

22nd January 2004

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, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

*Hawthorn Villa,
Main Road, Onchan.*

IN PUBLIC

23rd January 2004

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, 26th January 2004

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 15th December 2003 *(Minutes - APPENDIX 2)*

 2. To dispose of business (if any) remaining or arising from the above said meeting
 - 2.1 C03/12/02/14(1) Onchan District Act 1986 and Rating Differential *(Clerk to report)*
 - 2.2 C03/12/02/02(1) Onchan District Act 1986 – Rural Ward Rates *(Letter circulated)*
 - 2.3 C03/12/02/02(2) PA03/1066 – Creation of Skateboard Facility – Onchan Park *(Clerk to report)*
 - 2.4 C03/12/02/16(2) Local Elections *(Clerk to report – letter circulated)*
 - 2.5 Any other business arising

 3. To dispose of business (if any) remaining or arising from meetings held prior to the last ordinary meeting.

 4. Local Government Act 1985 – Section 10(2) and Schedule 2
 - Attendance and Traveling Allowances
 - Resolution to pay to Members for year to 31st March 2005
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5. Chairman's Announcements
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6. Questions - As may be asked by members under the provisions of Standing Order No 7(2) after due notice in writing.
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7. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of committees. The chairman of the respective committees to report.
- 7.1 Housing Committee
- Meeting held 22nd December 2003 *(Minutes – APPENDIX 3)*
 - 7.2 Works and Cleansing Committee
- Meeting held 5th January 2004 *(Minutes – APPENDIX 4)*
 - 7.3 Leisure and Amenities Committee
- Meeting held 12th January 2004 *(Minutes – APPENDIX 5)*
 - 7.4 Policy and Finance Committee
- Meeting held 19th January 2004 *(Minutes – APPENDIX 6)*
 - 7.5 Rural Committee
- Meeting held 14th January 2004 *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7)*
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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).

8. To consider letters, petitions, memorials and other communications.
- 8.1 Planning decisions/communications from the D.L.G.E. Planning Committee
(Schedule - APPENDIX 8)
 - 8.2 Peel Town Commissioners re: Civic Sunday 2004
 - 8.3 Any Other Communication
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9. To consider any report from the Clerk, Surveyor or other Officer of the Authority
- 9.1 Health and Safety Co-Ordinator – Quarterly Report *(Copies circulated)*
 - 9.2 Any other reports from Officers.
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10. To consider Motions in the order in which notice has been received. *(ref Standing Order No 5)*
- 10.1 No 29 dated 31st December 2003 from Commissioner D.J. Quirk *(Copy attached)*
 - 10.2 No 30 dated 19th January 2004 from Commissioner D.J. Quirk *(Copy attached)*

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom at Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 15th December 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 D.J. Quirk
Mr J.K. Watterson

Apologies Mr H.L.G. Parkin

In Attendance Mr J.E.S. Smith (Chief Executive/Clerk)
Mr M.J. Williams (Deputy Clerk)
Mr B.T. Price (Building Control Officer)

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITON

Immediately prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman presented awards to the winners of both categories in the Onchan District Commissioners' Christmas Lights Competition. The winners were:-

Domestic Property	-	Mr and Mrs D. Mitchell, 20 Second Avenue, Onchan.
Non-domestic Property	-	M.R.P. Limited, Corkhills Forecourt Shop

TRIBUTE – MR J.A.C.K. NIVISION

The Chairman paid tribute to the Hon. J.A.C.K. Nivison, C.B.E., J.P., former Onchan Village Commissioner, former Member of Tynwald and former Captain of the Parish, who had passed away during the previous week. The Chairman made reference to the service that Mr Nivison had given both to the Village of Onchan and to the Isle of Man and recorded the sadness of the Board at the news of his death. The Chairman confirmed that a letter had been issued to the family of Mr Nivison to convey the condolences of the Commissioners. Members stood in silent tribute to Mr Nivison.

C03/12/02/01 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on 10th November 2003, and of the extraordinary meeting of the Board held on 1st December 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, and, subject to a minor amendment to page 6 of the minutes of the ordinary meeting, were confirmed as a correct record of each of the proceedings and both sets of minutes were signed by the Chairman.

1. C03/11/01/02(1) – Onchan District Act 1986 – Rural Ward Rate - Order

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that at the December Sitting of Tynwald, the motion to approve the Order was adjourned and consideration would now be given at the Sitting of the Court in January 2004. The adjournment was moved by Mr Karran, MHK, and was to allow the Captain of the Parish to call a requisition meeting in relation to that Order.

Mr Quirk expressed disappointment that some Members of Tynwald appeared to believe that there were still two Local Authorities in the Onchan area. He suggested that a newsletter be issued, incorporating a tear off slip, to ascertain whether the people of Onchan supported the actions of the Authority in relation to the Rural rating. He advised that the cost of the newsletter would be in the order of £140 for printing. He suggested that the newsletter should be delivered to households within Onchan through the Isle of Man Courier and estimated the cost of that to be £166. He proposed that this action take place, and the proposal was seconded by Mr Norton.

Mr Watterson pointed out that the move would be unfair to residents within the Rural Ward since hardly any households in the area benefited from the delivery from the Isle of Man Courier. Mr Watterson proposed an amendment to the motion that the suggested action should not be carried out as it was unfair and unjust for the residents in the Rural Ward. He argued that the progression of the Order, the decision about which had been taken prior to consultation with the Rural Committee, was unjust and unreasonable. He pointed out that he had twice proposed that the matter be referred to the Rural Committee for consideration without success.

Mrs Kelly stated that the Rural Committee had considered the detail of the Orders. Mr Watterson concurred but pointed out that the Board had never referred the matter to the Committee for consideration, and they had only been raised at the Rural Committee by Mr Watterson himself. Mrs Kelly went on to remind Members that when the date of the extraordinary meeting of the Board had been set to take place in January 2003, it had been understood that the Ordinary meeting of the Rural Committee had been due to take place prior to that extraordinary meeting. It transpired that the date of the Rural Committee ordinary meeting had not been as expected, having been due to take place one week later.

The Chairman intervened, stipulating that the matters being discussed were historical and not relating to the motion.

Mr Quirk stated that he was happy for the newsletter to be posted to all households in the Rural Ward, to ensure that all such households received the document and were consulted. He added that the Commissioners should seek press coverage of the circular and invited anyone within the District who did not receive a copy thereof to contact the Commissioners' Office where spare copies could be made available.

After seeking clarification from Mr Watterson, it was established that the reason for his amendment being submitted was his disagreement with the method of delivery through the Isle of Man Courier and so Mr Quirk as proposer of the original motion, and Mr Norton as seconder, agreed to amend the wording to state that the households would receive the newsletter by post.

A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that a newsletter be issued to households within the District, incorporating a tear off slip, to ascertain whether households within the District supported the actions of the Board in the making of the Onchan District (Differential Rating) Order 2003, with the newsletter being delivered to households by way of a postal service.

For: Mr Astill, Mr Black, Mr Crellin, Mrs Kelly, Mr Kennaugh, Mr Killey, Mr Norton, Mr Quirk.

Against: Mr Watterson.

Mr Norton sought and was given clarification that the intent was for the process to be completed prior to the Sitting of the Tynwald Court in January 2004.

Mr Watterson stated that the Commissioners should read the minutes of the Authority to establish the Order of events that had taken place in January 2003, pointing out that the Rural Committee were unable to consider the content of motions before such motions had been proposed, seconded and received by the Board.

The Chairman again, referred to the historical nature of the comments, and moved the meeting to consider next business.

2. **C03/11/01/16(1.1) – PA03/1066 – Creation of Skateboard Facility and Kickabout Area Tennis Courts, Onchan Park.**

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated copies of correspondence received in relation to the decision of the Commissioners in relation to the siting of a skateboard park at Onchan Park. It was **RESOLVED** that the letters be referred to the next meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee for consideration.

Mr Quirk submitted a letter to the Chief Executive/Clerk asking that consideration be given to its contents after the meeting.

C03/12/02/03

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. **Onchan Ladies Choir - Civic Reception**

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda copies of two letters received, thanking the Commissioners for the Civic Reception given in respect of the Onchan Ladies Choir. *Noted with pleasure.*

C03/12/02/04

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

1. **Map of Onchan**

The Chairman advised that during the Summer 2003, the Commissioners had asked Mrs Elsa Bridson of Whitebridge Road to produce a map of the district based on one she had prepared previously. The map was displayed for viewing by Members. The Chairman that arrangements be made for the map to be displayed in the Onchan Public Library for viewing by the public.

2. **Onchan Website**

The Chairman confirmed that the second tour of Onchan was now on-line with 42 photographs set within the text. A printed copy of the tour would be available for viewing in the Onchan Library along with a copy of tour number 1 which was already available.

3. **Christmas Lights Competition**

The Chairman referred to the presentation which had taken place earlier in the evening to the winners of the Onchan District Commissioners' Christmas Lights Competition, to Mr and Mrs D. Mitchell of 20 Second Avenue in relation to the domestic properties, and to MRP Limited, Corkills Forecourt Shop in relation to the non-domestic properties.

Mrs Kelly suggested that a letter of acknowledgement be sent to all who had entered the competition.

4. **Torchlight Procession**

The Chairman referred to the success of the Torchlight Procession which had taken place in the previous week, in advising that it was attended by approximately 300 people. He thanked all for their efforts in organising the event and for participating therein.

5. **Seasons Greetings**

The Chairman extended seasons greetings to the public of Onchan, and wished all a happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

C03/12/02/05

QUESTIONS

The following questions had been asked in accord with Standing Order No 7(2).

1. Commissioner Killey to ask the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-

From the Estimates and or financial records of Onchan District Commissioners for the year 2003/04 will you please supply the following information:-

- a) *The number of rateable properties in the rural area;*
- b) *The total rateable value of these properties;*
- c) *The total rate due from these properties;*
- d) *Confirm that there is a 50% allowance given at present for these properties and that the total amount allowed for all of these properties is £41,814.*
- e) *Confirm that the product of a 1p rate in Onchan District is £6,604; and*
- f) *By what amount could the urban area rate have been reduced if no allowance had been made?*

In the absence of the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee, the Chairman himself read the answer to the question, clarifying that the answers were factual and had been drawn out by the Chief Executive/Clerk:-

- (i) 208
- (ii) £38,941
- (iii) £83,723 less the 50% allowance Net: £41,861.50
- (iv) The Actual is £41,861.50
- (v) £6,604 is the net product
- (vi) The £41,861 allowance is equivalent to a rate of over 6p. The same rate requirement for the whole district as estimated would have therefore required a rate of only £2.09 rather than the £2.15 levied.

2. Commissioner Killey to ask the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-

- 1) *Could you please confirm that Local Authority Rates are tax on the occupation of property. Rates are not a payment for services and ratepayers cannot seek to pay less on the basis that they do not use some of the Authority's services.*
- 2) *Please also confirm that this information has been readily available to all elected Members and Officers of Onchan District Commissioners and that in June 2002, the Isle of Man Department of Local Government and the Environment published a guide for general information in this respect.*
- 3) *Could you please confirm that all Onchan District Commissioners have attended the course as run by the Department of Local Government and the Environment on Commissioners' responsibilities or have had the opportunity to do so.*

In the absence of the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee, the Chief Executive/Clerk had prepared the following responses:-

- (i) Yes.
- (ii) Yes
- (iii) Yes

3. Commissioner Killey to ask the Chairman of the Rural Committee:-

- 1) *Are you aware that local authority rates are a tax on the occupation of property and that rates are not a payment for services, and ratepayers cannot seek to pay less on the basis that they do not use some of the authority's services.*
- 2) *In this day and age (December 2003) will you please advise, what you perceive to be the advantages that urban area ratepayers receive as opposed to rural area ratepayers from rates charged and collected by Onchan District Commissioners.*

The Chairman of the Rural Committee, Commissioner Watterson responded as follows:-

Local Authority rates according to the Department of Local Government and the Environment Guidebook were considered to be a tax on property, the message to the ratepayers whom he represented was that rates were for services provided.

This was clearly displayed on the Commissioners' public notice board in the office and reinforced with an article in the Isle of Man Examiner, dated 4th November 2003 when Mrs Pam Crowe, Minister for Local Government and the Environment stated, "Ratepayers need to know how much they are paying for the services provided and how much they are paying for the administration of those services".

Ratepayers could in fact pay less for certain services they did not use and special drainage areas and special refuse collection areas and indeed the Onchan District Act 1986 were examples.

The differences between Urban and Rural Wards were laid down in minutes of the Commissioners meetings when the amalgamation took place between Village and Parish and agreed by both parties. That agreement still stood.

4. Commissioner Watterson to ask the Chairman of the Board:-

With reference to the Onchan District (Differential Rating) Order 2003 :-

1. *Would you confirm that Motion 25 called for the parish rate to be altered only, but not by a specific figure?*
2. *Would you state which Commissioners proposed & seconded that equalisation of rates between urban & rural wards takes place, i.e. 100% rise to rural ward and at which meeting this debate took place and where it is recorded?*
3. *Before the Commissioners progressed with an order to the November sitting of Tynwald, on which dates did the Commissioners refer to and actively involve all elected Rural Committee members concerning the rates debate?*
4. *At the December sitting of Tynwald, the Commissioners and / or Department of Local Government & Environment submitted a paper of 'Key Dates'. Could you confirm that this paper was factually incorrect and misleading regarding meetings held in public or committee and were all Tynwald Members (as was Minister Mrs Pam Crowe) informed of this error before the relevant debate in Tynwald?*
5. *Would you circulate to all Commissioners, the 'Key Dates' paper as given to Tynwald?*

The Chairman gave the following answers:-

- i) Yes .
- ii) The making of the Order to equalise the rates over a two year period was proposed by Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Black and was so resolved at the meeting of the Board held on 6th October 2003.
- iii) The Rural Committee did not request a meeting with the Board at any time, to the best of his knowledge.
- iv) Under the Onchan District Act 1986, the Rural Committee had a duty to consider any matters affecting the Rural Ward but the Act did not require the Board to refer such matters to the Rural Committee. The intention of the Board to make the Order was clear from the debates and decisions taken at the Board meetings held in January, February and September.

- v) The Rural Committee did, in fact, debate the proposal on a number of occasions during the year before the Order was made.
- vi) The Rural Committee at its meeting on 24th September 2003 made a recommendation that such an increase in the rates in the Rural Ward should not take place but this failed at the Board meeting held on 6th October 2003.
- vii) The paper was not factually incorrect in that the minutes from the said meetings were “in public” – distributed to the media, public library and Members of Tynwald for Onchan. In order to clarify this and to remove any doubt – both Mr Houghton, MHK, who was to move the Order and the Minister for Local Government and the Environment were advised so that they could advise the other Members of Tynwald during the debate.
- viii) Copies of the ‘Key Dates’ paper were available for Members.

The Chairman confirmed that under the provisions of Standing Orders, no debate could take place in relation to written questions when the answer had been given.

C03/12/02/06
HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on Monday 17th November 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The Chairman drew attention to the following details contained within the minutes:-

- (i) H03/11/01/02(2) – Evictions;
- (ii) H03/11/01/04(1)(a) – Upgrade of Electrical Installation – Ashley Park (60 units);
- (iii) H03/11/01/04(1)(b) – Renewal of fascias, soffits and rainwater goods – Hackett Close, Meadow Close and Ashley Park plus roof refurbishment – The Park Bungalows;
- (iv) H03/11/01/04(2)(a) – Warden’s House – Meadow View.

The following matters were also arising.

1. H03/11/01/11(1) - Apprenticeships

The Chairman of the Committee drew attention to the consideration which had been given by Members. Mr Quirk reminded Members that it was the policy of the Board to support apprenticeships within the Authority. Mr Kennaugh concurred with this view.

2. H03/11/01/04(3) – Gas Conversion Project Operation

In answer to enquiry, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that an initial verbal response had been received from Manx Gas, and that further information in relation to the properties in question for Manx Gas was being collated for provision to that company. He also confirmed that the Office of Fair Trading had not been involved at present.

C03/12/02/07
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on 17th November 2003, be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C03/12/02/08
WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on Monday 24th November 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The Chairman of the Committee drew attention to the following details contained within the minutes:-

- (i) WC03/11/05(a)(iv) Bus Shelter, Manx Arms
- (ii) WC03/11/06(a) Officers Report – Replacement Vehicle Resolution

The following matters were also arising from the minutes:-

1. **WC03/11/04(e) – Joint Civic Amenity Committee**

The Chief Executive/Clerk suggested that the decision of the Works and Cleansing Committee that the Commissioners should be party to taking an option on the land in question should have taken the form of a resolution requiring the approval of the Board.

2. **WC03/11/05(a)(ii) – Kaighin’s Lane/Cronk Lane**

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that the agreement of the Committee to the suggestion of the Surveyor, that the balance between the actual cost and the £40,000 figure intended for petition could be used up with post top adapters used where necessary as in the Ballachurry Estate, should have taken the form of a recommendation for the approval of the Board.

3. **WC03/11/04(iii) – Fly Tipping**

Mr Norton suggested that Members would need to be advised of the date and place of fly tipping incidents in order to assess the scale of any fly tipping problem.

4. **WC03/11/04(g) – Middle River Site**

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that a further meeting with regard to this matter was to take place on Friday 19th December 2003 at 9.00 a.m..

5. **WC03/11/12(d) – Dowty Land**

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the “Dowty Land” referred to in the minute had been purchased by Government and had been placed in the Government landbank. He pointed out that the land was not zoned for housing. Mr Quirk suggested that the opportunity should be taken to invite the Member responsible for housing within the Department of Local Government and the Environment to meet with the Onchan District Commissioners and discuss the availability of land within the district for housing purposes. The Chief Executive/Clerk reiterated that proposals to develop the “Dowty Land” for housing would be contrary to the Onchan Local Plan which had been approved in 2000. Mr Quirk suggested that there was not harm in looking to identify land for housing. Mr Crellin suggested that to consider the “Dowty Land” for housing purposes would be contrary to the Board’s view in relation to the development of the Ballachrink Farm land for housing purposes. Mr Watterson suggested that there was also a need for light industrial commercial use land within the District. He believed that the “Dowty Land” fitted the bill.

The Chairman confirmed that the Department of Trade and Industry were aware that the land had been zoned for industrial use, and he considered it to be too early to consider the use of the land for housing purposes.

Mr Quirk proposed that the member of the Department of Local Government and the Environment responsible for housing be invited to meet with the Onchan District Commissioners to discuss housing provision. There was no seconder to the proposal.

C03/12/02/09
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 24th November 2003, be and are hereby received. It was further **RESOLVED** that the resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board be approved as follows:-

1. **“to approve acceptance of the lowest tender as obtained through the Department of Transport for a replacement vehicle for the sewer team, a Citroen Relay 1800TD Low Roof panel van with 2800 cc diesel engine from Eurocars at a total cost of £9,899.40 (to be funded by Government under the Drainage Agency Agreement)”**.

The following matters, which should have taken the form of resolutions were also approved:-

2. **Joint Civic Amenity Site Committee - That the Commissioners should be party to take an option on land for purchase in respect of the Eastern Civic Amenity Site;**
3. **Kaighin's Lane/Cronk Lane - That the schemes be added up and any balance between the cost and the £40,000 intended for petition be used up with post top adapters used where necessary as in the Ballachurry Estate. Further £1,700 be included in respect of the new street light at Hillberry, recently approved by the Board.**

C03/07/01/10
LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on Monday 1st December 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The Chairman drew attention to the following matters contained within the minutes:-

- (i) LA03/12/03(c) – Roundabouts
- (ii) LA03/12/03(g) – Tour of the Park
- (iii) LA03/12/03(k) – Onchan Ladies Choir

The following matters were also arising from the minutes:-

1. **LA/03/12/05(a)(ii) – Port Jack Toilets**

The Chief Executive/Clerk suggested that the word “not” should be inserted in the first sentence of the second paragraph. *Agreed.*

2. **LA/03/12/03(e) – Parks Foreman**

In answer to enquiry from Mr Kennaugh, it was noted that the closing date for the receipt of applications in respect of the Parks Foreman position had not yet expired.

3. **LA/03/12/03(h) – Skateboard Park**

Mr Norton suggested that the resolution in the minutes did not adequately reflect his proposal considered at the meeting, suggesting that his proposal was to request the Board to consider the ‘Rec’ as an alternative site for the provision of a skateboard and five-a-side/basketball facility. In answer to enquiry from the Chairman, the seconder in relation to the motion, Mr Quirk, concurred with the statements of Mr Norton.

Mrs Kelly referred to the resolution, believing that the elements contained therein, that of skateboard park and five-a-side basketball facilities should be separated. Mrs Kelly proposed an amendment to the motion, to request the Board to consider The Rec for the provision of a skateboard facility only.

Speaking in relation to the amendment, Mr Norton did not favour the separation of consideration of those facilities, pointing out that sufficient money had been set aside for the purpose of creating both, and indeed that there was sufficient land available for that purpose.

Mr Crellin was concerned at the expenditure of ratepayers money when no evidence had been presented to the Board for him to consider in support of that facility. Mr Crellin argued that the Board should have evidence of need for such a facility due to the expensive nature of the proposed development. He

suggested that such evidence should be provided by the people who would want to use it. Conversely, Mr Crellin stated that those people who were in opposition to the provision of a skateboard park had indeed made their views known and had attended a meeting with the Leisure and Amenities Committee. Mr Norton reminded Members that a petition was received some three years or so previously from young people wishing to use such a facility. Mr Crellin acknowledged this but felt that proper evidence of a need for the facility should be presented.

Mr Watterson referred to correspondence received and circulated with the agenda, in which objectors referred to the decision not to develop the tennis courts at Onchan Park for this purpose. Mr Watterson reminded Members that one of the letters did recognise the need for a facility to be provided even though the letter did not support siting at the tennis courts. Mr Crellin reiterated his call for potential users of such a facility to present their evidence. Mr Astill concurred with this view.

Mr Quirk suggested and it was agreed that the Administrative Officer be asked to disclose all of the evidence which had been presented to date, to the Leisure and Amenities Committee, in relation to the demand and need for a skateboard facility. He asked that the motion be supported pointing out that there would be a need for the matter to be brought back to the Board for approval to costings etc.

The Chairman advised that the skateboarding park which had been provided in Port Erin had been closed recently due to noise concerns.

After noting that there was no seconder for the amendment proposed by Mrs Kelly, a vote was taken on the resolution of the Committee, the wording of which had been amended earlier in the meeting.

It was subsequently **RESOLVED to request the Board to consider The Rec as an alternative site for the provision of a skateboard and 5-a-side/basketball facility.**

For: Mr Black, Mr Kennaugh, Mr Killey, Mr Norton, Mr Quirk, Mr Watterson.

Against: Mr Astill, Mr Crellin, Mrs Kelly.

Mr Crellin reiterated that he had voted against the provision of the facility on the grounds that he had seen no evidence produced to the Board to justify the expenditure of such a large sum of money and to prove the need for such a facility.

4. LA/03/12/5(a)(ii) – Port Jack Toilets

Mr Watterson drew attention to overgrown bushes in the vicinity of the Port Jack toilets which were obstructing the footpath.

5. LA/03/12/09(c) – Christmas Lights Competition

Mr Watterson suggested, and it was agreed, that certificates should be issued to all parties who had entered the Christmas Lights Competition.

6. LA/03/12/07(a)(iii) – Christmas Carol

The Chairman congratulated the Librarian and Mr Chris Caine for the reading of the Christmas Carol at the Onchan Library and suggested that the event should be held annually.

7. LA/03/12/12(a) – Bemahague Kickabout Area

In answer to enquiry from Mr Crellin, it was confirmed that there was no land available in the vicinity of Heywood Park to replace the Bemahague Kickabout Area on a temporary basis.

8. **LA/03/12/04(j) – Millennium Shelter**

In answer to enquiry from Mr Black, Mr Quirk suggested that nothing would be undertaken with regard to the Christmas Lights at the Millennium Shelter for the current year.

Mr Norton enquired further with regard to the flooring of the Millennium Shelter, and the Building Control Officer confirmed that a report would be made to the next meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee in that regard.

9. **LA/03/12/05(a)(ii) – Port Jack Toilets**

Mrs Kelly enquired as to whether any progress had been made with regard to the fitting out of the Port Jack Toilets with stainless steel fittings. The Building Control Officer confirmed that a report would be made to the next meeting of the Works and Cleansing Committee.

10. **LA/03/12/13(b) – Tractor**

Mr Kennaugh sought determination from the resolution of the Leisure and Amenities Committee in relation to the Ferguson Tractor. A vote on the resolution of the Committee was taken which fell, with votes being recorded as follows:-

*For: Mr Black, Mr Kennaugh, Mr Norton, Mr Quirk
Against: Mr Astill, Mr Crellin, Mrs Kelly, Mr Killey and Mr Watterson*

The decision to retain the tractor having been taken, Mr Quirk asked that the Board consider expending some funding upon the machine in order that it might be put to some useful purpose. Mr Watterson concurred pointing out that apart from some minor adaptations and its colouring, the tractor was largely of the original specification. It was agreed that expenditure upon the tractor and its future usage should be referred back to the Leisure and Amenities Committee for further consideration.

C03/12/02/11
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 1st December 2003, be and are hereby received. A vote was taken in relation to the resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board with the wording of the following resolution being corrected before such vote had been taken. It had therefore been **RESOLVED**:-

1. ***to consider The Rec as an alternative site for the provision of a skateboard and 5-a-side/basketball facility.***

A vote had been taken upon the following resolution which failed:-

2. ***to recommend that the Board again considers the disposal of the original Ferguson Tractor purchased for Onchan Park, at the time of its opening.***

C03/12/02/12
POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 8th December 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. There were no matters arising therefrom.

C03/12/02/13
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 8th December 2003, be and are hereby received. It was further **RESOLVED** that the resolution contained therein requiring the consent of the Board be approved as follows:-

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

C03/12/02/14
RURAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The Chairman drew attention to the following matters recorded in the minutes:-

- (i) R03/12/02(b) – Scollag Road Traffic Count
- (ii) R03/12/06(a) – Planning Decisions
(PA03/729 , PA 03/468 – 471 and PA03/525-526, PA03/658 and 659)

The following matters were also arising:-

1. R/03/12/2(d) – Onchan District Act and Rating Differential

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that the Memorandum which he had written and to which reference was made within the minute was not submitted to the Department of Local Government and the Environment as stated therein, but to a Tynwald Select Committee on Local Government Reform. He also advised that his memorandum did not refer to the fact that where circumstances changed, such as at Ashley Hill, then the rating differential could be removed in that area. The Chief Executive/Clerk considered that the legislation referred to alteration of the rating differential for the whole of the Rural Ward and not part of it.

Mr Watterson advised that the requisition meeting was likely to be held on 13th January 2004 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. He added that this would be subject to confirmation in the press.

2. R/03/12/2(c) – King Edward Bay Golf Course

In answer to enquiry from Mr Norton, Mr Watterson confirmed that the Works and Cleansign Committee, who were responsible for planning issues, were being kept up to date with regard to the recommencement of works at the King Edward Bay Golf Course, and that the matter had been recorded at the Rural Committee as it was a Member of that Committee that had raised the issue of the recommencement of works.

3. R/03/12/6(a) – Planning Decisions

In relation to the planning applications of Clypse Farms Limited, Mr Kennaugh enquired whether it would be possible to view the plans. The Building Control Officer confirmed that he had a presentation package available for Members if they wished to visit his Department to view same.

C03/12/02/15
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2003, be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C03/12/02/16
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 noted:-

PA Number	Description	Comment
03/0276	3 Storey extension, 1A Royal Terrace	ODC Recommendation – Refusal Planning decision On Review Refusal Appeal decision – Dismissed, refusal confirmed
02/2438	Garage with Games/Play room over, 76 Royal Avenue	ODC Recommendation – Refusal Planning decision On Review - Refusal Appeal decision – Dismissed, refusal confirmed.
03/1232	Alterations and Extensions, 8	ODC Recommendation – Refusal

	Snaefell Crescent	Initial Planning decision – Approval/Refusal Request for review received – ODC submission prepared .
03/1289	First Floor Domer Extension, 16 Beech Avenue	ODC Recommendation – Refusal Initial Planning Decision – Approval Request for review of decision received
03/1066	Create skateboard facility and kickabout area, Tennis Courts, Onchan Park	ODC Recommendation – Approval Initial Planning Decision – Approval Review decision – Refusal (copy of decision to circulate to interested Members)
03/0396	Field Access of Little Mill Road, The Crofts, Hillberry	ODC Recommendation – Approval Planning Decision On Review – Refusal Appeal against decision submitted

2. **Local Elections**

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda copies of a letter received dated 11th November 2003 from the Local Government Unit Manager advising that the Department had selected Thursday 22nd April 2004 as the date for the General Election of Local Authority Membership on the Isle of Man. It also referred to the payment of attendance allowances.

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated his interim response to the Department in relation thereto together with the acknowledgement of that response from the Local Government Unit Manager.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that he anticipated the delivery of nomination papers being required before 5.00 p.m. on Monday 29th March 2003, and that the date for the Notice of Election would be Tuesday 16th March 2003. He reminded Members that Easter fell over the week end of 9th to 12th April 2004.

Mr Quirk requested that enquiries be made to provide the details of the Voters List to Members in electronic format.

The Chairman reiterated advice given at previous meetings that, despite the recent deliberations of the Board in relation to representation from the Rural Ward, no changes to that arrangement would be effected for the election in April 2004.

Mr Quirk referred to the appointment of a Returning Officer for the Election. It was clarified that the appointment of the Returning Officer is undertaken by the Authority, and that the Chief Executive/Clerk could be appointed to that position if necessary. The Chairman advised that the matter would be considered again by the Board in the New Year, and invited any suggestions for the appointment of Returning Officer to be made to himself or the Chief Executive/Clerk.

3. **Data Protection (Fees) (No 2) Regulations 2003**

The Chief Executive/Clerk had circulated with the agenda copies of a letter received from the Data Protection Supervisor advising of the approval of the Data Protection (Fees) (No 2) Regulations 2003. The effect of the approval was that individual Local Authority Members who used computers to process personal data for the purpose of constituency case work, were obliged to notify the supervisor of their processing, but would now not have to pay any fee therefore. *Noted.*

C03/12/02/17 **CLERK'S REPORT**

None.

C03/12/02/18 **DISTRICT SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

None.

C03/12/02/19 **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, 22nd December, 2003, beginning at 8.10 p.m.

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

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

H03/12/01/01
MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday, 17th November 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

H03/12/01/02
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The following items were arising from the minutes, which had not been referred to elsewhere on the agenda:-

1. H03/11/01/02(2) – Evictions

The Deputy Clerk had circulated with the agenda an extract from the Hansard of the Tynwald Court Debate of Tuesday 18th November 2003, which recorded the detail of a statement made by the Minister for Local Government and the Environment. The Statement confirmed that the Department would come back to the Tynwald Court in February 2004 to report on the motion of the Court for the establishment of a Housing Eviction Consultative Body.

2. H03/11/01/10(2) – Housing Discussion Document

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the Housing Discussion Document, which was due for release by the Department of Local Government and the Environment, was still awaited.

3. H03/11/01/11(1) – Apprenticeships

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Officers had considered the question of apprenticeships within the Onchan District Commissioners, and indeed recognised the policy of the Commissioners that where possible, apprenticeships should be offered within the Authority. However, the Deputy Clerk held the view that it would not be appropriate to offer a fresh placement to an apprentice at a time when the Department of Local Government and the Environment were reviewing public sector housing on the Isle of Man. He suggested and it was **RESOLVED:-**

That consideration of the question of apprenticeships within the Onchan District Commissioners be deferred pending publication and receipt of the report from the Department of Local Government and the Environment of the Housing Discussion Document.

H03/12/01/03
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

H03/12/01/04
HOUSING 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. Arising therefrom:-

(a) Upgrade of Electrical Installation – Ashley Park (60 units)

In his report, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that the contract for the upgrade of electrical installations to Ashley Park Houses was approximately 70% complete. He confirmed that the contractor had been granted a four week extension to complete the works with the extension commencing from 12th January 2004 to enable tenants to complete their festive holidays without disruption.

In answer to enquiry from Mr Crellin, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that the delays had been occasioned, at least in part, by difficulty gaining access to 11 properties within the estate to carry out the works. Furthermore, the question of the provision of appropriate staffing had been an issue, for the Contractor.

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that the Contractor had been asked to identify those properties where difficulty had been experienced in gaining access in order that the Commissioners might assist in contacting those tenants to arrange access.

2. Deputy Clerk's Report

None.

3. Warden's House – Meadow View

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the new tenants of the Warden's House at Meadow View were now in residence, and that their current property would be available for allocation, hopefully from the January sitting of the Board.

4. H03/11/01/04(3) – Gas Conversion Project Operation

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that he had received a response to correspondence from Manx Gas Limited, and that he had yet to respond to that enquiry. The response had requested details of the properties which were owned by Onchan District Commissioners before a detailed response was given.

It was noted that the Deputy Clerk had also circulated copies of a question considered at Tynwald at its sitting on 9th December 2003, in this regard.

5. H03/11/01/04(4) – 72 Ballachrink Drive – Tree

In answer to enquiry, the Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that the cost to the Authority of felling the tree in the front garden at 70 Ballachrink Drive would be £320. The Housing Maintenance Manager understood there to be an element of rot within the tree, although it was not extensive, and that at some stage or another, the tree would have to be removed. On the proposal of Mr Crellin, seconded by Mr Black, it was reluctantly **RESOLVED***:-

That if the Chief Forester were to confirm the existence of rot within the tree to the front garden at 70 Ballachrink Drive, that such tree should be felled.

H03/12/01/05
SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

1. **Maintenance Report**

No matters for report at meeting.

2. **Deputy Clerk's Report**

None circulated.

H03/12/01/06

HEYWOOD COURT MATTERS

1. **Maintenance Report**

The Housing Maintenance Manager had prepared a report on maintenance issues relating to Heywood Court, which had been circulated with the agenda. There were no matters arising therefrom.

2. **Deputy Clerk's Report**

None.

3. **Defects**

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that a defects list in relation to the completion of the Heywood Court construction contract had been drawn with effect from 10th November 2004 and the matters were to be addressed before the contract could be deemed completed. Most of the defects were of a very minor nature, and would take little to rectify.

Members were aware of numerous good comments which continued to be made in relation to the Heywood Court Housing Complex.

Mrs Kelly left the meeting at 9.00 p.m.

H03/12/01/07

GARAGE MATTERS

There were no garage matters to be reported.

H03/12/01/08

PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that a meeting had taken place on Tuesday 25th November 2003, attended by the Housing Maintenance Manager, the District Surveyor and the Deputy Clerk, to discuss planned housing maintenance issues with the Quantity Surveyor at the Department Local Government and the Environment responsible for these matters. The meeting had also been attended by a consultant Architect, experienced in the use of a particular type of render material, in respect of certain of the Commissioners' housing. He reported further as follows:-

(a) **Planned Housing Maintenance Survey Update**

A draft of the revised planned housing maintenance survey update document, provided by the Consultants had been perused by the Department of Local Government and the Environment and returned for completion. The submission of the document to the Commissioners was still awaited.

(b) **Upgrade of Electrical Wiring – Nursery Avenue, The Park and School Road**

These schemes had been budgeted for inclusion in the programme in the years 2004/05 and 2005/06. Arrangements had been made for the Commissioners' electrical maintenance contractor to carry out an electrical test and inspection of the Nursery Avenue properties at Scheme 1 (13 units). The results of the tests would be used to assist in determining the scope of works required for the proposed electrical projects.

(c) **Upgrade of Electrical Wiring – Barrule Drive**

Funding in programme for 2006/07.

(d) **Replacement of Fascias etc – Ashley Park**

Tenders had been received on Friday 28th November 2003 and the lowest tender received had been accepted by the Board at its meeting on 15th December 2003. A petition for borrowing powers had been submitted to the Department on 19th December 2003 – approval awaited.

(e) **Replacement of Fascias, etc – Hackett Close/Meadow Close/Nursery Avenue**

Tenders were received on Friday 28th November 2003, and the lowest tender was accepted by the Board at its meeting on 15th December 2003. A petition for borrowing powers had been submitted to the Department of Local Government and the Environment on 19th December 2003 – approval awaited.

(f) **Roof Refurbishments – The Park Bungalows**

Tenders were received on Friday 28th November 2003, and the lowest tender was accepted by the Board at its meeting on 15th December 2003. A petition for borrowing powers had been submitted to the Department of Local Government and the Environment on 19th December 2003 – approval awaited.

(g) **Paths/Walls – Park Houses**

Tender documentation issued to the select list of tenderers on Friday 19th December 2003 for return by Friday 16th January 2004.

(h) **Render Works – School Road**

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that considerable discussion had taken place at the Officers meeting with regard to the types of render refurbishment which might be appropriate for the units in Nursery Avenue, School Road and Barrule Drive. A small budget had been included within the planned maintenance programme in relation to this project and in terms of priority, the deterioration in the brickwork at School Road had been identified as the most urgent to progress. It had been agreed that the Architect be asked to undertake a study of the properties at School Road, and after receipt of the brief, to discuss a fee proposal with the Department for this to take place. The target for the completion of the feasibility report was late January 2004, to enable officers to review the planned maintenance programme for the next 5 or 6 years and consider the future budget requirements to undertake identified works.

H03/12/01/09

HEALTH AND SAFETY BUSINESS

No report.

H03/12/01/10

OFFICERS REPORT

None.

H03/12/01/11

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Guide to Public Sector Housing Standards**

The Deputy Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of a document received from the Quantity Surveyor at the Department of Local Government and the Environment entitled "Guide to Public Sector Housing Standards", together with the letter received in relation thereto. The letter sought any comments on the guide as a result of observation and experience.

The letter and document were noted without comment.

H03/12/01/12
FINANCIAL MATTERS

None for report this month.

H03/12/01/13
OUTSTANDING MATTERS

None considered this month.

H03/12/01/14
MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

1. **Sheltered Housing Acceptance Policy**

The Deputy Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of an email received in response to an enquiry made following the meeting of the Board on 15th December 2003. The Housing Policy Manager at the Department of Local Government and the Environment had confirmed that whilst the criteria for acceptance on to sheltered housing waiting list included home owners, it did not simply mean that home owners could be accepted if only residentially qualified. He confirmed an assessment that current accommodation was inadequate and of the capability of the applicant on health grounds had to be made. He further advised that either assessment would need written confirmation from a relevant body to support the application. Finally, applicants needs were taken into account for allocation purposes.

A discussion ensued during which Mr Black suggested that the original criteria issued for implementation by Local Authorities by the Department of Local Government and the Environment did not make the situation clear. The Deputy Clerk undertook to recirculate the original criteria for consideration by Members.

H03/12/01/15
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Commissioners' Surgery**

It was noted that the next Commissioners' Surgery was due to take place on Thursday, 29th January 2004, 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, 2nd February 2004, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS & CLEANSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 5th January 2004 at 7.10pm.

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), B.T. Price (Building Control Officer) and Peter Kelly (Administration)

WC/04/1/1 **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read. Mr Norton referred to item WC/03/11/4(a)(iii) Fly Tipping he pointed out that the minutes did not record the fact that he asked for a list of where fly tipping had taken place. The Chairman queried whether the remainder of the minutes were correct to which Mr Norton replied in the affirmative and the Clerk enquired as to whether he wished his request for the list to be inserted into the minutes which he also replied in the affirmative. After the amendment which was initialled by the Chairman, the minutes were confirmed as a true record of the previous meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

WC/04/1/2 **MATTERS ARISING**

Nil.

WC/04/1/3 **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Nil.

WC/04/1/4 **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) Bin Weighing

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been held that morning attended by himself and the Waste Operations Development Officer, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Braddan Parish Commissioners together with Yvette Mellor and Carol Sutherland from the Department of Local Government and the Environment. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the present position with regard to weighing of commercial refuse and the difficulties that had been experienced resulting in amendments having to be made to the software and problems where the on board equipment would weigh the bins but not recognise the bin's personal identification. In other instances the bins had been identified but zero weights recorded.

Questions were put with particular regard to averaging weights based on say six weeks out of twenty but Braddan were not in favour. A number of items at fault were identified and representatives from PM Onboard were to come to the Island again shortly for a further meeting. The Clerk commented that the matter was very frustrating but at the moment probably 90% of the readings were complete.

Mr Killey enquired whether the system could be adapted so that one vehicle undertook trade refuse alone to which the Clerk replied that having dedicated rounds using certain wagons had been considered but this could result in half full wagons going to the Ayres in order to keep the refuse separate and that was counter productive. Mr Killey then enquired whether there was any idea as to the amount of money involved in respect of the charges for trade refuse to which the Clerk replied that the correct information was not to hand at the moment until the weighing system was correct. He further added, however, that averaging seems to be acceptable in other parts of the Island where the collection agencies do not have weighing facilities. In respect of the Onchan collections if a trader queries his count then the commissioners could review his charges over the next charging period. Since mid December the weighing figures seemed fairly

complete. The Chairman pointed out that in Port Erin where they agreed on an averaging system problems had occurred with the traders once accounts were sent out.

ii) Fly Tipping

Mr Norton expressed his thanks for the production of the list. Mr Crellin commented that as not every case of fly tipping was reported then it could not be regarded as accurate reflection of the situation. Mr Norton advised that he noticed there was further fly tipping on Groudle Road to which the Chairman enquired whether he had reported this to the office but he answered in the negative.

iii) Staffing

It was noted that the refuse section was now operating at full strength.

b) Waste Collections Advisory Group

Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Group held on 4th December 2003 together with a copy of the questionnaire sent to local authorities had been circulated prior to the meeting. Noted. The Clerk reported that there was a meeting at officer level the following afternoon involving Onchan, Braddan, Santon and Marown. To the best of his knowledge the questionnaire circulated by the Department had not been completed and returned by a number of authorities.

c) Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee

i) Permits

The Clerk advised that Braddan Parish Commissioners who were administering the Eastern Civic Amenity Site put forward a case to increase the cost for the issue of permits from £1 to £1.25 for the next session. Members of the Joint Committee felt this to be reasonable considering what was involved in the way of stationary, postage etc. After brief discussion it was

***RESOLVED**

“to recommend acceptance of the proposal of Braddan Commissioners that the administrative cost for the issue of permits to use the Eastern Civic Amenity Site be increased from £1 to £1.25p.”

ii) Joint Committee Agreement

The Clerk advised that a draft had been received from Jeremy Callin and a discussion took place on representation. The matter had been deferred at the request of Douglas Corporation.

iii) Accounts and Estimates

These were to be prepared up to 31st March 2004. The Assistant Borough Treasurer to prepare same. It was suggested at the meeting that the commissioner's Finance Officer be the second choice for same. No approach had been made to Mr Booth.

iv) Operation of Middle River Site

An officer's meeting to discuss further the financial implications and method of staffing to take place on 16th January 2004. Noted.

d) **Skip Provision**

Mr Norton had requested that consideration be given to the reintroduction of a skip to be placed adjoining the former refuse garage in School Road on a Saturday morning for locals to use. The Clerk commented that this would be retrograde step particularly as the commissioners had become a partner in the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site which provided the same facility but everyday of the week and for longer periods than anything which could be provided at the commissioners office site. There had been problems in the past in School Road in so much that two skips would be filled fairly early on and then a refuse vehicle would be filled until finally the gates had to be closed and people turned away. It also presented problems with people backing into the lane and annoyance resulted to residents in School Road as a result of the traffic hold ups. Mr Norton commented that he felt that this was a useful service and maybe it could be operated within the commissioners' car park for a few hours on a Saturday morning. The Chairman commented that the skip would have to be supervised and indeed taken away as soon as it was full. In addition people would leave items in the car park or worse still throw them over a hedge on the way home. A skip wagon could not come at the drop of a hat to remove the skip once full so people might overfill it or leave items in the car park. Mr Crellin commented that he didn't feel that it was a bad idea. Mr Quirk enquired as to how many times the commissioners staff did special collections of large items of furniture etc. It was reported that no collections take place during December and part of January owing to the realignment of collections to cover the Christmas and New Year period. The figures would however be provided. Mr Killey added that if the School Road premises were going to be demolished ready for rebuilding then the site would be closed so therefore he saw little point in opening up a service which would have to close down again shortly afterwards.

e) **Christmas Trees**

Mr Norton made reference to the fact that Douglas Corporation were advertising a service for the disposal of Christmas trees and enquired as to what arrangements had been made by the commissioners. The reply was given that no special arrangements had been made and obviously was now too late for the current year. Noted.

f) **Servicing**

The Chairman enquired as to what arrangements had been made for the servicing of refuse vehicles with particular regard to advertising. The Building Control Officer was not aware as to the current position as the matter was being handled by the Waste Operations Development Officer.

WC/04/1/5

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) **Schemes 2003/2004**

It was noted that a petition now had to be drawn up in respect of the work to be carried out at Kaighens Lane, Cronk Lane, Hillberry Chapel and any post top adapters that could be completed within the total borrowing petition of £40,000.

ii) **Port Jack Toilets**

There was still no updated estimate of costing available. Mr Quirk requested that an update be provided at the next meeting of the Board. He advised that he felt it embarrassing that schemes did not seem to get started within any financial year.

iii) **Port Jack Glen Shelter**

Mr Norton enquired as to any progress in respect of the problems with the floor. The Building Control Officer was not aware of anything which the Surveyor had undertaken.

b) **Other Matters**

Mr Killey commented that it seemed to take a long time from when street signs were taken down to them being put back up in position and enquired therefore what was the time scale which normally applied to such tasks. The Building Control Officer agreed to establish same. Mr Norton reminded members that it had previously been agreed that the Windermere Drive sign should be moved closer to the junction with Whitebridge Road but this had not been done yet.

WC/04/1/6

DRAINAGE FUNCTION

a) **Officer's Report**

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

Groudle Road Pumping Station and Adoption

Mr Quirk had a query about leakage from the plant but the Building Control Officer advised that the problem had been seepage of ground water into the system. Noted.

b) **Other Drainage Business**

Mr Quirk enquired whether any confirmation had been received from DoT that the stream passing through Port Jack Glen was a storm water drain. He advised members that at the recent joint meeting with representatives of DoT, Mr Kniveton had indicated that a reply would be forthcoming. Noted.

WC/04/1/7

PLANNING MATTERS

a) **Planning Communications**

The Building Control Officer reported on the following applications:-

PA 03/127 Residential development on land at Ballachrink Farm.

The commissioners had opposed this application which was now withdrawn.

PA 03/1604 Creation of off road parking 13 Third Avenue

Letter reported as sent by the Planning Officer to the applicant suggesting either the creation of a parking space rear garden or alternatively a reduced parking space in the front garden so as to leave some greenery. After considering the alternatives it was agreed that opposition should continue in respect of the front garden as all other properties currently had their front gardens intact and this would form an unfortunate precedent.

PA 03/1115 Creation of hard standing and access in front garden 77 Wybourn Grove

The commissioners had recommended approval of this application which was refused at initial consideration by the Planning Committee. The Review has now been held and the scheme approved. Noted.

b) **New Applications**

The following new applications were considered:-

PA 03/1849 Finalisation of in fill works, King Edward Bay Golf Course – *Recommend approval of the scheme as submitted.*

PA 03/1857 Amendment to parking layout Block H Majestic Apartments, King Edward Road together with slight increase in ridge height of block. – **Recommend approval. Occupiers of nos 83 – 87 King Edward Road to be notified.**

PA 03/1862 Installation of two roof lights 29 Sunningdale Drive – **Recommend approval.**

PA 03/1871 Conservatory 1 Maple Avenue – **Recommend approval.**

PA 03/1876 Additions to existing kitchen 14 Furman Road – **Recommend approval.**

c) Other Planning Matters

Mr Quirk enquired whether the Building Control Officer was aware of unauthorised works taking place on the far side of the golf course and also the presence of large tanks nearer to the club house. Matter to be investigated.

WC/04/1/8

CAPITAL AND REVENUE SCHEMES

Officer's Report

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

Hawthorn Villa Project

Copies of a letter as received from the architects together with their report on the five building firms who had responded to the advertisement, were circulated at the meeting. Members noted that one firm had withdrawn due to commitments and that the other four were recommended to be included on the list. After brief discussion it was agreed that they be so included.

Mr Killey sought confirmation that the Boardroom was to be refurbished as part of the scheme. The Clerk replied in the affirmative.

WC/04/1/9

HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

a) Kelvin Road

Mr Norton enquired as to what was to happen to the disabled space in Kelvin Road following the recent alteration at the junction with Main Road. Members responded that DoT had indicated at the joint meeting that they were going to look at the situation.

b) Wybourn Drive

Mr Crellin made reference to a damaged speed ramp in Wybourn Drive.

c) Kerrocoar Drive etc

Mr Killey commented that he had been approached by the owner of a property in Kerrocoar Drive stating access via the back lane was difficult due to the bushes of one property projecting. It was confirmed that this was a private lane and probably one to which the public would not have access as it was a cul-de-sac. The Building Control Officer to investigate and take the appropriate action.

Mr Crellin made reference to the junction of Kerrocoar Close with Kerrocoar Drive pointing out that part of the road had not been top surfaced. Mr Quirk commented that DoT had offered to look into this.

WC/04/1/10
FURTHER REPORTS

There were no further reports from the Clerk or Surveyor.

WC/04/1/11
CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

WC/04/1/12
OUTSTANDING MATTERS

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

WC/01/01/19(5) Composting – Kerbside Collection – ***Defer consideration to 2005/06.***

WC/02/10/7(a)(i) Flooding Problems 82, 84 and 86 Summerhill Road – ***Delete as remedial works now carried out.***

W/00/03/19(b) Properties abutting lanes rear of Nursery, Church Avenues/Elm Drive – ***Request Bye-law Enforcement Officer to produce report.***

WC/02/02/02(a) White City Wayleave – Douglas Bay Site – ***Delete as now paid.***

W98/7/14(a) Adoption of roads and lanes – Marion Court – Mr Norton enquired as to the present position. Mr Quirk replied that at the joint meeting with DoT the department was asked for a price for carrying out the work to bring it up to standard for adoption.

3.(2) Review late night/all night lighting requirement. Mr Norton enquired as to what was happening in respect of this item. Mr Quirk replied that the police were going to advise as to where they felt additional all night lights would be an advantage. He also advised that they were prepared to accompany the Works Committee on any tour of inspection. After a brief discussion it was agreed that a joint tour should be arranged and at the same time other areas for improved lighting should be viewed.

WC/04/1/13
MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

WC/04/1/14
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 9th February 2004 at 7pm.

b) **Street Lighting**

Mr Quirk commented that some of the all night lights were out and other lamps were burning all day. He enquired whether the contractor had yet undertaken a tour to look at these.

c) **Litter Bin**

Mr Quirk enquired whether a better litter bin could be provided near to the War Memorial rather than a wheelie bin which was attached to a pole. The Clerk reminded members that new metal bins were being ordered and this would be one of the locations for them.

d) **Main Road Toilets**

Mr Killey commented that the area in front of the Main Road toilets was getting messy with litter. The Building Control Officer replied that the pavement sweeper had not been in use of recent and this was probably the reason.

Meeting terminated at 10.10pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 12th January 2004 at 7.00pm.

Present: Mr G.K. Astill (in the chair), Messrs E.D.R. Killey JP (until 9.25pm), A.T.W. Norton, D.J. Quirk and Mrs E.J.C. Kelly.

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration) Ray Quane (Amenities Officer)

LA/04/1/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed. The Chairman took the opportunity to convey the compliments of the season to members.

LA/04/1/2
SILENCE

The Administrative Officer advised members of the recent passing of Mr Ernest Dobson who was the first parks foreman at Onchan Park being employed there from the time of its opening in 1951 until 1975 when he moved to Douglas Corporation. He further added that the crown green owed its excellence to the work put in all those years ago by Mr Dobson who also acted as caretaker of the park by residing at no 1 The Park and therefore was always on call. Members stood for a minutes silence.

LA/04/1/3
MATTERS ARISING

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

LA/04/1/4
PLAYGROUNDS/PARKS

a) **Playground Log Books**

The Amenities Officer stated that these were ready for signing by the Chairman. He advised that one of the firms who had originally indicated they could supply a replacement train was prepared to obtain alternative prices from different installers for their product. Mr Quirk enquired whether items could be installed by the commissioners' own staff to which the Amenities Officer replied that it was down to insurance. Mr Quirk responded that if everything was installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions then this should not make any difference.

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) **Stadium Perimeter Fencing**

Mr Quirk enquired whether the fencing was now secure. The Amenities Officer replied that it was but he was contemplating suggesting that the return length of car park no 1 be fenced in a similar manner.

ii) **Flat Green**

The Amenities Officer advised that he had now ordered new scoreboards for each of the lanes on the flat green. The cost was approximately £600.

iii) **Rewire – Pennington Hall**

Mr Quirk enquired whether the parks operatives had been advised that they could only use the power points supplied. The Amenities Officer advised that this was not the case as the power points had not yet been fitted. Mr Quirk suggested that each employee should be requested to sign a note agreeing to do so. The Amenities Officer informed the meeting that the electrician had undertaken the annual check on all electrical appliances. The majority of items had passed but a couple had cracked leads which had since been replaced.

iv) Christmas Trees

The Amenities Officer advised that the small Christmas trees had been taken down from the properties throughout the centre of the village and had been shredded in the park.

v) Petrol Licence

The Amenities Officer advised that the petrol licence for the store close to the boating lake had been received that day.

c) Police Matters

The Administrative Officer advised that he had placed this matter on the agenda in case there was anything which had come out of the joint meeting with representatives of DoT and the police under the auspices of the Works Committee. Mr Quirk enquired whether work was now complete on repairing the crown green shelter to which the Amenities Officer advised that he was hoping work would commence that week.

d) Parks Foreman

The Amenities Officer advised that there had been five applicants and that letters had gone out to obtain references for same. Mrs Kelly asked for the names of the candidates to which the Administrative Officer advised that it was not usual to divulge names of candidates as obviously they had applied in confidence. Mr Quirk enquired as to who was to sit on the interviewing panel. The Administrative Officer replied that the matter was in the hands of the Deputy Clerk at present. Mr Quirk suggested that there should be a political member on the panel either the Chairman of the Board or the Chairman of the Committee. The Administrative Officer responded that it was not usual to have a political input for a job of that nature and it was only usually a senior post within the office where political members sat on the interviewing panel. Mr Quirk insisted that there be political representation as in his opinion at the end of the day that political member was responsible to the Board should the selected candidate prove unsuccessful. He again repeated that either the Board Chairman or the Chairman of the Committee should be present. The Board Chairman indicated that he was content for the Chairman of the Committee to take part. There was no further comment from other members.

e) Pennington Hall

The Amenities Officer advised that as the Surveyor had been away for three weeks there was nothing further to report. The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the time it was taking to progress this matter. Mr Quirk suggested that perhaps the Chairman should speak with the Surveyor in order to expedite matters. Mr Norton requested that at such meeting it be confirmed that the committee were interested in a split site development with particular regard to the motorboats.

f) Annual Tour of the Park

Copies of the list of items noted had been circulated again. The Amenities Officer advised that nothing further had been undertaken but he now had use of the maintenance staff for the next two/three weeks and therefore anticipated that most of the work would be attended. Mr Quirk suggested that if there was shortfall in respect of labour then outside contractors should be engaged as the commissioners had plenty of money in surpluses. Mrs Kelly enquired about provision of new play equipment but she was informed that this should come up under the section of the meeting dealing with estimates.

g) Proposed Skateboard Park – The Next Step

The Administrative Officer informed members that he had placed this item on the agenda as there had been a recommendation to the Board and it was a case of any follow up relevant thereto. Members were uncertain as to what was finally agreed at the Board in respect of making a planning application for the School Road site. After discussion, on the proposal of Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Norton it was

***RESOLVED**

“that the Surveyor be instructed to make a planning application for the provision of a skateboard park in the corner of the playground at the School Road Recreation Ground and also to carry out whatever else was necessary in order to do so”.

Mr Killey commented that he thought a couple of the Board members required more details first. Mr Norton commented that the Surveyor was also required to look into a site for five-a-side football/basketball within the School Road Recreation Ground. Mr Killey commented that since The Rec opened in 1922/23 football had always been played there either with or without goalposts. Mr Quirk suggested that the commissioners should be looking to all year round play. Mr Norton added that in the long term there should be fencing and floodlights with the facility being linked to the Youth and Community Centre for management and supervision. Mrs Kelly suggested that the commissioners should look into getting a grant for a synthetic pitch. The Administrative Officer advised as to investigations carried out before with the Department of Tourism and the Sports Council the result of which was that grant assistance was not available to local authorities; clubs could obtain loans. Mrs Kelly suggested that in those circumstances the matter be left. Mr Quirk suggested that the Chairman of the Committee should see the Surveyor with regard to the skateboard park and also the five-a-side facility. He further added that Mr Nigel Kane the youth worker should be involved as he had sent a letter to the Board in support of the skateboard park on the tennis courts. He also felt that Mr Kane should be involved in the meeting with the Surveyor. There was no further comment.

h) Safety Tiles

The Administrative Officer reported having written to the nursery nurse at Ballacottier School at the suggestion of Mr Killey offering the spare safety tiles for sale. No reply had been received to date. Mr Killey commented that he was involved with the Campion Trust who undertook to assist work for handicapped children and they had become involved in the Ballacottier project. Members were advised therefore that there was still one offer on the table of £2 per tile. On the proposal of Mrs Kelly, seconded by Mr Norton it was

RESOLVED

“to sell the small number of surplus tiles for £2 to the person who had made the offer”.

LA/04/1/5

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) Decorative Lighting

The Amenities Officer confirmed the items in his report. Mr Killey suggested that the Rudolph and rope light that were being sent to Douglas Corporation for repair should be sent as soon as possible. The Chairman commented that the commissioners should consider additional lights for next year for the centre of the village.

ii) Lazy Corner Seat

Mr Killey enquired whether this had been positioned yet. The Amenities Officer replied that it was being done during the current week.

iii) Millennium Shelter

In answer to question from Mr Quirk the Amenities Officer advised that the polycarbonate sheets had not been replaced. He was of the opinion that they may possibly be a fraction too small which has assisted in them being prised out by persons unknown. Mr Quirk enquired as to a date by which the work would be complete. The Amenities Officer advised that he was not able to give that as it was in the hands of the glaziers.

iv) Centenary Park

Mr Killey enquired whether it was possible to do something in the way of laying out paths within the park. The Administrative Officer replied that the difficulty was that until such time as the hawthorn hedge had grown up to provide protection to the escarpment it would be wrong to encourage the public into the area on

account of the liabilities that existed. The carrying out of path work now could be undertaken but there was the problem that weeds etc would grow up through it between now and when the area was available to the public. There were however other works that could be done in preparation. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the allowance in the estimates for the forthcoming year should be increased to the equivalent of that within the current year.

b) Path Repairs in The Rec

The Administrative Officer advised that he had drafted a specification for this work and hoped that it would be typed and issued shortly. Noted.

c) Other Matters

Mr Norton made reference to the recent press coverage regarding vandalism to trees in The Rec. He advised that he was not aware that these trees had been planted and queried whether this was a managerial matter. The Administrative Officer replied that the policy of planting trees in The Rec was agreed by the committee at least fifteen years previous and from time to time trees are replaced when damaged. On this occasion four replacement trees were provided at no cost to the commissioners but unfortunately were damaged shortly afterwards. The fact that they had been planted in memory of two people who had recently been killed in an accident resulted in media interest and coverage. Noted.

LA/04/1/6

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

a) Amenities Officer's Report

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

Baby Changing Table

Members noted the Amenities Officer's comments regarding the difficulty in finding a fixing for the baby changing unit within the disabled toilet at Main Road. Mr Quirk commented that he couldn't believe that in a modern building and with modern building techniques that such an item could not physically be installed. The Amenities Officer replied that the stone wall had been built out in Carlyte Bonding and then tiled. Mr Quirk suggested that a proprietary type of raw plug that was stuck into position with the appropriate epoxy resin should do the job. The Amenities Officer to investigate.

Mr Killey commented on the build up of litter in the forecourt area in front of the toilets. This matter had already been raised at the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting the week before.

b) CCTV Coverage

Mr Quirk enquired as to what had happened to the reports that had been requested. The Amenities Officer responded that he didn't have any. Mr Quirk reiterated that he had been instructed to contact Securicor who supplied the present CCTV facilities within the district for their views with particular regard to enhancement of the system within Onchan Park and also at the War Memorial in order to achieve better quality picture. Mr Killey commented that they would give free advice and this should be followed up. The Amenities Officer responded that he had, in the company of the Surveyor, visited Colebourns to see their system but he had no further communication from them. Mr Quirk added that what the committee were looking for was a couple of alternative reports to show what could be provided. Reference was made to Castletown having installed a digital type of camera and the Amenities Officer was to make enquiries regarding same. Mr Killey referred to the previous minutes where it was suggested that Constable Mike Radcliffe could be asked to produce a report and asked if this had been done. The Amenities Officer advised that he thought the Surveyor had spoken with Constable Radcliffe sometime previous. He was of the opinion however that you had to decide on what you wanted for the constable to comment thereon.

LA/04/1/7

PUBLIC LIBRARY

a) Librarian's Report

Copies of the Librarian's report and annual report had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted. During the period January to December 2003 there had been a 4.4% increase in the number of persons taking out a library subscription. This applied to both the adults and junior section. In respect of issues to

library members there had been a slight decrease in fiction, an increase in non-fiction, slight decrease in junior issues, an increase in audio and an increase in video. The overall issues were 2.1% down on the previous year.

Members noted that the computer sessions for the over 50s were growing in popularity. Seventeen people had received at least one hour's tuition to date and a further twenty one people are currently on the waiting list. The Librarian was particularly indebted to Mr Robert Woollams for freely giving his time to provide these lessons.

The Christmas Carol Reading had proved extremely successful and hopefully something similar would occur at Christmas 2004. Ballakermeen art students will be displaying African art work from February onwards. The office at the library has now been painted with the minimum of disruption. Noted.

LA/04/1/8

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) Amenities Officer's Report

Copies of the Amenities Officer's report had been circulated from which it was noted that a budget price for top surfacing the car park had been computed. Members were of the opinion that this should be done as a matter of urgency in view of the state of the present car park. Agreed that provision be made in the estimates for the forthcoming year. After further discussion, on the proposal of Mr Norton, seconded by Mrs Kelly it was

RESOLVED

"that tenders for the resurfacing and repair of the car park at the Youth and Community Centre should be obtained as a matter of urgency".

Mr Quirk had a query about the toilet doors being locked from the inside and it not being possible to gain entry from the outside. Equally children were locking the doors and going out through the window leaving doors locked behind them. The Amenities Officer replied that locks were to be fitted which could be opened by staff from the inside. The Administrative Officer pointed out the problem with most toilet cubicles is that the doors opening inwards present great difficulty if the occupant had collapsed on the floor thus prohibiting entry. After discussion it was agreed that the Amenities Officer should look into the practicality of altering the doors to open outwards and that a sum should be allowed in the estimates to cover this project.

A brief discussion took place in respect of potential alterations to the building. The Administrative Officer pointed out that any proposals should come from the Youth and Community Centre Advisory Committee as the Leisure and Amenities Committee was responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the building. Agreed that copies of the plan thereof should therefore be circulated to all members of the Board to give them an opportunity of coming forward with suggestions.

LA/04/1/9

PROMOTIONS/ADVERTISING/PUBLIC INFORMATION

a) Website

The Administrative Officer reported on statistics received from Web One UK which indicated a slight decrease in the total number of hits during December. This could probably be put down partially to the Christmas period but also the fact that the search engines were re-indexing the new structure and do not have full listings. It would take some six to eight weeks for this to settle. What was interesting however is that whilst there were less hits the number of pages viewed by the hits was increased.

The Administrative Officer further reported that part two of the Tour of Onchan was now up and running with favourable comments being received. There had also been a number of additional links made since the last meeting and the library had its own links and indeed separate set of figures. At the request of the librarian there was a google search engine attached to the Onchan Library web page. The new section on news snippets was being kept up to date. Correspondence had been received from Mr & Mrs Kissack in Cheshire who had been making enquiries long before the web page in respect of their family who were bakers on Summerhill. The photograph on the Tour of Onchan part two showing bakers standing in Summerhill had been sent to them for which they were extremely grateful. Mr Quirk enquired whether it was possible for the staff now to update items direct. The Administrative Officer reported that there were sections that could be updated and this would be put into practice shortly.

b) Torchlight Procession

The Administrative Officer reported that as was customary a donation had been sent to both the Onchan Silver Band and the St John Ambulance following the parade. A note of thanks had been received from the St John Ambulance as a result. Mr Killey commented that he felt the Torchlight Procession went well primarily due to the fact that it was a nice night. He commented that the lanterns were perhaps a little small although served the purpose. The Administrative Officer commented that the trouble with the lanterns was the night light was set down low and therefore they did not provide the same effect as the burning torches which certainly were the predominant feature of the procession. He further advised that Geoff Corkish telephoned the day before the procession to say that he would attend to lead the singing but then on the morning of the procession telephoned to say that he was required at a rehearsal for an event the following night and therefore could not come. Mr Killey commented that there were some very good choirs in Onchan who could be asked. The Administrative Officer reported that the Onchan Ladies Choir had been asked in the past but felt that their members were too old to risk the coldness of the December night. Enquiries had also been made of the school choirs but as they had concerts at that time of the year they also did not feel it a practical proposition.

Mr Killey stated that he felt the religious section of the presentation was just about the right length and Mrs Kelly felt the whole event was of the right length. A comment was made that perhaps not every verse of the Christmas carols be sung. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the committee to the Administrative Officer and his secretary for their work. The Administrative Officer added that Commissioner Parkin had made a comment in respect of the positioning of the sales vehicle at Coutts Bank and this would be changed next year. In the very early days it was necessary to have it in the top corner because of the volume of people waiting to take part in the parade. Noted.

c) Christmas Lights Competition

The Administrative Officer reported that application forms for the competition were left at the counter in both the office and library. There was a press announcement and also a section on the website. Shortly prior to the completion date very few applications had been received and so one evening he undertook a sixteen mile round tour of the district putting out application forms to properties which appeared to be suitable. As a result several applications were then received from those properties where the forms had been dropped off.

Mrs Kelly commented that she was not impressed by the commercial entries and was not personally of the opinion that a prize should be awarded although Mr Black was and consequently this took place. Mr Killey commented that one of the residents in Heywood Court who had lighting around the window of her flat was delighted to have received a letter thanking her for entering even though it advised that she had not won. He continued that the competition should be run again the following year and suggested that each commissioner be given forms and an area to traverse handing out application forms to suitable properties.

d) Scooter Rally

The Administrative Officer reported receipt of meeting notes from the Department of Tourism in respect of the onsite meeting held with Mr Kevin Walsh, general secretary of the Lambretta Club of Great Britain on 26th November 2003. Regrettably the notes were incorrect and a letter advising of the corrections had been sent. A further discussion had taken place with Mr Walsh of recent when he had requested photographs of the stadium itself for inclusion in advertising material. Noted.

e) Other Matters

Mr Quirk enquired as to whether the committee was contemplating another village fair in 2004. Mr Killey added that the Onchan residents did appear to appreciate having such events. Mrs Kelly asked where would it be held. The Administrative Officer informed members that fairs had been held in the past in differing locations, Onchan Park, Port Jack Glen, The Village Green and most recently School Road Recreation Ground. Such fairs had, however, usually been tied in with a special event i.e. Port Jack Glen Centenary, Onchan Park Golden Jubilee, opening of the Village Green, 90th Anniversary of the Jubilee Lights, Heritage Year, and the Centenary of the death of Henry Bloom Noble. Members were unable to think of a special reason for celebration in 2004. After further discussion, on the proposal of Mr Quirk

***RESOLVED**

“to refer to the Board the possibility of holding a village fair in Onchan Park during 2004”.

LA/04/1/10

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

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

LA 03/7/4(b) Port Jack Glen – Lighting scheme – The Surveyor to be properly briefed of requirements. **Mr Quirk commented that the matter should be referred back to the Surveyor for a scheme.**

LA 03/9/4(a)(i) War Memorial – Amenities Officer to arrange replanting in the spring. **The Amenities Officer reported that he was arranging to visit the site with a representative of Watson's Nurseries to establish what would be appropriate. Mr Quirk commented that the Parade Marshal for Armistice Day should also be present. He further added that consideration should be given to the placing of a rail at the back of the elm tree in order to stop children coming down the side of the war memorial.**

LA 02/7/3(iii) Alternative planting for replacement tree Onchan Park – Plant in November – **Delete as undertaken.**

LA 03/9/4(f) Port Jack Glen streambed – Contact Juan Kinley – The Administrative Officer reported having spoken with Mr Kinley who was of the distinct impression that the piping of the stream/storm water sewer down Royal Avenue was diverted into the glen to avoid digging into the rock bed in front of the red brick houses of Royal Avenue. He was also of the opinion therefore that the wear and tear on the streambed would be increased as a result of diverting so much water into the stream. Mr Quirk enquired whether this could be obtained in writing. He also made reference to a recent comment by Mr Kniveton MLC at the joint meeting of DoT and the police and requested that his views be obtained in writing.

LA 03/7/15(vii) Park Bye-laws – police to comment on requirements – in absence of any comment by the police. Mr Quirk suggested that a copy be sent to Sergeant Will Campbell.

LA/04/1/11

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Use of The Rec

The Administrative Officer reported that at the recent meeting of the Y.C.C. Management Committee a request had been made by the Manx Foundation for the Physically Disabled to use Onchan Community Centre on 3rd April 2004 for a fund raising event. They also requested use of part of the field alongside for a blow up castle, Onchan Entertainers, a coconut shy and other side shows. As The Rec did not come under the remit of the Y.C.C. Management Committee this section of the request had been referred to the Leisure and Amenities Committee for consideration. After a brief discussion it was agreed that permission should be granted subject to the promoters having full public liability insurance and tidying up after the event.

LA/04/1/12

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Purple Helmets

Letter reported as received from the Southern Motorcycle Club indicating that they would wish to hold a TT Week event in 2004 in Onchan Stadium. Letter further requested meeting with the committee. Agreed that they be invited to the next meeting on Monday 16th February.

b) Mannannan Boat Festival

Letter reported as received from the Manx Model Boat Club requesting permission to hold their annual boating festival on the boating lake in Onchan Park on Saturday 19th June 2004. The pool would be required from 10am through to 4pm. Agreed subject to the usual terms and conditions.

c) Laxey R.A.C.E. Foundation

Letter reported as received from the Laxey R.A.C.E. Foundation enquiring if the commissioners would sell tickets for their draw at £10 each in the library and at the commissioners' office. Members were aware of the general policy of not selling tickets or other items on behalf of groups on the basis that if it was done for one it would have to be done for all. Several Onchan charities had had their requests denied in the past. It was agreed therefore that a letter be sent regretting that the commissioners were unable to help.

d) Stock Car Racing

A provisional fixture list had been received. The Administrative Officer advised that the number of events was in accordance with the licence and this year the only Sunday events was the beginning of the season on 25th April and the closure on 5th September.

LA/04/1/13

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 16th February 2004 at 7pm.

b) **Ferguson Tractor**

Mr Quirk commented that now that the Board had decided to keep the tractor that perhaps quotations should be obtained for its restoration. There was no further comment.

Meeting terminated at 10.06pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom at Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday, 19th January 2004, 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

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

PF04/01/01 **MINUTES**

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

PF04/01/02 **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.

PF04/01/03 **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.

PF04/01/04 **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 13th January 2004 compared with the previous financial year were as follows:-

2003/04 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,419,928
2003/04 collected to 13 th January 2004 less refunds	£1,405,428 (98.98%)

Comparative figures

2002/03 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,098,373
2002/03 collected to 13 th January 2003 less refunds	£1,089,367 (99.18%)

2. Revenue Account Payments

The list of payments from revenue account during the month of December 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 13th January 2004 was £109,467 which compared with an amount of £31,237 outstanding as at 3rd December 2003. A separate list of refuse collection charges (Rural area debtors) had been circulated and it was noted that of the total amount billed in the sum of £5,355, £1,953 was still outstanding.

PF04/01/05

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

There was no further items of correspondence or other communications to report in public.

PF04/01/06

MATTERS REFERRED BY COMMISSIONERS/OTHER COMMITTEES

None to report in public.

PF04/01/07

RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY OR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

It was **RESOLVED** that the following recommendation from the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held 5th January 2004 be endorsed:-

1. ***To approve accepting the increase in the administration charge by Braddan Commissioners in connection with the issue of permits to Onchan residents for access to the Joint Civic Amenity Site at Snugborough (from £1 to £1.25 per permit)***

PF04/01/08

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for consideration in public.

PF04/01/09

NEXT MEETING

The following meeting dates were agreed:-

Extraordinary meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee to which all Members of the Board are invited to consider the full draft estimates for 2004/05 – Tuesday 27th January 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

Extraordinary Board meeting to be held (in public) to levy the district rate for 2004/05 – Monday 9th February 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

The next ordinary meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee – Monday 23rd February 2004 at 5.30 p.m..

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6.50 p.m..

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Wednesday 14th January 2004 at 5.18pm.

Present: Mr J.K. Watterson, (in the Chair), Messrs S.T. Black, J.M. Bulley (from 5.34pm), D. Crellin and B.H. Moore

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

R/04/1/1 **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2003, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

R/04/1/2 **MATTERS ARISING**

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) **Alternative Power for Street Lights**

The Administrative Officer reported that a reminder had been sent to Wind and Sun Limited but no reply had been received to date.

b) **Onchan District Act and Rating Differential**

Members agreed that as the reacquisition meeting had been held the night before, all present were fully up to date with the situation and the matter was not discussed further.

c) **King Edward Bay Golf Course**

The Building Control Officer informed the meeting that there had now been a planning application for an extension of time in order to complete the work. A plan was attached to that application which showed the area yet to be complete which was in accordance with the previous planning approval. Mr Black queried why this matter was being considered by the Rural Committee. The Chairman reminded Mr Black that at the September meeting Mr Moore reported that work on the site was observed and was clearly visible to residents in the Rural Ward and consequently he sought information as to what was happening as he had not seen a planning application advertised at that time.

Mr Black still queried why it should be discussed at a Rural Meeting. He was reminded that in the past when burning of demolished building material was taking place at Bibaloe Moar Farm within the Rural Ward and complaints were received from residents of Lakeside which is in the Urban Ward with the matter being discussed at a meeting of the Works Committee. Equally when blue bags of rubbish were found on the rural side of the Groudle River at the base of a field the matter was again discussed at the Works Committee. The other members commented that they did not have a problem with the situation and fully understood where it had come from.

R/04/1/3 **OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

a) **Ballacreech Corner – Unloading of Vehicles**

The Chairman advised that Sergeant John Kinrade had spoken to the owner of the trailer and now each night it is surrounded by maxie cones and lights. This of course did not overcome the problems experienced when that trailer was loading and unloading self propelled mechanical machinery. Mr Crellin suggested that perhaps somebody should speak with the owner to suggest that when such practices were taking place warning signs were put up further along the road.

b) **Registration of Chimneys – Clucas Laundry**

The Administrative Officer read letter as sent to the Department of Local Government and the Environment on 11th December 2003 advising that the commissioners wished to make representation on this matter and would do so by 29th December 2003 as requested. The letter further advised that the plans submitted showed both red and blue lines around buildings and boundaries but without explanation. Letter requested clarification. A further letter was sent on 8th January 2004 pointing out that no reply had been received to date and consequently a submission had not been made by the commissioners. A telephone call was received the following morning from the Secretary of the Planning Committee apologising for the oversight and advising that the Conservation Officer was going on leave at lunchtime that day and so the matter could not be attended immediately. The Administrative Officer suggested to her that he could telephone and explain the matter. The telephone call was never received. On 13th January 2004 an e-mail was received advising that the blue line was intended to indicate the parcel of land to which the registration related to whilst the red line outlined the individual items of interest that form the group to be registered. This did not explain the situation as the registration document only related to two chimneys and the red line was around two chimneys, an engine house and a dwelling house. An immediate e-mail was sent in response pointing this out and asking further clarification. Nothing further has been received to date. The Administrative Officer advised that it was his intention the next day to write to the Secretary of the Planning Committee once again drawing this to her attention. Noted.

c) **Postcodes**

Members noted that the 2004 edition of the Telephone Directory should be published soon and then it would be known whether the postal addresses had been corrected in accordance with the promise of the Post Office Authority.

d) **Street Light**

This was still awaiting the MEA to erect at the time of installing their underground cable.

e) **Welcome to Onchan Sign**

Delivery still awaited.

R/04/1/4

MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

R/04/1/5

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

No notification received of any referrals relevant to matters affecting the Rural Ward.

R/04/1/6

PLANNING MATTERS

a) **Planning Decisions**

The Building Control Officer reported on the following planning decision at the initial stage

PA 03/1597 Extension over existing garage to form additional living accommodation 2 Larch Hill Grove for Mr & Mrs H. McCrory – **Approved subject to the external finishes matching the existing. Noted.**

b) **Additional Information**

PA.03/985 Proposed bungalow, Ballacreech Farm for Mr Michael Shimmin

A copy of a letter as sent by Ray Corkill Services to the planning office in respect of this application had been forwarded to the commissioners. Approval in principle was previously granted in respect of 00/1251 for the erection of a bungalow with agricultural ties on this site. The detailed application was submitted to the planning office on 4th August but the approval in principle had run out on 27th July.

The letter was to advise of the circumstances and to put forward a case that the principle for such a dwelling had already been established despite the fact that the formal approval had run out and that the applicant's mother, for whom the bungalow was primarily intended because of her condition had since died.

Members were of the view that they had recommended approval of the application in detail when submitted on the basis that approval in principle had been granted not only at initial but also review and appeal stages. After a brief discussion it was agreed that no further action should be taken.

c) **Appeals**

Notification had been received of the following Appeal Hearings

PA 03/658 Approval in principle for erection of holiday cottages, field 1150, land adjacent at Hillberry Manor, Little Mill Road for Mr R.C. Leventhorpe – to be heard on Tuesday 3rd February 2004 at 2pm. Building Control Officer to attend.

PA 03/659 Approval in principle for a development of first time buyer homes, field 1150, land Hillberry Manor, Little Mill Road for Mr R.C. Leventhorpe – Appeal to be heard at 2pm on Tuesday 3rd February 2004. Building Control Officer to attend.

PA 03/396 Approval for creation of field access off Ballacottier Road, The Crofts, Hillberry for Mr & Mrs D. Robbins – Appeal to be heard Wednesday 4th February 2004 at 9.30am. No officer to attend as no adverse comments or objections had been made by the commissioners

d) **Any other Planning Matters**

PA 03/1556 Upgrading of existing farm track as an alternative access to Ballacashin, Abbeylands for Mr & Mrs G. Owen.

Letter read as submitted to the Planning Office on behalf of the committee giving evidence to indicate that there was no existing track in this location. Noted.

R/04/17

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Time and Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 18th February 2004 at 5.15pm.

b) **Scollag Road**

Mr Crellin made reference to the small triangle of land which had resulted from the realignment of the Scollag Road some years previous. He enquired whether this would be of any use to the commissioners. Members commented that the matter had been raised before during the time that Mr Geoff Cannell was an MHK when he suggested that perhaps the commissioners could take it over as a picnic area. At that time it was agreed that the location of the land immediately alongside converging roads with the resultant traffic fumes was not suitable for that purpose and in any event such activities would, in the long term, be provided within Centenary Park. Members felt there was little other use to which the land could be put other than a commercial vehicle park for which planning approval was unlikely to be given.

Meeting terminated at 6.24pm.

Meeting