

ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Hawthorn Villa,
Main Road, Onchan.

IN PUBLIC

25th May 2006

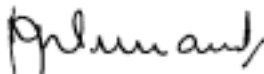
Sir/Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend an ORDINARY meeting of the Authority to be held in the Boardroom, at Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, to transact the undemoted business at:

7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 30th May 2006

which will be followed by a meeting of the Board sitting *In Committee*.

Yours faithfully,



M. J. WILLIAMS
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 (with the exception of items 1, 2 or 3 which cannot be varied) or by a resolution duly moved and seconded and passed on a motion which shall be moved and put without discussion.

1. To choose a person to preside if the Chairman and vice-chairman be absent
2. To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business
3. To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the:-
 - 3.1 Ordinary meeting held on 24th April 2006 (Minutes – APPENDIX 1)
 - 3.2 Annual meeting held on 2nd May 2006 (Minutes – APPENDIX 1A)
4. To dispose of business (if any) remaining or arising from the last and any intermediate extraordinary meeting.
 - 4.1 Recycling Through Kerbside Collection: Partnership Scheme (*correspondence circulated*)
 - 4.2 Richmond Hill Consultative Committee (*correspondence circulated*)
 - 4.3 Preparing for a Possible Flu Pandemic (*correspondence circulated*)
 - 4.4 Any other business arising.

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

None.
6. **To deal with any business expressly required by statute to be done.**

None.
7. **To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of committees.**
(Note: See Standing Order Number 7(1) attached)
 - 7.1 Housing Committee *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.1)*
- Meeting held 3rd May 2006
 - 7.2 Works and Cleansing Committee *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.2)*
- Meeting held 8th May 2006
- Extraordinary meeting held 24th May 2006 *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.2.1)*
 - 7.3 Leisure and Amenities Committee *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.3)*
- Meeting held 15th May 2006
 - 7.4 Policy and Finance Committee *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.4)*
- Meeting held 22nd May 2006
 - 7.5 Rural Committee *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.5)*
- Meeting held 17th May 2006
8. **To consider letters, petitions, memorials and other communications.**
 - 8.1 Planning decisions/communications from the D.L.G.E. Planning Committee – **To report any received**
 - 8.2 Litter Strategy Operational Working Group **(correspondence circulated)**
 - 8.3 Any subsequent correspondence received
9. **To consider any report from the clerk or the surveyor**
10. **Chairman's Announcements**

Chairman to report
11. **To answer questions asked under standing order 7** *(Note: See Standing Order 7(2) to 7(4) attached)*
 - 11.1 Any questions as may be received.
12. **To consider Motions in the order in which notice has been received.** *(Note: See Standing Order No 5 attached)*
 - 12.1 No 46 – Commissioner B. Stowell – Elected representatives
 - 12.2 No 47 – Commissioner B Stowell – Amendment to Wards
13. **Other Business, if any, specified in the summons**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 24th April 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr G.K. Astill, J.P. (Chairman)
Mr S.T. Black
Mr D. Crellin
Mr M.J. Kennaugh
Mr E.D.R. Killey
Mr D.J. Quirk
Mrs W. Megson
Mr A.T.W. Norton
Mr B. Stowell
Mr J.K. Watterson (from 7.45 p.m.)

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

C06/04/01/01
BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE DEALT WITH BY STATUTE

None.

C06/04/01/02
MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on 20th March 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

C06/04/01/03
BUSINESS ARISING

1. Onchan District (Differential Rating) Order 2006

It was noted that the Order had been placed before Tynwald and approved.

2. Recycling Through Kerbside Collection : Partnership Scheme

A number of Members had attended a presentation on kerbside recycling hosted by the Department of Local Government and the Environment on 4th April 2006.

Members raised concerns with regards to the possible cost implications to rate payers and the lack of facilities for Local Authorities to take recycled materials.

The Chief Executive/Clerk also advised Members that a request had been received from the Department for the nomination of a suitable officer to join an Officers Working Party to develop kerbside recycling imitative further. He proposed that the Waste Operations Manager would be the appropriate officer.

It was proposed by Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Stowell, and unanimously **RESOLVED** *that the Chief Executive/Clerk should write to the Department to establish the aim and objectives of the Working Party and to request that the minutes of any such meetings to be provided to the Authority.*

It was further proposed by Mr Killey, seconded by Mrs Megson, and unanimously **RESOLVED** *that upon consideration of the response of the Department the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be given delegated authority to approve for the Waste Operations Manager to attend as a Member of the proposed Working Party.*

C06/04/01/04

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Demonstration of Kerbside Collection Vehicle

Confirmation of Members who wished to attend the forthcoming vehicle demonstration at Douglas Corporation was sought.

2. Local Government Bill 2006

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised Members that the Bill had now completed its passage through the House of Keys with a number of amendments including Clause 8 which would make the Standing Orders of the Authority a public document and as such available for inspection by Members of the public.

It was proposed by Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Stowell, and unanimously **RESOLVED** *that the existing Standing Orders of the Authority should be published on the Commissioners' Website.*

3. The Audit Bill 2006

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that having completed the passage through the House of Keys the Bill had now received its first reading at the Legislative Council and no amendments were made.

C06/04/01/05

BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED TO BE DONE BY STATUTE

None.

C06/04/01/06

HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on 27th March 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered and noted.

C06/04/01/07

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on 27th March 2006 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C06/04/01/08

WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 3rd April 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. Arising therefrom:-

1. WC06/04/05(b) – Lane Off Mount View Close

Mr Crellin enquired as to the progress on the proposal to install an additional streetlight in the lane off Mount View Close. The District Surveyor confirmed that there was financial provision and the installation had been included on the work plan for this year.

Mr Crellin sought an assurance that the works would be completed by the Autumn, the District Surveyor re-affirmed that the installation had been included on the work plan for this year.

C06/04/01/09

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 3rd April 2006, be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C06/04/01/10

LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on Monday 10th April 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. Arising therefrom: -

1. Bowling – Flat Green

Mr Quirk was aware that the flat green had been closed due to damage of the playing surface from youths playing football on it but enquired as to when the green would be re-opened as he was concerned that season ticket holders would be unable to use the facility.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that considerable efforts had been made by the greens staff to repair the green and it would be re-opened as soon as possible.

2. Wembley Arena

Concerns were raised with regards to the Committees request to suspend Standing Orders to purchase the Wembley Arena Unit from the preferred contractor as some considerable time had elapsed since a price had been obtained and alternative suppliers should be considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk pointed out that it was the understanding of Officers that this particular unit had already been chosen and approved by Members and that we were now at the stage to purchase the unit to move the scheme forward.

After further debate the resolution of the Leisure and Amenities Committee was not supported and Officers were asked to seek details and prices from a number of suitable suppliers of such equipment.

3. Centenary Park – Grass Cutting

Mr Stowell sought clarification of what additional grass cutting was being proposed. Both he and Mr Quirk felt that the 3 additional cuts were too intensive and something needed to be done with the site.

Mr Norton agreed that something long term needed to be done but in the meantime it was necessary to ensure the area was adequately mown to avoid further problems.

Mr Killey referred Members to his suggestion made at the Committee with regards to running a design competition for the site.

Members also recalled that it had previously been suggested that the new Parks Foreman could be asked to design a scheme for the site.

It was proposed by Mr Stowell, seconded by Mr Quirk that the matter be referred back to the Leisure and Amenities Committee to discuss further with the Parks Foreman.

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

Against: Mr Crellin

C06/04/01/11
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 10th April 2006 be and are hereby received. It was further unanimously **RESOLVED that the resolution contained therein requiring the consent of the Board be approved as follows:-**

1. ***Port Jack Glen Shelter, Graffiti – that should the Police identify the offender(s) and for criminal charges brought, the Commissioners should make a claim for compensation for the costs of removing the graffiti and the subsequent damage to the glazing that occurred as a result.***

It was further unanimously **RESOLVED that:-**

2. ***A civic reception be held at the Commissioners Office in honour of the achievements of Onchan residents in the Commonwealth Games.***

It was also **RESOLVED that:-**

3. ***Standing Orders be suspended to allow the purchase of a replacement photocopier for Onchan Public Library from the Authority's preferred office equipment supplier.***

For: Messrs Astill, Black, Crellin, Kennaugh, Killey, Megson, Norton, Stowell and Watterson

Against: Mr Quirk

C06/04/01/12
POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 18th April 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered and noted, arising therefrom:-

1. **Role of Policy and finance Committee**

Mrs Megson noted that there were several items on the agenda of the Committee where there was no business listed and also that the meeting only lasted 1 hour and 15 minutes. She was concerned that if the Policy and Finance Committee was seen as a safeguard to the Commissioners then she would like to see more matters being considered by the Members of that Committee.

Mr Watterson arrived at 7.45 p.m.

Mr Quirk commented that that the Policy and Finance Committee deals with everything laid before them, however, if nothing is passed to them from other Committees, nothing can be discussed.

C06/04/01/13
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 18th April 2006, 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 lists attached to the minutes be endorsed.***

C06/04/01/14
RURAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 12th April 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered and noted. Arising therefrom:-

1. Bridle Ways

Mr Watterson pointed out that there appeared to be no provision for bridle ways within the District.

Mr Stowell commented that as a supplier of livery in the area he was aware of a need for such bridle ways from local residents and also visitors on equine holidays and would welcome a policy to enable footpaths to be opened up for equine activities and would hope that the Authority would adopt a policy of supporting other organisations in achieving this. Agreed.

C06/04/01/15
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 12th April 2006 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C06/04/01/16
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 considered:-

P A NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
05/1605	Appeal against refusal of approval in principle for the erection of workshop, storage and office unit, land to rear of garage, Church Road	ODC recommendation - Refusal Planning decision – Refusal Appeal – due 10th May 2006

2. Bills Received

2.1 The Gambling (Amendment) Bill 2006

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that there were no implications for the Authority arising from the above proposed legislation.

2.2 The Small Claims Arbitration (Personal Representation) Bill 2006

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that there were no implications for the Authority arising from the above proposed legislation.

2.3 The Criminal Justice, Police and Courts Bill 2006

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that the above legislation would provide additional powers in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour, particularly in the role as a Housing Authority.

Mr Quirk asked if copies could be circulated to Members electronically, agreed.

2.4 The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2006.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that there were no implications for the Authority arising from the above proposed legislation.

2.5 The Companies Bill 2006

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that there were no implications for the Authority arising from the above proposed legislation.

3. Business Continuity

Receipt of a letter from the Department of Local Government and the Environment was considered and noted.

4. Manx for Business

A letter had been received from the Manx Language Officer promoting the use of the Manx Language in the carrying out of the organisations business.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** *to refer the matter to the Policy and Finance Committee for further consideration.*

5. Meeting of Local Authority Housing Managers

It was noted that the Deputy Clerk would be attending the forthcoming meeting of the Local Authority Housing Managers.

6. Crossroads : Caring for Carers

Receipt of a letter from the Project Co-Ordinator in relation to the Information and Resource Centre was noted.

7. Tynwald Garden Party 2006

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that an invitation had been received for a representative of the Commissioners to attend the Tynwald Garden Party and it was the usual practice that the Chairman-Elect be nominated.

It was proposed by Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Crellin, and unanimously **RESOLVED** *that a Policy be adopted that the incoming Chairman be the representative to attend all Tynwald Garden Parties in the future.*

8. Richmond Hill Consultative Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Richmond Hill Consultative Committee held on 11th January 2006, copies of which had previously been circulated, were considered and noted.

9. Manx National Week 2006

Receipt of correspondence from the President of Tynwald was noted.

Mr Norton confirmed that it was already arranged that the "It's a Knockout Event" would be held on that weekend at Onchan Park when the Village Fair would have been held.

Mr Quirk expressed the view that local residents seemed to want a village fair and suggested the use of the Butt and the Village Green.

It was therefore proposed by Mr Norton, seconded by Mr Quirk, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the matter be referred to the Leisure and Amenities Committee for further consideration.

10. Switchover to Digital Television

The Chief Executive/Clerk noted the presentation that was being held that evening and advised that the switchover would affect Springfield Court Sheltered Housing Complex and that the matter was due to be considered by the Housing Committee.

11. Preparing for a Possible Flu-Pandemic

Receipt of correspondence from the Department of Local Government and the Environment was noted.

12. Guidelines on Hedge Cutting

Receipt of the above guidance document was noted. Chief Executive/Clerk to attempt to obtain additional copies for Members.

13. Central Traffic Management Liaison Group

The minutes of the meeting of the Central Traffic Management Liaison Group held on 15th February 2006, were noted.

14. Proposed Motions – Mr Stowell

Mr Stowell distributed copies, by way of advance notice, of motions which he was intending to present at the next meeting of the Board.

15. In Committee Agenda – Item 15.3

Mr Stowell sought the support of the Chairman and Members of the Board to bring the above agenda item forward for discussion *In Public*.

After considerable discussion a vote was taken:-

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

The matter was therefore not brought forward for discussion *In Public*.

16. Middle River Civic Amenity Site

Mr Quirk advised receipt of, and presented the Chairman with a copy of, a letter he had received from the existing civic amenity site operator. He wished to bring it to the attention of Members in public as it related to various concerns discussed by the Board in the past.

C06/04/01/17
CLERKS REPORT

None.

C06/04/01/18
DISTRICT SURVEYORS REPORT

None.

C06/04/01/19
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:-

- BBC RaW Bus – Visit to Onchan District Commissioners Car Park and Library
- Mayoress's Charity Concert, Villa Marina, Douglas
- St Peter's Church Choir – Launch of a CD in aid of Parish Hall
- Onchan District Commissioners Annual Social Evening, Max Restaurant, King Edward Bay Golf and Country Club, Onchan
- Broughton Boys Choir, Preston, Evensong at St Peter's Church, Onchan.

C06/04/01/20
QUESTIONS

The following questions were submitted under the provisions of Standing Order No 7:-

(a) Commissioner Mr M.J. Kennaugh to the Chairman, Policy and Finance Committee:-

- "1. Can you confirm the level of attendance allowances which are permitted to be paid to Local Authority Members, for attendance at meetings*
- 2. What is the present policy of the Onchan District Commissioners in relation to the payment of Attendance Allowances at this Authority?.*
- 3. What is the total cost of the payment of Attendance Allowances to Members for attendance at meetings in the current financial year?*
- 4. If there was to be a change in the structure of the Authority resulting in all Members attending meetings on a weekly basis, what would be the anticipated increase in the cost to the ratepayer in respect of Attendance Allowances?*

The Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee answered the questions in written form as follows:-

1. Up to 31st March 2006, the level of attendance allowance payable for attendance each meeting was £25.00. This has been increased from £25.00 to £30.00 with effect from 1st April 2006.
2. Attendance Allowances in respect of the Onchan District Commissioners is, by policy, paid to Members attending each Ordinary Meeting of the Authority, and each Ordinary Meeting of the Standing Committees.
3. The total cost of attendance allowance payments is, of course, dependent upon the level of attendances of the Members but in any given year, there are approximately 10 Ordinary meetings of the Authority, and 9/10 ordinary meetings of each of the four standing committees. The total cost, assuming full attendance is, therefore, approximately £8500.

4. If weekly Board Meetings were to be held, and the policy be set for the payment of Members Attendance at each of those meetings, the total cost would be approximately £15,000, and increase of some £6,500 upon that at present.

(b) Commissioner Mr E.D.R. Killey to the Chairman, Onchan District Commissioners:-

“Who is empowered to speak to the media on behalf of Onchan District Commissioners particularly with regard to:-

- (a) the full on-licence (with conditions) issued to Onchan Squash >Club;*
- (b) the Onchan (Differential Rating) Order 2006; and*
- (c) future decisions of the Board?*

The Chairman of Onchan District Commissioners answered the questions in written form as follows:-

- (a) It is the policy of the Authority that in normal circumstances, any communication with the media in respect to the duties of the Authority will be through the Chairman of the Authority.
- (b) In some circumstances, which would be individually agreed, the Chief Executive/Clerk would be empowered to speak to the media on behalf of the Authority.
- (c) There have been a number of matters over the years where Standing Committees of the Authority have been responsible for specific matters and the Authority has agreed that it would be appropriate, in those individual circumstances, for the Chairman of the appropriate Standing Committee to speak to the media about that specific issue.

(c) Commissioner Mr E.D.R. Killey to the Chairman, Onchan District Commissioners:-

“Could the Chairman confirm:-

- (a) that Standing Order 28 of Onchan District Commissioners and Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1985 apply to all meetings both public and private of Onchan District Commissioners and the various sub-committees; and*
- (b) that all Members of Onchan District Commissioners are aware of the provisions of Standing Order No 28 and Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1985 and the penalties that may be incurred if these provisions are not adhered to?”*

The Chairman of Onchan District Commissioners answered the questions in written form as follows:-

All Members have been provided with a copy of Standing Orders, in accord with requirements.

Section 65 is referred to in the Local Authorities Handbook.

For the avoidance of doubt, I have this evening provided all Members with an extract from both Standing Orders (28) and the Local Government Act 1985 (65).

(d) Commissioner Mrs W. Megson to the Chairman, Policy and Finance Committee:-

“Would the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee give consideration to a review of Standing Orders”

The Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee answered the question in written form as follows:-

I would be pleased to invite the Policy and Finance Committee to consider whether it would like to conduct a review of Standing Orders. The matter will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

(e) Commissioner Mrs W. Megson to the Chairman, Policy and Finance Committee:-

“Would the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee give consideration to a future modernisation project for the Reception and Office area of the Onchan District Commissioners?”

The Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee answered the question in written form as follows:-

This is really a matter for the Works and Cleansing Committee to consider and I will refer it to that Chairman for attention.

C06/04/01/21
MOTIONS

1. Motion Number 43 submitted by Commissioner Mrs W. Megson

A Notice of Motion had been received from Mrs Megson, as follows:-

“That the timescale for a notice of motion is amended to allow the tabling of an amendment if required and for both notifications to be included within the agenda”.

Mrs Megson moved the motion, the motion was not seconded and therefore failed.

2. Motion Number 44 submitted by Commissioner Mrs W. Megson

A Notice of Motion had been received from Mrs Megson, as follows:-

“That the Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary Board Meetings and Committee Meetings were rescheduled to take place during the working day”.

Mrs Megson moved the motion and was seconded by Mr Watterson.

Following debate a vote was taken.

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

The motion therefore failed.

1. Motion Number 45 submitted by Commissioner Mrs W. Megson

A Notice of Motion had been received from Mrs Megson, as follows:-

“That the Onchan District Commissioners implement a fair trade policy where possible”.

Mrs Megson moved the motion, the motion was seconded by Mr Watterson.

Following a debate a vote was taken and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Onchan District Commissioners shall implement a Fair Trade Policy in relation to the purchase of goods and materials wherever possible.

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

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Onchan District Commissioners held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Tuesday, 2nd May 2006 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Mr G.K. Astill
Mr S.T. Black
Mr D. Crellin
Mr M.J. Kennaugh
Mr E.D.R Killey
Mrs W.E. Megson
Mr A.T.W. Norton
Mr D.J. Quirk
Mr B. Stowell

Apologies: Mr J.K. Watterson

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

Mr. Astill took the chair for the commencement of the meeting.

C06/05/01/01
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN 2005/06

Mr Astill sought nominations for the election of Chairman of the Onchan District Commissioners for the year 2006/2007.

On the proposal of Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Stowell, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Mr D. Crellin be elected Chairman of the Onchan District Commissioners for the forthcoming year commencing on 1st May 2006.

The Chain of Office of the Chairman was presented to the incoming Chairman.

The Chain of the Chairman's Lady was presented to Mrs Crellin by Mrs Astill.

The incoming Chairman thanked his colleagues for the honour of appointing him to the prestigious office of Chairman of the Commissioners for the forthcoming year. He stated that having lived in Onchan all of his life and worked in the Village for some considerable time he felt it was an honour and a privilege.

He expressed the gratitude of all of the Members to Mr. Astill for his work as Chairman during the previous twelve months, and to Mrs. Astill for her support of her husband in that role.

Mr Crellin presented a commemorative plaque to Mr Astill. Mrs Crellin presented Mrs Astill with a bouquet of flowers.

C06/05/01/02
APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2004/05

The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman to the Board. On the proposal of Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Black, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Mr A.T.W. Norton be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Onchan District Commissioners for the year commencing on 1st May 2006.

C06/05/01/03
ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES

On the proposal of Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Astill, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chairmen and membership of the various Committees of the Authority be established in accordance with the recommendations of the Selection Committee. *A copy of the adopted membership of the Committees is attached at Appendix One to the Minutes.*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.10 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan on Monday, 3rd May 2006, commencing at 7.00 p.m..

Present: Mr S.T. Black (In the Chair)
Mr M.J. Kennaugh
Mrs W.E. Megson
Mr D. Crellin

Apologies: Mr J.K. Watterson (Chairman)

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

H06/05/01/01
MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday 27th March 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

H06/05/01/02
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

H06/05/01/03
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

H06/05/01/04
HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES BUSINESS

1. Maintenance Report

The Maintenance Report dated 26th April 2006, which had been circulated with the agenda. Arising therefrom:-

a) 49 Barrule Drive

The Deputy Clerk advised the Members that the property had been left in a particularly dirty condition by the previous tenant which had meant that contract cleaners had to be called in before workman could be let into the property.

Mrs Megson enquired whose responsibility it was to pay for the clean up of void properties. The Deputy Clerk suggested that on this occasion it should be the outgoing tenant, this was not supported by the Committee.

It was proposed by Mrs Megson, seconded by Mr Kennaugh, and unanimously agreed that tenants be advised that they will be liable for any cleansing fees prior to relinquishing the tenancy.

2. Asbestos Survey

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that he had now received a costing for a Type 3 Asbestos Survey from Dalrymples which was considerably more expensive than that quoted by SafetyNet.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the Department had advised that the costs of such surveys on the Public Sector Housing Stock could be that from the Housing Maintenance funds rather than adding it on to the capital schemes for planned maintenance.

It was therefore unanimously **RESOLVED that the services of SafetyNet should be engaged to carry out the Asbestos Survey of the Commissioners Housing Stock.**

3. Nursery Avenue – Triangle

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that a letter had been received, signed by a number of residents in Nursery Avenue, expressing concerns in relation to the proposed seating to be installed as part of the landscaping scheme.

The Deputy Clerk had visited a local resident and provided copies of the plans, agreed that the seating could be omitted from the scheme and as such no further comments had been received.

It was unanimously agreed that the scheme be amended and no seating be provided.

H06/05/01/05

SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

Nothing to report.

2. Switchover to Digital

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that with the proposed switchover of television to digital it will be necessary to consider whether the communal analogue system at Springfield Court needed to be upgraded or replaced, he had asked the Housing Maintenance Manager to investigate the matter and a report would be made to the Committee in the future.

3. Warden Call Maintenance Contract

The Deputy Clerk advised that a quotation had been received from Tunstall Ltd for the continuation of the Annual Service Agreement for the Warden Call System at Springfield Court for a cost of £2,245.33 plus V.A.T..

It was proposed by Mr Kennaugh, seconded by Mrs Megson, and unanimously **RESOLVED:-**

that the Annual Service Agreement for the Warden Call System at Springfield Court with Tunstall Ltd be renewed at a cost of £2,245.33 plus V.A.T. for a period of 12 months.

H06/05/01/06

HEYWOOD COURT MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

The report, dated 26th April 2006, had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

2. Request for Showers

A copy of the report of the Occupational Therapist and other correspondence had previously been circulated and was considered by Members. The recommendations of the Occupational Therapist were noted and endorsed.

H06/05/01/07
GARAGE MATTERS

1. **Maintenance Report**

Nothing to report.

H06/05/01/08
PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE

An up to date copy of the report had previously been circulated and was noted.

H06/05/01/09
HEALTH AND SAFETY BUSINESS

The report dated 26th April 2006 had been previously circulated was considered, arising therefrom:-

1. **Upgrading of Workshop Machinery**

Mrs Megson enquired as to the cost of carrying out the necessary upgrading works to machinery in the workshops. The Housing Maintenance Manager advised that the cost was approximately £8,000.

H06/05/01/10
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

Nothing to report.

H06/05/01/11
OUTSTANDING MATTERS – MONITORING OF ACTION TAKEN

1. **Report**

There was no report.

2. **Quarterly Housing Report**

There was no report.

3. **Tenant Handbook**

The Deputy Clerk asked for any final comments from Members on the draft Tenant Handbook.

4. **Sheltered Housing Form**

The Deputy Clerk advised that due to other work priorities he had been unable to work on the preparation of an application form.

Members requested that a draft be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee.

5. **Combined Housing Authorities**

The Deputy Clerk advised that he was in the process of drafting a letter to be sent to Mr Richard Senior, Director of Estates and Housing, Department of Local Government and the Environment, seeking a meeting with the Eastern Local Authorities to discuss options in relation to the management of public sector housing in the area.

H06/05/01/12

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

H06/05/01/13

FINANCIAL MATTERS

None.

H06/05/01/14

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

H06/05/01/15

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Structure of Meetings

Members suggested that consideration should be given to reorganising the structure of the Agenda and meetings. In the absence of the Chairman it was agreed to include the matter as an agenda item for the next meeting for further consideration.

2. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Housing Committee would take place on Monday, 5th June 2006, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

3. Commissioners' Surgery

It was noted that the next Commissioners' Surgery was to take place on Thursday, 1st June 2006, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS & CLEANSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 8th May 2006 at 7.00pm.

Present: Mr D.J. Quirk (chairman), Messrs D. Crellin, M.J. Kennaugh and E.D.R. Killey.

Apologises: G.K. Astill

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

WC/06/05/1
PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications were considered:-

PA 06/639 Internal alterations, 6 Strathallan Park for Mr & Mrs I. Pickering – **Recommend approval**

PA 06/643 Extension to form granny flat, 18 Birch Hill Crescent for Mrs P. Watts – **Recommend approval, neighbour at the rear to be notified.**

PA 06/667 Enclosure of existing porch, 1 Turnberry Avenue for Mr & Mrs C.A.K. Dougherty – **Recommend approval.**

PA 06/674 Alterations and creation of first floor extension in roof space, 28 Banks Howe for Mr & Mrs N. Clucas – **Recommend approval but express concerns over the end result not being in keeping with the surroundings. Adjoining owners to be notified.**

PA 06/688 Alterations to form granny flat annexe, 4 Links View for Mr T. O'Hare – **Recommend approval.**

PA 06/699 Alterations and replacement windows and door to rear of premises, 11 Auburn Road for Mr A. Craddock – **Recommend approval.**

WC/06/05/2
GREEN WASTE

The meeting was joined at 7.11pm by Messrs Kneen and Birchenough who operate a commercial composting plant at Ballig, St Johns.

The meeting was also joined by the following non-members of the committee: Messrs S.T. Black, A.T.W. Norton and J.K. Watterson (from 7.16pm).

The visitors gave an outline of their business and its capability. They also advised as to the cost which they are prepared to charge the commissioners should the commissioners wish to dispose of their green waste at Ballig following the weighing of the content either at Poortown or at Tel's establishment at Union Mills. It was further noted that when the waste was composted the commissioners would be given the opportunity to purchase same.

The visitors and non-members of the committee left at 7.35pm after being thanked for their attendance.

WC/06/05/3
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

WC/06/05/4
MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) War Memorial – Handrails

Mr Killey advised that the Onchan Branch of the Royal British Legion would be holding a meeting on Thursday evening of that week when the letter, as sent by the Clerk, enquiring as to members of the community assisting those laying wreaths to climb the steps at the War Memorial, would be considered. The Clerk advised that a reply had been received from the Branch Chairman stating that in his view the offer of assistance would be a non starter as the handrails were required not only during Armistice Sunday but also throughout the year for anyone wishing to pay their respects at the War Memorial.

b) Snugborough Trading Estate - Roads

The Clerk advised that there was nothing further to report. To the best of his knowledge Braddan Parish Commissioners were going through the usual borrowing procedures prior to the work of repairing the roads being carried out.

c) Housing Development Ridgeway Road

The Surveyor advised that there was nothing further to report. Noted.

WC/06/05/5
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Trees and High Hedges Act 2005

The Clerk reported that it was hoped that this would be placed before Tynwald in July or August. Noted.

WC/06/05/6
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND OTHER CLEANSING BUSINESS

a) Officer's Report

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

i) Street Cleaning

Mr Killey commented on how the cleaning of the lane behind his house in Ballachurry was much improved and as a consequence residents appeared to be cutting back their hedges.

ii) Kerbside Recycling Vehicle

Members noted the comments made by the Waste Operations Manager in respect of this matter without further discussion.

b) Advertising Space – Refuse Vehicles

The Clerk reported that there had been a misunderstanding with the police who thought the commissioners would pay for advertising the neighbourhood watch schemes on the refuse vehicles whereas all the commissioners were doing were offering the opportunity for such advertisements to be placed. Noted.

c) **Additional Recycling Sites**

Copies of an email from the Committee Chairman to the Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting. From this it was noted that the Chairman was suggesting three additional sites in the Urban area of Onchan for the positioning of recycling bins. This information was reiterated and expanded upon by the Chairman. Comment was made however that recycling positions should be in locations to which people would normally travel such as supermarkets, schools etc rather than making a special journey to non related sites as this used up energy and was contrary to the whole object of recycling. They should be away from housing due to the noise made in depositing bottles and cans and also when the bin is emptied into the refuse vehicle. Furthermore there needs to be sufficient parking for the public to access the bins and unrestricted space for the collection vehicle. Members generally thought that the proposed sites were unsuitable but it was agreed that the Waste Operations Manager be asked to view them and report back.

WC/06/05/7
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 items being discussed further:-

i) **Lamp Replacement**

Mr Killey commented that the white lights being installed were better than the sodium lights previously used throughout the district.

ii) **Complaint**

Mr Crellin advised that he had received a complaint from a householder in Birch Hill Park because the white light was too bright and shone into their house.

iii) **Further Complaint**

Mr Quirk advised that he had notified the Surveyor's Department via the website as to a streetlight which was not functioning but this had not as yet been attended. He also pointed out that there was still a defective light outside Heywood Court.

b) **Street Lighting at The Park**

The Surveyor reported that in respect of the road known as "The Park" he was anticipating possibly going to the MEA to produce the scheme for improving the lighting in this area. It may well be based on replacing the lamp heads. With regard to Mount View Close details of any additional lighting in this area was still under preparation but he felt he must point out that no provision had been made in the estimates to carry out this work nor in fact any provision for new lighting at The Park. Replacement of lamp heads was however subject to a general provision for street lighting in 2006-07.

WC/06/05/8
DRAINAGE FUNCTION

a) **Officer's Report**

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

b) **Port Jack Glen**

The Surveyor reported that he was awaiting a reply to his letter to DOLGE seeking approval to the method of planning supervision in respect of the multi faceted scheme. Members requested that the matter be chased as otherwise it would be the autumn before work could commence.

c) **Commissioners' House, The Park**

Mr Crellin made reference to one of the commissioners' properties in The Park where the tenant complained that there was flooding in the rear yard. Matter to be referred to the Housing Maintenance Manager and the Housing Committee.

WC/06/05/9
PLANNING MATTERS

The Surveyor reported on two applications where the recommendation of the Commissioners and the decision of the Planning Committee differed viz:-

PA 06/153 Proposed alterations, demolition of existing garage, erection of new garage, bedroom and kitchen extensions and construction of hard standing for car parking, 58 Howe Road.

This application had been the subject of a recommendation of refusal by the Commissioners but had been approved by the Planning Committee. It was **RESOLVED** therefore to seek Appeal of the decision.

PA 06/324 Extensions, 20 Birch Hill Avenue.

The Commissioners had originally recommended refusal but the Planning Committee had approved the application. It was **RESOLVED** to seek Appeal of the decision.

WC/06/05/10
CAPITAL AND REVENUE SCHEMES

a) **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) **YCC Disabled Facilities**

The Surveyor made reference to having contacted a local architectural services practice and having obtained a quotation of £600 for carrying out the preparation of plans for building regulations submission.

***RESOLVED**

"to accept the quotation from Martin Hobson in respect of preparing plans for disabled facilities and amending the existing toilet layout at the Youth and Community Centre at a cost of £600."

ii) **Snugborough Depôt – Mezzanine Floor**

The Chairman commented that this item should be expedited. Noted.

WC/06/05/11
HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

a) **Meeting with DoT Officials**

It was noted that the minutes of this meeting were yet to be circulated.

b) Zebra Crossing Entrance to Heywood Park

The Surveyor reported that the Department were currently proposing that a central reservation be constructed as a temporary measure pro tem. The hedge near the bus stop was to be cut as the growth presented a visibility problem.

c) Other Highway Matters

In answer to question, the Surveyor advised that the mobile warning sign for speed limits was positioned in various locations in Onchan on different days. It has however to be taken in at night for the batteries to be recharged. Comment was made that speeding was more likely to occur of an evening/night than it was during the daytime.

d) Main Road Crossing

The Administrative Officer pointed out to members that the new zebra crossing was almost complete on Main Road between the commissioners' offices and the Methodist Church. He drew to the attention of the meeting, however, that the lamp standard/belisha beacon pole was located back from the kerb but not against the boundary wall and therefore he foresaw difficulties particularly for disabled persons' mobility scooters getting through the gap. The Surveyor to investigate and contact DoT.

WC/06/05/12

FURTHER REPORTS FROM CLERK/SURVEYOR

None.

WC/06/05/13

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

WC/06/05/14

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

No list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting and therefore no reference could be made to same.

WC/06/05/15

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

WC/06/05/16

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of Next Meeting

Monday 12th June 2006 at 7pm.

b) Planning Meeting

The next planning meeting in public was to be held on Wednesday 24th May 2006 at 5pm.

c) Minutes

It was agreed that the splitting of the minutes between the public and committee sections be left to the officers.
Meeting terminated at 9.00pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 15th May 2006 at 6.56pm.

Present: Mr B. Stowell (in the chair), Mrs W. Megson, Messrs S.T. Black, D. Crellin and E.D.R. Killey.

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

LA/06/05/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

LA/06/05/2
MATTERS ARISING

1. Parks Foreman

Mrs Megson enquired whether the Parks Foreman was attending the meeting. The Amenities Officer advised that originally it was intended that he would be present but then he was booked on to a local government course for that day and the following day and therefore it had been agreed at officer level that it was too much to expect him to fit in a night time meeting in addition to two full days of seminar. As it happens his place on the course was cancelled at the last moment but in the meantime he had not prepared for the meeting. He will attend the next meeting. Mrs Megson enquired whether he would come up with a plan of proposals for the parks and open spaces to which the Amenities Officer replied that he was sure he would have suggestions but he had only been in position for 9 days which was hardly long enough to produce an overall plan.

The chairman commented that he felt it would be advantageous if the whole of the committee could meet with the whole of the parks staff on an informal basis so that faces could be put to names. After discussion it was agreed that this should take place at 3pm on Thursday 25th May 2006. The Amenities Officer to make the necessary arrangements.

LA/06/05/3
PLAYGROUNDS/PARKS

a) Playground Log Books

The Amenities Officer produced the books at the meeting and the chairman agreed to call in to the office at a later date in order to countersign them. The Amenities Officer advised that there were no matters of special concern. The climbing net as referred to in his report, was due to arrive in a week's time. Noted.

b) Amenities Officer's Report

A copy of the Amenities Officer's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with no items being discussed further in public.

c) Annual Tour of the Park

Copies of the updated list showing items still not attended since the tour of inspection in September 2005 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted that there was very little left to be completed. Mrs Megson suggested that it would be better if there were two tours of the park each year; one to produce a list of works that required doing and the second to check that it was done. Mr Black was of the opinion that one tour was quite sufficient. The chairman commented that as far as he was concerned the commissioners should not be going

to the park to produce lists of work requiring to be done as that was the job of the officers. He felt that instead, tours of the park should be on the basis of making policy decisions such as replacing several huts with one building or providing new changing facilities or whatever. Mr Killey commented that any tours would perhaps be better made during the full operation of the park so that things could be seen at first hand.

d) Jubilee Playground

The Administrative Officer reported that he had prepared the specification and sent same out to 7 playground manufacturers/suppliers. The specification requested a scheme for the provision of an integrated play, multi activity, themed play piece of equipment to be located in a stand alone position suitable for children between 5 and 11 years old. Part of the equipment at least was to be suitable for use by disabled as well as able bodied children. The equipment have a theme appropriate to the Isle of Man (ship, train, castle, TT Races). It was to contain as much as possible in the way of multi sensory units and to contain a slide. Other technicalities in relation to safety flooring, compliance with BS EN standards etc were also listed. Also to be included in the scheme was a section of bow top fencing to ensure a dog free area on the boundary with the land given to the commissioners by Heritage Homes. Schemes were due to be submitted by 14th June 2006 ready for consideration by the committee on 19th June 2006. As borrowing powers were going to be necessary then it was anticipated work would commence in September/October. The specification has been drawn up in such a way that tendering suppliers were working to a budget and the schemes they submitted would be selected based on play value, compliance with the scope conditions, attractiveness and value for money as opposed to being the lowest tender. The Administrative Officer showed copies of the specification complete with plans, photographs, lists of local accommodation etc. The Administrative Officer was thanked for progressing this matter.

The chairman enquired whether the scheme incorporated a shelter. The Administrative Officer replied that no indication had been given by the committee at any time that a shelter was to be incorporated although he was aware that this was the case with the skateboard park which was intended for an older age range and was being attended by the Surveyor. Mrs Megson commented that she had spoken to children in the area and comment had been made that facilities were needed for older children in the 11 to 15 age group. She made reference to the likes of an aerial runway. The Administrative Officer referred to the aerial runway recently installed at Pulsom Park and pointed out that it was set well away from all other play equipment and that certainly could be embodied at Jubilee Playground at the top end but would have to be part of a second or ongoing phase of improvement. Members commented on other aerial runways which had recently been removed from public play areas due to potential problems of children running in front of those on the runway itself. Mrs Megson then drew to the attention of the Amenities Officer the fact that the disabled persons roundabout in the Taverners Playground was difficult to push around and he agreed to have this attended.

e) Drainage Above Car Park School Road Recreation Ground

The Amenities Officer advised that he had no update from the Surveyor. The chairman produce copies of photographs taken by Commissioner Quirk which showed that the problem was still in existence and in his opinion the ground should be excavated to the high side of the spring. Mrs Megson enquired whether the commissioners needed to look to a professional for advice on this matter to which the chairman responded that what was required was being achieved on a daily basis by farmers throughout the island. He requested that the Amenities Officer obtain an indication of price for carrying out this work and same to be provided at the next meeting. He also suggested a price be obtained for laying a field drain across the area and around the edge of the football pitch in Nivison Stadium. Mr Black pointed out that nothing had been allowed for in the estimates for this work. Mr Crellin enquired whether the committee should be proceeding on the lines suggested by the chairman and after further discussion it was agreed that the advice of the Surveyor should be sought.

f) **Name of Onchan Park**

The Administrative Office referred to the minute of the previous meeting at which neither he nor the chairman were present. For the information of members he pointed out that whilst the brown directional signs all referred to Onchan Pleasure Park the word "pleasure" has been dropped from all advertising or other references to the park for some years now. This was as a result of confusion that was being caused through people thinking they were going to a Leisure Parc or something on the lines of Alton Towers. This was also the case of UK publications seeking advertisements from the commissioners for their "leisure park" in off island publications. A general discussion then took place in respect of signage and it was agreed as and when signs required to be renewed then the word pleasure should be omitted. Mrs Megson was inclined to replace all signs immediately but it was agreed that for the time being the Amenities Officer would survey all signs relevant to Onchan Park and obtain a cost for replacement. The chairman commented that replacement signs should be of a traditional 1950s style and not in yellow and green as was the case with some of the larger signs.

g) **Large Notice Board Onchan Park**

The Amenities Officer advised that since the last meeting he had been in contact with a local firm of aluminium window manufacturers to obtain a price for producing a framework with access doors so that the posters could be changed in a similar way to the Urbis Board rather than pasting them on the background. The chairman commented that the present board was outdated but he didn't feel there was necessity to go to the lengths proposed. Mr Crellin enquired whether the aluminium doors would then end up with locks to which confirmation was given. Mr Killey added that he felt the present sign board looked terrible. The chairman then commented that basically all that was required was tidying up and that the board was now far too large for the number of notices that are displayed on it. A reduction in size and the provision of a map of the park was what was required. When questioned, the Administrative Officer pointed out that whilst a map of the park maybe an advantage there were very few people going to be in this location and maps of the park showing "you are here" would be better located at different points in the park itself rather than on a corner which would only be passed by vehicular traffic. Agreed that when the walkabout takes place at the park the notice board would be viewed and considered.

h) **Crazy Golf Features**

The Amenities Officer advised that the first pieces of equipment were being installed that afternoon and the whole of the equipment should be complete within a couple of days. Noted.

j) **Pennington Hall Replacement**

The Amenities Officer advised that the Surveyor had informed him that there was a meeting of the design team the following day. Noted.

k) **Music and Dancing Licence**

The Administrative Officer advised that correspondence had been exchanged between the commissioners and Treasury since November 2005 querying the fees chargeable in relation to Onchan Park and Nivison Stadium. The matter had been passed to the Registry but despite reminders no reply was ever received. He had attended the Licensing Court the previous Thursday in respect of the commissioners' application but due to a lack of response from the Registry the commissioners' licence had in fact expired and therefore it was necessary now to advertise the application as if "De Nouveau". The application was to be heard on Tuesday 23rd May 2006. In preparing the plan for consideration by the court he had included the whole of Onchan Park as well as Nivison Stadium as the fee was the same but it gave greater options.

m) **Any Other Matters**

Mrs Megson enquired as to who was responsible for the exterior decoration of the Squash Club. The Amenities Officer advised that he thought it was the responsibility of the commissioners as was normally the case with a landlord/tenant situation. At Mrs Megson's suggestion it was agreed that when the tour of the park takes place then the appearance of the Squash Club be viewed.

LA/06/05/4
OPEN SPACES

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

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

b) **Port Jack Glen – Comprehensive Scheme**

The Amenities Officer informed members that the Surveyor was placing an advertisement in the current week's newspapers for expression of interest from contractors wishing to go on the select tender list.

c) **Skateboard Park**

The Administrative Officer reported that despite what had been quoted in the minutes from the previous meeting when he was not present he had not in fact made contact with the preferred contractor as there was no preferred contractor. What had in fact happened was that he had received information from the deputation of local BMX and Skateboard Associations and had passed this to the Surveyor to progress. The information included a request that any skateboard jumps should be purchased from a specialist skateboard manufacturer rather than from a playground manufacturer. The use of plywood for the jumps should be avoided as this requires replacement virtually on an annual basis. Metal ramps are lethal in the wet and in reality only concrete ramps are acceptable but expensive. The Amenities Officer advised that he was not aware at what stage the Surveyor had reached in progressing the matter.

Mrs Megson had a series of question and it was confirmed that a second planning application needed to be made in relation to the jumps and any lighting to be provided. She expressed her concern that the original planning permission would be running out and she felt the commissioners were letting down the youth of Onchan by not proceeding with haste. Mr Crellin informed members that he agreed with the comments made by Mrs Megson. After further discussion it was agreed to invite the Surveyor to attend the next meeting when he could explain the up to date situation.

d) **Centenary Park**

The Administrative Officer referred to the minutes of the previous meeting where mention was made of holding a competition for school children to come up with ideas for Centenary Park. He reminded members that in 2003 six students from Oxford Brookes University spent a week at Centenary Park surveying and then produced five alternative schemes for how it could be developed. The Administrative Officer showed the schemes to the meeting which were for a nature park, community park, a youth park, a mystic park and a sports park. He also reminded members that at the time the decision was taken that nothing could proceed any further until such time as the whole of the upper area had been covered in soil and there was a decent hedge or fence to prevent people falling down the escarpment. Since that time only a minimal annual allowance had been made in the estimates and a result achieving the aim of making the area safe for the public to enter was going to take a long time.

The chairman commented that he couldn't see why the commissioners cut the grass on Centenary Park when the fields around the corner were not cut. It was pointed out that these were not in the ownership of the commissioners and equally were hidden behind a hedge as the area at Centenary Park which was cut was readily visible from the high road due to the

rising ground which starts at the top of hedge level. The chairman then commented on the way the grass was cut and suggested the commissioners would be far better to spend £750 to buy a topper and cut the grass by their own labour rather than through contractors.

Mr Killey was of the opinion that Centenary Park would make an ideal commercial vehicle park which is something Onchan had been looking for for some time. The chairman pointed out that access and visibility would just not be suitable in this location. Mr Killey then enquired as to what it would cost to make the area useable to which the chairman replied that in his estimation it would be £20,000 to flatten the ground and grow grass.

Mr Killey then commented that it was his idea of holding a competition in relation to the future use and this he felt could be undertaken by sixth formers or students at Isle of Man College. He also queried whether the land could be sold to developers. The chairman responded that he thought there was mileage in the commissioners keeping the area to which the Administrative Officer added the original intention was to create a green lung within the area of urbanisation but it had never been expected that this would be achieved overnight as no proper budget was being provided.

e) **Wembley Football Arena**

The Amenities Officer produced coloured photocopies of different manufacturers' multi purpose ball play areas stating that they ranged in price from £19,000 to £24,000. When queried it transpired that the prices quoted were just the catalogue prices and did not include delivery or erection and certainly not the grounds works involved in providing the base. In the course of discussion members expressed surprise to learn that the base was not a safety flooring but in fact tarmacadam. The chairman commented that if this was the case then surely the commissioners could arrange to have a base put in and erect fencing and paint lines on the tarmacadam themselves rather than going to a proprietary manufacturer. Mr Killey was of the opinion that the matter should be referred back to the Board because he was sure they were not aware it was tarmacadam as a playing surface.

The chairman pointed out there was a difficulty in the that the committee could not really go much further in absence of proper prices and Mr Killey suggested that separate prices be obtained for the laying of the tarmacadam but again reiterated that the matter should go back to the Board for information. Mr Black was of the opinion, however, that the play equipment supplier should quote for everything, base included. The Amenities Officer pointed out that the Surveyor was expecting the committee to select one of the proprietary systems and then a proper quotation could be obtained from the supplier in question based on that selection. Members were of the opinion however that it would be better to get all the manufacturers to quote for a package and then, as with the Jubilee Playground equipment, they could each be assessed on what they provide rather than selecting the scheme which was the cheapest.

f) **Manx Arms Seats**

There was no report from the Deputy Clerk as to what had happened when he was taking up the matter of the state of the seats with the manager/s of the hotel. The chairman requested that an update be provided to members by way of a memorandum to be placed in the pouches for delivery on Friday.

LA/06/05/5

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

Copies of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting and members noted that no maintenance had been carried out since the last meeting.

The chairman produced copies of photographs taken by himself the previous evening which showed graffiti and dirty corners to the tiling and the remains of graffiti on the grouting. There was also a modesty panel which had been removed from alongside one of the bowl urinals

and the silicone used to attach it was still on the tiles. The Amenities Officer said he would speak with the contract cleaners.

Mr Crellin then enquired whether the Amenities Officer checked the toilets each day after cleaning to which he responded that he didn't. Mr Crellin was of the opinion that it had previously been agreed that this would be the case but the Amenities Officer advised that the Community Warden was meant to call in on a regular basis as he was patrolling the streets. Mr Killey commented that this should be part of his daily routine if that were the case. Mrs Megson then commented on the cleanliness of the toilets in Nivison Stadium alongside the concrete grandstand. The Amenities Officer advised that these were cleaned the day after use during the stock car race and therefore there should not be a problem with them as they were not open at any other time. The chairman then commented that he had often been reminded that the commissioners were there to make policy and the officers to carry out that policy. In this instance the policy was that the toilets be kept in a clean condition and therefore it was up to the officers to achieve this.

LA/06/05/6
PUBLIC LIBRARY

a) Librarian's Report

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

b) Amenities Officer Report

Copies of the Amenities Officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. A question was put as to the wording that had been placed on the new door bell as the report stated it read "please ring the bell". The Amenities Officer confirmed that the wording did in fact relate to the bell being there for the convenience of the disabled or those having difficulty with the doors.

c) Improvements to Entrance/Signage

Mr Killey referred to the minutes of the previous meeting where it was suggested that the entrance was dark and that it was hard to tell that it was library. Mr Killey commented that he had looked at the library since that time and the words Onchan Library were quite clear in large letters on the face of the building. He didn't see that there was problem at all. In respect of the other items raised it was noted that there was no report from the Deputy Clerk following his offer to speak with the commissioners' electrical contractor. It was requested that such a report be distributed to members in the pouches on Friday.

LA/06/05/7
YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) Amenities Officer's Report

Copies of the Amenities Officer's had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

b) Disabled Persons' Toilet

The chairman noted the reference to engaging the services of an architectural firm and queried why this was necessary when the proposal was a straightforward internal job and the plans had already been prepared by the Administrative Officer. The Administrative Officer advised that the Surveyor felt there was a conflict of interests for him to deal with a building regulation application for the commissioners when the plans were prepared in house. The Administrative Officer added, however, that the whole of the Youth Centre was designed by the then Surveyor in 1979 and the plans were therefore vetted and inspections carried out by the building inspectors the then Local Government Board. A similar arrangement could have prevailed but a firm of architectural technicians had now been engaged. The Administrative Officer added however that he understood the plans now to be prepared would not only be the

multi functional/disabled persons toilet at the lower level but also the revamping of all the toilets at the upper level including the provision of a disabled persons' toilet which would necessitate the provision of alternative storage accommodation elsewhere in the building. The Chairman commented that the committee should really know the brief given to the firm so that they were aware as to what was included in the price quoted. The Surveyor was therefore to be requested to provide that information. Mrs Megson commented that legislation which would be coming into force shortly would require the commissioners to provide the disabled persons' toilets in any event.

c) Onchan Youth Development Fund

The Administrative Officer reminded members that there had been no applications from Onchan youths to sail on the Manchester Challenge this year. The fund was, however, available for other purposes to assist youths particularly in outdoor pursuits and in the past had been used by a scout to go to the North Pole and more recently for another scout to go to a Scout Jamboree in Thailand. There had now been made a request from three Onchan scouts who had been selected to be part of the contingent of nine scouts plus one leader to represent the Island at the Centenary World Jamboree to be held in Essex in 2007. The cost per participant was £1,000 which had been set by the International Headquarters of the Scout Association so that there would be spare funding to facilitate scouts from the Third World countries attending. After a brief discussion, on the proposal of Mr Killey, seconded by Mrs Megson it was

***RESOLVED**

“to recommend that the three Onchan scouts attending the World Jamboree in 2007 be given a sum of £200 each towards their costs with such sum of money coming from the Onchan Youth Development Fund”.

d) Rental Charges

Members had been circulated with a list prepared by the Finance Officer showing a proposed increase in rental charges for the use of the Youth and Community Centre. The proposed increase had been based on a 3% inflationary rate rounded up to the nearest 25p. After a brief discussion it was

***RESOLVED**

“that the following price increases shall apply

Sports Hall	1 hour	increase from £15 to £15.50
	2 hours	increase from £25 to £25.75
	3 or 4 hours	increase from £33 to £34
Community Hall	1 hour	increase from £13 to £13.50
	2 hours	increase from £17 to £17.50
	3 or 4 hours	increase from £20 to £22.75
Committee/GP Room	1 hour	increase from £12 to £12.50
	2 hours	increase from £14 to £14.50
	3 or 4 hours	increase from £17 to £17.50
Games Room	1 to 2 hours	increase from £10 to £10.50
	3 to 4 hours	increase from £12 to £12.50
Coffee Bar	1 hour	increase from £8 to £8.25
	2 hours	increase from £8 to £8.25
	3 to 4 hours	increase from £8 to £8.25
Use of stage or carpet hire		increase from £12 to £12.50
Labour (in week)		increase from £50 to £51.50
Labour (weekends)		increase from £95 to £98
Party Hire	4 hours	increase from £40 to £41.25
	2 hours	increase from £26 to £26.75
Car Boot Sale		increase from £35 to £36.25

PROMOTIONS/ADVERTISING/PUBLIC INFORMATION

a) Website

Details received from Webone UK showed 17,654 page views in March 2006 compared to 9,204 the previous year and 10,250 visits for the month compared to 4,539 the previous year. For April there were 13,885 page views compared to 10,496 the previous year and 7,257 visits compared to 5,047. The chairman commented that it was nice to see the statistics continually moving up.

The Administrative Officer reported that parts 3 and 4 of Onchan in the Sixties, a photographic recollection, had now been completed and were online. Also another gallery of old photographs of Onchan had been added. Following the Annual Meeting the commissioners entries had been amended and lists of committees etc brought up to date. Any club and society where notification had been received of change of officers, had also been included in the latest updates. What had come to light, however was that in the biographies of a small number of commissioners reference was made to their spouse by name. As a consequence the spouses had been contacted to seek their written consent to their name appearing in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act. Mrs Megson handed in the consent of her husband during the meeting, the others were awaited.

The Administrative Officer then referred to the report prepared by the Clerk for the last meeting in which reference was made to one of the Tours of Onchan on the website. The owner of one of the properties listed had complained about their premises appearing on the list and whilst this matter was referred to the Data Protection Office and a written reply received which made it quite clear that there was no breach of data protection the Clerk had, in the absence of the Administrative Officer or without reference to him, pulled the entry from the tour. The notes advised that it made no difference to the tour. The Administrative Officer pointed out that the tour was based on guiding the reader around Onchan and therefore worked from property to property and as a result there was a gap where this would have been. The chairman commented that he had a hand in it being removed from the site because the wife of the present owner complained that her husband's grandfather was mentioned as having had the house built and therefore the public would be able to establish their occupation of the house. Members concurred that the removal of the grandfather's name was all that was required to overcome the problem.

b) Enquiries

The Administrative Officer reported that since the last meeting there had been further enquiries regarding the place of residence of early scout masters in Onchan and this, as in the past, had been established through the old rate books. There had been an enquiry forwarded by the police in respect of identification of a photograph which was undertaken by the Administrative Officer using his personal knowledge and another enquiry received with regard to the age of a property in Onchan which again he was able to deal with in the same manner.

c) Out 2 Play

The Administrative Officer reported that unfortunately the rain at Easter had prevented the Isle of Man Children's Centre holding their Out 2 play event in the School Road Recreation Ground. A further request had now been received to hold it on Monday 5th June 2006 instead. As this was a repeat request the Administrative Officer was empowered to approve same which he had done.

d) It's a Knockout

The Administrative Officer reported having been contacted by a representative of Medis the firm who were holding the charity event in Nivison Stadium by way of an It's a Knockout competition. The enquirer had requested dimensions of Nivison Stadium and a plan had been

provided. An update had been requested as to the number of teams entered to date but no reply has been received. Noted.

e) Passports

Copies of a single letter received complaining over the passports only commencing at 5pm had been circulated together with the Administrative Officer's reply. No further letters had been received. The chairman pointed out that the decision had been taken to operate on this basis and therefore it should be left to run its course. Noted

f) Dog Training Shows

The annual request from the Douglas Dog Training Club had been received for the use of the grassed area above Nivison Stadium for dog training and also for their two shows which are held during the summer. These were to be on 11th June and 6th August and as this was a repeat request the Administrative Officer had delegated power to approve same which he had done. Noted.

g) Any Other Promotional Business

The chairman advised that he had requested this item be placed on the agenda so that the committee could make advanced decisions in respect of certain events:-

i) Lantern Light Procession

The chairman commented that whilst the committee had the previous year decide not to have burning torches on safety grounds he felt the end result appearance-wise was abysmal. Personally he preferred to see the burning torches and was of the opinion that anything the commissioners do should be done properly. The Administrative Officer was requested therefore to explore the implications with Health and Safety in respect of reverting to the Torchlight Procession. Mr Killey commented that people would have the choice of either a lantern or a burning torch.

ii) Bonfire

Mr Crellin enquired as to the holding of a bonfire and firework display on the 5th November. The Administrative Officer informed members that he had reported to them within the past twelve months the fact that firework displays cannot be held in the stadium any longer due to non-achievement of the distances prescribed in documentation from and Health and Safety between the setting off area and the public. It was for that reason that the display in the Mooragh was held in the middle of the lake and at Peel on the breakwater. The chairman commented that it was possible to buy a single ignition firework display but it was not known whether the same safety distances would apply. Mrs Megson queried whether the display could be held at Centenary Park but members pointed out the great difficulty in parking in the area and the general unsuitability of the ground conditions.

iii) Inter Services Challenge

The chairman enquired as to members' views in respect of the Inter Services Challenge. The Administrative Officer advised as to the approximate cost the previous year which related to the engagement of personnel from the Maughold Venture Centre who had the equipment and the expertise. There was also great difficulty in getting four teams to compete and it was only at the last moment that the event was able to proceed. Mr Black was not in favour of repeating the event neither was Mr Killey who was of the opinion that such expenditure would be better directed towards the Village Fair.

iv) Village Fair

The chairman commented that whilst the Board felt a village fair should be held in The Butt he was of the opinion that if it was in Nivison Stadium it would bring people into the park. Members were of the opinion however that they would prefer to have the

event on the Village Green and it was understood the date selected by the Board was 22nd July 2006. The Administrative Officer pointed out that normally when an event was being held around July he would give initial notice to clubs and societies in January and then a number of follow ups thereafter. The difficulty was, not every club or society had regular committee meetings and depending on what they were likely to sell on their stalls, in some cases a great deal of preparation time was necessary. The Administrative Officer then enquired whether the committee would like a road closing order for the section of Church Road from its junction with Main Road through to the church gates to which they indicated that they would. The chairman pointed out, and members concurred, that the reopening of the roads would be at the sole discretion of the Administrative Officer alone.

- v) **Christmas Trees**
The chairman commented that he felt the Christmas trees in December 2005 were poor and that the committee should be thinking to better illumination during the coming year. The problem was that the lights provided twinkled and therefore only half the lights would be on at any one moment in time. These would be better replaced with lights which were permanently illuminated. The Amenities Officer was to look into the costing which he advised that 60 sets of lights would be required and they would be at least £20 each. Mr Killey commented that lights that were illuminated all the time should work out cheaper to purchase than flashing lights.

LA/06/05/9 **OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

The list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted with the following items being discussed further.

LA/05/04/3(g) Surveyor to produce comprehensive light scheme for Onchan Park and obtain tenders for June meeting – ***Surveyor to be reminded.***

LA/06/04/6(5) Install Wi-Fi service in library. The Amenities Officer advised that he thought that this was held up pending a survey of the premises by Manx Telecom.

LA/06/05/10 **MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES**

Nil for consideration in public.

LA/06/05/11 **CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

a) Model Boats

The Administrative Officer reported having been contacted by Mr Brian King of the Manx Model Boat Club who had an event tentatively booked to take place at Silverdale on Sunday 13th August 2006. There had been some uncertainty over the use of the lake at Silverdale and the club were now enquiring whether it would be possible to hold this event in the boating lake at Onchan Park. It would mean, however that the motorboats would have to finish at 5.30pm in order for them to set up for a 6.30pm start. At this time the boating lake would normally have been open until 8pm. The event differs from anything previous in so much that all the model boats will be of naval vessels and His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has been invited to attend. The club were also contemplating holding some form of reception in the Kennedy Lounge and would invite a degree of participation by the commissioners. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED

“that permission be granted to hold the event on the boating lake in Onchan Park on the evening of Sunday 13th August 2006 as requested”.

b) Junior Football

The Administrative Officer reported on email correspondence between the Clerk and Commissioner Quirk regarding junior football taking place in the School Road Recreation Ground and the Kickabout area at Ballachurry. It was noted that this was not a request from the Onchan AFC and was not actually being made direct to the committee. However, after discussion, during which it was pointed out that the Ballachurry Kickabout area no longer existed as the licence had been terminated by the Property Section of DOLGE prior to handed over the land to the Department of Education, the committee were of the view that they had no objection to any of the public open spaces that were suitable for the playing of football to be used for that purpose.

LA/06/05/12

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of Next Meeting

Monday 19th June 2006 at 7pm.

Meeting terminated 10.47pm. .

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 22nd May 2006, at 5.30 p.m.

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

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

PF06/05/01
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PF06/05/02
BUSINESS ARISING

None.

PF06/05/03
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

PF06/05/04
OUTSTANDING MATTERS

None circulated.

F06/05/05
CLERK'S REPORT

None circulated. The following matters were individually raised:-

1. Employees Handbook

Clerk had circulated a copy of the draft Employees Handbook prepared by the Deputy Clerk. The document included all of the information which would be required by the staff, including details of procedures, standing orders and Protocols.

Mr. Watterson pointed out some potential amendments that might be made in the document, which were largely typographical in nature.

The document was noted.

2. Local Government Bill 2006

Clerk reported that the Local Government Bill had completed its passage through the House of Keys and was to be referred to the Legislative Council. Several amendments to the Bill as drafted had been incorporated and these were summarised as follows:-

- a) a new clause had been added to require that Standing Orders of the Authority should be made public and available for reference;

- b) the proposal for a potential general approval in respect of borrowing powers granted to local authorities, which had been included in the Bill, had been amended to require that any such decision would require the approval of Tynwald
- c) any direction issued by the Department of Local Government and the Environment in relation to funds established by a local authority as a reserve would now have to be laid before Tynwald.

Clerk would continue to monitor consideration of this legislation.

3. Audit Bill 2006

Clerk reported that the Audit Bill had completed its passage through the House of Keys and was now moving through the stages of consideration by the Legislation Council. No amendments had been made by the House of Keys but the Legislative Council had effected one minor change to clause 5.

Clerk would continue to monitor consideration of this legislation.

4. Human Rights Act 2001

Clerk confirmed that the Council of Ministers had issued an Appointed Day Order to bring into effect the provisions of the Human Rights Act 2001, which hitherto were not in force. The appointed day was 1st November 2006.

Clerk confirmed that this would have a significant implication in the way in which public bodies must approach the consideration of all matters and that he would report further on this matter.

PF06/05/06

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 17th May 2006 compared with the previous financial year were as follows:-

2006/07 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,586,988
2006/07 collected to 17 th May 2006 less refunds	£ 471,789 (29.73%)

Comparative figures

2005/06 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,461,625
2005/06 collected to 17 th May 2005 less refunds	£ 436,683 (29.88%)

2. Revenue Account Payments

The list of payments from revenue account during the month of April 2006 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.

PF06/05/07

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PF06/05/08

MATTERS REFERRED BY COMMISSIONERS/OTHER COMMITTEES

1. Question Submitted by Commissioner Megson – Review of Standing Orders

It was noted that at the meeting of the Board in April, Mrs. Megson had asked:-

“Would the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee give consideration to a review of Standing Orders”.

In response the then Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee had agreed to ask the Committee whether it would like to conduct a review as requested.

Members were mindful that the Clerk was to circulate a Memorandum on the interpretation of Standing Orders shortly and it was agreed to reconsider the request when the Memorandum had been issued.

PF06/05/09

RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY OR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The following recommendation with financial implication was considered from the meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on 15th May 2006, was endorsed:-

Price Proposal - YCC

Location	Requirement	Rate Now	Proposal 3% inc ru
Sports Hall			
	1 hour	£15.00	£15.50
	2 hours	£25.00	£25.75
	3 or 4 hours	£33.00	£34.00
Community Hall			
	1 hour	£13.00	£13.50
	2 hours	£17.00	£17.50
	3 or 4 hours	£22.00	£22.75
Committee/GP Room			
	1 hour	£12.00	£12.50
	2 hours	£14.00	£14.50
	3 or 4 hours	£17.00	£17.50
Games Room			
	1 to 2 hours	£10.00	£10.50
	3 to 4 hours	£12.00	£12.50
Coffee Bar / Facilities (inc VAT)			
	1 hour	£8.00	£8.25
	2 hours	£8.00	£8.25
	3 or 4 hours	£8.00	£8.25
Use of stage or carpet			
	Hire	£12.00	£12.50
	Labour wk	£50.00	£51.50
	Labour we	£95.00	£98.00
Party Hire			
	4 hours	£40.00	£41.25

	<i>2 hours</i>	<i>£26.00</i>	<i>£26.75</i>
	<i>Car Boot Sale</i>	<i>£35.00</i>	<i>£36.25</i>

PF06/05/10
OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PF06/05/11
DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be held at 5.30 pm on Monday 26th June 2006.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.00 p.m.

IN PUBLIC

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan on Wednesday 17th May 2006 at 5.26pm.

Present: Mr J.K. Watterson (in the Chair), Messrs B.H. Moore, M.J. Kennaugh (from 5.37pm) and W.A. Skillicorn

Apologises: Mr G.K. Astill

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration) & B.T. Price (Surveyor)(until 5.59pm)

R/06/05/1

PLANNING MATTERS

a) New Applications for Consideration in Public

Nil.

b) Decisions

The Surveyor reported on the receipt of the following planning decisions from DOLGE

PA 06/66 Amendment to approved replacement dwelling to increase length and incorporate French doors to southwest elevation, Glenville Cottages, Scollag Road, Hillberry for His Honour & Mrs Kerruish – Approved subject to commencement within four years. Plans approved by the Director of Planning and Building Control.

PA 06/342 Installation of three roof windows, Kerrowdhoo Farm, Little Mill Road for Mr & Mrs B. Cartmell – Approved subject to commencement within four years. Plans approved by the Director of Planning and Building Control.

Members were reminded that they had requested that the roof lights be smaller and therefore more in keeping with the farmhouse style of the building but this had not been embodied as a condition. After brief discussion it was agreed to not to request an Appeal.

PA 06/376 Reserved matters application for the erection of an extension with mono pitch roof onto an existing agricultural building, Strenaby Farm, Abbeylands for Mr H. McCanney – Approved subject to work commencing within four years. The application was approved by Director of planning and Building Control.

Members expressed concern over this decision as when considered by the committee a deferment was requested pending submission of proof of an agricultural need for such an extension as had been the case when the approval in principle application was made (PA 05/2097). Reference was made to non agricultural use of the present buildings which, if that use was not in place, there would be no requirement for an extension. It was also noted that in the approval there was no condition limiting the use of the building either at present or in the future to agricultural purposes only. Under the circumstances it was

IN PUBLIC

RESOLVED

"to seek an Appeal in respect of this decision".

c) Appeal

- i) The Surveyor reported receipt of documentation in respect of PA 05/1709 Appeal against approval for the erection of six semi detached dwellings with access from Larch Hill Grove and the creation of new access drive to Cliff Cottage, land adjacent to Cliff Cottage, between Larch Hill Grove and Clucas Laundry.
Members noted the Appeal was to be heard on 13th June 2006 at 11am.
- ii) PA 05/92300 Approval in principle for the demolition of a portal framed barn and the replacement with a dwelling, Bibaloe Beg Farm, Bibaloe Beg Road for Mr & Mrs D. Cameron.
The Surveyor reported that notification had been received that an Appeal was being requested in respect of this application. He sought confirmation from the committee that the opposition to same on the basis of being contrary to the Onchan Plan should continue. Members concurred. Mr Moore indicated that he was related to the applicant although had no pecuniary interest in the application.

d) Other Planning Matters

- i) PA 05/1203 Modification of agricultural use condition to allow the transfer of paper for recycling, Kerrowdhoo Farm, Little Mill Road for Mr Brian Cartnell.
The Surveyor reported receipt of a letter from the Planning Appeals Administrator forwarding a copy of a letter received from a planning officer at DOLGE repeating and answering questions from the Planning Inspector relevant to this application. The contents were read, from which it was noted that the property was currently being used for the storage of damaged/abandoned vehicles and that same is being carried out without the benefit of planning approval. There was no reason that would make the current use lawful in terms of planning and the officer was not aware of any other commercial (non agricultural) activities taking place lawfully on the application site. Noted.
- ii) Registration of Chimneys etc Clucas Laundry Tromode
The Surveyor reported receipt of the inspector's report, recommendation and the Minister's decision in respect of the Appeal made by Clucas Cleaners in respect of the refusal to de-register the buildings in question. In his report the inspector pointed out that DOLGE had failed to comply by rule 4 of the Registered Building Regulations 1991 through not giving particulars of the special architectural historic interest of the buildings in the course of their registration. The inspector decided that the two structures relevant to the original sailcloth works should be registered but in the case of the 1933 brick chimney he felt it had little architectural merit or aesthetic appeal. He did, however, accept its rarity being the highest of the few remaining brick industrial chimneys on the Isle of Man and the only such chimney that is

IN PUBLIC

octagonal in plan. His recommendation was therefore that the tall brick chimney be de-registered and that the remnants of the old stone chimney together with the switch room continue to be registered.

R/06/05/2
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2006, prepared in accordance with the direction of the committee, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, approved and signed.

R/06/05/3
MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) **Rating Differential Order – Onchan Act**

Members were unanimous that this matter was now concluded following the approval of the Order in Tynwald and no further debate should be held in this regard.

b) **Bridle Ways**

The Administrative Officer reported receipt of a memorandum from the Clerk advising that at a recent meeting of the board of commissioners Commissioner Stowell sought the intervention of the authority in trying to ensure that bridle ways were established in Onchan. The Chairman of the Rural Committee had, however, put to the Board that the question of the establishment of bridle ways was a matter best progressed by the equestrian organisations who knew the precise requirements of their own group. The Administrative Officer made reference to past correspondence with the Rights of Way Inspector at the Department of Transport whereby it was categorically stated that there were no bridle ways in Onchan. To best knowledge of the Administrative Officer there were however Green Ways where the riding of horses and the riding of motorcycles were permitted and these were perhaps the nearest thing to bridle ways. Mr Skillicorn commented that it was a good policy to have areas for horses to walk rather than in the narrow country roads and after further discussion it was agreed to write to the DoT to establish the location of green ways in Onchan.

R/06/05/4
OUTSTANDING MATTERS

The list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting. On the proposal of Mr Skillicorn it was agreed that the item relating to himself contacting the Clerk over the cost of providing services in the Rural Ward be removed from the list as the matter was not getting anywhere.

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R/06/05/5
MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

R/06/05/6
MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Phasing Out of Wards

Copies of a Notice of Motion as proposed by Commissioner Brian Stowell calling for the abolition of wards in Onchan District by 1st May 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted that this struck at the very heart of the Onchan Act and the proposal as such totally pre-empted any future discussions by the Consultative Committee to whom it should really be referred as the subject matter was deeper than perhaps the proposer first thought. There having been previous suggestions of dividing the Urban Ward into a number of wards so as to facilitate canvassing for potential members and the logistics of all possibilities should be considered in depth long before such a Notice of Motion gets anywhere near to implementation.

R/06/05/7
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

Wednesday 21st June 2006 at 5.15pm.

b) **Vice-Chairman**

As this was the first meeting of a new municipal year nominations were sought for the position of Vice Chairman. On a proposal of Mr Moore, seconded by Mr Kennaugh it was **RESOLVED**

"that Mr W.A. Skillicorn be Vice Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year".

c) **Municipal Association AGM**

The Chairman enquired whether the two Rural Members had received an invitation to attend the AGM of the Municipal Association as had been past practice. Both members indicated that they had not. It was understood that this was on 25th May 2005 and Mr Moore indicated that that date would be unsuitable to him. The Chairman to contact the Clerk to arrange for proper notification to be sent to both members.

d) **Onchan Website**

Mr Moore enquired as to what had happened to the practice of putting the minutes of the Board and Committees of the Commissioners on the Onchan Website. The Administrative

IN PUBLIC

Officer replied that this was a matter handled by the Clerk's secretary and he was aware that there had been a long delay despite the fact that a number of reminder memos had been sent by himself to the Clerk. Of recent the minutes had been sent to the web provider but unfortunately in such a way that they were not able to be used and therefore a request had been received for them to be sent in the usual format. The Clerk's secretary was currently attending a management course and not in the office for the whole of the present week.

e) **Transcripts**

Mr Skillicorn reminded members that he had previously asked for transcripts of the Manx Radio interview with a commissioner regarding the rates equalisation issue and also for a copy of Hansard when the Order was in Tynwald, to be made available at the previous meeting of the committee. As this had not occurred he enquired whether they had been made available now that a further five weeks had passed. The Administrative Officer informed members that he had not been passed any such information by the Deputy Clerk to whom the request had been made. Mr Skillicorn expressed his dismay at this lack of action and pointed out that he was on several other committees and where there was a problem in producing information then the enquirer was notified at the earliest convenience. He added that it was probably now going to be at least another five weeks before this information is to hand and this was an unacceptable situation. Members concurred.

f) **Consultative Committee**

The Chairman made reference to the fact the Consultative Committee comprising the Rural Committee and certain members of the urban representation had met some three months previous and to date the minutes of that meeting were still not available. This too was a very disappointing situation which he trusted the Clerk to the Commissioners would rectify as soon as possible.

g) **Rural Correspondence**

The Administrative Officer reported being handed a memorandum by the Clerk and from the Clerk to the Commissioners at 3pm that afternoon. The memorandum apologised for not conveying the contents thereof earlier and then went on to explain that a meeting of the commissioners held on 27th April 2006 he was directed by the Board to ensure that any correspondence to be issued from the Rural Committee be approved by either himself or the Deputy Clerk prior to issue. Mr Kennaugh enquired whether that was the policy of the Board that correspondence relevant to all committees be approved first or whether this was being selective against the Rural Committee. The Administrative Officer replied that in his 18 years employment with Onchan District Commissioners such a policy had never previously existed. Members were all of the opinion that this was being discriminatory towards the Rural Committee and Mr Moore pointed out that it also reflected on the ability of the two officers dealing with the Rural Committee. After further discussion it was

IN PUBLIC

RESOLVED

"that a meeting be requested with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk so that they could explain why this discriminatory action was being taken against the Rural Committee alone".

Members were unanimous that this item should appear in the public section of the minutes.

Meeting terminated at 6.57pm.