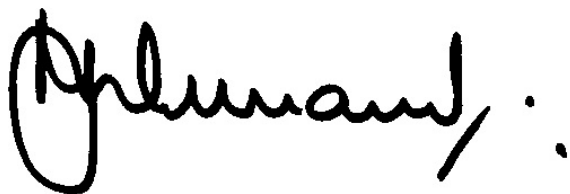


25th November 2005

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 'M.J. Williams', followed by a period.

**M.J. WILLIAMS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CLERK**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the First Floor Lounge, Heywood Court, Onchan, on Monday 24th October 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr G.K. Astill, J.P. (Chairman)
Mr S.T. Black
Mr D. Crellin
Mr E.D.R. Killey
Mrs W. Megson
Mr A.T.W. Norton
Mr D.J. Quirk
Mr B. Stowell
Mr J.K. Watterson

Apologies: Mr M.J. Kennaugh

In Attendance: Mr M.J. Williams (Chief Executive/Clerk)
Mr B.T. Price (Building Control Officer)
Mr P. Martin (Deputy Clerk)

C05/10/01/01
MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on 19th September 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered, arising therefrom:-

- a) Mrs Megson pointed out that on page 5 of the minutes, item 5 (LA/05/09/11(b) – Duck Race) the words ‘even to’ should read ‘event’.
- b) Mr Black advised that in relation to item C05/09/01/14(2) – Civic Amenity Site Charges appearing on page 7 of the minutes, he was not referring to the rural rate specifically but to the fact that residents in the rural ward pay half the cost of disposal of waste at the Civic Amenity Site.

Mr Black then went onto state that he did not believe he was altogether responsible for preventing Mr Watterson providing a response to the question put.

Mr Watterson confirmed that it was his recollection that he request that it be recorded that he was stopped from making his response due to discussion being moved on.

It was proposed by Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Stowell, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the word ‘rural’ be removed from the question posed by Mr Black.

The minutes were amended accordingly, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

C05/10/01/02
BUSINESS ARISING

1. **C05/09/01/02(1) – Civic Amenity Site, Rural District**

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that he had that day received email correspondence from the Advocate and would report the advice received once he had studied it in detail.

2. **C05/09/01/02(6) – Public Sector Housing, Future Management**

A number of Members had attended a meeting of Local Authorities to discuss the possibility and merits of establishing an “Eastern Area Public Sector Housing Authority”.

The Clerk to Braddan Parish Commissioners had, subsequent to the meeting, provided a copy of a presentation he had produced previously and which had been circulated to Members.

Members were generally in favour of investigating the possibilities of such partnership working further.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that some further information was to be collated by officers present and another meeting was to be arranged in the near future.

3. **C05/09/01/02(8) – Audit Bill and Revised Accounts and Audit Regulations**

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the views of the Board had been submitted to the Chief Internal Auditor who had acknowledged same.

Upon the advice of the Chief Executive/Clerk it was unanimously **RESOLVED** *that the Board’s submission should be made available to the public and published on the Authority’s website.*

Mrs Megson requested that a note of thanks be recorded to the Chief Executive/Clerk for his response.

C05/10/01/03
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

C05/10/01/04
CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

1. **Chairman’s Appointments**

The Chairman announced that he had attended a number of official engagements since the last meeting of the Board:-

- Kirk Michael Commissioners Civic Sunday

- Castletown Commissioners Civic Sunday
- The Model Boat Club : Presentation of ODC Shield and Racehorse Trophy
- Onchan Methodist Church Harvest Festival Concert
- Estates Garden Competition Prize Presentation
- Marown Parish Commissioners Civic Sunday
- Reception for Lieutenant Governor Sir Paul K. Haddocks KCB

2. **MacMillan Fundraiser**

The Chairman thanked and praised members of staff for their efforts in raising a total of £232.55 by selling cakes as part of the MacMillan Coffee Morning fundraising event, which included a donation of £100 from the proceeds of a coffee morning held at Onchan Methodist Church.

3. **Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal**

The Chairman drew Members attention to a letter from the British Legion with regards to this years Poppy Appeal and urged their support.

4. **BBC RaW Campaign**

The Chairman also drew Members attention to the forthcoming launch of the BBC's RaW Campaign in partnership with Onchan Library, on Thursday 27th October, when the BBC Bus would be visiting the Commissioners Office and a number of events have been organised to highlight the issues of adult literacy.

C05/10/01/05 **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions submitted under the provision of Standing Order No 7.

C05/10/01/06 **HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee held on 26th September 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. Arising therefrom:-

1. **60 School Road - Water Ring Main**

Members queried whether the proposed works to improve the mains water supply to 60 School Road was the responsibility of Onchan District Commissioners or the Isle of Man Water Authority. The Chairman of the Housing Committee, Mr Watterson, confirmed that advice had been sought from the Isle of Man Water Authority and reconfirmed, that the necessary works were the responsibility of the Authority.

C05/10/01/07 **RECEIVING OF MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on 26th September 2005 be and are hereby received. It was further **RESOLVED that the**

resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board be approved as follows:-

- 1. That the quotation of £672 from Securicor Technical Security Solutions for a 12 month maintenance contract for the emergency Warden Call System at Heywood Court be accepted.*
- 2. That the quotation of £1,620 from Fire Security Ltd for a 3 year maintenance contract for the fire alarm system at Heywood Court Sheltered Housing Complex be accepted.*

C05/10/01/08

WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 3rd October 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. Arising therefrom:-

1. WC/05/10/08 – Pennington Hall Replacement

Mrs Megson enquired as to the progress with regard to seeking Department of Local Government and the Environment approval for, and the preparation of a feasibility study on the replacement of Pennington Hall.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that confirmation had been received that it was unlikely that Planning Approval would be granted for the relocation of operations within the grounds of Onchan Park and that the Authority were awaiting approval from the Department for the approval of Cornerstone Architects to prepare a feasibility study.

C05/10/01/09

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 3rd October 2005 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C05/10/01/10

LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on Monday 10th October 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. Arising therefrom: -

1. LA/05/10/3(ii) – Bumper Boats

Mr Crellin sought clarification as to when the inflatable tubes for the Bumper Boats were ordered. The Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, Mr Norton, confirmed that they had been ordered the previous month.

2. LA/05/10/7 – Footpath

Mr Quirk enquired as to progress on works to the footpaths around Onchan Youth and Community Centre. The Building Control Officer confirmed that formal tender documents had been issued.

3. LA/05/10/04(b) – Port Jack Glen – Standard Scheme

Mr Crellin sought an update in relation to works to the Port Jack Glen streambed.

The Building Control Officer advised that the problems were associated with erosion of the walls and banks of the stream by ground water ingress, and not the streambed itself, therefore posing a risk of collapse of the banks.

Mr Quirk pointed out that monies had been allocated from the rate fund for a scheme of works to address the issues associated with the stream. The previously proposed scheme had not been approved by the Board but it was necessary to carry out essential emergency works to deal with a collapse of part of the banking.

After some further discussion Mr Quirk proposed, seconded by Mr Norton, that essential emergency works be carried out to the Port Jack Stream to provide support to the collapsed section of banking.

For: Messrs Astill, Black, Crellin, Killey, Norton, Quirk, Watterson, and Mrs Megson

Against: None.

Abstained: Mr Stowell

C05/10/01/11

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 10th October 2005 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. ***to grant permission for Hospice Care to hold their Teddy Bear's Picnic in Nivison Stadium on a Sunday afternoon in June subject to the event not clashing with a stock car promotion and subject to the terms and conditions previously applied.***

C05/10/01/12

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 17th October 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered and noted.

C05/10/01/13
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 17th October 2005, be and are hereby received. It was further **RESOLVED** that the resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board be approved as follows:-

1. *That the said payments from revenue account as detailed on the lists attached to the minutes be endorsed.*
2. *That the Memorandum of Agreement submitted by the Department of Local Government and the Environment regarding the processing of data by either party on behalf of the other, be signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Authority.*

C05/10/01/14
RURAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered and noted.

C05/10/01/15
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 12th October 2005 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C05/10/01/16
LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Planning Decisions/Communications From The Department Of Local Government And The Environment Planning Committee**

The schedule of planning decisions/communications was noted.

2. **Waste Management Strategy : Consultation**

The Chief Executive/Clerk referred to the document entitled Waste Management Consultation recently received from the Department of Local Government and the Environment and outlined the principles proposed within the document. He also advised that it was his intention to present a report of the implications for Onchan District Commissioners In Committee.

It was proposed by Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Stowell and unanimously agreed to discuss the report and the implications in public.

The Chief Executive/Clerk summarised the implications identified in the report which was previously circulated and also provided additional information on the financial implications for Onchan.

It was **RESOLVED** *that the report be submitted as the views of the Board and be made available to the public.*

3. Poppy Appeal 2005

Correspondence from the Royal British Legion in relation to the 2005 Poppy Appeal was noted.

4. Nuclear Waste Disposal – Consultation Exercise

Documentation previously circulated was noted.

5. Draft Local Government Bill

The documentation previously circulated in relation to the Draft Local Government Bill was noted.

6. Petition – Redecoration of Commissioners Offices

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed receipt of approval from the Minister of the Department of Local Government and the Environment of the petition to borrow a sum not exceeding £40,300.00 repayable over seven years to defray the cost of redecoration of the Commissioners' Office and purchase of new equipment and furniture.

7. Wright's Pit East, Landfill Site

The Chief Executive/Clerk drew Member's attention to a copy of a notice received from the Department of Local Government and the Environment of the closure of Wright's Pit East Landfill Site from 31st October 2005.

C05/10/01/17

CLERKS REPORT

1. Town and Country Planning Act 1999 – Subsidiary Legislation

The Building Control Officer outlined the new provisions contained within orders being made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1999.

A presentation on the new provisions had been made to Local Authority Officers by Mr Ian McCauley, Director of Planning, and that he had been requested to make a similar presentation to the Members of the Board in the near future.

Mr Quirk suggested that Members may wish to consider that the Authority hold it its own planning meetings in public.

2. BBC Literacy Campaign – Onchan Library

The Deputy Clerk confirmed for Members that the Authority, through Onchan Library, were taking a leading role in the forthcoming launch of the BBC's RaW Campaign on Thursday 27th October 2005.

The Chairman, Mr Astill, expressed his thanks to Mrs Hand, the Librarian, for her hard work and efforts in organising the event.

C05/10/01/18
DISTRICT SURVEYORS REPORT

None.

C05/10/01/19
MOTIONS

1. Motion Number 35 submitted by Commissioner Mr B. Stowell

It was proposed by Mr Stowell, seconded by Mr Norton that the following motion be considered:-

1. *That Onchan District Commissioners formally adopt as policy a commitment to seek a reduction in the number of elected members of that Authority.*
2. *That Onchan District Commissioners reach a determination in the matter at an early date in order that any necessary legislative changes could be incorporated into the Local Government Bill that is due to be placed before Tynwald (subject to the approval of the Department of Local Government and the Environment)*

Mr Stowell presented the Motion adding that in his view a smaller Commission would be more acceptable as compared to other Authorities Onchan District Commissioners has a greater number of elected members. This would be a first step towards Local Government Reform and show a commitment to that process. Mr Stowell stated that he had not specified a number of Commissioners as that was for Members to decide.

Mrs Megson expressed concern as she perceived Onchan as a growing community and the more elected members there are the greater access to political representation there is for members of the public.

Mr Norton supported the motion and expressed the view that there should be an odd number of Members.

Mr Watterson stated that the emphasis should be on the quality of elected members rather than the quantity and that the Board should think of the community as their role was to set policy. He was unsure of an exact number but felt that the motion was worthy of debate.

Mr Crellin stated that he did not disagree with the principle but in light of the fact that the Chief Executive/Clerk and Deputy Clerk were due to make a presentation to the Board on their proposals for the management of the organisation and views on the future role and the direction the organisation should take, then he would like to see that presentation before making any further decision.

Mr Quirk suggested that the Board could consider deferring the Motion *sine die* until Members had received the presentation.

Mr Stowell expressed concern that if the Motion were deferred and the Local Government Bill goes forward then this would be a missed opportunity to include any necessary legislative changes to move the matter forward.

A vote was taken on the Motion:-

For: Messrs Watterson, Stowell and Norton.
Against: Messrs Black, Crellin, Killey, Quirk and Mrs Megson
Abstained: Mr Astill

The Motion was therefore defeated.

2. Motion Number 36 submitted by Commissioner Mr B. Stowell

It was proposed by Mr Stowell, seconded by Mr Quirk that the following motion be considered:-

1. *That Onchan District Commissioners, do elect from their Membership three representatives, Without Delegated Authority, to meet with the Full Rural Committee and formulate proposals for consideration by the Board with the specific aim of reviewing the provisions of The Onchan District Act 1986 and making any subsequent recommendations arising to the Department of Local Government and the Environment.*
 - (a) *That Mr Mark Williams act as Clerk and Independent Advisor to the review forum.*
 - (b) *That Mr Mark Williams collate formal agenda for each and every meeting to ensure a detailed and meaningful outcome.*
 - (c) *That it be prior agreed by the Board that the views and concerns of all parties be recorded and considered by the Board and form part of the final submission to DOLGE.*

2. *That Onchan District Commissioners aim to reach a determination I the matter at an early date in order that any necessary legislative changes could be incorporated into the Local Government Bill that is due to is placed before Tynwald (subject to the approval of the Department of Local Government and the Environment).*

Mr Stowell outlined the detail of the Motion to elect three Members to meet with the full Rural Committee for the purpose of reviewing the provisions of The Onchan District Act 1986.

Mr Quirk proposed that the three Members should be Mr Stowell, The Chairman of the Board and Vice-Chairman of the Board. He also added that other Board Members should be given the opportunity to make submissions to the review body.

Mr Watterson stated that he had no objection to the Motion and that he was fully aware of why Mr Stowell had brought the matter forward and saw this as an opportunity to pave a way forward. He added that the Rural Committee did offer to meet with the Board to discuss the role for the year 2004/05 but were not given such an opportunity.

Mr Quirk stated that he did not recall this. Mr Watterson requested that the Chief Executive/Clerk research the matter and provide the appropriate minute.

A vote was taken on the Motion and the proposal that the elected members making up the review body be Mr Stowell, The Chairman of the Board and Vice-Chairman of the Board.

For: Messrs Astill, Crellin, Norton, Quirk, Stowell, Watterson and Mrs
Megson
Against: Messrs Black and Killey

The Motion and proposed amendment were approved.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at approximately 9.05 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE** held in the First Floor Lounge, Heywood Court, Onchan, on Monday, 31st October 2005, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr J.K. Watterson (Chairman)
Mr S.T. Black
Mr M.J. Kennaugh
Mrs W.E. Megson
Mr G.K. Astill

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

H05/10/01/01 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday, 26th September 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chair.

H05/10/01/02 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

H05/10/01/03 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

None.

H05/10/01/04 **HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES BUSINESS**

1. Maintenance Report

The report, dated 26th October 2005, had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

2. H05/09/01/04(1)(a) Ring Water Main, 60 School Road

The Housing Maintenance Manager advised that the works had been completed at a cost of £1,500.00.

3. H05/09/01/04(2) Asbestos Survey

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that following the submission of a report to the Board by the Health and Safety Officer it had been agreed that the Housing Maintenance Manager would carry out surveys of all Onchan District Commissioners' property.

H05/10/01/05
SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

1. **Maintenance Report**

The report, dated 26th October 2005 had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

2. **H05/09/01/05(2) – Car Parking**

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that he had written to the Department of Transport for their comments and awaited a response.

Mrs Megson asked if residents could be advised of the steps being taken. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the matter had been included in the recent newsletter sent to residents and future editions would include an update.

3. **H05/09/01/05(3) – Cleanliness of Communal Areas**

The Deputy Clerk advised that the matter was still being progressed and monies for a sheltered housing caretaker post were to be included for initial consideration in the capital and revenue estimates for 2006/07.

Mrs Megson expressed the view that a number of the previously identified issues into deep cleaning and minor repairs would not be addressed at present. The Deputy Clerk stated that in his view many of the issues would be dealt with as a result of the current external decoration scheme which was progressing. It would then be his intention upon completion of the redecoration to identify and address any remaining issues.

H05/10/01/06
HEYWOOD COURT MATTERS

1. **Maintenance Report**

The report, dated 26th October 2005, had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

2. **H05/09/01/06(1)(a) - Post Box - Pavement**

The Housing Maintenance Manager reported that he had received three competitive quotations for the extension of the footpath from the car park to the newly re-located post box. The lowest quotation received was from John Cain in the amount of £1,690 plus V.A.T.. It was unanimously **RESOLVED***:-

That the quotation of £1,690 from John Cain for the extension of the pedestrian footpath from the car park at Heywood Court to the relocated post box be accepted.

3. **H05/09/01/06(5) – Parking Issues**

The Housing Maintenance Manager advised that Colas Ltd were awaiting a period of fine weather to paint the necessary road markings.

4. Request for Provision of Showers

The Deputy Clerk advised that he had been approached by a number of residents and a representative from Age Concern requesting whether level access showers could be installed in the bathrooms of properties in Heywood Court.

The Deputy Clerk pointed out that as a reasonably new build the bathrooms had been designed with low level entry baths and fitted extensively with grab rails. Although he sympathised with the residents who had approached him the Deputy Clerk was under the impression and concerned that the residents had not contacted the Occupational Health Service to see if other aids or adaptations or carer assistance was available to overcome any difficulties or disability.

Members felt that they could not justify carrying out such works, however, if residents could show that they had contacted the Occupational Therapy Service and there was an identified medical need then the Committee would be willing to consider an application from a resident who was willing to pay for such works themselves to be carried out to a specification and standard to be agreed with the Commissioners.

H05/10/01/07 **GARAGE MATTERS**

1. Maintenance Report

Nothing to report.

2. H05/10/01/07(2) - Garage Doors, Hackett Close

Further to the concerns expressed by Mr Watterson at the previous meeting the Housing Maintenance Manager had inspected the doors and frames of the garages at Hackett Close and found them to be clean and in a state of good repair.

H05/10/01/08 **PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE**

An up to date copy of the Planned Housing Maintenance Programme had previously been circulated and was noted.

H05/10/01/09 **HEALTH AND SAFETY BUSINESS**

1. Training

The Chairman, Mr Watterson, sought re-assurance that a proactive approach was taken to identifying and carrying out health and safety training for all staff.

H05/10/01/10
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

None.

H05/10/01/11
OUTSTANDING MATTERS – MONITORING OF ACTION TAKEN

1. **Report**

The report updated after the meeting held on 26th September 2005 had been circulated with the agenda and noted.

H05/10/01/12
OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

H05/10/01/13
FINANCIAL MATTERS

None.

H05/10/01/14
MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

H05/10/01/15
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Housing Committee would take place on Monday 5th December 2005, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

2. **Commissioners' Surgery**

It was noted that the next Commissioners' Surgery was to take place on Thursday, 1st December 2005, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.40 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS & CLEANSING COMMITTEE** held in the first floor lounge, Heywood Court, Heywood Park, Onchan, on Monday 7th November 2005 at 6.58pm.

Present: Mr D.J. Quirk (in the chair), Messrs G.K. Astill JP, S.T. Black, E.D.R. Killey and B. Stowell

In attendance: M.J. Williams (Clerk), B.T. Price (Building Control Officer) and Peter Kelly (Administration)

WC/05/11/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

WC/05/11/2
MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) **Land at Ridgeway Road and Smith Aerospace**

There was nothing further to report on Ridgeway Road and copies of emails in respect of the land behind Smith Aerospace had been circulated with the agenda.

b) **Community Warden**

The Clerk reported that the position of Community Warden had been offered to the successful candidate who had indicated by telephone that they were pleased to be offered the post. A formal acceptance was awaited. Noted.

c) **Office Alterations**

The Building Control Officer reported that everything was scheduled for completion on 21st November 2005. The furniture for the boardroom was anticipated to arrive by the end of November. Noted.

d) **Housing (Multi – Occupancy) Act 2005**

The Clerk reported that DOLGE had not been contacted as yet to enquire as to whether they were aware of any properties of this nature in Onchan.

WC/05/11/3
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

a) **Officer's Report**

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

b) **Kaighin's Lane - Maintenance**

Copies of the memorandum from the Clerk to the Waste Operations Manager requesting the positioning of dog waste bins (two in Kaighin's Lane and two in Cronk Lane) had been circulated with the agenda. The Building Control Officer confirmed that the instructions was being actioned. After further brief discussion it was agreed that the question of general maintenance of Kaighin's Lane should be placed on the agenda for the meeting with DoT.

c) **Litter bins – Onchan Crest**

The Building Control Officer advised that the crests for the new litter bins were on order. Mr Stowell enquired as to the position with regard to the return of the litter bin to Hague Crescent in the garden area surrounding the Steve Hislop statue. The Chairman responded that a base had now been put in position for the bin but there were no studs for bolting down. The Chairman then commented that the road and footpath outside of the garden areas still required to be surface dressed. Mr Astill added that he had received lots of compliments for the new litter bins throughout the district.

d) **Waste Management Strategy**

The Clerk advised that the commissioners' submission had been forwarded to government. The Administrative Officer added that a copy had been placed on the Onchan website under Public Notices. The Chairman informed members that he had given copies to other local authorities at a recent meeting.

e) **Port Jack Toilets – External Lights**

The Building Control Officer advised that the bulbs had been changed so that the lights were not as bright and dazzling as at first. Noted.

f) **Council of Ministers - Litter**

Copy of a letter as sent by the Secretary to the Infrastructure and Environment Sub Committee to the Secretary of the Isle of Man Municipal Association had been circulated. The letter gave a summary of responses from local authorities of their involvement, procedure and financial allowance for dealing with litter within their particular area. The Clerk reported on receipt of a question from Commissioner Megson as to any health and safety implications in respect of voluntary litter collections. The Clerk advised that if any of these were organised by the commissioners then they would need to comply with all safety measures. Mr Stowell then made reference to the litter which accumulated in the roadside gutter stretching from Eskdale Road down to Port Jack. He stated that whilst the commissioners were responsible for pavement cleaning this was in the roadway and DoT had advised they only removed litter from roadways if it was presenting a

danger to road users. Agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the meeting with DoT.

WC/05/11/5

STREET LIGHTING/SIGNS/FURNITURE

a) Officer's Report

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

Mercury Vapour Lamps

Mr Stowell queried whether the policy was to eliminate all white lights and replace them with sodium lights as he had realised that the various lights that he had reported as malfunctioning were white lights. The Building Control Officer responded that the policy was now to replace the orange sodium lights with white lights. In answer to question, he further advised that records were kept and a note made of where revisits had to be made to the same light standards for recurring faults.

b) Other Relevant Business

i) Groudle Road

The Chairman pointed out that certain lights on Groudle Road were going out at 11pm rather than midnight. Noted.

ii) Eskdale Road

Mr Stowell pointed out that the lamp at the junction of Eskdale Road and Sunningdale Drive had been out for three weeks.

iii) Email Notification

The Clerk advised that notification of faulty streetlights made via the page on the Onchan website were as follows:-

6 lights in August, 17 lights in September and 4 lights in October all notifications were from members of the commission.

The Clerk reported that he felt there was a fault in the system as he had undertaken a test run and this did not show up on the computer. Matter to be investigated.

WC/05/11/6

DRAINAGE FUNCTION

a) Officer's Report

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

WC/05/11/7
PLANNING MATTERS

a) **Planning Communications**

The Building Control Officer reported on four applications where the recommendation of the commissioners and the decision of the Planning Committee differed viz

PA 05/1123 Conversion of existing bungalow into two semi-detached bungalows, 61 Lhonvane Close, Ballachurry Park.

The commissioners had recommended refusal of this application at both the initial and Review stages. The Planning Committee had approved the application on both occasions. After consideration it was

RESOLVED

“not to proceed to Appeal”.

PA 05/1458 Split level bungalow with garaging plot 22 Majestic Close.

The Commissioners had recommended approval but the application had been refused by the Planning Committee. Members were advised that a request for a Review had been made.

PA 05/1307 Demolition and rebuilding of rear outlet with renovations and alterations to form three self contained flats, 3 King Edward Road.

The commissioners had recommended approval but the Planning Committee had refused the application. It was noted that the applicant had sought Review.

PA 05/357 Proposed churchyard extension, land to the rear of 112 – 118 Royal Avenue.

The commissioners had recommended approval of this application but the Planning Committee had refused it at both initial and Review stages. An Appeal was to be held on 17th December 2005.

RESOLVED

“that the commissioners be represented at the Appeal Hearing to confirm their approval of this and the alternative scheme”.

b) **New Applications**

The following new applications were considered

PA 05/1995 Alteration to driveway, rebuild garden boundary walling and erect portico to front elevation of 32 Majestic Drive for Mr & Mrs Fitzgerald.

RESOLVED

“to recommend approval of the application as made”.

Notify owner of number 32 Majestic Drive.

PA 05/2018 Proposed rear extension, 16 Third Avenue for Mr Jackson and Ms Feeney.

RESOLVED

“to recommend approval of the application as made”.

Notify owners of numbers 14 and 18.

c) **New Planning Procedures**

The Clerk confirmed that a meeting with the Director of Planning was to be held the following evening. Noted.

d) **Demolition Notice**

Copies of the notice of intention to demolish the former Molly's Kitchen, Harbour Road, Onchan had been received from DOLGE Environment, Safety and Health Directorate. Any comments on the proposals had to be submitted by 14th November 2005. The Chairman queried whether the commissioners had received a copy of documentation dated 17th October 2005 and sent to residents in the area. The Clerk and the Building Control Officer advised that they had not seen copy of same. There was no further comment in respect of the proposal.

WC/05/11/8

CAPITAL AND REVENUE SCHEMES

Officer's Report

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

WC/05/11/9

HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

a) **Meeting with DoT Officials**

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was arranged for 7pm on Monday 21st November.

b) **Traffic on School Road**

Copies of an email as forwarded by the Chairman of the Committee relevant to a request he had received from an Onchan resident had been circulated with the agenda. The resident referred to a recent survey of traffic speed in School Road and was concerned as to how this was carried out for it showed only a handful of cars were exceeding the speed limit. The writer suggested a speed matrix be installed as at Kewaigue and Marown schools which would limit the speed to 20 mph at such times as the children were going into or coming out of school. Further comment was made on the number of parents who continue to park illegally on the bus stop or on the yellow lines. The Clerk advised as to the receipt of an email from Commissioner Megson supporting the installation of traffic signs that detect the speed of oncoming vehicles and flashes a warning.

c) **Reserved Parking Place**

Letter received from Department of Transport Highways Administration had been circulated with the agenda. From this it was noted that a resident in Barrule Drive had requested a reserved parking place but the department were initially not inclined to grant same as the applicant rented a garage from the commissioners. The applicant had however indicated that they were prepared to give up the garage in return for the parking place in front of their house. The letter from the

Department of Transport requested the commissioners' views on the principle involved. Members were of the opinion they could not decide on the principle without knowing the name and address of the applicant. The Clerk would arrange to establish same and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Board.

WC/05/11/10

FURTHER REPORTS FROM CLERK/SURVEYOR

There were no further reports for consideration in public.

WC/05/11/11

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

a) Lane of Mount View Close

Copy of a memorandum as sent by the Clerk to Commissioner Crellin in response to his passing on the complaint of a resident in the Ballachurry area regarding the lighting and litter problems in the footpath leading off Mount View Close, had been circulated prior to the meeting. The matter was discussed briefly and members concurred that the area should be inspected during the hours of darkness.

b) Dalrymple Associates

Circular letter as received from Dalrymple Associates advising as to the services they were able to offer had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted the content. Mr Stowell advised that he was related to Mr Dalrymple and therefore felt he should declare an interest.

WC/05/11/12

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/03/10/-8(a) Port Jack Millennium Shelter floor surface – ***Delete as work now carried out.***

W/98/7/14(a) Adoption of road and lane – Marion Court – Agreed that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion with DoT.

W/95/9/11 Proposed extension and or new conservation area(s) – The Chairman queried whether a reminder had been sent to DOLGE. The Clerk was not aware that same had been carried out. Agreed that letter be sent.

WC/05/11/13

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

a) Time and Date of Next Meeting

Monday 12th December 2005 at 7pm.

b) Agenda Items

Members viewed the agenda and agreed that the following be placed in the committee section of the minutes:-

Gas company land, pavement licence, Shoprite land, service agreement, Marown refuse, streetlight repositioning, nuisance abatement, staffing matter and estimates.

c) Welcome to Onchan

Mr Stowell made reference to the welcome to Onchan sign alongside the MER sheds, pointing out that one of the support poles had rusted through. The Building Control Officer responded that the matter was already in hand.

d) Birch Hill Properties - Hedges

Mr Black queried the statement of the Surveyor at the previous meeting when he advised that the Birch Hill plots were sold with the full hedge to rear where it existed so that the responsibility of future maintenance was that of the property owner. He was surprised therefore as the DoT had cut the hedges on the footpath side of recent.

e) Overgrown Hedges

Mr Astill commented that there were a number of overgrown hedges in the district which impeded the use of footpaths.

f) Surface Water

The Chairman commented that there seemed to be excessive surface water travelling down the lane between Nursery Avenue and the band room. The Building Control Officer to investigate.

g) Elm Tree House

The Chairman drew attention to a constant damp patch on the external gable wall of Elm Tree House which he felt may result from an overflow. The Building Control Officer to investigate.

h) Drainage Channel

The Chairman referred to the drainage channel on the car park behind Elm Tree House on Elm Tree Road which he stated was blocked. The Building Control Officer to investigate.

j) **Vehicle Poppies**

The Chairman queried whether large poppies could be purchased for the refuse vehicles. The Clerk responded that five had already been purchased at £10 each and these would be placed on the vehicles very shortly. They would be reused in future years.

Meeting terminated at 9.17pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held in the first floor lounge, Heywood Court, Heywood Park, Onchan on Monday 14th November 2005 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr A.T.W. Norton (in the chair), Mrs W. Megson Messrs G.K. Astill JP, E.D.R. Killey and B. Stowell

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

LA/05/11/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

LA/05/11/2
MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising which were not already on the agenda or in the reports.

LA/05/11/3
PLAYGROUNDS/PARKS

a) **Playground Log Books**

The Amenities Officer reported that the logbooks were ready for inspection and signature by the Chairman. There were no items which required to be highlighted to the committee. Noted.

b) **Amenities Officer's Report**

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

i) **Nivison Stadium – Rear Entrance Gates**

The Amenities Officer confirmed that he had received a quotation of £517 plus VAT for the manufacture, supply and fitting of new galvanised gates and overhead barrier to the terrace entrance at Nivison Stadium. Mr Stowell produced a catalogue of railings and gates produced by the firm of Jackson who are based on the Wirral. He commented that the prices for galvanised bow top were cheaper than those quoted locally and he felt therefore that they may be in a position to provide gates at a cheaper price. On the proposal of Mr Stowell, seconded by Mr Killey it was

***RESOLVED**

“that the Amenities Officer look at the catalogue and if the firm are able to produce gates, obtain a price from them, otherwise to accept the quotation received from A&B Fabrications or alternatively if Jacksons can supply the gates to obtain a quotation for comparison and then accept the lowest tender”.

ii) **Bumper Boats**

Members noted that the cost of buoyancy tubes was to be £625 plus VAT per tube and that 6 tubes were required. The total cost would therefore be £3,750 plus £130 delivery plus VAT. The Amenities Officer advised that he would check with the Finance Officer to see if money could be found from the present year's budget to purchase these items and if not then an allowance would need to be made in next year's budget. Mr Stowell proposed and it was

RESOLVED

“that the course of action indicated by the Amenities Officer be followed”.

iii) Greenkeepers Hut/Crown Green Clubhouse

From the Amenities Officer's report it was noted that the cost estimated by the commissioners electrical contractor for upgrading the electrics within the greenkeepers hut was £1,018.09 and for the crown green clubhouse £503.60. On the proposal of Mr Killey it was

***RESOLVED**

“to proceed to have the electrical work done in the greenkeeper's hut at £1,018.09 and the crown green hut at £503.60 on the basis that the Finance Officer can find a source of funding”.

c) Annual Tour of the Park

The list of items as prepared following the tour of inspection on 16th September 2005 and amended at the last meeting had been circulated in advance. The Amenities Officer reported on the following:-

- i) Old Greenhouse – to be offered for sale – purchaser dismantles and takes away. The Amenities Officer reported that the necessary glass had been removed from the old greenhouse in order to repair the newer version. The old one was now in a position to be offered for sale.
- ii) Newer greenhouse – *repair broken glass* – **Delete as work carried out.**
- iii) Wall to rear of adjoining property – *establish ownership, inspect and advise.* The Administrative Officer had written to the adjoining owner and copies of the correspondence had been circulated with the agenda. Members confirmed that the best way forward was to have an onsite meeting. Agreed that the Chairman of the committee, the Surveyor and Building Control Officer should meet with the adjoining owner. For convenience it was also agreed this should take place one lunchtime in the near future prior to the retirement of the Surveyor.
- iv) Boating Pool – *arrange installation of gate and rearrangement of fencing as necessary at ramp.* The Amenities Officer reported that the fencing had been adapted and the gates made. They now required to be hung.
- v) Putting Greens- *requires “No Ball Games” sign replacing on wall.* – **Delete as work now carried out.**
- vi) CCTV infrared light overlooking Taverners Playground – *reposition to point with camera.* A long discussion took place in respect of the necessity for scaffolding or a cherry picker in order to tilt the lamp downwards compared to carrying out this work from a ladder. Eventually it was agreed that the views of the Building Control Officer as Health and Safety Officer for the commissioners should be sought.
- vii) Ladies Toilets (internal) – *keeper missing from one cubicle door.* – **Delete as work carried out .**

- viii) Painting above tiles requires refreshing - **Delete as work now carried out.**
- ix) Provide raised level gratings to gully within passageway – **Delete as gully kerbs now fitted.**
- x) Remove graffiti in Onchan Halt and repaint in general – **Delete as work now carried out.**
- xi) Lapsett shelter – *replace missing timbers in a secure fashion.* – **Delete as work now carried out**
- xii) Centre unit – *remove graffiti and redecorate as necessary-* **Delete that section as work now carried out. Roof cleaning to be undertaken.**
- xiii) Aviary - *Redecorate fascia board etc.* The Amenities Officer reported that work had commenced but rot had been found in the end of the rafters. Further work was therefore necessary but should be finished shortly.
- xiv) Consider alternative use for aviary and shelter. Mrs Megson proposed that a professional graffiti artist be employed to decorate the rear of the shelter and that the aviary be used as some type of art forum for local artists to display their work under the supervision of the library. There was no seconder to the proposal. Members were of the opinion the introduction of graffiti into the park would only have detrimental affect in encouraging others to apply graffiti where it was not required.
- xv) Seating – *replace backboard on one of the seats* – **Delete as work now carried out.**
- xvi) Swings – *check all chain links on swings for wear.* The Amenities Officer reported that he had checked the chains and in his opinion they were not ready for replacement as yet but he would inevitably carryout the replacement in the spring.
On the proposal of Mr Stowell it was
RESOLVED
“to replace the chains immediately”.
- xvii) Tile replacement required in gents at terrace toilets – **Delete as work now carried out.**
- xviii) Concrete grandstand- clean off roof. Mrs Megson suggested that perhaps the Building Control Officer as Health and Safety Officer should comment on the method of access to the roof.
- xix) Redecoration required in Ref’s changing room where shower fitted – **Delete as work carried out.**
- xx) Middle set of swings at top end of playground requires earth turf bringing up to level of safety flooring – **Delete as work now carried out**
- xxi) CCTV camera needs turning back towards pay hut. The Amenities Officer advised that he had left several messages with Securicor but they were not returning his calls. Mr Killey commented that if they were not answering then the commissioners should employ another firm and give publicity to the fact that their normal contractor was not responding. After further discussion, on the proposal of Mr Killey, seconded by Mrs Megson it was agreed that a letter be sent to Securicor requesting the work to be carried out within 7 days. The outcome to be reported at the next meeting of the Board.
- xxii) No Smoking Signs. The Chairman enquired as to what had happened with the erection of No Smoking signs. The Amenities Officer and Administrative Officer advised that the erection of signs was never a resolution of the committee but in fact a suggestion put forward by Mrs Megson. Mrs Megson then formally proposed that No Smoking signs be erected in all children’s playgrounds throughout Onchan. This was seconded by Mr Stowell and
RESOLVED.

d) **Skateboard Park**

In answer to question, the Amenities Officer advised that to the best of his knowledge the Surveyor had not done anything to progress this matter further. He added that the Surveyor had been on leave prior to his pending retirement. Mr Killey requested that the Surveyor provide information for the next meeting of the Board as to what exactly had been undertaken since the granting of planning permission. Mr Stowell commented that this item had been ongoing since he first joined the Board and it was time it was finalised. After a general discussion, on the proposal of the Chairman it was

RESOLVED

“to request the Building Control Officer , who would be acting in the interregnum following the retirement of the Surveyor, to hold the necessary interviews with the BMX Association and Skateboard Association in order to establish what was required in the way of jumps and then to make the second part of the planning application to cover reserved matters”.

The Administrative Officer then read a letter as sent in by a young girl pointing out that her mother had to take her to Crosby to skateboard as the ramps at Nobles Park were going mouldy and were old. The writer commented that there should be a skateboard park for children in the School Road Recreation Ground as children were finding roller-skating on the roads to be rather bumpy. Reply as sent was read. The Administrative Officer was congratulated on the wording thereof which was felt to be most informative and suitable.

e) **Wembley Football Arena**

The Amenities Officer reported that the Surveyor had established that planning approval came through on 13th October 2005. It was noted that this was three days after the last meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee but none of the members could recall the information being conveyed to the Board of Commissioners two weeks later. Mr Stowell queried whether the commissioners had the definitive brief for what exactly was proposed and also queried the next step. After discussion it was, on the proposal of Mr Stowell,

RESOLVED

“To request that full details and update, including a copy of the planning approval, be circulated to all members for the next meeting of the Board”.

f) **Improvements to Lighting in Onchan Park**

The Amenities Officer reported he was not aware whether the report of the Deputy Clerk following his discussion with the Architectural Liaison Officer of the Police had been passed to the Surveyor nor whether the Surveyor had progressed the scheme ready for tendering. After discussion, on the proposal of Mr Stowell, seconded by Mrs Megson it was

RESOLVED

“that a definitive scheme be laid before the next meeting of the Board for discussion”.

g) **Onchan AFC – Dressing Room Painting**

Letter read as sent to the Secretary of Onchan AFC advising that the committee wished to speak with representatives at the current meeting with regard to the

re-decoration work which had been promised by the club but not undertaken. The letter referred to the fact that a start had been made on one of the dressing rooms and that if all the work was complete by the date of the meeting then obviously there would be no need to attend otherwise a telephone call was requested on the afternoon of the meeting in order to confirm arrangements for representatives to join the meeting. The Amenities Officer informed members that the work had not progressed any further than one coat of paint on one of the dressing room walls and the Administrative Officer reported that no phone call had been received that afternoon. Members expressed their bitter disappointment in respect of the lack of action by the club and lack of courtesy in not telephoning. Mr Stowell made certain proposals in respect of the content of a letter to be sent but after discussion it was agreed the wording of the letter be left to the Administrative Officer.

h) Crazy Golf Equipment Replacement

The Amenities Officer reported receipt of quotation from Bettacrete Limited and distributed copies of their sketches and pricing. It was noted that in respect of providing pre-cast concrete kerbs around 17 bases this would equate £4,073.60 plus VAT to this needed to be added the cost of asphalt for the bases. The Amenities Officer advised that the budget for work on the crazy golf for the year was £7,000 but £250 had already been expended. The Chairman commented that he felt there should be 18 obstacles rather than 17. To achieve this it would be necessary to cast another concrete base and then have a further set of pre-cast kerbs made. A discussion took place as to whether crazy golf should have a 18 obstacles or whether it was just golf itself that had 18 holes. Eventually members were of the opinion that an 18th obstacle in the shape of one of the motorboats would be desirable. On the proposal of Mr Stowell, seconded by Mr Killey it was

***RESOLVED**

To install an 18th concrete base on the crazy golf course and to accept the tender from Bettacrete Limited in sum of £4,073.60 plus VAT for the making of 17 kerbs to be amended on a pro rata basis to provide for 18 sets of pre-cast concrete kerbs”.

After discussion it was agreed that by the next meeting the Amenities Officer was to have available prices for asphaltting of the 18 bases in green asphalt. Mr Killey thanked the Amenities Officer and Bettacrete for their comprehensive detailing.

j) Tree Canopy Raising in the Park

The Amenities Officer reported that the raising of the tree canopies by a contractor and the shredding of the branches by the commissioners' staff would commence at the beginning of January. Noted.

LA/05/11/4
OPEN SPACES

a) Amenities Officer's Report

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

i) Hague Crescent Garden

The Chairman enquired whether the vandalised lamp had been replaced yet. The Amenities Officer advised that it hadn't but there was a footprint on one of the other lights suggesting a similar attempt at destruction had taken place. The Amenities Officer queried whether the light should be replaced or disconnected. A general discussion took place in respect of whether the lights were actually needed. Mr Stowell commented that this was a new facility which had problems and as far as he was concerned was a design problem in the wrong choice of fitting. He suggested that the Amenities Officer should make enquiries to establish if there were any vandal proof lights available.

ii) Remembrance Sunday

Members noted that Mr George Kewley had once again taken on the task of placing the national flag and union flag on the war memorial each morning and taken them in at dusk. The Amenities Officer advised that this would continue for a further week. Mr Stowell proposed that a letter of thanks from the commissioners be sent to Mr Kewley. Mr Killey requested that the letter included the thanks of the Onchan Branch of the Royal British Legion as well.

iii) Small Christmas Trees

The Amenities Officer reported that the number of small trees requested this year for the centre of the village was slightly down but then there were a couple of empty shops which were in occupation the previous year. The number of applications received by Friday was 43 although he anticipated there would be the usual latecomers once the trees started to go up. Noted.

b) Scheme for Port Jack Glen

The Amenities Officer advised that he had made provision in the estimates for re-surfacing the paths and for the rebuilding of the dry stone walls to the rear of the seating enclaves. Noted.

c) Heywood Park – Landscaped Area

The Amenities Officer confirmed that the replanting had now taken place. Noted.

d) Port Jack Glen Streambed Scheme

It was noted that this was in hand with the Works and Cleansing Committee.

e) Memorial Seat Bay View Road

The Amenities Officer informed members that the plaque had been ordered and the joiners were ready to start on the seat construction. In answer to question he advised that it should be complete within the next couple of weeks. Mr Killey asked if it could be ready by 8th December 2005 so that a dedication service could be held on that day. The Amenities Officer agreed.

f) **Any Other Matters**

i) **Port Jack Glen Shelter**

Mr Stowell expressed concern that there was bare timber showing on the fascia boards which surprised him as a shelter built in the year 2000 should have had uPVC rather than timber. He was also concerned that there was a general dirty feel to the shelter caused principally by the scratching on the acrylic sheeting used for glazing. He suggested that the Amenities Officer obtain prices for replacing the acrylic sheeting with new sheeting on a like for like basis. The Amenities Officer advised that the Surveyor had previously had talks with a local glazing firm who had supplied the windows with regard to alternatives. It was agreed that that information should be made available to the committee.

ii) **Shredding of Christmas Trees**

A discussion took place in respect of the facility offered the previous year for the first time for Onchan residents to bring their Christmas trees for shredding. Mr Stowell suggested that the result last year was so small that he saw no advantage in carrying out the scheme again this year as obviously people had previously established a method of disposing of their trees. The Administrative Officer pointed out that the decision to undertake the shredding last year was a last minute one and therefore there was no advertising of the fact that the service was available. In answer to question. He advised that newspaper advertising would probably cost in the region of £400. Member felt this was too great for the end product. On the proposal of Mr Killey it was

RESOLVED

“to carry out a tree shredding service in Nivison Stadium in early January but no advertising to take place other than posters in the village”.

Mr Stowell requested his vote against to be recorded.

LA/05/11/5

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

a) **Amenities Officer’s Report**

Copies of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with no further comment in public.

b) **Any Other Business**

Radar Key

The Chairman explained that he called to Lloyds Chemist in order to borrow the key to the disabled toilet in Main Road but they were unable to find it. He then went to the library where a similar situation existed and then called to the commissioners’ office. There he was told that the Amenities Officer dealt with the radar keys but he was out of the office at the time. The Amenities Officer responded that the library staff had subsequently found their key and another one had been supplied to Lloyds chemist.

It was confirmed that disabled persons requiring a radar key paid £5 which was the same price as the commissioners had to pay for them. A discussion then ensued and on the proposal of Mr Stowell, seconded by Mr Killey it was

***RESOLVED**

“that disabled persons requiring a radar key should be provided with one free of charge subject to producing their disabled badge and that they are an Onchan resident”.

Mrs Megson requested that a record of keys issued should be kept.

LA/05/11/6

PUBLIC LIBRARY

a) **Librarian’s Report**

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

i) **BBC RaW Campaign**

Members commented on the excellence of the arrangements and facilities on the BBC bus. The Chairman requested that the photograph taken of the Board Chairman with Pudsey bear be placed on the website.

ii) **Charity Sales**

Members noted the request of the Librarian to sell books and take orders for a charity publication. This matter had been the subject of a similar request from the Librarian only a few months previous and members had at that time confirmed their policy that acting as agent for charities should not take place, worthy though causes may be. If they were to agree to act for one charity then they would have to act for all and this could present problems not the least of which was the responsibility for cash taken. It was therefore

RESOLVED

“to adhere to the present policy”.

b) **Amenities Officer Report**

Copies of the Amenities Officer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted without further discussion.

LA/05/11/7

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) **Amenities Officer’s Report**

Copies of the Amenities Officer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting from which it was noted that the Building Control Officer had provided a figure to be placed in the estimates for 2006/07 to carryout land drainage works. Mr Stowell enquired as to what was involved in the scheme for which allowance was to be made. The Amenities Officer advised that to the best of his knowledge the Building Control Officer had not actually prepared a scheme but had come forward with a figure. The matter was discussed further and finally it was agreed that more details

of the proposals should be made available at the next meeting so that the scheme could be assessed.

b) Tenders for Works

In answer to question, the Amenities Officer advised that he did not have the tenders for either the replacement doors or the reconstruction of the side path. The Board Chairman confirmed that he had opened tenders on Friday in the presence of the Clerk. Matter discussed and finally agreed that contrary to the wishes of the committee the tenders should be referred to the next meeting of the Board for consideration and acceptance.

LA/05/11/8

PROMOTIONS/ADVERTISING/PUBLIC INFORMATION

a) Website

Details received from WebOne UK showed 12,214 page views and 5,040 visits during the period 1st to 31st October 2005. Noted.

b) Enquiries

Members noted that enquiries had been received during the month in respect of addresses of Onchan personalities in the early 1900s and the commissioners' involvement with the Royal British Legion during the Second World War period.

c) Island in Bloom Competition

The Administrative Officer reported letter as received from the Department of Tourism advising that Onchan had won an award in the Island in Bloom competition. Arrangements had been made for the Chairman to attend the prize presentation on Wednesday 30th November 2005 at 2pm.

d) Lantern Light Procession

The Administrative Officer advised that arrangements were in hand. At the suggestion of the Onchan Rotary Club the parade would commence at 7pm rather than 7.30pm as in the past in the hopes that parents would be encouraged to bring younger children along to see Santa. The Onchan Rotary Club were holding a meeting that evening when they would consider certain points including a decision on whether Santa formed part of the procession or arrive towards the end of the carol service. The Administrative Officer reported that it was his intention to put the lanterns on sale from 1st December but it may be better, once a second circular has been sent to all clubs and societies if they were to be made available earlier. The Chairman commented that he had received criticism from the other board members at the last meeting of the Board that he had not brought one of the lanterns to show them. He requested that a lantern be made available to show the Board at the next meeting.

e) Telephone Directory

The Administrative Officer reported being contacted by Manx Telecom enquiring if the map of Onchan was up to date. On the basis that they were not going to

incorporate a larger map then he updated a copy of the map as currently appears in the directory and forwarded this to Manx Telecom for correction in the 2006 version.

f) **Christmas Lights Competition**

Members agreed that the competition should run again this year and the Administrative Officer suggested that Onchan be divided into ten areas as before with a commissioner being allocated to each area. Rather than putting application forms through doors where houses had lights he suggested a better option was for the commissioners to select the top three decorated houses in the area and then these would be collated. The Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the committee would then visit the 30 nominations and decide on a winner. A debate took place as to whether in fact if just one nomination was put forward for each area it would make the job simpler. After further consideration it was agreed that in fact a maximum of 3 nominations should be made in each area.

LA/05/11/9

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

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

LA/01/12/14 Pennington Hall – Amended scheme from Surveyor/architects required for alternative sites (i.e. smaller boathouse nearer the pool) – ***Delete reference to smaller boathouse nearer the pool as the scheme now centres on the present site.***

LA/05/04/3(f) Wembley Football Arena – School Road Rec – Surveyor to make planning application – ***Delete make planning application and substitute obtain tenders.***

LA/05/11/10

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

LA/05/11/11

CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

a) **St Bridget's Hospice**

Letter received thanking the commissioners for very kindly considering their request to use Nivison Stadium for their annual Teddy Bear's Picnic.

b) **Manx Model Boat Club**

Letter reported as received from the boat club thanking the commissioners for the use of the boating lake in Onchan Park for their Mannanan Festival 2005. Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Date of Next Meeting

Monday 19th December 2005 at 7pm.

b) Parking in the Park

Mr Stowell informed members that he had been requested by Commissioner Quirk to draw to the committee's attention parking which takes of an evening in front of the stadium building. The Amenities Officer advised that during the summer months the barriers come down at 10am when the park opens and the driveway remains closed. In the winter the barriers are in the open position. Members considered the situation and were of the opinion that vehicles travelling in the park to the Squash Club should only be on a picking up/dropping off basis and not parked which could cause problems for emergency vehicles. After further consideration it was

RESOLVED

"to write to the tenant advising as to the picking up/dropping off policy and that a sign should be erected to that affect at the barriers".

c) Community Service

Mrs Megson enquired whether the commissioners had painting or other jobs carried out by persons on community service. The Amenities Officer advised that that was not the case.

d) Agenda Items

It was agreed that the division of items between in public and in committee be left to the Administrative Officer.

Meeting terminated 10.56pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in first floor lounge, Heywood Court, Heywood Park, Onchan on Wednesday 16th November 2005 at 5.17pm.

Present: Mr J.K. Watterson (in the Chair), Messrs B.H. Moore and M.J. Kennaugh and W.A. Skillicorn

Apologises: Nil

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

R/05/11/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

R/05/11/2
MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) Civic Amenity Site Charges

The Chairman advised that the Board had sought legal advice in respect of the motion put forward. The advocates in question had responded with further questions which had been answered and then further questions were forthcoming. Members of the Board had received copies of the correspondence but it was noted that nothing was yet finalised. The two Rural Members enquired if they could have a copy of the correspondence as it obviously affected the Rural Committee. Arrangements were to be made for this to be distributed to them.

Mr Kennaugh commented that he hopes the Board would be given a costing at the end of this exercise as in his opinion it was an unnecessary expense placed upon the ratepayers particularly when advice had previously been given by the former Clerk and DOLGE that what was proposed was not covered by legislation. Mr Skillicorn expressed concern that the commissioners had gone to a different firm of advocates in this instance as their usual advocates were well versed in local authority legislation and therefore the answer would be both forthcoming a lot quicker and without the degree of research which is obviously been carried out by the firm employed and will reflect greatly in the final cost. Mr Skillicorn asked if, when being sent details of the advocate's reply, he could also receive a copy of the original enquiry to them.

b) Trailer at Ballacreech Corner

Letter reported as sent to Sergeant Goldsmith thanking him and his officers for finally achieving the removal of the trailer which was parked at night without lights on the bend at Ballacreech Corner. Reply reported from which it was noted that the Sergeant had hesitated in advising that the trailer had gone just in case it returned again.

R/05/11/3

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Cost of Providing Services to Rural Ward

Mr Skillicorn advised that he now had more time than previously and therefore may take up the offer to discuss this matter with the Clerk. Noted.

R/05/11/4

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

R/05/11/5

MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

R/05/11/6

PLANNING MATTERS

a) Decisions

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

PA 05/1595 Demolition of existing cottages, reconstruction to match original front elevation and repositioning of one front door, two storey extension to rear with building being relocated 2 metres further into site away from roadway. Alterations to window pattern to extension and length to be increased by 2.07 metres, Glenville Cottages, Scollag Road, Hillberry for Deemster and Mrs Kerruish (resubmission) – **Approved subject to time conditions and condition regarding motor vehicles entering and exiting the site in a forward gear.** Noted.

PA 05/1689 Erection of conservatory and patio/deck area to rear elevation and erection of porch to front elevation with removal of existing chimney stack, removal of various windows and doors and installation of replacement uPVC windows to front, side and rear elevations and creation of a stonework plinth to base of front and side elevations, Abbeycourt, Abbeylands for Mr & Mrs O. Peck – **Approved subject to a time condition.** Noted.

b) Registration of Chimneys at Tromode

The Administrative Officer reported that no further information had been received in respect of a date for the Appeal Hearing. Noted.

R/05/11/7

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of next meeting

The Administrative Officer pointed out difficulties that would exist within the office in respect of having minutes typed prior to the Christmas break and therefore with the

consent of all members it was agreed that the meeting should take place on Wednesday 14th December 2005 at 5.15pm.

b) Meeting with DoT

Members were reminded that the Works and Cleansing Committee, with an open invitation to the other commissioners, would shortly be meeting with DoT. The Administrative Officer had therefore produced a list of outstanding items in the Rural Ward which could be discussed viz:-

Surfacing of Abbeylands Road – co-ordination of contractors; burning at the Pinfold site – action taken; hedge trimming policy – any finalisation of policy; Creg-na-Baa Back Road – surface repairs; Scollag Road ponding; overhanging tree policy; road closure – TT Races. Noted. Mr Skillicorn commented that the question of hedge cutting around road signs also needed to be discussed with DoT.

c) Meeting with Representatives of the Board

The Chairman made reference to a recent motion laid before the Board by Commissioner Stowell. This was accepted and therefore a sub committee of the Board are to meet with the Rural Committee to discuss rating differential and other matters within the Onchan Act. The Chairman further reminded members that in February 2003 the Rural Committee put forward a recommendation to the Board that it meet with the Board to discuss such matters and in particular the rate for 2003/04 but the Board declined to accept that recommendation on the basis that it had already decided to proceed with the petition to Tynwald for rate equalisation.

d) Local Government Bill 2005

The Chairman reported that there were proposals by government to amend local government legislation. A power point presentation had been given to the Board by the Clerk but as some of the proposed changes would affect the Rural Ward he felt it beneficial if the Rural Committee had the opportunity to consider the bill and make any recommendations to the Board. After brief discussion it was agreed that an extraordinary meeting should be held on Monday 21st November at 1pm. Copies of papers as distributed to Board members were to be sent to the two Rural Members.

e) Traffic Count

Mr Skillicorn enquired as to why a traffic count had been undertaken on the Ballacottier Road but no one knew the answer.

Meeting terminated at 6.21pm.

Minutes of an **Extraordinary** meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held, on Monday 21st November 2005 in the Interview Room, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan at 1.10pm.

Present: Mr J.K. Watterson (in the chair), Mrs W. Megson, Messrs M.J. Kennuagh (from 1.22pm), B.H. Moore and W.A. Skillicorn

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration)

ER/05/11/01

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL 2005

Prior to the meeting all members had received copy of the consultative draft of the Local Government Bill 2005 together with the explanatory notes as prepared by DOLGE and a print out copy of a power point presentation given by the Clerk to the members of the commission a short time previous.

Members noted there were three proposals within the Bill which may affect the Rural Ward in some way:-

a) Section 10 District and Special Rates

This provides for the levying of a district rate to be charged on all hereditaments but it is to exclude services provided under the Public Health Act 1990. Provision is also made for the charging of a "special rate" in respect of an area of the district receiving a special service. This charge could either be based on the ratable value or a lump sum plus a charge based on the ratable value. It could not be based on a lump sum per property alone.

This special rate, as with the district rate is however to exclude anything in connection with the collection and disposal of refuse. Members noted therefore that the current practice of charging rural properties an extra charge for the disposal of refuse would have to cease under this provision.

b) Section 11 Waste Collection Rate

This charges each local authority with having to raise a separate rate to cover waste collection and disposal and provides for "exempt premises" which are those which are too isolated or inaccessible and therefore are not collected.

It was felt that there may be some properties in the Rural Ward which could be regarded in this category and therefore under the new act, if approved, they would not be charged a refuse rate because they were not receiving that service.

It was also noted from the explanatory notes that expenses for the running of "civic amenity sites" have to be borne by the district rate and not from the waste collection rate nor indeed a special rate. This was of particular interest to members.

c) Section 12 Differential Rating

It was noted that on the appointed day sections of certain acts would be repealed. These related to past extensions of Douglas Borough Boundary in 1952 and 1985;

of Castletown in 1966 and Ramsey in 1993. The repeal also referred to section 4 of the Onchan District Act 1986.

With the exception of the Onchan District Act which saw the merger of the former Onchan Parish Commissioners and Onchan Village Commissioners, in all other cases built up areas had been taken into the adjoining town and now formed part of it. In the case of the merger of Onchan Village and Parish the former parish area still remained principally rural with scattered housing which was not the case with the other sections of acts which were to be repealed.

Equally, in the case of the other boundary extensions provision was made for a rating differential over a period of time so that these new urban areas attached to the adjoining towns paid full rates within a certain period. In the case of the Onchan merger that rating differential was over a five year period but differed considerably from the other acts in so much that it finished at 50% rather than 100% of the adjoining rate.

It was noted that in the proposed bill (Section 5) where there was to be a merger of local authorities provision was to be made for a rating differential over a period not exceeding 10 years. This would end up with equalisation at the end of the period.

Members were extremely concerned that whilst the other sections of acts to be repealed related to rating differentials which were now spent, in the case of Onchan this was resting at 50% and an attempt by the Department of Local Government and the Environment to put forward an amendment to this in Tynwald failed as members of Tynwald expressed concern that there had been a lack of consultation and also the increase was over too short a period. The proposal, if approved, would see a 100% increase in rates overnight at the appointed day.

Members did not regard this as equitable or in anybody's best interests when consideration was given to government's policy of trying to keep down any increase in the cost of living.

Reference was made to comments attributed to Onchan member Peter Karran MHK at the Tynwald debate where he advised he was in favour of the increase in rate but only over a period of time and subject to a satisfactory conclusion to representation. Mrs Megson, although not a member at that time, also recalled comments from Mr Karran that a rating increase should be phased in and there was a definite need to talk. Mr Moore was of the opinion that local authority legislation was indeed ongoing and it was not a bad thing to occasionally sit up and take a good look around to see what needed improving.

A lengthy and well thought argument was considered and it was **unanimously**

***RESOLVED**

“to recommend to the Board that they request from DOLGE an amendment to Section 12 of the proposed bill in so much that Section 4 of the Onchan District Act 1986 be repealed five years after the appointed day. Furthermore, that the Board, during that five year period, introduces and implements a rating differential to take the rural rate from 50% to 100% of the urban ward rate in equal instalments”.

Members were aware that there was to be a meeting between the Rural Committee and a sub committee of the Board to discuss the way forward in respect of the rural rate and other matters relevant to the Rural Committee and whilst accepting that

this proposed bill accelerated consideration of one element of the internal proposal it did not preclude that series of meetings taking place to consider the other matters. The committee were hopeful that the Board would see the resolution as a way forward in sensible and balanced manner which would achieve the previous stated aim of the Board without a great jump in rates which no commissioner was ever likely to propose take place in the urban ward.

ER/05/11/02
PLANNING MATTERS

The Administrative Officer reported that he had been passed three planning decisions by the Building Control Officer for reporting to the meeting:-

PA 05/1679 Highway improvements to provide constant radius bend with transition kerbs, Windy Corner for the Department of Transport – **Approved subject to a time condition.**
Noted.

PA 05/1709 Erection of six semi-detached dwellings with access from Larch Hill Grove and creation of new access drive to Cliff Cottage, land adjacent to Cliff Cottage, between Larch Hill Grove and Clucas Laundry for Heritage Homes Limited – **Approved subject to a time condition.**

Members noted that the committee and board had objected to this application on a number of grounds, none of which had appeared to be covered by condition and obviously as the application had been approved had been overruled by the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED
“that a Review of the decision be sought”

PA 05/1761 Installation of a bunded oil tank, unit 18B, Tromode Industrial Estate for Descon Limited – **Approved subject to a time condition.** Noted.

ER/05/11/03
MEETING

After due consideration it was **unanimously RESOLVED**
“that the minutes of the meeting held should be in public”.

Meeting terminated 2.10pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the First Floor Lounge, Heywood Court, Onchan, on Monday 21st November 2005, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Mr D. Crellin (Chairman)
Mr G.K. Astill
Mr A.T.W. Norton
Mr D.J. Quirk
Mr J.K. Watterson

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

PF05/11/01 **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2005, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PF05/11/02 **BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising from the minutes other than those dealt with in the Finance Officer's reports and those matters listed separately on the agenda paper.

PF05/11/03 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There was no business 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.

PF05/11/04 **OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

1. **Isle of Man Public Records Office, Transfer of Pre-1970 Minute Books, Rate Books and Letter Books**

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no progress in this matter but that, as the works to the office were due to complete shortly, he would be in a position to put matters in train to affect the transfer accordingly.

2. **New Server – Purchase Expected for Completion, September 2005**

It was agreed that this matter should be deleted from the outstanding matters list, the new server having been installed. The Chief Finance Officer reported that an additional piece of equipment had been purchased. It was necessary to complete the working of the new network.

PF05/11/05
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 15th November 2005 compared with the previous financial year were as follows:-

2005/06 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	
£1,461,625	
2005/06 collected to 12 th November 2005 less refunds	£1,408,502 (96.37%)

Comparative figures

2004/05 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	
£1,340,222	
2004/05 collected to 12 th November 2004 less refunds	£1,293,940 (96.55%)

2. Revenue Account Payments

The list of payments from revenue account during the months of October 2005 copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. It was subsequently **RESOLVED***:-

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

PF04/11/06
CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None to report in public.

PF05/11/07
MATTERS REFERRED BY COMMISSIONERS/OTHER COMMITTEES

1. Commissioner Mr D.J. Quirk – Provision of Laptop Computers.

Commissioner Quirk confirmed that an amount of money equivalent to £20,000 had been set aside within the estimating process for the 2005/06 financial year, in order to provide laptop computers for use by the Members of the Authority. The laptops would be introduced with a view to using same for the provision of documentation for consideration at Committee.

The principle had been agreed and money had been identified and so on the proposal of Mr Quirk, it was **RESOLVED***:-

That matters be put in train for the purchase of laptop computers for the Members, and two additional laptop computers for use within the Boardroom and by Senior Officers.

PF05/11/08

RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY OR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

It was **RESOLVED** *that the following recommendations from the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held 14th November 2005 be endorsed:-*

1. *That the Amenities Officer look at the catalogue provided by Mr Stowell and if the firm are able to produce gates, obtain a price from them, otherwise to accept the quotation received from A&B Fabrications or alternatively if Jacksons can supply the gates to obtain a quotation for comparison and then accept the lowest tender”.*
2. *To proceed to have the electrical work done in the greenkeeper’s hut at £1,018.09 and the crown green hut at £503.60 on the basis that the Finance Officer can find a source of funding”.*
3. *To install an 18th concrete base on the crazy golf course and to accept the tender from Bettacrete Limited in sum of £4,073.60 plus VAT for the making of 17 kerbs to be amended on a pro rata basis to provide for 18 sets of pre-cast concrete kerbs”.*
4. *That disabled persons requiring a radar key should be provided with one free of charge subject to producing their disabled badge and that they are an Onchan resident”.*

PF05/11/09

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PF05/11/10

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be held at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 4th January 2006

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.