

ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

*Hawthorn Villa,
Main Road, Onchan.*

IN PUBLIC

30th June 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 undernoted business at:

7.00 p.m. on Monday 3rd July 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 30th May 2006
 - 3.1.1 Minutes
4. **To dispose of business (if any) remaining or arising from the last and any intermediate extraordinary meeting.**
 - 4.1 Any other business arising
 - 4.2 Richmond Hill Consultative Committee - Clerk to report
 - 4.3 Motion No 46 - Board Membership
 - 4.3.1 Correspondence circulated
 - 4.4 Motion No 47 - Amalgamation of Urban and Rural Ward
 - 4.4.1 Memorandum to Rural Committee circulated
5. **To dispose of business (if any) remaining or arising from meetings held prior to the last ordinary meeting.**
6. **To deal with any business expressly required by statute to be done.**
 - 6.1 None
7. **To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of committees. (Note: See Standing Order Number 7(1) attached)**
 - 7.1 Housing Committee
 - 7.1.1 Minutes of meeting held 5th June 2006
 - 7.2 Works and Cleansing Committee
 - 7.2.1 Ordinary meeting - Minutes 12th June 2006
 - 7.2.2 Extraordinary meeting - Minutes 28th June 2006

- 7.3 Leisure and Amenities Committee
 - 7.3.1 Minutes of meeting held 19th June 2006
- 7.4 Policy and Finance Committee
 - 7.4.1 Minutes - 26th June 2006
 - 7.4.2 Revenue Account Payments - May 2006
- 7.5 Rural Committee
 - 7.5.1 Minutes - 21st June 2006

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

- 8.1 Planning matters
 - 8.1.1 Schedule of Planning Communications
 - 8.1.2 Planning Applications for Consideration
 - 8.1.3 Rural Committee - Planning Recommendations
- 8.2 Notes on petitions for redress of grievance
 - 8.2.1 Copy letter circulated
- 8.3 Central Traffic Management Liaison Group
 - 8.3.1 Notes of meeting held 3rd May 2006
- 8.4 Onchan AFC Junior Football Open Day
 - 8.4.1 Information circulated
- 8.5 Any subsequent correspondence received

9. To consider any report from the clerk or the surveyor

- 9.1 None

10. Chairman's Announcements

- 10.1 Chairman to report

11. To answer questions asked under standing order 7

12. To consider Motions in the order in which notice has been received. (Note: See Standing Order No 5 attached)

13. Other Business, if any, specified in the summons

- 13.1 None

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Tuesday 30th May 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

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

Apologies: Mr E.D.R. Killey

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

C06/05/02/01
BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE DEALT WITH BY STATUTE

None.

C06/05/02/02
MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on 24th April 2006 and the annual meeting held on 2nd May 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

C06/05/02/03
BUSINESS ARISING

1. Recycling Through Kerbside Collection : Partnership Scheme

A copy of correspondence from the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Manager at the Department of Local Government and the Environment, copies of which having previously been circulated, outlining the terms of reference of the Kerbside Partner Working Group was considered and noted.

2. Richmond Hill Consultative Committee

Correspondence from the Department of Local Government and the Environment clarifying the maximum annual tonnage of waste that can be accommodated at the Energy from Waste Plant was considered and noted.

3. Preparing for a Possible Flu Pandemic

Correspondence from the Chief Executive to the Local Government Unit Manager, Department of Local Government and the Environment advising of the Authority's preparedness for a possible flue pandemic were noted.

C06/05/02/04
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

C06/05/02/05

BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED TO BE DONE BY STATUTE

None.

C06/05/02/06

HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on 3rd May 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered and noted.

C06/05/02/07

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

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

C06/05/02/08

WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 8th May 2006 and the extraordinary meeting held on 24th May 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered and noted.

C06/05/02/09

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 8th May 2006 and 24th May 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. ***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.***

C06/05/02/10

LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on 15th May 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. Arising therefrom:-

1. **Damage to Bowling Greens**

Mr Astill enquired that following the recent damage to the bowling greens whether they would be up to an acceptable standard for playing this year. The District Surveyor confirmed that Parks Staff were doing everything they could to repair the greens and bring them up to a first class standard.

C06/05/02/11

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 15th May 2006 be and are hereby received. It was further unanimously **RESOLVED** *that the resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board be approved as follows:-*

1. **Onchan Youth Development Fund**

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.

2. **Rental Charges - Youth and Community Centre**

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
	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

C06/05/02/12

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 22nd May 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. There were no matters arising therefrom.

C06/05/02/13

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 18th December 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.***

C06/05/02/14

RURAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 13th December 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. There were no matters arising.

C06/05/02/15

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 13th December 2006 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C06/05/02/16

LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

The following planning communications were considered:-

P A NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
06/00324/B	Appeal against approval for ground floor extensions and roof alterations to form additional living accommodation for homecare granny flat (re submission of 05/01655), 20 Birch Hill Avenue	ODC recommendation - Refusal Planning decision – Approval Appeal date to report
06/00153/B	Appeal against approval of alterations, demolition of existing garage and erection of new garage, bedroom and kitchen extensions and construction of hardstanding for car parking (re-submission of 05/01944), 58 Howe Road	ODC recommendation - Refusal Planning decision – Approval Request for appeal to report
06/00082	Alterations, erection 2 storey extension (re-submission of 05/00216), Kalaw, 41 Groudle Road	ODC recommendation - Refusal Planning decision – Approval Continue to object

The following plans were considered:-

P A NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
06/00844	6 Oak Close – Alterations and additions	ODC recommendation - Approved Notify neighbour
06/00845	The Pines, Hillberry Road, Alterations and extensions	ODC recommendation – Deferred
06/00846	Homefield, Hillberry Road, Alterations and extensions	ODC recommendation – Deferred
06/00848	15 The Park, Extension	ODC recommendation – Approved
06/00849	Ashley Hill School, New window and alteration to existing window	ODC recommendation – Approved
	20 Whitebridge Road, amendments to previous – application with regards to gable hip roof	(ODC recommendation refused previously) ODC recommendation - Object

2. Litter Strategy Operational Working Group

Mr Quirk confirmed to Members that he attended the first meeting of the Working Group on Friday 26th May 2006 and updated Members as to progress to date. Correspondence which had previously been circulated with the agenda was also considered and noted.

C06/05/02/17
CLERKS REPORT

None.

C06/05/02/18
DISTRICT SURVEYORS REPORT

None.

C06/05/02/19
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:-

- Onchan Flat Bowling Club - rolled first wood of the season.
- Onchan Public Library – Prize presentation
- Lon Vane Ladies Choir – 60th Anniversary Dinner
- Emergency Planning Presentation
- Onchan Football Club – Presentation

C06/05/02/20
QUESTIONS

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

C06/05/02/21
MOTIONS

1. Motion Number 46 submitted by Commissioner Mr B. Stowell

A Notice of Motion had been received from Mr Stowell as follows:-

- “1. *That Onchan District Commissioners formally adopt as a policy a commitment to seek a reduction in the number of Elected Full Board Members of the Authority to a maximum of seven persons.*
2. *That Onchan District Commissioners formally adopt as a policy a commitment to take independent advice to enable the legal reduction of Board Membership to 7 Members before the first day of April 2008 or as soon as practicable thereafter should logistics dictate.”*

Mr Stowell moved the Motion and was seconded by Mrs Megson.

Mr Stowell presented his Motion identifying his views on the benefits of reducing the number of Board Members to a maximum of seven.

Following debate, Mr Kennaugh proposed an amendment, seconded by Mr Quirk, that the maximum number of members be nine.

A vote was taken:-

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

The amendment therefore failed.

Debate continued on the original motion whereupon Mr Quirk moved an amendment, seconded by Mr Black, that:-

1. Onchan District Commissioners formally adopt as a policy a commitment to seek a reduction in the number of elected full board members of the Authority.
2. That Onchan District Commissioners formally adopt as a policy a commitment to take independent advice to enable the legal reduction of Board membership.

A vote was taken on Mr Quirk's amendment:-

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

The amendment therefore failed.

Following further debate a vote was taken on the original motion:-

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

The original Motion numbered 46 was therefore approved.

2. Motion Number 47 submitted by Commissioner Mr B. Stowell

A Notice of Motion had been received from Mr Stowell as follows:-

- “1. *That the timetable and increments established in The Onchan District Act 2006, relating to the equalisation of rates in the Onchan District will not be affected in any way by this Motion.*
2. *That Onchan District Commissioners formally adopt as policy a commitment to merge the wards established in 1986 in order that voting rights are afforded to both Rural and Urban residents equally before the first day of May 2008 or as soon as practicable thereafter should logistics dictate.*
3. *That Onchan District Commissioners formally adopt as policy a commitment to treat all its ratepayers equally and remove the provision for elected rural committee members who do not hold Full Board Status before the first day of May 2008 or as soon as practicable thereafter should logistics dictate.*

Mr Stowell moved the Motion and was seconded by Mrs Megson.

Mr Stowell presented his Motion on the merger of the Rural and Urban Wards. Following debate a vote was taken:-

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

The Motion numbered 47 was therefore approved.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at approximately 9.35 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan on Monday, 5th June 2006, commencing at 7.00 p.m..

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

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

H06/06/01/01
MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday 3rd May 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

H06/06/01/02
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Structure of Meetings**

Mr Kennaugh advised that he had raised the matter at the previous meeting of the Committee with a view to making the meetings run more efficiently and make better use of Officer's time. The Deputy Clerk undertook to look at the Authority's Standing Orders to establish how these would affect any proposed changes.

H06/06/01/03
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

H06/06/01/04
HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES BUSINESS

1. **Maintenance Report**

The Maintenance Report dated 1st June 2006, which had been circulated with the agenda was considered. Arising therefrom:-

a) **49 Barrule Drive**

The Housing Maintenance Manager advised Members that works were ongoing and due for completion by the 8th June 2006.

b) 1 The Park

The Housing Maintenance Manager advised that a further request had been made from the proposed tenant for a low level entry shower cubicle, works were due to be completed by the 15th June 2006.

c) Nursery Avenue Triangle

The Housing Maintenance Manager advised that works had been held up by the recent period of heavy rainfall at the start of the contract, however, works were now underway and progressing.

2. Asbestos Survey

The Housing Maintenance Manager confirmed that he had now written to SafetyNet to confirm their appointment and was in the process of organising a pre-contract meeting.

H06/06/01/05

SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

Nothing to report.

H06/06/01/06

HEYWOOD COURT MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

The report, dated 1st June 2006, had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

2. Tables and Chairs for Community Lounge

A Deputy Clerk advised that he had received a request from the Warden for a number of additional tables and chairs for the community lounge at Heywood Court to deal with the increased number of residents using the facility.

The Deputy Clerk advised that consideration was also being given to refurbishing the Community Lounge at Springfield Court, therefore sought the permission of the Committee to seek further prices for the additional furniture at Springfield Court. It was agreed by the Committee that the Deputy Clerk speak to the Wardens at Springfield Court to identify the type of furniture they required and to seek prices for such.

H06/06/01/07

GARAGE MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

Nothing to report.

H06/06/01/08

PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE

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

H06/06/01/09

HEALTH AND SAFETY BUSINESS

The report dated 1st June 2006 had been previously circulated and was considered, arising therefrom:-

1. Upgrading of Workshop Machinery

The Housing Maintenance Manager advised that all woodworking machines now complied with health and safety requirements. He confirmed the total cost of carrying out the necessary works was £3,200 and a vacuum exhaust system was to be purchased at a cost of £987.

H06/06/01/10

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

Nothing to report.

H06/06/01/11

OUTSTANDING MATTERS – MONITORING OF ACTION TAKEN

1. Report

The report updated after the meeting held on the 3rd May 2006 had been circulated with the agenda. Arising therefrom:-

(a) **Warden Cover – Heywood Court** - Mrs Megson enquired whether any complaints had been received with regard to the services provided by AllCare Nursing Agency for temporary cover for the Warden at Heywood Court. The Deputy Clerk advised he was not aware of any complaints, but had received positive comments from residents at Heywood Court. Mrs Megson further enquired as to the total cost for providing the temporary warden at the Complex, the Deputy Clerk did not have such figures to hand but undertook to report them to the next meeting of the Committee.

2. Quarterly Housing Report

There was no report.

3. Tenant Handbook

Members of the Committee enquired as to progress with the production of the tenant handbook, the Deputy Clerk advised that due to his impending departure from the Authority he did not think he would have the time to complete and issue the handbook and is something that his successor would have to deal with upon their appointment.

4. **Sheltered Housing Form**

The Deputy Clerk advised that he had now produced a draft application form, he would now pass this to the Housing Officer for her comments, after which the form will be distributed to Members for further comment.

5. **Combined Housing Authorities**

The Deputy Clerk advised that he had sent a letter 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. However, to date he had received no response from Mr Senior.

6. **Housing Management Software System**

The Deputy Clerk referred Members to a copy of a quotation for the DPN Software Limited, Housing Management System, which had been circulated with the agenda.

He advised that he had researched various systems, however the DPN system had been developed specifically for the Isle of Man Housing System and was currently being used by Peel Town Commissioners and Port Erin Commissioners with great success. Systems used by Housing Authorities in the UK appeared to be complex and expensive.

The DPN System has been designed as a complete integrated housing management system to deal with housing applications, waiting lists, tenancy management, rents and housing maintenance.

The Deputy Clerk considered that such a system was now essential for the Authority to ensure the proper management of housing and to replace the various outdated and cumbersome separate paper and computer based systems that exist at present.

The Deputy Clerk advised that he had already written to the Department of Local Government and the Environment seeking approval for the expenditure of up to £30,000 from housing reserves for the purchase and installation of the system.

Members considered that such a system was required and as such it was proposed by Mrs Megson, seconded by Mr Kennaugh, and unanimously **RESOLVED:-**

That subject to approval of the Department of Local Government and the Environment up to £30,000 should be expended from housing reserves for the purchase and installation of the DPN Housing Management Software System.

7. **Hospital Discharges**

The Deputy Clerk referred Members to copies of emails which had previously been circulated with the agenda in relation to a recent incident where a resident at Heywood Court had been discharged from hospital with support having to be provided by the Warden. The Deputy Clerk had written to the Department expressing concerns who in turn referred the matter to the Hospital Discharge Co-Ordinator and a response was awaited.

Members of the Committee unanimously **RESOLVED:-**

That the Deputy Clerk should also write to the Hospital Discharge Co-Ordinator expressing the Commissioners' concerns as to the discharge of residents back to sheltered housing accommodation without the necessary support from health professionals.

8. **Property Ownership by Tenant's Partner - DOLGE Policy**

Due to a situation that had come to the attention of officers advice had been received from the Department of Local Government and the Environment that whilst the partner of a tenant continues to own assets/property in excess of the £50,000 permitted for Local Authority applicants and the partner shall only be granted permission to be a lodger, and thus charged lodger rent, and as such would have no tenancy rights on the property. *Noted.*

9. Common Tenancy Agreement – Adding Partner’s Names

The Deputy Clerk advised that following the issue of the new common tenancy agreement, a number of tenants had requested the inclusion of partners names upon the tenancy agreement, the Deputy Clerk sought the approval of the Committee to allow the necessary changes to be approved and made by himself where the individuals to be added complied fully with housing application requirements and policies of the Authority.

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

That the Deputy Clerk be given delegated authority to include the names of partners of existing tenants upon the Tenancy Agreements where the individuals concerned comply fully with housing application criteria and policies of the Authority.

H06/06/01/12

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

H06/06/01/13

FINANCIAL MATTERS

None.

H06/06/01/14

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

H06/06/01/15

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Housing Committee would take place on Monday, 10th July 2006, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

2. Commissioners’ Surgery

It was noted that the next Commissioners’ Surgery was to take place on Thursday, 6th July 2006, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.50 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS & CLEANSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 12th June 2006 at 6.59pm.

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

In attendance: M.J. Williams (Clerk), B.T. Price (Surveyor) and Peter Kelly (Administration) Mr T.R. Craig (Waste Operations Manager) (from 7.20pm until 9.05pm)

WC/06/06/01
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2006 and the extraordinary meeting held on 24th May 2006 to consider plans, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

WC/06/06/2
PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications were considered:-

PA 06/845 Proposed alterations and extensions together with two storey garage/games room, The Pines, Hillberry Road for Mr & Mrs R. Sutcliffe

Mr Crellin enquired whether the proposals were overpowering but the District Surveyor did not feel so. After further discussion it was

- **Recommend approval.**

PA 06/846 Proposed alterations and extensions to provide double garage and first floor accommodation, Homefield, Hillberry Road for Mr & Mrs R. Sutcliffe

- **Recommend approval.**

PA 06/859 Proposed first floor bedroom/en suite facilities together with formation of dormer window to front of property, 5 Glenview Road for Mr & Mrs Mews

Members noted that the property was one of a pair of semi-detached bungalows and the front dormer would throw out the balance

- **Recommend approval.**

PA 06/864 Replacement of window with patio door at the rear of property, 25 Wybourn Drive for Mr T.H. Healey

- **Recommend approval.**

PA 06/873 Proposed substantial two storey extension to the side of existing property to provide double garage, exercise room and spa with master bedroom and en suite together with study at upper level, 3 Lag Birragh Drive for Mr & Mrs P. Masters

Members noted that the property was at the bottom end of the cul-de-sac and that the proposals would not affect any other property.

- **Recommend approval.**

PA 06/897 Proposed conservatory 29 Buttermere Drive for Mr & Mrs Skillicorn

- **Recommend approval.**

PA 06/920 Proposed conversion of former motor vehicle workshop and showroom into five self contained commercial units of mixed use, Corkills Garage Governors Road/Main Road for Carrera Investments Limited

Members spent sometime viewing the plans and noted that parking would be provided. One member felt there should be a one-way system in operation to the petrol pumps.

- **Refer matter to the Board with notification that the committee recommend approval of the application.**

PA 06/931 Proposed summerhouse/shed, rear garden 6 Bowness Crescent for Mrs P. Strange

The Surveyor confirmed that the application was retrospective and showed photographs of same as erected.

- ***Recommend approval – adjoining owner to be notified.***

PA 06/935 Proposed removal of patio door to front elevation and replace same with uPVC window together with replacement of existing wooden pillars with uPVC pillars, 43 Turnberry Avenue for Mr Connolly/Ms Pritchard

- ***Recommend approval.***

PA 06/937 Installation of uPVC casement windows to replace existing wood/uPVC casement windows to front elevation 101 Royal Avenue for Mr L.A. Cross

- ***Recommend approval.***

WC/06/06/3 **MATTERS ARISING**

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) **War Memorial – Handrails**

Letter as received from the secretary of the Onchan Branch of the Royal British Legion had been circulated in advance of the meeting. From this it was noted that the members of the branch favoured the erection of a handrail on the left hand side of the steps in keeping with the existing metalwork. Mr Killey commented that he felt handrails on both sides would give a better balance providing they matched in with the existing railings elsewhere on the site. After a general discussion it was agreed that the Surveyor obtain alternative prices for a single handrail and for handrails both sides for comparison.

b) **Snugborough Trading Estate - Roads**

The Clerk advised that work had now started and it was being done in such a way that half the width of the road would be closed at any one time. The chairman enquired whether the commissioners' staff were going to carry out a spring clean around the refuse depôt at Snugborough whilst this work was going on. The Waste Operations Manager informed the meeting that the compound had been tidied up of recent.

c) **Housing Development Ridgeway Road**

The Surveyor advised that he had written again to DOLGE in the hopes of gaining further information in respect of this scheme. He was requested to pursue the matter and the chairman asked if he could view the plan which was originally submitted and he was not at the meeting when it was on show.

WC/06/06/4 **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Trees and High Hedges Act 2005

The Clerk reported that the appointed day order was still awaited. Agreed that the Clerk would monitor and advise when same takes place.

WC/06/06/5

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 item being discussed further:-

Street Cleaning

The report outlined recent problems with the pavement sweeper vehicle and Mr Astill enquired whether the machine was still under guarantee. The Waste Operations Manager responded that the machine belonged to the Department of Transport and therefore any repairs necessary did not cost the commissioners anything. He went on to explain that in the past four weeks the machine had in fact been off the road for three weeks and one day due to two different problems. The first was fixed and the vehicle had only been back in use three hours when the hydraulics overheated. This was thought to be caused by a faulty sensor. Noted.

b) Advertising Space – Refuse Vehicles

The Clerk informed members that having spoken to the police the question of funding from the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was not a problem. The problem was in fact finding someone to run the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The chairman asked the Clerk to establish if the commissioners were empowered to help financially.

The Waste Operations Manager left the meeting at 9.05pm.

WC/06/06/6

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 item being discussed further:-

Lane Ballachurry Park

The Surveyor advised as to a budget price received from the MEA for the erection of three streetlights in the rear lane. It was noted that the cost per lamp was considerably more than for replacement streetlights due to the necessity of trenching and cabling. No provision had been made within the estimates to cover this item. After discussion it was agreed to write to the occupiers of all properties backing onto the lane to establish whether they would consider lighting to be desirable. At the request of the chairman, a plan to be sent to each resident indicating the position of the lamp standards.

b) The Park – Potential Scheme

The Surveyor reminded members that the suggestion was for the fitting of new heads to the present columns in the road known as The Park but he had not managed to progress this matter any further. Noted.

WC/06/06/7

DRAINAGE FUNCTION

a) Officer's Report

Copies of the officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting with the following point being discussed further:-

The School Road Recreation Ground

Members noted that whilst this had been included on the agenda it was a matter in fact for the Leisure and Amenities Committee. Mr Crellin enquired whether the proposal would cure the problem. The Surveyor advised that he couldn't say. The Clerk commented that when the agronomist from the Sports Turf Research Institute had visited the Island to look at the bowling greens and football field he had been taken to "The Rec" by the chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee. In his report the agronomist made reference to the proposal by the chairman but merely commented that the works suggested "wouldn't do any harm".

b) Other Drainage Business

_____ The chairman advised members that when he attended a recent litter campaign presentation he enquired from Mr Dudley Butt MLC if it would be possible for him to obtain details of street cleaning and gutter emptying in the district. Noted.

WC/06/06/8
PLANNING MATTERS

a) Communications

There were no communications where the decision of the Planning Committee and the recommendation of the commissioners differed.

b) Other Planning Matters

The Surveyor reported that he had received notification in respect of a request for an Appeal on the decision made regarding 41 Groudle Road. The chairman commented that he had noticed at that property the yellow notice which the applicant is required to display was set at least 20 foot back into the property and in amongst trees. The Surveyor commented that all he could do would be to draw the matter to the attention of the Planning Department. Mr Crellin suggested that perhaps the Community Warden could be provided with a list of weekly planning applications and then he could check that the notices were displayed in the correct places. The Surveyor advised that this could be done but it was putting the staff to a lot more work when it was really a matter for DOLGE and not the commissioners.

WC/06/06/9
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) Hawthorn Villa – Lift

The Clerk commented that he didn't believe that the office could afford the space from both the ground floor interview room and first floor machine room to create a passage into the lift which was to be built externally at the rear of the building. Various suggestions were put forward and it was left to the officers to consider the alternatives.

ii) Port Jack Glen Refurbishment

The Surveyor reported receipt of three applications from contractors to be considered for the select tender process; Sharkey Construction, Island Drainage and Manx Demolition. He has no adverse comments in respect of any of the applicants whom he would recommend as suitable tenderers. A discussion took place as to whether the committee was empowered to proceed or whether the Board needed to approve the list in advance of tenders being sought. After discussion it was agreed that the Board members should be notified and asked to contact the Clerk should they have any objection. Mr Kennaugh sought confirmation that once this matter went forward that the principle of proceeding with the scheme could not be debated

again. This was confirmed by the Clerk. The chairman requested that information be provided to the other Board members via the delivery of pouches on Friday in respect of the select tender process. After further brief consideration it was

RESOLVED

“to recommend the acceptance of Sharkey Construction, Island Drainage and Manx Demolition as tenderers for the comprehensive scheme at Port Jack Glen, subject to there being no objection from other members of the Board”.

iii) Pennington Hall

The Surveyor reported that a meeting had been held that day and an energy analysis had been carried out by the consultants. Proposals relevant to energy saving etc within the construction of the building were not regarded as being cost effective with a potential pay back period of 60 to 90 years. DOLGE had approved the combining of stage reports one to three to be submitted by 30th June 2006; planning application to be made by the first week in August 2006, stage four report by 9th October 2006 and commencement of work in January 2007.

iv) Skateboard Park

This matter was still in the hands of the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

v) Wembley Arena

This matter was to have been considered at the last meeting of the Board but time did not permit.

vi) YCC – Disabled Facilities

The Surveyor reported that a Building Regulation application had now been received for the works to provide disabled persons' toilets at the upper and lower levels.

vii) Mezzanine Floor Snugborough Refuse Depôt

The Surveyor advised that he had not been in a position to prepare a report on this matter but would do so for the next meeting. Noted.

WC/06/06/10

HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

a) Meeting with DoT Officials

The Clerk advised that the minutes of this meeting were not yet prepared.

b) Zebra Crossing Main Road

Members noted that the work on the new crossing was now complete.

c) Parking on Groudle Road

Copy of reply as received from the Traffic Technician at DoT following a complaint forwarded by the commissioners to the Department, had been circulated with the agenda. The letter confirmed that vehicle owners should not park any vehicle within 7 metres of a junction in accordance with the Highway Code. At the time of the officer's visit no problems were being experienced and he suggested that should there be any further obstruction at any time the matter should be referred to the police. Noted.

WC/06/06/11

FURTHER REPORTS FROM CLERK/SURVEYOR

There were no further reports.

WC/06/06/12

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

a) Hawthorn Villa – Pillars and Railings

Copies of emails relevant to concern expressed in respect of highway safety as a result of the construction of pillars in lieu of the low wall and vehicular entrance to the commissioners' property at School Road had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

b) Local Government Bill 2006

Copies of a letter from the Chief Executive of DOLGE together with the proposed amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act 1999 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted the proposals were in fact to insert an additional clause to the Planning Act 1999 to overcome an omission regarding breaches of planning condition relevant to occupancy, hours of operation, and noise levels. Whilst a breach of condition in respect of development could result in prosecution and a fine this did not currently extend to these other matters which were now sought to be included in the Act. Noted.

c) Majestic Apartments

Letter reported as addressed to the Clerk by the Planning Enforcement Officer requesting technical information in respect of the street lights on King Edward Road so that a comparison can be made in respect of the lighting installed at Majestic Apartments in relation to which a complaint had been received. The Surveyor advised that the relevant information was being provided. Noted.

WC/06/06/13

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

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

W98/7/14(a) Adoption of Roads and Lane – Marion Court – Members expressed concern that this matter had not progressed and the Surveyor was to seek an update on the situation.

WC/05/10/5(b) Review street lighting provision on Kaighen's Lane - The Chairman suggested that this be visited during the hours of darkness.

3, Improvement lighting scheme – Church Road – *Delete as work complete.*

WC/05/05/6(a) Kerrocoar Pumping Station – Await adoption – The Surveyor to seek update.

W/00/03/19(b) Properties abutting lanes rear of Nursery/Church Avenue/Elm Drive – Byelaw Enforcement Officer to produce report. The Administrative Officer reminded members of the intention of this item and after a brief discussion it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Community Warden to progress.

After discussion it was agreed that the following items should be *deleted*:-

W/00/03/11 Street map of district.

WC/05/05/02(a) Parish partnership – electronic speed sign.

WC/05/10/4(a)(i) Cronk Lane – undertake hedge cutting.

WC/05/10/14(e) Committee staffing.

WC/06/06/14

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

WC/06/06/15

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17th July 2006 at 7pm.

b) Planning Meeting

The next public meeting for planning consideration is on Wednesday 28th June 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 9.46pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 19th June 2006 at 6.53pm.

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), R.C. Quane (Amenities Officer) and B.T. Price (Surveyor)(until 7.35pm)

LA/06/06/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

LA/06/06/2
MATTERS ARISING

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

LA/06/06/3
MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters from previous meetings for discussion in public.

LA/06/06/04
PLAYGROUNDS/PARKS

a) **Playground Log Books**

The Amenities Officer advised that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. New bearings had been fitted on the disabled persons' roundabout in the Lady Taverners Playground. Noted.

b) **Amenities Officer's Report**

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

Stadium Football Pitch

In answer to question, the Amenities Officer advised that the pitch had been sprayed for weeds and spray fertilising would take place the week after the meeting. Noted.

c) **Annual Tour of the Park**

There were no items for deletion from the list of work yet to be carried out. The Chairman commented that the seating in the grandstand had changed colour since a previous visit and he was surprised that this had not been mentioned in the Amenities Officer's report. In relation to fixing a date for the 2006 inspection of the park it was agreed that this would be better set after a meeting with the Parks Foreman to hear his ideas in respect of improvements that could take place.

d) **Jubilee Playground**

The Administrative Officer reminded members that he had sent out plans and a specification prepared by himself to seven playground manufacturers requesting a scheme for the Jubilee Playground. He further reminded members as to the points within the specification indicating

the scope of the scheme and the format which tenderers should follow. Each firm was asked to produce a scheme showing what they could provide for £50,000 which was to include an £2,000 contingency figure and also a new length of bow top fencing complete with a pedestrian and vehicular gate for the northeast boundary. The Administrative Officer then showed the five schemes which had been submitted. In one case the quotation went over the £50,000 but in all others it was either just below or the firm in question introduced a special discount to bring it back down to £50,000.

The merits of each scheme were considered and finally it was

***RESOLVED**

“to accept the scheme of Lappset UK Limited for a multi functional piece of play equipment in the shape of a sailing ship as being the scheme which appeared to provide the best mixture of activities on a single piece of play equipment and at the same time be themed in some way towards the Isle of Man and the special discounted price was £50,000”.

The Administrative Officer reminded members that the tendering contractors had been advised as to a timetable which including the matter being considered at the next meeting of the Board and then a petition being made for borrowing powers with a potential commencement late September early October onsite. Mr Killey commented that it was nice to have so many schemes to consider and be provided with such a choice. Mrs Megson wished to express her thanks to the Administrative Officer for the work he had undertaken in preparing the specification and details and obtaining the schemes.

e) Drainage Above Car Park in The Rec

The Surveyor advised that a price had been received from a local contractor to lay land drains at the rate of £23 per metre inclusive of materials. This would equate in the region of £1,800. The question was put as to whether this would drain the area above the path as the drain stopped short of it. The Surveyor commented that perhaps the path would be better being overlaid in a similar fashion to that at Lakeside Gardens. He was of the opinion that the path was “shot” anyway. In answer to question, the Surveyor advised there was no guarantee that the proposed scheme would be the answer to the problems in any event. It was further pointed out that no provision had been made in the estimates for carrying out this work but members queried whether it would be possible to use part of the balance from the allowance made to improve street lighting within Onchan Park itself. The Surveyor was of the opinion that a competitive tender should be sought and therefore after further consideration it was

***RESOLVED**

“to obtain a competitive quotation (present quotation equates approximately £1,800) for the laying of land drain above the YCC car park and to accept the lowest price. The project to be financed out of part of the budget for improving lighting in Onchan Park”.

f) Signage Survey and Costing

The Amenities Officer advised that he had not yet carried out this task. Noted.

g) Lighting Scheme for Onchan Park

The Surveyor produced a plan showing the existing light positions within Onchan Park which numbered nine, although it was suggested there was in fact a tenth lamp which had not been marked. The proposed scheme to improve lighting would result in twenty three lamps and initial discussions with the MEA indicated that there was possibly not sufficient supply to the area for that purpose. The lights would be a white light and a down light type fitting to prevent light pollution. The cost of double heads would be £194 each and new columns would be £76 each. The whole scheme would probably need a budget price in the region of £44,500 which well exceeded the £12,000 allowed in the current year’s estimates. The matter was discussed at some length with a suggestion being put forward of just putting double heads on four of the existing columns prior to the forthcoming winter period and then to assess the improvement before proceeding with a capital scheme which would need to be included in the 2007/08 budget. On the proposal of Mrs Megson, seconded by Mr Killey it was

***RESOLVED**

“to purchase four double heads at approximately £194 each to be placed on existing lamp standards in Onchan Park by the commissioners’ street lighting contractor. The cost to be taken out of the budget of £12,000 for lighting improvement in Onchan Park”.

h) Hedge Cutting Back

The Amenities Officer advised that cutting back of the double hedge near the stock car entrance to Nivison Stadium would be carried out in July once any nesting birds had fled. Noted.

j) Crazy Golf Feature

The Amenities Officer advised that he was meeting with the manufacturing contractor on Wednesday of that week to discuss some minor snagging points in respect of the new concrete features. Discussion took place in respect of the colour thereof and the Amenities Officer was reminded that the purpose of choosing plain grey cement was to facilitate the painting of the features in bright colours when complete. The Amenities Officer was of the opinion that he still had money in a painting budget which could well cover the matter and he would obtain a quotation from a painting contractor. It was pointed out that the work should be carried out on weekdays between the present time and the schools breaking up when there is not likely to be great demand for the activity.

k) Pennington Hall Replacement

The Amenities Officer advised that he understood from the Surveyor the scheme was at the detailed design stage. Noted.

m) Music and Dancing Licence

The Administrative Officer reported having attended the Licensing Court for the second time and as a result the Music and Dancing licence had now been granted to cover the whole of the park and the Sunday times were extended so that there was not a break at teatime as had previously existed. Noted.

n) Park Receipts

Copies of the receipts for season to date compared with same period for the previous year had been circulated with the agenda. It was noted that in many cases there was an increase in takings. The crazy golf takings were down but this had not been in use until the new obstacles had been put in position of recent. The Administrative Officer advised that the Chief Cashier was of the opinion that the increase in takings was not necessarily entirely due to good weather of recent but in fact due to the fact that passports were restricted until after 5pm people were therefore paying for the facilities. Noted.

p) STRI Report

Copies of the report from the Sports Turf Research Institute as prepared by the visiting agronomist had been circulated to all members some time prior to the meeting. The Chairman commented that he had been looking at the bowling greens that day and the ladies playing on the crown green commented that there was a marked improvement in the green. He was concerned however that the flat green was not improving so rapidly. Reference was made to the aerator machine in the report and how it needed replacing. The Amenities Officer suggested that a new engine would only cost a couple of hundred pounds and as the rest of the machine was in working order he didn't see the need to buy a new machine. Matter left with the Amenities Officer to investigate.

The Chairman then referred to the football pitch, which had been inspected by the agronomist, and his own suggestion of a perimeter drain to pick up water running off the tarmac track. A quotation had already been received in respect of the School Road Recreation Ground for £23 per metre and therefore to undertake what he was suggesting at Nivison Stadium would

probably be in region of £1,000. He accepted however that there was no provision within the current year's budget and the matter should be reconsidered the following year. Mrs Megson said she read report with interest and looked forward to the improvements which would result from the recommendations.

q) **Any Other Business**

i) **Presentation**

Mrs Megson advised that she had prepared a CD Rom presentation of her views in respect of the future promotion and development of Onchan Park and enquired whether the committee would like to see it there and then or at the next meeting. She anticipated the presentation itself would take about ten minutes. In view of the fact that there had already been over an hour devoted to representatives of a local sporting body meeting with the members it was agreed that the matter be held over to the next meeting.

ii) **Water Filtration**

The Chairman requested that his thanks to the boatman/mechanic be recorded for his efforts in attempting to filter the water in the bumper boat pool using a method devised by the Chairman.

LA/06/06/5
OPEN SPACES

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

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

i) **Port Jack Shelter**

Members noted from the report the anticipated cost of replacing five damaged glazed panels in the shelter. A discussion ensued on the chemicals used to remove the graffiti and the affect which this had on the polycarbonate sheeting. Mr Crellin expressed his concern about the staff using chemicals and whether they were aware of what they were using and any restrictions there may be on its use and indeed on their own health if applicable. The Amenities Officer referred to certain codes which were in existence and the fact that sheets of information relevant to each chemical was kept for the use and benefit of the staff. With regard to the panels to be replaced members were of the opinion that it was pointless replacing the three panels in the front of the shelter as the glazing was in fact shortly to be totally removed in this area. On the proposal of Mr Killey, seconded by Mrs Megson it was **RESOLVED**

"to only replace the two defective panels in the rear of the shelter".

ii) **Pesticide/Spraying Course**

The Amenities Officer had provided information in respect of the cost per operative for courses operated by the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry. A discussion took place on how many operatives should be sent on the course with Mr Black proposing that two of the park operatives should attend. The other members of the committee were however minded that the Amenities Officer should go on the course alone and that as a result he would be able to supervise the operatives in carrying out spraying work.

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

The Amenities Officer advised that to the best of his knowledge tenders were being sent out the coming weekend to the three select tenderers. The Chairman sought confirmation that alterations to the shelter were included in the specification but the Amenities Officer had not seen the tender document. It was suggested that the Chairman should have sight of the

document prior to its release. The Chairman ran through with the committee what was anticipated to be in the tender which related to major works to the stream, works to the paths, stone walls behind the seating enclaves and alterations to the Millennium Entrance Shelter.

c) **Skateboard Park**

The Surveyor advised that he had a three quarter hour meeting with two mature skateboarders. They had gone away to consider the matter and come back to him with recommendations in respect of jumps etc but to date he had not received any further communication. Members were reminded that some years previous there was a meeting between the Administrative Officer and several skateboarders together with a parent of two of them and again nothing further came back for consideration. Of more recent times a meeting was held with adult representatives of both the skateboards and BMX fraternity and this only resulted in a list of websites being provided rather than recommendations in respect of what was actually felt desirable and appropriate for the Onchan site. Mrs Megson made reference to something she had heard on the radio regarding the possibility of an indoor skateboard park being provided on the Summerland site and Mr Killey commented that he would prefer to see the Wembley Arena up and running first before further consideration was given to the skateboards. Mrs Megson offered to do a ten minute presentation in respect of skateboards at the next meeting. The offer was accepted.

d) **Lakeside Gardens – Weeds**

The Amenities Officer reported that he understood the weeds and grass on the embankment above the play area and adjoining private gardens had now been cut. He did not think any spraying of the weeds had taken place.

e) **Wembley Football Arena**

A discussion took place in respect of the surfacing which had previously come as a surprise to members that it was tarmac and not a special sports surface. Mr Black commented that he would like to see tendering contractors quote for astro turf as an alternative as well as asphalt for comparison. The Surveyor showed schemes for Wembley Arena type products produced by varying manufacturers and asked if the committee wished to select one so that a price could be obtained thereon. After consideration the committee advised that they wished comprehensive quotations to be obtained from as many alternative manufacturers as possible and consideration would then be given to what they were offering for the money.

f) **Seats Outside the Manx Arms**

Memorandum from the Deputy Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Administrative Officer advised that he had been contacted by a representative of the brewery who informed him that work was commencing on the seats shortly. It was noted that in fact two of the seats were currently being stripped down for redecoration and the Administrative Officer reported the brewery were contemplating replacing the third seat. Noted.

LA/06/06/6

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

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

Main Road Toilets

The Chairman expressed his concern over the cleaning of the toilets and suggested an onsite visit with the Amenities Officer may be the way forward. After discussion it was agreed that any member of the committee who was available should meet with the Amenities Officer at

2pm the following day. Mr Killey commented that there was still debris on the verandah roof in front of the toilets from the reproofing of the British Legion Headquarters above.

b) Main Road Toilets – Public Seat

The Administrative Officer reported that a request had been received from the Inspector in charge of Onchan Police Station that the public seat under the verandah be removed as it was acting as a congregation point for youths in the village. As a consequence it had been moved across the road to in front of the Isle of Man Bank. There had been no indication that it was causing the same problem in its new location.

c) Any Other Matters

The Chairman queried whether the Community Officer visited the toilets as part of his daily routine. He further made reference to the fact that the Community Officer obviously visited Onchan Park and other open spaces and therefore felt it would be desirable if at the meetings of the Leisure and Amenities Committee a report was received each meeting from the Community Officer in respect of any problems he had experienced, resultant prosecutions etc. Members concurred that this should be the case.

LA/06/06/7
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. The Amenities Officer advised that he had now received a quotation from the commissioners' electrical contractor. To provide 2 Nos. 2 foot square fluorescent panels together with 4 low voltage eyeball lights within the foyer area would cost £265.92 including labour. On the proposal of Mrs Megson, seconded by Mr Killey it was

***RESOLVED**

"to install 2 Nos. square section fluorescent lights and 4 nos. low voltage eyeball lights in the ceiling of the foyer to Onchan Library at a cost of £265.92 including labour".

LA/06/06/8
YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) Amenities Officer's Report

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

b) Disabled Persons' Toilet

A plan was laid before the committee as prepared by the architectural firm engaged on behalf of the commissioners produce a plan showing the installation of disabled persons' toilets at both the upper and lower level in the hall. The plan was viewed by members and comment was made firstly in respect of the lower level toilet where a partition was being erected alongside existing heating pipes which would result in the pipes being inaccessible in the event of a leak. Members concurred that boxing in of the pipes would be a better solution.

In respect of the upper level the proposed toilet would open out into the community hall and the other toilets were still accessed from the community hall which was contrary to the views previously expressed by the committee. Members confirmed that in order to free up the use of the Youth and Community Centre it would be better if the toilets and kitchen were accessible

to other rooms without having to pass through the community hall. The Surveyor to be advised of the wishes of the committee.

c) Onchan Youth Development Fund

The Administrative Officer informed members that following the approval of the recommendation of the committee by both the Policy and Finance Committee together with the Board, cheques of £200 each had been sent to the three members of the 2nd Onchan Scouts who will be attending the World Jamboree in 2007 and who have to raise £1,000 each for the trip.

d) Any Other Matters

Mr Killey commented that when the Youth and Community Centre Management Advisory Committee existed reports were prepared indicating the usage of the centre and income relevant thereto. Members concurred that this information should now be made available to the Leisure and Amenities Committee who had taken on the responsibility for the centre.

LA/06/06/9

PROMOTIONS/ADVERTISING/PUBLIC INFORMATION

a) Website

The Administrative Officer reported statistics received from WebOne UK for the month of May. This showed 6,807 visits to the site compared with 4,470 in May 2005. Page views totalled 14,473 compared to 9,139. The Administrative Officer advised that details of the Deputy Clerk's job had been placed on the website under situations vacant, further updates had been made in respect of tourist accommodation in Onchan including a link to one of the newer properties own website. Mrs Megson enquired about the biographical information on commissioners and as to whether those whose spouses were mentioned had now provided the formal approval thereto. The Administrative Officer advised that only Mrs Megson had been in touch and whilst her husband had signed the consent form Mrs Megson had in fact deleted his Christian name in any event. None of the other commissioners written to had responded as yet. Mr Crellin enquired whether the Bucknall's property in Summerhill Road had been returned to the website in the Onchan Tour. The Administrative Officer replied that it had not been returned although the committee had agreed all that was necessary was to remove the grandfather's name to avoid identification with the present owners.

b) Christmas Lights Replacement

The Amenities Officer advised that he had sent for up to date catalogues but had nothing to report at the moment.

c) Enquiries

The Administrative Officer reported enquiries made during the month related to the earliest meeting place for 1st Onchan Scouts in 1909 and also he had received a request from the St John Ambulance Federation for information on St Peter's Church and buildings in The Butt. He would be meeting with them on Thursday afternoon of that week.

d) It's a Knockout

The Administrative Officer reported having spoken with Emma Druggan at Medis who anticipated 24 teams entering the It's a Knockout Competition on 8th July. To the best of her knowledge everything else was in hand in the way of side shows and entertainment.

e) Lantern Light/Torchlight Procession

The Administrative Officer advised that he had written to the Health and Safety at Work Inspectorate enclosing the large bundle of documentation prepared each year in connection with the Torchlight Procession seeking their views thereon. Reply awaited. Noted.

f) Village Fair

The Administrative Officer advised that there were now 18 local groups and societies wishing to have a stall at the village fair. A Road Closing Order had been applied for but as yet no confirmation of its approval had been received.

g) Cups etc

The Administrative Officer reported that replicas for the various Onchan cups which were presented on annual basis had been obtained and engraved. The usual letter had gone out to clubs and societies involved requesting them to collect the replica in advance of presentation. Noted.

LA/06/06/10

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

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

Use of Pennington Hall Compound – Investigate Return of Works Department to Hawthorn Villa Site

The Chairman commented that nothing seemed to be happening on this matter and soon when work commenced on rebuilding of the Pennington Hall Depôt the sand and gravel would have to be relocated elsewhere in any event. Noted.

LA/06/06/11

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil for consideration in public.

LA/06/06/12

CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

There was no further correspondence or communications to report that had not already been covered under separate headings.

LA/06/06/13

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of Next Meeting

Monday 24th July 2006 at 7pm.

b) Urbis Sign

Mrs Megson enquired whether the Urbis sign, currently alongside the War Memorial, could be repositioned at the Youth and Community Centre and a replacement sign purchased for the War Memorial site. The Administrative Officer advised that the cost of a new sign was at least £2,500 and no provision had been made in estimates. Agreed that the Amenities Officer should obtain a cost of replacement for consideration in the estimates for 2007/2008. Mr Killey suggested that a letter be sent to the Tourist Department who provided the original notice board to see if they were prepared to replace it.

Meeting terminated
10.35pm. .

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 26th June 2006, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Mr A.T.W. Norton (Chairman)
Mr D. Crellin
Mr B. Stowell
Mr S.T. Black (in place of Chairman, Housing Committee)

Apologies: Mr D.J. Quirk
Mr J.K. Watterson

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

A short break in the proceedings occurred between 7.00 p.m. and 7.20 p.m.

PF06/06/01
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PF06/06/02
BUSINESS ARISING

None.

PF06/06/03
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Department of Local Government and the Environment – Finance Training Session

The Clerk confirmed that he and the Chief Finance Officer had attended the finance training course for officers which had been hosted by the Department of Local Government and the Environment and presented by Auditors. The Clerk was asked to enquire as to when such a course would be made available for Members to attend.

PF06/06/04
OUTSTANDING MATTERS

No list circulated.

F06/06/05
CLERK'S REPORT

Matters had been included upon the agenda for discussion on an individual basis, rather in written form. There were no matters for consideration in public.

F06/06/06
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 19th June 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 19 th June 2006 less refunds	£	764,006
(48.14%)		

Comparative figures

2005/06 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,461,625	
2005/06 collected to 17 th May 2005 less refunds	£ 709,353 (48.53%)	

2. Revenue Account Payments

The list of payments from revenue account during the month of May 2006 copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. Following discussion, it was subsequently **RESOLVED***:-

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

PF06/06/07
CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PF06/06/08
MATTERS REFERRED BY COMMISSIONERS/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

PF06/06/09
RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY OR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The following recommendations had been formulated at the meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee on 19th June 2006:-

1. to obtain a competitive quotation, present quotation equates approximately £1,800 for the laying of a land drain above the YCC car park and accept the lowest price. The project to be financed out of part of the budget for improving the lighting in Onchan Park.
2. to purchase four double heads at approximately £194 each to be placed on existing lamp standards in Onchan Park by the Commissioners' street lighting contractor. The cost to be taken out of the budget for £12,000 for lighting improvement in Onchan Park.
3. to paint the new concrete crazy golf features using a painting contractor. The cost to come out of the balance of the budget for maintenance and materials.
4. to install two square section fluorescent lights and four low voltage eye ball lights in the ceiling of the foyer to Onchan Library at a cost of £265.92 including labour.

All of the above recommendations were endorsed by the Policy and Finance Committee.

PF06/06/10

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Attendance of Vice-Chairman at Standing Committee Meetings

The Vice-Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee had made a request for permission to be able to attend, either with or in place of the Chairman, ordinary meetings of Standing Committees. Clerk reminded Members of the absence of the Chairman of the Housing Committee and the Chairman of the Works and Cleansing Committee. It was suggested that any Member should be able to attend Standing Committee meetings with the permission of the Chairman. The Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee advised that he had no objection to the attendance of the Vice-Chairman or indeed any other Member at ordinary meetings of the Committee.

2. Bespoke Computer Systems – Manuals

Clerk and Finance Officer drew attention to the fact that there were a number of bespoke computer systems operated within the Authority and that some of the older systems did not have up to date manuals for the operation thereof. It was suggested that whilst efforts would be made to secure up to date manuals, it may be necessary to seek assistance from outwith the Authority in the preparation and completion of manuals should same be no longer available from elsewhere. *Noted.*

PF06/06/11

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be held at 5.30 pm on Monday 31st July 2006.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 9.20 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan on Wednesday 21st June 2006 at 5.15pm.

Present: Mr J.K. Watterson (in the Chair), Messrs G.K. Astill, M.J. Kennaugh, B.H. Moore (until 7.39pm) and W.A. Skillicorn

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration) & B.T. Price (Surveyor)(until 6.21pm)

R/06/06/1
MINUTES

The Chairman advised that at the recent meeting of the Board Mrs Megson stated that there were inaccuracies in the minutes of the Rural Committee. No further details were given as the Board Chairman advised that the matter should be taken up with the committee. Mrs Megson was not a member of the Rural Committee at the time of the last meeting and therefore members wondered how she could claim there were inaccuracies in the minutes of a meeting which she had not attended. The Chairman enquired whether the Administrative Officer had received details of the claim. The Administrative Officer replied that neither he nor the Clerk had had any further information in this matter. Noted.

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2006, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, conformed and signed.

R/06/06/2
PLANNING MATTERS

a) **New Applications for Consideration in Public**

PA 06/866 Proposed additional large steel framed building for "activities", including indoor karting and conversion of old sludge pit into "activities" including remote controlled boats at Ballakaighen Farm for Mr A Clague.

Concern was expressed that the original approval for the conversion of farm buildings into an activity centre contained a planning condition restricting the erection of new buildings on the site following the conversion. A check was made of the original application and it was noted that this was the views expressed by the commissioners at the time. It had not become a planning condition but the notes on the approval notice made it clear that the Planning Committee regarded that application as a use for a redundant agricultural building and as such would not expect any further applications for further agricultural buildings to replace that lost to the new use. Members enquired as to any additional parking provisions. The Surveyor advised it was difficult to establish from the plan whether there was new parking to be provided or not.

Mr Moore advised that he was aware that a neighbour to the property was objecting. The property of the neighbour was immediately opposite the entrance drive to the establishment and they had witnessed several near accidents as traffic emerges from the entrance drive and also vehicles pull up on the pavement outside their house to drop off children who are left to cross the road and walk down the drive by themselves. At the end of the session the cars would return and again pick up the youngsters from the main through road rather than going down into the establishment. This resulted in two journeys and obvious increased traffic and hazard in the area. Mr Moore was aware of a recent accident which also involved a bike. It was understood that the neighbour was also concerned with regard to any noise that maybe coming out of the building when it was used for go-kart purposes. The application was given further consideration and finally it was

***RESOLVED**

"to recommend approval of the application subject to a condition limiting the amount of noise emission from the building to the satisfaction of the Environmental Health Department and that the ingress/egress being to the satisfaction of the Department of Transport given the potential increase in traffic to the establishment"

PA 06/885 Proposed extension to provide granny flat Ballakaighen House, Laxey Road for Mr D. Simpson

Members were reminded of the various previous planning applications for the conversion of barns, erection of detached dwelling etc which had previously been submitted, taken to Appeal and refused. The current application was inline with the comments of the Rural Committee and Board of Commissioners from the start; that a modest extension to the existing dwelling would be an acceptable form for providing ancillary accommodation for the applicant's mother. Members viewed the plan which showed an additional wing onto the property providing a triple garage, lounge, kitchen, utility room, downstairs cloaks, with two bedrooms and two bathrooms within the roof space. Members expressed surprise at the first floor accommodation given that the original application indicated that the proposed occupant could not access stairs and therefore the alternative put forward by the commissioners at that time was not regarded as a practical solution by the applicant. After further consideration it was

***RESOLVED**

“to recommend approval of the application subject to a condition limiting its use to being ancillary to the main dwelling”.

PA 06/913 Proposed single storey extension to the rear of existing cottage to form new kitchen, day room, utility room and WC, 2 Slegaby Cottages, Ballacottier Road for Mr & Mrs G. Waddicor

Members noted the proposals which would result in the removal of an alternative exit to the two bedrooms but agreed that was a matter for building regulations. After further consideration it was

***RESOLVED**

“to recommend approval of the application”.

PA 06/970 Proposed internal alterations to convert cottage into offices together with replacement front porch, Laundry Cottage, Carr's Lane, Tromode for Clucas PLC

The accompanying letter was read to the committee from which it was noted that following the demise of the laundry the only employees of the company were now the Chief Executive, his secretary and a grounds man/maintenance man. The proposed conversion would provide office accommodation for the two clerical employees and space for a boardroom together with internal toilets and kitchen. After viewing the plans it was

***RESOLVED**

“to recommend approval of the application.”

PA 06/993 Propose erection of dwelling, fields 531204, 531206 and part of 531122, Ballachrink, Hillberry for Heritage Homes Limited

Members recalled a previous application in 1997 for the erection of a dwelling to replace the former farmhouse which had been destroyed by fire. That application was approved subject to the new dwelling being sited and resembling the appearance of the original dwelling. Approval in principle was granted which ran out in January 2000. The new application was for the dwelling to be sited away from the site of the original dwelling to avoid conflict with the existing mature trees. Members viewed the application and were of the opinion that the proposal could not now be regarded as a replacement dwelling as the former dwelling which was in a ruinous state in 1997 as a result of the fire, had long since been demolished. They therefore regarded the proposal as an application for a new dwelling in the countryside. As such there was no provision on the Onchan Plan for a dwelling in this location and furthermore the location was zoned as open space. It was therefore

***RESOLVED**

“to recommend refusal of this application on the grounds that it constituted a new dwelling in the countryside which was contrary to the provisions of the Onchan Plan and in an area not zoned for development”.

b) Planning Decisions

No decisions had been received from the Planning Committee.

c) Reviews/Appeals

PA 05/92300 Proposed replacement of portal frame concrete barn with residential dwelling, Bibaloe Beg Farm for Mr & Mrs D. Cameron

Mr Moore declared an interest in this application in so much that the property belonged to a relative although he had no direct interest in it. The Surveyor reminded members of the application which had been refused and was due for an Appeal Hearing on Thursday 29th June 2006 at 11am. Correspondence had been received of recent from the planning officer dealing with the application as the applicants have incorporated into their submission fresh evidence suggesting that the proposed dwelling was to be used as part of a small holding and would also involve the erection of further agricultural building/s.

Members concurred that the Appeal could only be on the application as made and it certainly was not made for an agricultural dwelling. Furthermore members felt that there should be agricultural proof provided by the Department of Agriculture to show that 35 acres was a viable farming unit. The Surveyor to attend the Appeal and continue the opposition to the application.

R/06/06/3
MATTERS ARISING

a) Bridle Ways

The Administrative Officer reported letter as sent to the Rights of Way Inspector enquiring if a plan could be provided showing the green ways over which horses were permitted to ride at the present time. To date there had been no reply.

b) Phasing Out of Wards

The Administrative Officer reported a memorandum which he had sent to the Clerk referring to the recent decision of the Board and enquiring whether the Board had been reminded that in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Onchan Act the matter should have been referred to the Rural Committee for its recommendation thereon. The memorandum referred to the fact that the Commissioner Stowell had requested that a copy of his motion be brought to the attention of the Rural Committee prior to it being laid before the commissioners so that they had advance notice of what was to be laid before the Board. Reply read as received from the Clerk which did not appear to answer the question. A memorandum had however been distributed to members of the Rural Committee by the Clerk advising as to the motion put forward by Commissioner Stowell which would see the disbandment of the Rural Ward before 1st May 2008 or as soon after as practicable and that the motion was approved by the Board with 6 votes recorded in favour, 2 votes against and 1 abstention. One member was absent.

The Chairman advised that he had several discussions with the Clerk and exchanged emails since the last meeting of the Board and of the committee meeting. He was of the opinion that the Clerk was contending the fact that notice of the proposed motion given to the Rural Committee constituted a referral. The notice of the intended motion was however forwarded to the Rural Committee by the Clerk at the request of Commissioner Stowell and was not a directive from the Board who could not consider the motion in any event until the meeting of 30th May 2006.

An analogy was made with a shop putting notices in the window to say that a 50% sale was going to take place. Goods could only be bought at that price once the doors opened on the first day of the sale. So too, whilst it was known that the motion was going to be put forward nothing could happen until the meeting at which it was put forward and that is when the matter should have been referred to the Rural Committee.

The Chairman advised that he had since been told by the Clerk that the Chairman of the Board had extended an invitation for the members of the Rural Committee to meet with the Board to discuss the matter which had already been resolved. The Chairman of the Committee had advised the Clerk that the meeting was not warranted as there was already in

place a consultative forum with representatives of the Board meeting the Rural Committee and a second meeting was still awaited.

The Chairman advised that at the meeting of the Board he put forward the case that the motion was premature particularly as the consultative forum was in place and such matters were yet to be discussed. During the debate all members of the Board present spoke and great play was made on one man one vote. He felt however that there were some inaccuracies in the points put forward by Commissioner Stowell particularly as it was obvious that he was not aware that during a rural election each elector did in fact have three votes and not one. No regard had been had by either the proposer or the Board of the position of the Rural Committee members who actually live in the Rural Ward and are therefore intimately familiar with the matters which are considered by that committee. Commissioner Stowell had commented that if the Rural Ward was removed then the two rural members would be in a position to stand for the board of commissioners if they so wished. They were in a position to stand for the board of commissioners as it was at present. Their position as rural members may be a case of a lesser part to play than a full member of the board but nevertheless there was a part to play and he felt that his fellow board members had not given their position proper consideration. He was very disappointed that the views of the rural members themselves had not been sought at any time. Mr Stowell had stated that he had spoken to many of his rural neighbours and advised it was up to 30 people to whom he had spoken and these had all indicated satisfaction with his proposal. This represented 10% of the voters but the Chairman was of the opinion that there were not 30 neighbours of Mr Stowell's premises in the Rural Ward. It had been said that all ratepayers should be treated equally but there was no expansion on this statement or an indication that should the Rural Ward be dispensed with that those persons living in the rural area would receive the full services of their urban counterparts with regard to streetlights and other facilities. He expressed his disappointment with the apparent view of some of the members of the Board towards the Rural Committee and the rural members. He then read sections from Hansard of the Tynwald Court held on 21st March when the Onchan District Act 1986, Onchan District (Deferential Rating) Order 2006 was passing through the chamber. From the extracts read it was noted that members were pleased to support the Order as it had the consent of both the Rural and Urban Ward but equally several members expressed concern as to what had happened on the previous occasion when an order was being put forward by the commissioners without consultation with the Rural Committee. He really felt that the motion which the Board had now approved without that consultation was only going to result in disappointment by the Tynwald members if they knew what had happened. The Minister for DOLGE had stated at the sitting how pleased he was that there was a consultation process taking place between the Rural Committee and the Board yet that process had now been thwarted by the Board passing the motion regarding the disbandment of the Rural Ward.

Mr Astill commented on the forum which he had attended whilst Chairman of the Board, stating that he felt that a very good meeting had taken place and queried whether the members felt it was better for the forum to meet again rather than the committee meeting with the full board. Members concurred with the forum continuing. Mr Skillicorn commented that good progress was being made and there was nothing to be gained in meeting with the full board. Mr Kennaugh advised that he was still concerned over Mr Stowell's motion which was in his opinion rushed, ill thought out and lacked consultation. He further added that the whole matter was important enough that he thought the Chairman of the Board might have attended the Rural Committee meeting that night but that was a personal view. He referred to his own time on the Rural Committee and in many cases references are made to places which he does not have a clue where they are or on the individual circumstances surrounding those premises and how helpful he found it to be able to rely on the rural members to provide the necessary information. Mr Skillicorn commented that the two rural members had been out in the cold on this decision and in his opinion were being bullied by the Board. Mr Moore commented that he had been a rural member for several years and in the past everything worked well until recently when the question of rates was raised by one of the Board members.

The Chairman referred back to the meeting of the Board on 30th May 2006 and how he was invited by the Board Chairman to propose an amendment to the motion which he declined to

do so stating that he did not wish to tinker with the proposal but he put forward a case as to why consideration of the motion was premature and that he hoped members would listen to his plea. The consultation process had been usurped. It would be like Tynwald setting up a select committee to deal with the Queen's Pier and then prior to receiving the report from the select committee Tynwald decides to demolish the structure. The Chairman was of the opinion that Onchan District Commissioners were not held in such high regard as they were in the past and the action they had now taken was not going to do the authority any good especially if there were proposals for amalgamation of Onchan with other local authorities in the future.

Mr Astill commented that he was very disappointed with what had happened and felt the Board were now going backwards. Mr Kennaugh was of the opinion that the people of the Rural Ward were being used as a football with personal attacks on members being made around the board table. Mr Astill commented that some of the board meetings were getting very personal. The Chairman commented that the motion was at a public meeting of the board and was proposed by Mr Stowell and seconded by Mrs Megson who had in fact been serving as a member of the Rural Committee just immediately prior to that time. He then reminded Mr Astill that he had voted for the motion as well and asked if he had anything to say as to why he did so given his position on the Rural Committee. Mr Astill replied that he was disappointed as the board seemed to be going backwards. Mr Skillicorn queried what reaction there would be from DOLGE if they were aware that the work of the consultative forum had been overturned by the Board. The only meeting of the forum was held on 8th February 2006 yet he had only received minutes of that meeting approximately 10 days ago. The matter was discussed further, noting that the Board had made a decision and it could only be revisited if Standing Orders were set aside. This was unlikely to take place despite the apparent breach of the Onchan Act. After further discussion it was and finally it was proposed by Mr Kennaugh, seconded by Mr Skillicorn and

***RESOLVED**

“that the Board should seek legal advice to establish if it had acted in such a manner as to be a breach of the statutory duty to consult with the Rural Committee or whether it had acted in breach of common law duty to consult and accordingly a breach of the rules of natural justice”.

c) Transcripts

The Chairman advised that he had obtained a copy of Hansard and provided this to Mr Skillicorn. Furthermore Commissioner Stowell had provided him with a audio recording of his interview on Manx Radio and this had also been passed to Mr Skillicorn. On the question of Mr Stowell speaking as an individual or a commissioner, members were convinced that the broadcast did not make it clear that he was speaking as an individual, albeit on matters that had happened at the Board meeting. The Chairman advised that Mr Stowell had informed him that Manx Radio had left this off the broadcast. Matter now left with Mr Skillicorn.

d) Consultative Forum

Mr Astill proposed that the forum should meet again as soon as possible. This was seconded by Mr Skillicorn and **RESOLVED**. The Administrative Officer to send a memo to the Clerk of the Commissioners to that affect.

e) Rural Correspondence

The Administrative Officer read memorandum as sent to the Clerk to the Commission requesting a meeting of the Rural Committee with the Clerk, Chairman and Vice Chairman to discuss the decision of the Board whereby all correspondence and minutes emulating from the Rural Committee had to be approved by the Clerk or Deputy Clerk prior to issue. A response was received from the Clerk who indicated that as the decision to impose such an embargo was made by the Board then it would be a Board decision in the first place as to whether such a meeting should take place. There had been no further communication in respect of that request for a meeting.

R/06/06/4

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Nil.

R/06/06/5

MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

R/06/06/6

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Meeting with Board

The Chairman reminded members of what had been said earlier that the Chairman of the Commission had suggested that the Rural Committee meet with the Board. The matter was discussed briefly and it was **Resolved**

“to decline the invitation on the basis that the Consultative Forum should continue to progress matters between the Rural Committee and the Board”.

R/06/06/7

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

Wednesday 26th July 2006 at 5.15pm.

b) **Signs at Tromode**

The Administrative Officer reported correspondence received from Braddan Parish Commissioners advising that they had received complaints regarding the proliferation of advertising/directional signs which had been placed in the grassed verge at the entrance to Carr's Lane. The matter had been referred to the Planning Enforcement Officer and cross correspondence had taken place with him providing him further details of the location and site owners. The matter now lay with DoT to arrange for the removal of the signs from their land. Braddan Commissioners had been advised as to the situation.

c) **Hedge Cutting**

The Administrative Officer reported copy of a letter he had been passed by the Clerk advising that a copy of DoT's guidelines on hedge cutting had been received and that further copies had been requested. The letter from DoT was dated 21st March and to date no copies had been provided for the information of the Rural Committee who had originally provided written comment on the draft proposals.

d) **TT Road Closures**

Mr Skillicorn advised that he had again received complaints regarding the TT Road Closures and other related matters. On one race day the roads were meant to open at 5pm but did not open until some considerable time later. On a practice night due to oil spillage the Hillberry Straight was not opened until 11.30pm making access to properties in Slegaby Lane difficult. Because the road was regarded as officially closed vehicles were not being permitted to take access out on the Ballacottier Road. He felt more PR and better liaison was required. He also referred to the fact that when the roads were closed for races and practices, vehicles were parking on both sides of the Ballacottier Road from the bottom of Hillberry Straight back.

e) **Additional Refuse Charges**

Mr Skillicorn advised that he went to the Commissioners' Surgery regarding the charge which had been made to Rural Ratepayers when the introduction of a disposal charge had been imposed on the commissioners by DOLGE. He was of the opinion that the charge made was illegal and the money taken from the people should be returned. He had since received a communication from the Clerk to the Commissioners which merely forwarded a copy of the letter distributed to the Rural Ratepayers by the previous Clerk advising that a charge was being made under the Public Health Act.

f) Tromode Industrial Estate

The Chairman made reference to certain premises within the Tromode Industrial Estate which were now being used as car showrooms and sales areas. In one case the whole of the car parking space to an industrial unit now contained cars with for sale signs and prices on them. He could not recall any planning applications made for change of use of units for this purpose and the other members could not recall applications either. As a result it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Planning Enforcement Officer asking him to investigate the situation.

Meeting terminated at 7.46pm.