor arrange a site visit on a convenient date.

6. Speeding Concerns – School Road, Onchan

Read letter from the residents of 12 School Road, Onchan, expressing increasing concerns about speeding on School Road. The residents requested that consideration be given to a series of “speed humps” as a deterrent before an accident occurs. Reference was made to the fact that there is always children in the area both during the day and in the evenings as there is approximately 400 pupils attending Onchan Primary School and there is the Youth Centre, Scout Headquarters, and a recreational park situated abutting School Road, all of which are frequented by young people.

A discussion ensued and it was **RESOLVED** that a copy of the letter be sent to the Department of Transport and to the Police for consideration.

Arising therefrom Mr Crellin advised that he had had a similar complaint about Ashley Park and requested that the Surveyor advise the Department of Transport and Police of that area also.

C03/09/01/08
CLERK’S REPORT

None.

C03/09/01/09
DISTRICT SURVEYOR’S REPORT

None.

C03/09/01/10
MOTIONS

None.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday, 8th September, 2003, beginning at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr M.J. Kennaugh (Chairman)
Mr S.T. Black
Mr D. Crellin
Mrs E.J.C. Kelly
Mr E.D.R. Killey, J.P. (*until 9.25 p.m.*)

In attendance: Mr M.J. Williams (Deputy Clerk)
Mr A.B. Sutherland (Housing Maintenance Manager)

H03/09/01/01
MINUTES

IN PUBLIC

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday, 30th June 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

H03/09/01/02

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The following item was arising from the minutes, which would not be dealt with elsewhere on the agenda:-

1. H03/06/01/02(1) – Recycling Bins

In his report, the Deputy Clerk advised that he had still not received a response from the Waste Operations Management Unit at the Department of Local Government and the Environment with regard to the Committee's enquiries over the siting, emptying and disposing of recyclable materials in individual recycle bins. He confirmed that his last letter had been issued on Thursday 26th June 2003.

On the suggestion of Mr Killey, it was **RESOLVED**:-

That a further letter be sent to the Waste Operations Management Unit, copied to the Chief Executive of the Department, expressing disappointment at the lack of response to the enquiries of the Committee, and seeking a response to those enquiries as soon as possible.

H03/09/01/03

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from previous meetings, which were not referred to elsewhere on the agenda.

*IN PUBLIC*H03/09/01/04HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES BUSINESS**1. Maintenance Report**

The Housing Maintenance Manager had prepared a report on maintenance issues relating to housing and other estates business, which had been circulated with the agenda.

(a) Gas Conversion Project Operation

In his report, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that work was to commence on the gas conversion project in relation to Local Authority Houses in Onchan in mid-September. He clarified that the Contractor for Manx Gas Limited would be onsite in Ashley Park on 15th September 2003. Mr Crellin drew attention to reported difficulties with the conversion elsewhere, suggesting that Officers should be prepared for an increase in calls to deal with matters relating thereto.

(b) Barrule Drive – Scheme 7

In his report, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that fencing to the rear of the houses numbered 1 to 23 Barrule Drive had been replaced, with new plastic coated mesh fencing which now formed the boundary with the Onchan School Playing Field.

2. Deputy Clerk's Report

The Deputy Clerk had prepared a report on a number of matters relating to housing and estate issues. All of these matters related either to individual housing or housing estate issues which were of a personal nature. There were, therefore, no individual items of housing and estate business for consideration in public.

3. 72 Ballachrink Drive – Tree

The Deputy Clerk had circulated with the agenda, copies of a letter received on 1st August 2003, originating from the tenants at 72 Ballachrink Drive, but including signatures thereupon from other residents in the area. The letter referred to the very large tree in the front garden of the property at 70 Ballachrink Drive. It stated that the height of the tree was well above the house and commented that with it being so near, the tenants were concerned for the safety of the occupants. It went on to say that the tree swayed dangerously in windy weather and the tenants were worried that it would fall over and cause damage to either property or person or both.

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that he had spoken with a Forester at the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry who had commented that the tree appeared to be healthy, but that, given the proximity of the tree to the properties, if the Commissioners wished to seek Authority to remove it, he would not object.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the matter had been considered previously by the Commissioners, during the past 10 years, when the Department's representative had been opposed to the removal of the tree. However, some limbing work had taken place in the past.

A short discussion ensued with regard to the application, and thereafter, on the proposal of Mr Black, seconded by Mr Crellin it was **RESOLVED**:-

IN PUBLIC

That the tree in the front garden of 70 Ballachrink Drive be removed in accord with the request of the tenants. Mrs Kelly recorded her vote against.

It was also agreed that enquiries be made of the Forester as to whether he had any requirements relating to tree replacement.

H03/09/01/05

SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

The Housing Maintenance Manager had prepared a report which was circulated with the agenda. Arising therefrom:-

(a) Gutters/Drop spouts/Bottom Gullies

In his report, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that the cleaning of gutters, drop spouts, repairing and replacing of bottom gullies at Phase 2 of Springfield Court had been completed.

2. Deputy Clerk's Report

The Deputy Clerk had prepared a report which was circulated with the agenda. Arising therefrom:-

(a) H03/06/01/20(2)(a) – Central Heating Boilers – Phase 1

In his report, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that he had written to the resident in the area who had complained that malodor emanated from the central heating boiler flues at Springfield Court, in accord with the wishes of the Board. He had updated the complainant in relation to their concerns over the flues, referring to the investigation by the Environment, Safety and Health Directorate of the Department of Local Government and the Environment. He had confirmed that an Environmental Health Officer had visited Springfield Court to view the situation, and the same officer had required the submission of certain details in relation to the flues, all of which had been provided. He had been advised that the complainant had been requested to maintain a log detailing when they were affected by malodor and that this was the stage at which the investigation presently rested.

The Deputy Clerk had taken the opportunity to confirm to the resident that the annual service and test of the boilers and flue at Springfield Court had recently been carried out, and that the flue test provided generally satisfactory results in relation to emissions therefrom. No further communication had been received in that regard. *Noted.*

*IN PUBLIC*H03/09/01/06HEYWOOD COURT MATTERS**1. Maintenance Report**

The Housing Maintenance Manager had prepared a report, which was circulated with the agenda. Arising therefrom:-

(a) Storage Cages

In his report, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that seven storage cages had been fitted in the "buggy store" on the lower ground floor at Heywood Court.

2. Deputy Clerk's Report

The Deputy Clerk had prepared a report, which was circulated with the agenda. Arising therefrom:-

(a) H03/06/01/06(1) – Storage

In his report, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that he had been advised by the Housing Maintenance Manager that the storage cages were now insitu at Heywood Court. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that he would now request the issue of invoices to those tenants who had requested the cages and to seek payment therefor.

The Deputy Clerk also referred to a telephone call which had been received in the previous week from a member of the public, over the storage cages. The Deputy Clerk clarified that all tenants at Heywood Court were offered the opportunity to purchase a storage cage at a price of approximately £130 each and, following that exercise, a requirement for seven cages had been established. *Noted.*

3. Annoyances for Residents

The Deputy Clerk had circulated with the agenda copies of a letter received from a resident to Heywood Court, dated 17th July 2003, referring to a repetitive annoyance with the presence of youngsters using the grounds as a "skateboard park" riding their bikes over the gardens, tampering with the fountain, banging on ground floor windows and marring the peace of the residents. It pointed out that a few of the residents had asked the youngsters to politely go away but that they had always returned.

It was noted that the Deputy Clerk had asked the Warden at Heywood Court to research the incidents, and the Warden had provided a list of incidents which had occurred. This had been provided to the Police for information, with a request that a meeting take place to discuss the issues. Such meeting had not, as yet, taken place.

It was agreed that the matter needed to be progressed and it was subsequently **RESOLVED**:-

That the Deputy Clerk should consult with the Police to ascertain what action, if any, had been taken by the Police in relation to the list of incidents which had been provided to them by the Deputy Clerk.

H03/09/01/07GARAGE MATTERS

IN PUBLIC

There were no garage matters to be reported.

H03/09/01/08**PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE**

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that he and the Housing Maintenance Manager had met on 16th July 2003, with the Quantity Surveyor of the Department of Local Government and the Environment responsible for the planned housing maintenance programme. The meeting had been intended to update both parties on the latest position with regard to the planned maintenance programme. Among the issues discussed were the following:-

a) Planned Housing Maintenance Survey Update

It was understood that a draft of the results of the resurvey of properties was with the Department but a final version had not yet been received.

b) Render Repairs School Road/Nursery Avenue/Barrule Drive

Discussions had taken place on the possibility of undertaking render repair works to some of the older of the Onchan District Commissioners Local Authority properties, and this had included exploring the possibility of utilising similar techniques as had been used elsewhere on the Island to attach exterior insulation boarding with render works following.

c) Path Repairs at Nursery Avenue and The Park

The discussion recognized that where possible, any works required to be undertaken underneath pathways when excavated, such as the laying of new wood pipes and so forth, would have to be co-ordinated as part of any overall scheme. Specific reference had also been mentioned of the walls to the rear of properties at The Park Houses, the condition of which was beginning to deteriorate markedly.

d) Re-roofing of Properties

The possibility of re-roofing some of the older properties had been raised, and particular mention had been made of the requirement to re-roof the Park Bungalows, which would be a relatively straight forward project.

e) Rewiring Schemes at Nursery Avenue/The Park/School Road

The discussions had included the possibility of some remodelling work within properties, particularly in Nursery Avenue, to address comments made in the previous survey report relating to the layout of some of the Nursery Avenue properties. These works would all need to be co-ordinated.

f) Springfield Court

Officers had highlighted the need to expend monies in general maintenance to prolong the life of, particularly, some of the wooden fixtures at Springfield Court such as soffits, barge boards, etc, the cost of which was currently beyond the general maintenance allowance. A budget price for the works, which were mainly decorative, had been suggested which would cover a total refurbishment of the exterior of the premises.

The resume was noted.

H03/09/01/09**HEALTH AND SAFETY BUSINESS**

IN PUBLIC

In his report, the Housing Maintenance Manager had prepared a report which was circulated with the agenda. It was noted that Tweeds Project Services Limited had been invited to carry out an inspection of the workshops and store areas to assist in the compilation of a report on health and safety issues for the Authority. *Noted.*

H03/09/01/10
OFFICERS REPORT

1. Housing Application Waiting List

The Deputy Clerk referred to a memorandum which he had circulated on 4th July 2003, advising the Housing Committee of the results of the implementation of the amended policy of the Department of Local Government and the Environment in relation to points for time upon the housing waiting list. The amendment, which removed the maximum number of points which could be achieved for waiting on the list had been implemented with effect from 1st July 2003 and Members had received a copy of the housing application waiting list before the policy change and subsequent thereto.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that very few applicants had benefited significantly from the change in policy, confirming that 13 applicants had gained points as a result, only four of which had gained more than 5 points.

Members had no further questions in relation thereto.

2. Housing Policy Review Progress Report – July 2003

The Deputy Clerk referred to the memorandum circulated on 5th August 2003, to Members of the Board, incorporating a copy of the Housing Policy Review Progress Report from July 2003, which had been submitted to Tynwald by the Department of Local Government and the Environment.

The document was noted.

H03/09/01/11
OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

1. Housing Managers Meeting

The Deputy Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of a letter received dated 1st August 2003 from the Housing Policy Manager of the Department of Local Government and the Environment. It confirmed that the Director of Estates and Housing had asked for some information about the manpower involved in housing in each Authority area both in administration and maintenance.

The Deputy Clerk had also circulated a copy of his email response which referred to the Commissioners' submission in relation to the administration allowance for the manpower involved within the Commissioners' Office. In addition, it gave details of the maintenance staff employed by the Authority, and the contractors of the Authority in relation to housing matters.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the next Housing Managers Meeting was to take place on Wednesday 10th September 2003, and an agenda for that meeting had been received. A report would be made to Members after that meeting.

2. Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Committee

IN PUBLIC

The Deputy Clerk had circulated with the agenda copies of the newsletter issued by the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Committee in June 2003. *Noted.*

H03/09/01/12

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. The content of the reports were noted and there were no specific questions arising therefrom.

H03/09/01/13

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

None considered this month.

H03/09/01/14

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

H03/09/01/15

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Commissioners' Surgery**

It was noted that the next Commissioners' Surgery was due to take place on Thursday, 9th October 2003, 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, 13th October 2003, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

IN PUBLIC

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS & CLEANSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 15th September 2003 at 6.58pm.

Present: Mr J.K. Watterson (in the chair), Messrs D. Crellin, E.D.R. Killey JP, A.T.W. Norton and D.J. Quirk

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

WC/03/9/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

WC/03/9/2
MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising which did not already appear on the agenda.

WC/03/9/3
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) **Marion Road – Adoption**

The Surveyor informed members that a list of requirements had now been received from DoT prior to the adoption of the various areas of road and lane in this area. He was currently putting together a specification but in the meantime would arrange for temporary repairs to be undertaken to the worst potholes. He hoped that the patching would be undertaken and the scheme out to tender before October.

b) **Wayleave – Royal Skandia House**

The Clerk advised that the preparation of the wayleave was in the hands of the advocates in preparation for execution. Mr Callin of Messrs Quinn Kneale expects the document to be ready shortly. Mr Quirk made reference to the grassed area which had previously been re-turfed but the grass died. The Surveyor advised that this was a separate matter and was in hand.

WC/03/9/4
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND OTHER CLEANSING BUSINESS

a) **Officer's Report**

Copies of the report as prepared by the Waste Operations Development Officer had been circulated and was noted with the following items being discussed further:-

i) **Abandoned Vehicles**

Mr Quirk advised that a white transit van had now appeared where other vehicles had been removed. He queried whether signs had yet gone up in the park as approved by the Board and added that the Volvo and VW were still in the park car park.

ii) **New Vehicle**

IN PUBLIC

Mr Crellin queried why there were hydraulic leaks on the new vehicle to which the Surveyor replied that the leak appeared to be in the tank and not on the joints.

iii) Fly Tipping

Mr Norton enquired whether the incidents of fly tipping had been cleared up and are the areas being monitored. Mr Quirk made reference to a incident where the commissioners staff had removed asbestos from private land and queried whether an account had been sent to DOLGE for this work. He was advised that this mater would be considered the next day.

b) **Eastern Civic Amenity Site**

i) **Contracts and Permits**

The Clerk reported that the contract with Tels was the subject of a meeting to held the following afternoon to finalise. Noted.

With regard to permits a total of 6,954 for Douglas, Onchan and Braddan had been issued to date of which 2,040 were to Onchan residents.

c) **Eastern Civic Amenity Site – Middle River**

The Clerk reported that there had been a meeting that morning between Onchan, Braddan and Douglas together with Mr Harrison of DOLGE. Concerns had been expressed by Health and Safety over the proposed layout and alternatives were discussed both at that meeting and then by members of the committee. It was the consensus of the meeting that the working area would be better out of sight rather than in the middle and it was agreed therefore to go for the original scheme but with the office in an amended position. Members were advised that Mr Harrison had indicated that if revised planning approval was needed it should be effected within 14 days. It was further noted that Braddan Commissioners were discussing the matter that evening also.

d) **Waste Disposal Gate Fee**

Copies of the document as prepared by Gordon Mackie Associates Limited posing questions to the department in respect of the gate fees had been circulated. Mr Norton commented that it was a well put together document and Mr Quirk added that he would very interested to see the replies, he further queried whether the committee need to endorse the document in any way. The Clerk replied that the Board had already agreed to its preparation and to go as far as questioning the department. Noted. After further brief discussion it was

***RESOLVED**

“to endorse payment of £1,120 to Douglas Corporation being one third of the fee paid to Gordon Mackie Associates Limited for the waste disposal gate fee challenge report”.

e) **Bin Weighing System**

The Surveyor advised that the bin weighing system was now operative on two vehicles and explained that it was a very complicated process of setting up and this had caused delays. The report of the Waste Operations Development Officer together with accompanying graph relevant to trade waste had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

f) **Replacement of Vehicle**

The Clerk made reference to the proposed replacement of the 1996 Seddon RCV pointing out that the commissioners have been working on a policy of replacing one vehicle every two years thus

IN PUBLIC

there had been replacements in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002. The 1996 Seddon would therefore require to be replaced during the year 2004. On this basis it was necessary to start the ball rolling round about November. Mr Crellin suggested caution on the basis of the Honourable Mrs Crowe's public announcement regarding refuse vehicles and reorganisation of local authorities. It was accepted however that such proposals were equally only in the embryonic stage and the commissioners should not fall back on their duties in the meantime. After a brief discussion it was

***RESOLVED**

"to approve in principle the replacement of the 1996 Seddon RCV during the financial year 2004/2005".

g) Recycling Bins – Hague Crescent

The Surveyor reported that the planning application made by the commissioners to site recycling bins on Hague Crescent had been the subject of a deferment request by the Department of Transport for reasons "to permit further discussion of highway safety aspects with DoT Highways". This came as something of a surprise to him as discussions had been held originally prior to the application being made. He had been advised since then however but that was with a different section within the department. Noted.

WC/03/9/5

STREET LIGHTING/STREET FURNITURE

a) 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) Church Road

The Administrative Officer advised that he had prepared a plan showing the location of the standards in relation to the existing lamp positions. The source for the lanterns had also been established and arrangements were being made for the lamp standards to be painted prior to their erection. The whole matter currently rested with the MEA pending the return from holiday of Mr Alan Bridson at the end of September. Noted.

ii) Port Jack Railings

The Surveyor advised that the railings were currently in Liverpool being galvanised and were due back on the Island next week. Noted.

b) Main Road Toilets

Mr Killey commented that now the area in front of the toilets had been paved it looked rather bare. The Surveyor responded that it was intended to paint the walls at either side of the forecourt. Mr Quirk suggested that a sensor light should be placed under the canopy but the Surveyor pointed out that the toilet lights were on and there was a streetlight there as well. The question of placing a seat under the canopy was one which the Surveyor was currently considering. Whilst it would be beneficial there was a danger of youths congregating in the area if the seat was provided. The repositioning of the bus shelter had not taken place as again it was a case of deciding what was the best option. Mr Quirk suggested that the shelter should be placed against the wall of the steps running up to the Legion Club but others felt this would mean the occupiers would not see a bus coming. There was a further discussion about the shelter being positioned behind what was previously the public footpath so that pedestrians did not have to walk around it and equally bus users did not to step into the lay-by in order to gain access to the shelter. Mr Norton commented on

IN PUBLIC

the design of the entrance to the gentlemen's toilets as he felt the urinal was exposed when the door was open. The Surveyor added that he wished to seek the advice of the police in respect of the seat. Noted.

c) **All Night Lighting**

The Surveyor commented that he felt it would be better if he produced a paper for the next meeting with suggestions for all night lighting changes and then a date for the lighting inspection could be set with that paper being used for an agenda. Noted.

d) **Public Decorative Lighting Repairs**

The Building Control Officer had placed an advertisement for interested parties to undertake the maintenance of street and decorative lighting as from April 2004. Two contractors had expressed an interest. Both were accepted by the committee as being suitable. Tender documents were therefore to be sent out.

e) **Bus Shelters**

Mr Norton enquired as to the position in respect of his previous suggestion of a litter bin being provided in the Central Drive bus shelter. The Surveyor commented that he had discussed this with a representative of the Department of Transport and also queried the possibility of providing a new bus shelter in this location together with a replacement for the one adjoining Coutts Bank. Mr Norton then enquired as to what steps were being made to improve the flooring in the Millennium entrance to Port Jack/bus shelter. The Surveyor advised that nothing had progressed as yet.

WC/03/9/6

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 point being discussed further:-

Groudle View Pumping Station

The Surveyor confirmed that there appeared to be surface water infiltration into the system and this was being investigated. Noted.

*IN PUBLIC*WC/03/9/7PLANNING MATTERS**a) Planning Communications**

There were no planning decisions to report where the initial decision of the Planning Committee differed from the recommendation of the commissioners. The Surveyor did advise however that in respect of PA 03/276 Approval in principle for three-storey extension 1A Royal Terrace, a request for an Appeal had been made. Noted.

b) Minutes

Minutes of the extraordinary meetings of the Works and Cleansing Committee to consider plans held on 24th July, 27th August and 10th September, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

c) Other Planning Business**i) Highfield Crescent**

The Surveyor made reference to PA 03/1160 Extension 70 Highfield Crescent which was considered at the extraordinary meeting held on 10th September 2003. Since the decision was taken by the committee it transpires that a sewer passes under the area of the extension and therefore the comments submitted on behalf of the commissioners had been amended to refer to the public sewer and the need to divert same prior to any building works. Noted.

ii) Summerhill Road

The Administrative Officer reported receipt of a complaint from a resident regarding a garage being erected in front of 15 Summerhill Road. The garage was forward of the existing building and therefore did not comply with a permitted development order. There had not been a planning application for the garage although there had been a building regulations application which showed the garage tucked behind the dwelling and out of sight. The complainant was concerned as to the fact that the garage was being built without permission, did not comply with the permitted development order and looked unsightly by blocking off the dwelling. The Surveyor informed members that the matter had been taken up by the Building Control Officer and the reply from the Planning Department was that a conservatory was also being built under a permitted development order and as the conservatory would extend as far as the garage which was now being built, the garage would no longer be forward of the dwelling. Noted.

iii) Skateboard Park

Mr Crellin made reference to a petition received against the commissioners planning application to create a skateboard park on the tennis courts at the top of Belgravia Road. He enquired whether that matter was now to be discussed further. The Clerk pointed out that an application had been made in order to test the water and once the planning decision was received then the commissioners would need to decide what to do next dependent on that decision. Noted.

*IN PUBLIC***WC/03/9/8**
HEALTH AND SAFETY**a) Officer's Report**

Copies of the report as prepared by the Building Control Officer had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with the following matters being discussed further:-

i) High Visibility Vests

Mr Watterson commented that he was pleased to see that these were being provided but pointed out that any of the staff working on the road were meant to have jackets with sleeves as opposed to vests as these provided greater warning.

ii) Accident Book

Mr Norton enquired whether the accident book now complied with data protection in having a different page for each incident. The Surveyor advised that he thought this had been undertaken but would check. Noted.

iii) Induction Course

Mr Quirk enquired whether there were any new employees who had not yet been on an induction course as Douglas Corporation had men ready for this course but further participants were needed before it could run. The Surveyor was not aware of any new employees who had not been so instructed.

iv) Fire Alarm

Mr Watterson queried whether the back up batteries to the fire alarms were checked which the Surveyor replied in the affirmative.

WC/03/9/9
CAPITAL AND REVENUE SCHEMES**a) Officer's Report**

Copies of the Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with the following additional comment being made.

Street Lighting

The Surveyor advised that he hoped to have something more definite for the next meeting in respect of those schemes as he was awaiting the return to work of Alan Bridson of the MEA who was currently on holiday until the end of the month. Noted.

b) Hawthorn Villa

The Clerk advised that a meeting was being held on Wednesday afternoon of that week when it was his intention to push for progress in respect of these works. Noted.

WC/03/9/10
BUILDING CONTROL

IN PUBLIC

There were no matters relevant to building control for reporting. Noted.

WC/03/9/11**HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS****a) Reserved Parking Spaces – Revocation Order**

Members were advised as to a Revocation Order received in respect of a reserved parking space outside No 13 Nursery Avenue. Noted.

b) Other Matters

Mr Killey drew to the attention of the meeting the fact that cars were parking on the pavement along Governors Road in different positions from the bottom of Wybourn Drive to Lazy Corner during the evenings. Agreed matter be referred to the police.

WC/03/9/12**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Copies of the Finance Officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The Clerk made reference to the allowance for land purchase and composting scheme pointing out that neither of those were likely to proceed within the current financial year. He also made reference to the depreciation shown in respect of the new smaller refuse vehicle which he felt perhaps shouldn't be showing a depreciation figure at this stage. Noted.

WC/03/9/13**FURTHER REPORTS**

There were no further reports from any of the officers.

WC/03/9/14**CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS****DoT – Vehicle Supply**

Members were advised as to the offer from the Department of Transport for vehicle purchase through the department in order to obtain better discounts. Inquiries had been made and regrettably this did not extend to refuse vehicles but only vehicles up to transit size. Noted.

WC/03/9/15**OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

Copies of the list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted with the following being discussed further:-

WC/9/23(b) Pavement Furman Road – *Delete as this work now complete*

WC/02/10/7(a)(i) Flooding Problems 82, 84 & 86 Summerhill Road – Remedial works

- The Surveyor reported that this work should be complete by Wednesday of the current week.

3(1) Lighting over adopted footpaths Kaighens Lane and Cronk Lane – Matter awaiting the return of Alan Bridson to work.

IN PUBLIC

W95/9/11 Proposed extension and/or establishment of new conservation area. Mr Quirk queried whether any further word had been heard from DOLGE. Agreed to write and establish the status quo.

WC/03/9/16**MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES**

Nil.

WC/03/9/17**ANY OTHER BUSINESS****a) Time and Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 20th October 2003 at 7pm.

b) Roads Ballachrink

The Surveyor reported that he had received one or two complaints from the public in respect of the condition of the roads in the Glenview Road and Ballachrink Estate area. Agreed that this be placed on the agenda for the next meeting with the DoT and police. On that subject it was agreed that a draft agenda be prepared for the meeting and circulated prior to fixing a date at the next meeting of the committee.

c) Youth Officer

Mr Quirk commented that now there was a full time Youth Officer in Onchan perhaps the commissioners should ask for a report as to what is going on and maybe the commissioners should be encouraging him in his work. He further suggested the report could possibly be on a quarterly basis.

d) Pavement

Mr Quirk drew to the attention of the meeting the state of the footpath behind the Manx Co-Operative premises in Main Road and also the one way sign was leaning to one side.

f) Tree

Mr Quirk made reference to the tree outside the commissioners' office which unfortunately has to be cut down due to considerable rot within the trunk. He suggested that perhaps a permanent Christmas tree could be planted in its place. Members concurred that they would prefer to receive the recommendation from the Forester in respect of a replacement tree.

g) North Bank Land

Mr Quirk reminded the Surveyor that the committee were still awaiting for a date to view the open space at North Bank Land which was eventually to become the responsibility of the commissioners.

Meeting terminated at 9.25pm.

IN PUBLIC

Minutes of a meeting of the **LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 22nd September 2003 at 7.03pm.

Present: Mr G.K. Astill (in the chair) Messrs E.D.R. Killey, A.T.W. Norton, D.J. Quirk (from 7.12pm) and Mrs E.J.C. Kelly

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration) Ray Quane (Amenities Officer) E.K.Convery (District Surveyor) (until 7.30pm)

LA/03/9/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

LA/03/9/2
MATTERS ARISING

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

LA/03/9/3
PLAYGROUNDS/PARKS

a) **Playground Log Books**

The Amenities Officer advised that these were ready for signing by the Chairman. He further advised that in consultation with the Amenities Officer it was agreed to replace the chains on the swings in School Road Recreation Ground with anti wrap chains to overcome the problem of over aged youths wrapping the swings around the top bar to the detriment of those children for whom they were intended.

In order to overcome the problem with the safety tiles in the Recreation Ground under the swings it would be necessary to obtain the special glue to stick down those tiles which were loose and also to melt the granules to pore between the gaps which resulted from natural shrinkage. The Amenities Officer anticipated that the cost of having this work done by a general contractor would be in the region of £500. Agreed matter was one of general maintenance and should proceed.

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) **Fencing**

Members were in agreement that the new fencing around the stadium in the area adjoining the children's playground looked substantial and a great improvement on its predecessor. It was noted that there was a small balance left from the estimates and after discussion it was agreed to view the remainder of the perimeter fence during the forthcoming parks inspection to see if it was possible to utilise the balance of funds to have a further section replaced.

ii) **Shower Rooms**

IN PUBLIC

Members noted the Amenities Officer's estimates in respect of carrying out tiling for which no provision had been made in the estimates. Mr Quirk commented that he felt re-tiling definitely needed doing. Again after discussion it was agreed to view the shower areas during the park inspection. Mr Quirk further added that members should look to finding funding from elsewhere within their budget.

iii) Football Pitch

The Amenities Officer reported that he had purchased new corner flags. Mr Quirk suggested that the Amenities Officer speak with a representative of the FA in respect of the new regulations regarding goalposts. The Administrative Officer reported that the goalposts were replaced just a couple of years previous and these were selected by the Onchan AFC as complying with the requirements. The Amenities Officer agreed to make contact to establish if there had been any change.

iv) Trailer

Members noted that the new trailer had arrived and it was agreed therefore to place a small miscellaneous sales advertisement in the local press for the disposal of the present trailer.

v) Cradle Swings

The Amenities Officer reported that all the replacement cradle swings had been fitted. Noted.

vi) Jubilee Playground

A letter had been received from Peter Karran MHK regarding the play equipment in the Jubilee Playground and also commenting that the grass needed cutting on a regular basis for football to take place. The Administrative Officer read reply as sent to Mr Karran in respect of the play equipment and provisions made in the current year's estimates to provide new equipment in this location.

In his report the Amenities Officer had listed the number of cuts per month which the contractor was obliged to undertake during the period March to October. These figures were noted without further comment.

vii) Watering of Greens

The Amenities Officer reported that the Water Authority had advised that the two inch standpipe outlet from the mains being used for watering of the greens via two one inch hose pipes would have to stop as the two inch outlet was causing turbulence on the main. As a result the greenkeeper was now operating with a one inch standpipe but the Amenities Officer suggested that perhaps a two inch sub main could be installed with the necessary two inch standpipe take off running from this main. Agreed that the Amenities Officer investigate and prepare a report for the next meeting.

c) Roundabouts

The Administrative Officer advised that the sub committee appointed and delegated to accept one of the schemes from the nine tendering contractors for replacement roundabouts had met and selected the equipment of G.L. Jones Playgrounds of Wales. Since that time the Administrative Officer had been in contact with the firm both by telephone and by letter and had received answers to a series of questions together with a list of locations where their Ability Whirl roundabout had been installed together with the names and addresses of two referees in respect of their equipment. The Administrative Officer had satisfied himself in respect of all items and consequently the tender amounting to £36,199 had been formally accepted. Work had already commenced on having certain

IN PUBLIC

of the parts galvanised and it was anticipated by the firm that all the roundabouts should be installed just prior to Christmas. All of the other tendering contractors had since been advised that they were unsuccessful on this occasion. Noted. The Administrative Officer was thanked for carrying out all the work in connection with obtaining the tenders.

c) Financial Report

Copies of the Finance Officer's reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted. A copy of a break down in respect of the Onchan Passports issued freely to Onchan residents via the rates was presented to the meeting. The total number of passports issued was 3,750 which had a potential of 33,750 free goes on the various attractions. The total number of attractions taken up was 2,884 which represented a percentage take up of 8.5.

Members viewed the break down with interest as the most popular item was crazy golf and not motorboats which would have been expected. The other interesting feature was 257 games of tennis were played using the passports. The cost on paper for all the attractions taken up with the passports was £4,379.

With regard to the end of season results members were pleased to note that the final takings for the park showed a 13.2% increase on the previous year although it was accepted that some of the prices had been increased in any event.

d) Pitch Hire

The Administrative Officer reported having contacted Douglas Corporation as instructed and had received a reply in respect of the hire of football pitches within the ownership of Douglas Corporation. Pitch hire was £67 inclusive of VAT with a surcharge for evening games at £17.50 Monday to Saturday and £31 for a Sunday, again the figures were inclusive of VAT. The hire charges included changing facilities and showers and there were no special rates for regular bookings. Mr Killey asked that these charges be noted together with the fact that Onchan AFC were only being charged £37 by the commission.

The Chairman commented that the park had done very well that season and Mr Killey requested that the appreciation of the committee for the work of the staff should be placed on record. With regard to the remainder of the financial report the Amenities Officer advised that he was currently looking at new Christmas lighting in conjunction with the Administrative Officer. Mrs Kelly requested that no flashing lights be purchased as she didn't like them. With regard to the passports she further suggested that in future the passports relevant to motorboats and bumper boats could possibly work on a 50% reduction rather than free. Matter to be further discussed when reviewing prices of the 2004 season.

e) Tour of the Park

After discussion it was agreed that the annual tour of Onchan Park should take place on Friday 26th September at 2pm. The Amenities Officer was reminded to bring all keys.

f) Proposed Skateboard Park

The Chairman reported that he had received several complaints regarding the proposal to site the skateboard park on the tennis courts. He added that he had been to both Port Erin and Peel of recent and was surprised to find there was nobody on the skateboard parks. Mr Killey commented that there was nothing to stop people writing either in favour or against the skateboard park to the Planning Committee. Asking for planning permission does not mean that the commissioners have to carryout the scheme if approved in any event. Mr Astill then advised that the LTA were not happy at

IN PUBLIC

the prospect of the number of tennis courts being reduced, particularly as they have a coach who attends at Onchan Park.

The Administrative Officer referred to a brief meeting he had had with some of the skateboarders and as a result had written to them at their request to further seek information from them which had not been forthcoming in the past twelve months. A reply had been received at 5pm that afternoon in which the writers had enclosed a layout plan of what facilities they would like to be provided for them. Their own estimate of cost for the equipment was £36,342 but they favoured the bottom tennis courts as opposed to the top courts which were being proposed by the commissioners. Noted.

g) Proposals for Onchan Park Playground

Members were reminded that Mrs Kelly had selected two pieces of equipment which she thought could be installed in Onchan Park. They were further reminded that no provision had been made in the estimates for this equipment and obviously if the commissioners wished to proceed then there would have to be an allowance made in the budget for the forthcoming financial year and the equipment properly assessed.

The quotation received from Wicksteed Leisure was £51,000 +VAT for the equipment with safety tiles or £65,000 +VAT for the same equipment with wetpour surfacing. Mrs Kelly commented that she had to agree that the price was considerably more than she ever anticipated. The matter was left on the table.

h) Disabled Parking

The District Surveyor was asked as to the current position in respect of the request for a designated disabled persons parking space at the top of Belgravia Road for patrons of Onchan Park. He advised that he had written to the Department of Transport but to date no reply had been received. Noted.

j) Over 60s Bowling

The Administrative Officer reported that all bowling clubs had been circulated to advise that the greens would close on Sunday 28th September with work commencing the next day on the crown green.

Since sending out the notice he was approached by Mr Bob Sellors of the Over 60s team advising that Onchan had won the tournament again for the thirteenth time and it was customary to have a match between the winners and a combined team from the rest of the league. The date they had selected was Tuesday 30th September and he requested that the closure of the green be held over until after that match.

The matter was discussed at some length with the advice of the Amenities Officer being requested. Whilst he could commence work on the flat green on the Monday, it would not be practical then to switch to the crown green on the Wednesday as the scarifying of the flat green would close up in the time it would take to complete the recommended works to the crown green. Therefore the autumnal work would have to wait until the Wednesday to commence on the crown green and then proceed to the flat green afterwards. After due consideration it was

RESOLVED

“that permission be granted to the Over 60s Team to hold their match and that work on the greens would not commence until Wednesday 1st October. All greens would however still close to the public on Sunday 28th September”.

IN PUBLIC

The Over 60s Team to be advised however that only the Tuesday would be reserved for the match and should it be postponed it could not be played on any other day at Onchan Park.

k) **Bowling Festival**

The Administrative Officer reported being contacted by the Department of Tourism and Leisure to enquire as to the availability of the flat green during the June Bowling Festival. After seeking further information it transpired that the flat green was required for the playing of crown green matches. Members expressed surprise that the green would lend itself for this purpose and the Administrative Officer informed them that the person to whom he spoke at the Department of Tourism and Leisure said the flat green at Onchan was apparently as good as some of the crown greens elsewhere on the Island. Mr Killey commented that if the request was to be approved then the department should be charged exactly the same rate for the flat green as for the crown green. After discussion, on the proposal of Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Norton it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Flat Green Club requesting their views on the matter and to abide by same.

LA/03/9/4
OPEN SPACES

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 items being discussed further:-

i) **War Memorial – Elm Tree**

Members noted the proposals to trim back part of the tree in accordance with the advice given by DAFF. Mr Quirk urged that this be carried out as soon as possible before the tree was damaged due to the length of some of the branches at the rear. He further commented on the bushes that had been planted around the memorial as they now were extending over the edges of the retaining walls. The Amenities Officer advised that as soon as the park staff had completed work at Heywood Park they would move on to the war memorial.

Mr Killey suggested that the paving slabs should be jet washed prior to the Service of Remembrance. The Amenities Officer responded that they had difficulty in jet washing in the past and found it was a better proposition to use Jeyes Fluid and scrub the slabs. Mr Quirk then commented that one of the drainage channels needed resetting. He further added that the late Mr Bram Callin was quite correct in continually pointing out that there was a lack of colour around the memorial and suggested therefore that perhaps winter flowering pansies could be planted. On the proposal of Mr Quirk it was agreed that the Board Chairman and the Amenities Officer should liaise with representatives of the British Legion to discuss what was best for the area. The Amenities Officer suggested that it may be better to remove the bushes and start again as they had outgrown their original intention.

ii) **War Memorial – Decorative Lighting**

The Amenities Officer reported that new pea lighting was to be purchased for the elm tree but due to the fragile nature of the tree the lighting would be "thrown over" as with a net rather than placed on individual branches for fear of them breaking.

iii) **Festive Christmas Lighting**

IN PUBLIC

The Amenities Officer advised that he was looking through catalogues for something suitable to go on the end of the commissioners' office building to replace the Santa which had been there for some years. Agreed that the present fitting be advertised for sale in miscellaneous sales.

b) Port Jack Glen – Bottom Entrance

The Administrative Officer reported discussions he had had with A&B Fabricators, the design of the arch which necessitated flattening out because of the width and the negotiation which he undertook on their tender. The sign had been fabricated and shipped to Liverpool for galvanising. Mrs Kelly reported that it was in fact now erected. Discussion then took place in respect of what colour it was to be painted. Mr Quirk commented that he assumed it would be painted green the same as the signs in the School Road Recreation Ground. The Administrative Officer advised that green was the colour of the original arched sign at the Port Jack Glen entrances. Mrs Kelly suggested that black and gold may be more appropriate and this idea was favoured by Mr Norton. The Administrative Officer pointed out that if gold was to be used then it needed to be gold leaf as gold paint went black very quickly. Under the circumstances Mrs Kelly withdrew her suggestion on the grounds of the cost of gold leaf and it was agreed that the sign should be painted green. The Administrative Officer was thanked for the time he had taken in designing and supervising the work.

c) Jubilee Park

The Administrative Officer reported that there was still no word from the advocate acting on behalf of the commissioners in respect of the finalisation of this deed of gift. The last time he had been in touch with them expressing dismay over the length of time it was taking they blamed the advocates for the donor. Agreed that a further letter be sent to Messrs Corlett Bolton requesting an update in time for the meeting of the Board.

d) Centenary Park

The Administrative Officer reported on the receipt of several schemes from the graduates of Oxford Brookes University with alternatives for Centenary Park. Each scheme was schematic and took a different theme such as youth park, nature park, community park etc. In view of the large agenda for that evening it was agreed to hold the matter over to the end of the meeting if time permitted, alternatively it would be considered at the next meeting.

The Administrative Officer further advised that he had been in discussion with Andree Dubbeldum regarding planting of trees in certain areas and also with Mr Paul Pearn of Rainbow Borders who was endeavouring to obtain some trees for planting close to the 20 elm trees that were planted two years previous. Noted.

e) Port Jack Glen - Lighting

The Surveyor advised that he was unable to produce a report on the proposed lighting as he had not been properly instructed as to what the committee required. Mrs Kelly stated that she didn't want any lights at all in the glen and felt it was quite all right as it was. The Surveyor added that several things had been suggested for the glen in the past including the widening of the paths, a water feature and the use of uplighters but no firm decisions had been made. Mrs Kelly again advised that she felt the character of the glen would be lost if lights were installed and the paths were widened.

The Surveyor then made the comment that if lighting was put into the glen and found to be insufficient the commissioners could be liable for claims on the basis that the lighting was insufficient for the proper use of the glen at night. He reiterated that a firm policy was wanted as to the wishes of the committee.

IN PUBLIC

Mr Quirk suggested that a report should be obtained from the Surveyor with regard to the widening of the footpaths. Mr Killey added that Port Jack Glen was the most boring glen in the Isle of Man and needed something done. Mr Quirk commented that the footpaths needed doing and it would be stupid not to put in ducting at the same time. He then suggested that one central light could be placed on one of the bridges. Mr Norton commented that the glen needed some lighting but certainly the scheme did not need to go overboard. The Chairman commented that perhaps the first thing to do was the footpaths and install the duct at the same time.

f) **Port Jack Glen – Stream Bed**

The Amenities Officer reported that the bed of the stream under the waterfalls had been looked at by himself in the company of the Building Control Officer. Mr Quirk suggested that as the glen was in fact the continuation of the storm water drain then the Department of Transport should be requested to look at its repair.

g) **The Rec – Repairs and Alterations to Footpaths**

The Amenities Officer advised that nothing had been done in this regard since the decision of the Board taken in July. Mr Quirk requested that contractors be sought to tender and complete the scheme as soon as possible.

h) **Use of Port Jack Glen**

The Administrative Officer reported having written to the secretary of two societies in Onchan who had used Port Jack Glen for duck races during the summer. In one instance the request had originally been made to use the glen and the date was to be provided later in the year. In the second instance no request had been received whatsoever to use the glen but the duck race took place. Both letters were read from which it was noted that the commissioners' officers normally advise the insurers that such events are taking place albeit liability in connection with the duck races falls on the organisers. In the absence of dates etc to provide to the insurers this information could not be provided. Mr Quirk commented that he was very disappointed that these letters had been sent. The Administrative Officer enquired why he was disappointed when this was a matter of administration and he owed a duty to the committee that things were done properly. Mr Quirk suggested that the letters went overboard. The Administrative Officer reminded members that the letters were written in such a way as to accept the inexperience of the secretary of the two societies in both instances and to point out what had gone wrong and request co-operation for the future. He asked therefore how that could be regarded as being overboard. Mr Quirk stated that Board approval had been given to the events. The Administrative Officer replied that this had been checked first, if that had been the case then the letters would not have been sent. The Chairman commented that the job had to be done and done right.

LA/03/9/5

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

Copies of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted, without further comment in public.

LA/03/9/6

HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

IN PUBLIC

Copies of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted that a representative of Tweeds was to attend at the parks depôt, Pennington Hall the following day to assess health and safety recommendations.

LA/03/9/7

PUBLIC LIBRARYa) Librarian's Report

Due to family illness and a subsequent bereavement the Librarian had not had time to prepare a report for the meeting. The Administrative Officer reported however on a discussion he had had with the librarian earlier in the month with regard to a joint meeting held of all librarians under the auspices of the Department of Education. This meeting had discussed items such as on-line cataloguing of which only Douglas Corporation currently had the facilities. Inter library loans were also discussed together with the British Library catalogue on-line etc. The meeting had been organised at the request of the Minister for Education and it was understood that a letter would shortly be sent out to the clerks of local authorities for further consultation.

The librarian was also having regard to the next year's budget and felt that consideration should be given to a better external sign for the library which was not very apparent. Equally she would like to revamp the children's section by adapting one of the book boxes to take the shape of a boat. Additional theme items would be added.

With regard to surplus computers from the office being transferred to the library for general use. The librarian had taken advice from the representative from Help the Aged and it was now felt that this would be impractical and therefore the computers were no longer required.

b) Amenities Officer's Report

Copies of the Amenities Officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted that no maintenance items had been necessary since the previous meeting. Primeshade had advised that they wished to convert the boiler on the previous Sunday but they were advised that they could gain access on Saturday afternoon to disconnect the supply and could convert the boiler on Monday morning. The Amenities Officer advised that in fact they did the conversion on the Saturday ready for switch on during the Monday. Mr Quirk suggested that a certificate of competence should be requested from Primeshade for the work carried out.

The Amenities Officer further added that since writing his report one of the fire exit lamps had been replaced. Noted.

c) Financial Report

Copies of the Financial Report in respect of the library had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted without further comment.

d) Annual Figures

The Administrative Officer reminded members that at the last meeting the Chairman of the Board had indicated that he had not seen annual figures for the library. These had been circulated at the January meeting and a further copy had since been provided to the Chairman. Noted.

e) Diamond Jubilee of Onchan Library

The Administrative Officer reported that he had a brief discussion with the Librarian in respect of the Diamond Jubilee of the Library which originally opened on Saturday 2nd December 1944. The

IN PUBLIC

ceremony was performed by the then Lieutenant Governor accompanied by his wife the Countess Granville. The Librarian was thinking on the lines of having a small exhibition which could perhaps feature Onchan during the war time years. The Administrative Officer produced a copy of a small booklet which he wrote in 1989 for the opening of the present building. This had been typed and photocopied at the time and now it had been put onto computer so that it could be updated if a further publication was required for the celebrations. Matter to be discussed further at a future meeting.

LA/03/9/8YOUTH & 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) Heating

Members noted that the pipes in the community hall had now been boxed in. Mr Norton enquired whether that meant the heating complied with the health and safety requirements in respect of the play school. The Amenities Officer replied in the affirmative.

ii) Gas Conversion

The Amenities Officer reported that this was carried out on Sunday and to the best of his knowledge was now up and working.

iii) Future Plans

Mr Norton commented that plans for future alterations were now an agenda item. The Amenities Officer commented that he understood the Surveyor was waiting for a firm directive from the management committee before he could do anything.

b) Financial Report

Copies of the Financial Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted without further comment.

LA/03/9/9PROMOTIONS/ADVERTISING/PUBLIC INFORMATION**a) Website**

The Administrative Officer reported on statistics received from Web One UK advising that during August there were 6,262 page views and 5,363 user sessions. Noted.

He further advised that draft headings for the revamp of the website had been the source of correspondence between himself and the web providers in an effort to make the site easier to navigate.

Enquiries still arrived from time to time. He was able now to put an enquirer in touch with somebody who could recall her from the war time years when she lived in Abbeylands. Another person in Australia who had been seeking information on their family had been provided details of burials in Braddan Cemetery as the Administrative Officer had on one occasion been in the Manx Museum Library over a weekend and added that research to what he was already doing. The enquirer had

IN PUBLIC

then asked for photographs of the grave but he had had to advise them that was beyond his remit. A further contact had been made due to the web site reference to Abdullah Quilliam living at Woodland Towers. The enquirer wanted to know why the website stated that Abdullah Quilliam was also known as Professor Leon. This information has been supplied to the enquirer but no further communication received.

The Administrative Officer reported that he had viewed the Onchan pages on a website entitled Isle of Man Guide which is linked to the Manx Radio site. He had also viewed the pages relevant to the glens in Onchan. As a result he had contacted the web providers advising as to incorrect information on some of the web pages. The firm in question has been in correspondence and made the necessary alterations to update their site. Noted.

b) Torchlight Procession

The Administrative Officer advised members that if the usual format was to be followed then the Torchlight Procession should take place on the evening of Tuesday 9th December with Wednesday 10th being held in reserve.

RESOLVED

“that those dates be adopted”.

He then requested some guidance in respect of the lanterns of which no further word had been received from Bracknell Fireworks as to their availability to supply them. Details were still held of the one firm who could provide them but the Administrative Officer would look for alternatives as well.

The Administrative Officer pointed out that there would have to be a transitional period as obviously not everyone would buy the lanterns the first year due to the difference in cost between them and the wax torches and equally there was a supply of wax torches still in stock which needed to be sold. Members concurred therefore that the 2003 procession would be a mixture of torches and lanterns. On the proposal of Mrs Kelly it was

***RESOLVED**

“to purchase approximately 200 hanging lanterns for resale in connection with the annual Torchlight Procession”.

With regard to the route, members were of the opinion that Mr Kniveton’s suggestion of going down Alberta Drive and back up Royal Avenue would not be one favoured by the public and also would create further difficulties in respect of road closure and disruption. They did feel however that there should be more singing at the Youth Centre and less prayers.

c) Football Competition/Mighty Oak Event/Concert

The Administrative Officer reported that no further communication had been received in respect of an alternative date for the junior football competition planned for July. Equally no further contact had been made in respect of a charity It’s a Knockout in Onchan Stadium in aid of the Mighty Oak Appeal which was to have taken place in August and the concert which Mr Killey had proposed should take place was now in a different form and to be in aid of the Village Hall Restoration.

d) CowParade

The Administrative Officer reported correspondence received from the organiser giving notice that the two cows at Lazy corner were to be removed which happened the previous Monday. Despite reservations before they were placed in position, they were not vandalised and in fact proved very popular with several people photographing them during the summer months. Noted.

e) Advertising for 2004 Season

IN PUBLIC

Correspondence received from Lily Publications in respect of their "All-Round Guide to the Isle of Man 2004/05". Advertising space had been taken in the 2002-2003 publication for Onchan Park. Mrs Kelly and Mr Killey indicated that they were not in favour of repeating the advertisement and the decision was taken to decline the offer made.

f) **Annual Gardens Competition**

The Administrative Officer advised that the aggregating of points had now taken place. There had been difficulty this year due to the great difference in points between the two judges. The Chairman commented that there were some very good gardens this year but equally there were some which were awful. After a long discussion in an effort to fix a date for presentation when either the Chairman of the Committee or Chairman of the Board were available it was agreed that Friday 17th October be selected with the presentation being made by Vice Chairman of the Board. Mrs Kelly commented that she didn't think the commissioners should have a competition restricted to their own houses only.

g) **2004 Scooter Rally**

The Administrative Officer reminded members that several years ago he had written to the Department of Tourism and Leisure in an effort to revive the scooter rally week/long weekend and nothing further was done. Through the efforts of the Lambretta Club of Great Britain a weekend event was held in May of this year and the club were looking to return again in 2004. He had therefore written to the general secretary of the Lambretta Club pointing out the advantages of Onchan Stadium and how alternative events could take place there on the lines of the original scooter rally with obstacle courses etc as not every scooter rider was interested in sprint racing at Jurby. Reply received from which it was noted that further discussion were to take place with the Department of Tourism and Leisure and these items would be raised. Noted.

h) **Arts Development Strategy**

The Administrative officer made reference to information received and reported to a meeting of the Board in respect of a report being prepared on behalf of the Isle of Man Arts Council. In the correspondence there was reference made to a forthcoming workshop to be held in various parts of the Island but no specific invitation was received. It had been agreed however at the meeting of the Board that should an invitation be received then the Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee attend.

A phone call had been received that day from the Arts Council inviting the commissioners to send a representative but unfortunately as this took place the following day it clashed with a meeting to which commissioners were attending in any event. Under the circumstances the Administrative Officer was to attend. Noted.

j) **Christmas Lights Competition**

The Administrative Officer advised that he had placed this on the agenda as concern was expressed last year by the two judges as to the difficulty they had had and therefore here was the opportunity to lay down ground rules in advance. Mr Norton commented that the principle concern was Onchan was too big an area to travel in order to look for external decorative lights on properties. He also said it was very much a case of comparing apples with oranges. Mr Killey suggested that perhaps the commissioners should advertise for individuals to enter their properties into the competition which would be without entrance fee. Mr Quirk suggested there should be a separate category for charities. On the proposal of Mrs Kelly it was agreed that the competition should be advertised in conjunction with the Torchlight Procession at the appropriate time.

*IN PUBLIC***k) Reverend Wells**

The Administrative Officer read letter as sent to Reverend Wells on behalf of the Leisure and Amenities Committee on the day after his resignation from St Peters had been announced. The letter thanked him for his co-operation in the various events that had taken place during his time as the Vicar of Onchan in relation to Torchlight Processions, Millennium Year, 50th Anniversary of Onchan Park etc. Letter further wished him and his family every success and happiness in his new parish. Noted with Mr Killey advising that the last church service of the Reverend Wells to take place in St Peters was 19th October 2003.

n) Onchan Ladies Choir

The Administrative Officer reminded members that the Board had previously agreed to hold a reception for the members of the Onchan Ladies Choir as 2003 was their 40th Anniversary. After discussion it was agreed that this should take place on the evening of 14th November 2003. An invitation to the choir was to be sent out.

p) Other Promotional Matters

Mr Killey commented that there were two World Champions living in Onchan and suggested that perhaps they be invited to some form of civic reception. A general discussion took place and finally it was agreed that this matter should be referred to the Board for consideration.

LA/03/9/10**OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

The list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with the following matter being discussed further:-

Twining

Mr Killey suggested that perhaps this subject should be looked at in detail.

LA/03/9/11**MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES**

Nil.

LA/03/9/12**CORRESPONDENCE****a) Memorial Seat**

Letter reported as received by a resident of Union Mills requesting permission for the erection of memorial seat in Port Jack Glen in memory of Fred Hill, a one time employee of the parks staff. Agreed subject to the usual terms and conditions.

b) Island Games

Letter reported as received from the secretary of the Isle of Man Archery Club advising that the archery contingent at the Island Games held in Guernsey 28th June to 4th July won a total of seven medals. They enclosed a photograph of the full team who of course trained in the Youth and

IN PUBLIC

Community Centre. The Administrative Officer advised that it was his intention to have the photograph put on the commissioners' website. Noted.

c) **Seat at Lazy Corner**

Letter reported as received from a resident in Governors Road requesting the removal of the seat at Lazy Corner as it was being used for all sorts of stunts by skateboarders, the other bench in that location having been broken by them. The seat was also used by drunks at weekends as a resting place on their way home. Matter was discussed and whilst the committee has sympathy with the enquirer they were of the opinion that the seats in this location were generally of benefit to the community and it was not the seats but the misuse of them that was causing a problem. Such misuse being a matter for the police to whom the enquirer had obviously referred his complaints in the past. Mr Norton suggested that perhaps the seat could be moved down in front of the former Summerhill Chapel but other members commented that this was private land and used for car parking. No other site at the Lazy Corner complex seemed suitable.

d) **Ladies Bowling Club**

Letter reported as received from the Onchan Ladies Bowling Club in respect of their competition for the Commissioners Cup. Each year the commissioners provide a replica for each of the two winners in the pairs competition. The club was now enquiring whether it would be possible to supply replicas for the runners up. An interim reply had been sent by the Administrative Officer pointing out the number of commissioners cups for various clubs and societies that already had replicas provided each year and how the provision of replicas for runners up in one competition would have to be followed in all the others which would result in a considerable number being required. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED

"not to accede to the request for the provision of replicas for the runners up in the ladies pairs bowling competition".

e) **Landscaped Areas Heywood Park**

Letter reported as received from a resident in Heywood Drive complaining about the untidy state of a piece of land between numbers 52 and 53 Heywood Drive. The matter had been referred to the Amenities Officer who reported that this was an area at onetime part of the garden of one of the commissioners' properties but a former tenant was unable to manage it and therefore responsibility had fallen back on the commissioners. The matter had been pointed out previously and the parks men were sent up to deal with it but unfortunately tidied up the wrong area. Since that time they have returned and undertaken what was necessary with this particular piece. Noted.

f) **Port St Mary Carnival**

Letter reported as received from Rosalind Cowin on behalf of the Port St Mary Village Fair Committee inviting the commissioners to enter a float or their carnival queen/princess in the Port St Mary Parade on 6th September. A reply had been sent by the Administrative Officer advising that the committee did not meet until 22nd September and therefore it was unlikely that a float could be entered. Mr Quirk suggested that on future occasions the Port St Mary Committee be offered the commissioners old Ferguson tractor to use.

g) **Manx Retirement Association**

Letter reported as received from the Manx Retirement Association thanking the commissioners for their discounted rate in respect of playing miniature golf during the period 2nd July to 3rd September as a group. The letter also requested permission to do so in 2004 commencing on 16th June and

IN PUBLIC

finishing on 7th September. As this was a repeat request the Administrative Officer had given permission thereto but pointed out that the rates for 2004 were yet to be fixed.

LA/03/9/13**SURGERY REPORTS**

The Administrative Officer advised that a sketch scheme as prepared by the young Sarah Wade of Ashley Hill had been passed to him together with a surgery record indicating that she attended on 4th September. Her scheme was a proposal for the Jubilee Playground at Birch Hill showing an existing and proposed layout.

When the Administrative Officer spoke to Mr Crellin who had been on duty that night he was informed that the young girl had not in fact attended at surgery but that Commissioner Quirk had filled in the surgery form and attached it to the drawings. A letter of reply and encouragement had been sent to her since its receipt. In that reply she was advised as to proposals for the new roundabout and that a further sum of approximately £25,000 had been set aside for further equipment in that playground during the current financial year. Noted.

LA/03/9/14**ANY OTHER BUSINESS****a) Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 27th October 2003 at 7pm.

b) Groudle Glen Waterwheel

Mr Quirk enquired as to the present position regarding the Groudle Glen Waterwheel. The Administrative Officer informed members that this had not been raised at the Leisure and Amenities Committee in the past. The Amenities Officer advised that he had received instructions for the Clerk following a meeting of the Board and consequently in the company of the Housing Maintenance Manager had viewed the wheel. He understood contact was being made with DAFF to establish if they were going to renovate it.

c) CCTV

Mr Quirk enquired as to what was the position regarding upgrading the CCTV facilities in Onchan Park. The Amenities Officer replied that he had been speaking to a representative of Colebourns who had a "no cables" system which he was yet to view. Agreed a report be prepared for the next meeting.

Meeting terminated at 10.42 m.

IN PUBLIC

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Wednesday 24th September 2003 at 5.16pm.

Present: Mr J.K. Watterson, (in the Chair), Messrs S.T. Black, J.M. Bulley, and B.H. Moore

Apologises: Mr D. Crellin

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration) & B.T. Price (Building Control Officer) (until 6.03pm)

R/03/9/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

R/03/9/2
WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed members back after the August recess. He extended birthday wishes to the Building Control Officer for that day and for Mr Bulley the following day. He further extended congratulations to Mr Moore and his wife on their wedding anniversary which also occurred that day.

R/03/9/3
MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) **Street Lighting Hillberry Corner**

The Administrative Officer reported meeting a representative of the MEA on site, pointing out that the amount of cabling for the new street light would be minimal in view of the proposed location of an underground cable in any event. Consequently a revised quotation of £1,782 (+VAT) had been received. This represented a saving of several hundred pounds on the original quotation. After a brief discussion on the proposal of Mr Bulley, seconded by Mr Moore it was

***RESOLVED**

“to accept the tender of the Manx Electricity Authority in the sum of £1,782 (+VAT) for the supply, erection and connection of a streetlight close to the former Hillberry Chapel”.

b) **Sign at Cronk-ny-Mona**

The Administrative Officer reported the delivery of the new sign was awaited.

c) **Scollag Road Traffic Count**

Correspondence reported as sent to and received from the Department of Transport in respect of a request for a traffic count to be carried out on the Scollag Road since the completion and coming into operation of the new hospital.

The matter had been referred to the Network Planning Section of DoT but no further communication had been received. The Chairman suggested that if the count had not yet taken place then it should be delayed until the Strang Road was reopened as this would obviously affect the likelihood of use

IN PUBLIC

of the road as a by-pass. Agreed that a letter be sent to DoT suggesting the matter be deferred if not already carried out.

R/03/9/4

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

The list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting with the following being discussed further:-

a) Ballacreech Corner

The Building Control Officer advised that this matter was raised at the Eastern Sector Meeting recently but unfortunately the police were not present so no comment was available from them. Noted.

b) Registration of Chimneys – Clucas’ Laundry

The Administrative Officer advised that no further communication had been received from DOLGE in respect of this proposal.

c) Postcodes

Members noted that the publication of the 2004 telephone directory would be an indication as to whether the postcodes had been changed as requested.

d) Street Lighting – Self Sufficient

The Building Control Officer advised that the Surveyor had not obtained further details of self-sufficient electric lights by use of wind or solar power. He had however passed the matter to the Building Control Officer to investigate. Noted.

R/03/9/5

MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

R/03/9/6

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Refuse Disposal Costs

A memorandum as originally circulated by the Clerk to members of the Commission dated 19th August 2003 in respect of the cost of refuse collection had now been forwarded to the Rural Committee with the agenda.

The Chairman commented that the recommendation of the memorandum was one principally where residents in the Rural Ward were to be charged the cost of refuse collection/disposal under the Public Health Act on the basis of the balance between the actual cost and the 50% already covered by the rates. This was a matter with which he had no problem but he was very concerned that the Board tried to implement this policy without having first referred the matter to the Rural Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Onchan Act.

IN PUBLIC

The average cost of collection and disposal from all households in the Onchan District was £63 and therefore the charge now proposed to be levied was £31.50 per household in the Rural Ward to cover the balance. This figure related to the current financial year only as next year it may be a case that disposal charges are related to the weight of refuse collected from each property and individual accounts issued. He reiterated his concern at the haste in which the Board wanted to rush this matter through without referral to the Rural Committee when, if accepted by the Rural Committee and then approved by the Board the money would still be collected in any event.

Mr Bulley queried that the figure had been calculated as an average across the board and did not relate to specific rateable values which would alter this figure from one property to the next. The Chairman confirmed that it was an average figure that was being requested.

After further brief discussion it was, on the proposal of Mr Bulley, seconded by Mr Moore

***RESOLVED**

“to approve the charging of £31.50 per domestic property in the Rural Ward to cover the balance of the refuse charges for the current financial year following the introduction of tipping charges”.

b) Onchan District Act and Rating Differential

The Chairman reminded members that this was an item which had originally been raised at a meeting of the Board without due notice to the Rural Committee. It was also coupled at that time with the potential of additional charge for the refuse collection for the rural properties but it was to be on the basis of either one or the other proposal going forward. It now appeared that both were being pushed forward.

The Chairman again expressed his dismay at the manner in which it was brought forward and the fact that the item had not been referred to the Rural Committee in accordance with the Onchan Act which is quite specific on that matter. Details of correspondence between the commissioners and DOLGE on this matter had at his request been copied to members and sent out with the agenda. The Chairman referred to a draft as supplied by DOLGE indicating how if a change was to be implemented, the present rating differential of 50% could be reduced over a five year period of 40%, 30%, 20%, 10% and finally equalisation in the fifth year. He also pointed out that the Board of Commissioners favoured a 25% reduction for one year followed by equalisation the next.

Mr Black asked the two rural members whether they would be prepared to accept an equalisation of rates. Both replied that they did not favour such a move. The Administrative Officer advised members that at the time of the original negotiations in 1984 – 85 each point of the agreement between the former Parish and Village Commissioners was carefully considered by both parties. From that time only two people who were involved in the negotiations remain involved with the District Commissioners, that being the Clerk and himself who was at that time the part-time Clerk to the Parish Commissioners. It was important therefore to know the background of the agreement which went beyond rate differentials to include the number of commissioners, employment of staff etc. The rating differential was worked out to be implemented over a period years to what was felt to be an optimum level given the services to be received in the Rural Ward and the circumstances of residents such as further travel etc compared to those people living in the Urban Ward.

There was provision to change this differential but that would be on the basis where the circumstances had changed in an area. This was in fact implemented fairly soon after the passing of the Onchan Act and related to an area on Ashley Hill Farm. Here land was laid out by Vatasay Limited which resulted in a development which took its access from the Birch Hill Estate, had street lighting at the recommended distances, was connected to the mains sewer and all the other facilities of the Urban Ward. Consequently that area was brought into the Urban Ward and those people

IN PUBLIC

have paid the full rates. That was the intention of having an enabling condition within the Onchan Act to alter the percentage differential when the circumstances changed.

Mr Bulley advised that he did not have any objection to paying increased rates if he was being provided with something extra in the way of facilities but that did not appear to be the case. Mr Moore added that whilst people may think it is idyllic to live in the Rural Ward, services are not the same such as buses where families often have to drive their children or elderly relatives to events rather than them being able to catch a bus or alternatively they have to take taxis. Mr Bulley referred to drainage and whilst it was accepted that sewerage in the Urban Ward was a matter paid for by Central Government those people living in the Rural Ward were disadvantaged. He accepted that they were entitled to a free emptying of their septic tank once a year but in the event of the septic tank becoming deficient in some way then the repair or replacement of the tank was a cost falling entirely upon the householder whereas in the Urban Ward if there is a problem with the sewers then the repairs or replacements are paid for by government and not the individuals.

The Chairman added that the people of the Rural Ward were paying 50% rates which covered a contribution therefore to the street lighting, grass cutting and other facilities in the Urban Ward which did not provide the rural residents with any benefit whatsoever yet they were subsidising these services for the Urban residents. Mr Black commented they could utilise them if they wanted. The Chairman responded that a lot of people in the Urban Ward used the facilities of Douglas but would Mr Black be prepared to pay Douglas rates based on that argument. He further added that the residents of the Rural Ward were receiving absolutely nothing extra as a result of this proposed rate increase. He felt that if the Board of Commissioners wished to break the original agreement of the Onchan Act then they needed to show that additional facilities were being offered. He put the question to Mr Black as to what was being offered to which the reply indicated that nothing was.

The discussion continued for sometime in similar vain until the Administrative Officer advised that perhaps some historical background might be of assistance. He informed members that when local government was first established in Onchan in 1894 it took the form of Onchan Parish Commissioners who were responsible for the whole district. Within twelve months of their existence it became apparent that it was necessary to provide sewers within the village area so as to have an efficient method of disposal which did not put lives at risk through disease. The expenditure was obviously going to be great and the then commissioners decided that it was unfair on the people of Abbeylands, Creg-na-Baa and elsewhere to pay an increased rate to provide sewers in one area and for which they would receive no benefit. As a result a separate district and board of Village Commissioners was established. From that point on the village developed in its facilities for which the village residents paid whilst those living in the outer regions of Onchan paid a rate commiserate with the services that they received. When the negotiations took place to reunite the two bodies in 1986 the question of paying for what you get was at the very crux of the negotiations hence the establishment of a Rural Ward and a rating differential.

Mr Bulley commented that the proposal was effectively doubling the rate in the Rural Ward without any additional services whatsoever being provided. The Chairman asked Mr Black what justification there was for such an act. Mr Black replied that people in the Rural Ward lived so near to those in the Urban Ward so why should they pay less. The Chairman then asked what differences were there between the situation in 1986 when the differential was fixed and the present date to which Mr Black replied "nothing".

The Chairman queried as to why it was so imperative that the commissioners wanted to seek equalisation within twelve months when the DOLGE had put forward a draft which recommended equalisation over several years. Mr Black replied "because the Rural Ward should be paying".

IN PUBLIC

Mr Watterson then commented that the residents of the Rural Ward were very much opposed to the proposals and if anything reached the floor of Tynwald then it would be strongly challenged. After further discussion it was finally, on the proposal of Mr Bulley, seconded by Mr Moore

***RESOLVED**

“that the increases proposed in the percentage of rates paid by the Rural Ward should not take place as there has been no justification put forward to show what increases in facilities or services the Rural Ward has received, or is to receive, for which this increase is proposed”.

Messrs Bulley, Moore and Watterson voting for and Mr Black against.

The Chairman reiterated that previously there were alternative proposals of altering the rating differential and making a separate refuse charge but now the Board seemed content on bringing in both. Mr Bulley enquired whether the committee was empowered to speak to MHKs on this matter to which the Administrative Officer advised that the committee were entitled to speak to whomsoever they want on whatever subject related to the Rural Ward that they wished. He reminded members of discussions that had taken place with a landowner over the potential of development of some of his buildings, past discussions with a resident in Abbeylands regarding the MEA overhead cables, discussion with Mr Stan Kewley of the MEA and others. After a brief discussion it was agreed therefore that a letter should be sent to Mr Adrian Earnshaw MHK who had experience of the District Commissioners, the Rural Committee and of recent times local government reform through his membership of DOLGE, to invite him to attend the next meeting to have a general discussion on local government reform and its effects on the Onchan Act. Mr Black advised that he wasn't so sure the committee could invite someone to speak to them.

R/03/9/7

PLANNING MATTERS**a) Planning Decisions**

The Building Control Officer reported on the following initial decisions received:-

PA 03/396 Creation of field access off Ballacottier Road, the Crofts, Hillberry for Mr & Mrs D. Robbins – ***Refused on the grounds that the new access would afford substandard visibility for drivers emerging from the site thus resulting in an unsafe access.***

PA 03/396 Extension to provide sunroom, The Crofts, Hillberry for Mr & Mrs D. Robbins – ***Approved subject to development commencing within four years.***

PA 03/536 Approval in principle for the conversion of a detached garage to a granny flat, Mullen-e-Corran, Sir George's Bridge for Mr G.J. Lydon and Mrs H.J. Simpson – ***Approved subject to the granny flat being ancillary to the main dwelling and a comment that as the unit was smaller than would normally be accepted as an individual living unit then any subsequent application for its change to tourist accommodation or to an independent living unit was unlikely to receive permission. Noted.***

PA 03/658 Approval in principle for the erection of holiday cottages, field 1150, land adjacent to Hillberry Manor, Little Mill Road for Mr R.C. Leventhorpe - ***Refused on the grounds of no provision on the development plan and insufficient length of road to provide the required displays to the entrance. Noted.***

IN PUBLIC

PA 03/659 Approval in principle for development of first time buyer homes, field 1150, land adjacent to Hillberry Manor, little Mill Road for Mr R.C. Leventhorpe - **Refused on the grounds that the land is designated as open space on the Local Plan and therefore the proposal would be contrary to the planning policy access visibility was also a problem. Noted.**

PA 03/1033 Installation of uPVC replacement windows and a patio door to rear elevation 2 Slegaby Cottages, Ballacottier Road for Mr Gary Waddicor - **Approved subject to the work being carried out within four years and the replacement of the existing windows with top opening casements having a single vertical glazing bar expressed externally. Noted.**

b) Reviews Decisions

The Building Control Officer reported on the following decision made at Review

PA 02/2488 Erection of conservatory to rear elevation, Corley Cottage, Begoade Road for Mr & Mrs J. Bulley – **Approved subject to the work being commenced within four years. The condition requiring a wall between this property and its neighbour had been removed. Noted.**

PA 03/135 Conversion of ground floor of existing stables for ancillary residential accommodation Ballakaighen, Whitebridge Road for Mrs M. Simpson – **Refused basically on the grounds that the existing stables are not functionally redundant and that the Planning Committee were not persuaded by the apparent change in personal circumstances of the applicant that this justified the setting aside of a previous refusal. Noted.**

c) Appeals Decisions

The Building Control Officer reported on receipt of the following decisions at Appeal

PA 02/1692 Amendment to approved application 01/338 to provide three holiday units within out building and a dwelling within approved extension, Glenville Farm, Scollag Road, Onchan for Mr Brian Stowell

The commissioners case was based on the fact that whilst they had no objections to the conversion of the existing farm building to holiday accommodation the extension now provided what in reality was a new private dwelling for which there had been a previous refusal on the grounds that the farm was not bona fide agriculture. From the Inspectors conclusion it was obvious that he was concerned over the creation of a new dwelling but on the other hand had to be governed by the fact that the final result occupied the same floor area and visually would not be any different. Whilst he recommended **approval** a further condition was added which requires the conversion of the out buildings to tourist accommodation to be complete and available for occupation **prior** to work on the new permanent accommodation being commenced. Noted.

PA 02/1929 Erection of unit for the storage, display and sale of furniture with associated design, administration and car parking, Unit 18, Tromode Industrial Estate for Clucas PLC.

The Administrative Officer had attended this Appeal and gave details of the case presented. It was noted that he challenged the figures supplied by the architect for Clucas PLC in respect of the percentage of floor area devoted to sales. It transpired that the percentage figure given by the applicants related to the whole block of which several sections were not to be occupied by Cubbon and Bregazzi. The Administrative Officer further added that in the commissioners' case he included reference to the application by the Mona Aerated Water Company for retail sales from their premises. He was under the impression that a limited approval was granted restricting sales to their own product. The following day he received notification from the Inspector that Sarah Corlett at the Planning Office had looked up that application and it transpired it was refused on the grounds that it would prejudice the non retail nature of the estate. He was asked by the Inspector for comment and

IN PUBLIC

consequently advised that this galvanised the commissioners case. When the decision was received it was noted however that in his conclusions the Inspector had had regard to the strategic plan which was still in draft form and was not statutory in any way. Business policy of that draft strategy makes provision for retailing within areas zoned for industrial purposes. In his final recommendation the Inspector recommended **approval** of the application but that the remainder of the building not to be occupied by Cubbon and Bregazzi was to be used for industrial purposes only. Members noted the decision with surprise and foresaw that should the furniture showroom prove to be popular then the landlords were likely to receive complaints from the other tenants over parking congestion. The committee could only content themselves in that they had attempted to uphold the planing circulars even if others were prepared to let them go.

PA 02/2135 Approval in principle for the refurbishment of derelict farmhouse and barn, Ballairgey, Abbeylands for Mrs D.E. Harvey. The Administrative Officer again had represented the commissioners at this hearing and had presented the case based on various planning circulars and the fact that the dwelling was not to have any agricultural connection whatsoever. It came as a surprise therefore that the Inspector recommended the **approval** of the application but stated that the Planning Committee should continue to defend its own vital policies which were intended to protect the countryside. He further added that this case should not be seen as creating a precedent but of one where very careful consideration to the balance had been given. Noted.

The Chairman, on behalf of the committee thanked the Administrative Officer for the work he had put in to the three Appeal hearings.

*IN PUBLIC***d) Review Requests**

The Building Control Officer reported that a Review had been sought in respect of PA 03/396 Creation of field access, The Crofts, Ballacottier Road, Hillberry for Mr & Mrs D. Robbins. Agreed that the Planning Committee be advised that the commissioners had nothing further to add or subtract from their initial statement.

PA 03/658 Approval in principle for erection of holiday cottages, field 1150 land adjacent to Hillberry Manor, Little Mill Road for Mr R.C. Leventhorpe
Agreed to continue opposition to same.

PA 03/659 Approval in principle for development of first time buyer homes, field 1150 land adjacent to Hillberry Manor, little Mill Road for Mr R.C. Leventhorpe
Agreed to maintain opposition to same.

e) Appeal Requests

PA 03/135 Conversion of ground floor of existing stables to ancillary residential accommodation Ballakaighen, Whitebridge Road for Mrs M. Simpson
The Building Control Officer reported receipt of correspondence from DOLGE advising that an Appeal had now been sought. Noted. Agreed to continue opposition to same. The Building Control Officer advised that the Appeal was likely to be held during the week commencing 20th October 2003.

R/03/9/8**ANY OTHER BUSINESS****a) Time and Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 29th October 2003 at 5.15pm.

b) Honey Hill

Letter reported as received from Sarah Corlett of the Planning Department asking for historic information in respect of Honey Hill Farm. The Administrative Officer informed members as to his knowledge of same and requested any additional information but none was forthcoming. Members noted with interest a reference in Miss Corlett's letter to the fact that the existing derelict buildings were unlikely to ever receive the benefit of planning approval which they found amusing considering the recent decisions on Ballairgey and Ballacashin.

c) King Edward Bay Golf Course

Mr Moore commented that whilst the golf course was in the Urban Ward it was highly visible from the Rural Ward. It was noted of recent that further tipping had commenced when he was under the impression that everything had reached an optimum level and was greening up. Agreed that the matter be referred to the Surveyor for investigation and report.

Meeting terminated at 7.07pm.

IN PUBLIC

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom at Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday, 29th September 2003, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Mr H.L.G. Parkin (Chairman)
 Mr G.K. Astill
 Mr M.J. Kennaugh
 Mr E.D.R. Killey, J.P.
 Mr J.K. Watterson (from 5.55 p.m.)

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

PF03/09/01
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PF03/09/02
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.

PF03/09/03
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.

PF03/09/04
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 23rd September 2003 compared with the previous financial year were as follows:-

2003/04 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,405,728
2003/04 collected to 23 rd September 2003 less refunds	£1,300,238 (92.50%)

Comparative figures

2002/03 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,098,373
2002/03 collected to 23 rd September 2002 less refunds	£1,002,124 (91.24%)

It was reported that approximately 560 ratepayers were paying by instalments compared to 470 in the previous year.

2. Revenue Account Payments

IN PUBLIC

The lists of payments from revenue account during the months of July and August 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered and it was **RESOLVED***:-

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

3. Debtors

The list of general debtors copies of which having previously been circulated was considered. Total sum outstanding as at 24th September 2003 was £9,402.88 which compared with an amount of £124,040.79 outstanding as at 16th July 2003.

PF03/09/05

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK – ADMINISTRATION SECTION

The Clerk reported that the Consultants, Tweeds, were continuing with the bi-annual review of the Authority's Health and Safety Policy and an audit of the implementation of the policy in the different sections and a further meeting of the Health and Safety Committee was due to be held on Wednesday 1st October 2003. The Clerk's report was noted in the minutes.

PF03/09/06

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

1. Use of Crest

The Clerk reported email from the Honorary Secretary of Onchan Silver Band advising that the Band had decided to purchase a new set of uniform ties to wear at formal functions and requested permission to use the Onchan Crest on the ties. The Clerk reported that he had granted permission to this Onchan organisation to use the Crest under delegated powers for their official ties, the Clerk's action was endorsed.

PF03/09/07

MATTERS REFERRED BY COMMISSIONERS/OTHER COMMITTEES

None to report in public.

PF03/09/08

RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY OR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

None to report in public.

PF03/09/09

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for consideration in public.

*IN PUBLIC***PF03/09/10**
NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be held at 5.30 p.m. on Monday 3rd November 2003.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6.28 p.m..