

ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

*Hawthorn Villa,
Main Road, Onchan.*

IN PUBLIC

17th November 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 20th November 2006

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

Yours faithfully,

**Tim Craig
DEPUTY 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 16th October 2006 (*Minutes – APPENDIX 3*)
- 4. To dispose of business (if any) remaining or arising from the last and any intermediate extraordinary meeting.**
 - 4.1 Rural Consultation Forum – Meeting held 7th September 2006
(*Deputy Clerk to report*)

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

None.

6. To deal with any business expressly required by statute to be done.

None.

7. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of committees. (Note: See Standing Order Number 7(1) attached)

7.1 Housing Committee
- Meeting held **23rd October 2006** (Minutes – APPENDIX 7.1)

7.2 Works and Cleansing Committee
- Meeting held **30th October 2006** (Minutes –

APPENDIX 7.2)

7.3 Leisure and Amenities Committee
- Meeting held **6th November 2006** (Minutes – APPENDIX 7.3)

7.4 Policy and Finance Committee
- Meeting held **13th November 2006** (Minutes to follow – APPENDIX 7.4)

7.5 Rural Committee
- Meeting held **8th November 2006** (Minutes to follow –
APPENDIX 7.5)

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

8.1 Planning decisions/communications from the D.L.G.E. Planning Committee
1.1 Planning Communications – **list circulated**
1.2 Plans – **list circulated**
1.3 Planning Recommendations, Rural Committee – **list circulated**

8.2 Gift of paintings from Rev. & Mrs. Lawrinson

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

10. Chairman's Announcements

Chairman to report

11. To answer questions asked under standing order 7 (*Note: See Standing Order 7(2) to 7(4) attached*)

None.

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

None.

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

None.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 16th October 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr D. Crellin (Chairman)
Mr S.T. Black
Mr D.J. Quirk
Mrs W. Megson
Mr A.T.W. Norton
Mr B. Stowell
Mr M.J. Kennaugh

Apologies: Mr G.K. Astill, J.P.
Mr E.D.R. Killey
Mr J.K. Watterson

In Attendance: Mr T. R. Craig (Deputy Clerk)
Mr B. T. Price (District Surveyor)

C06/10/02/01
BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE DEALT WITH BY STATUTE

None.

C06/10/02/02
MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on 11th September 2006. The Deputy Clerk apologised and advised the Board that due to other pressures within the office he had been unable to finish the minutes. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to bring the minutes up to date as soon as possible.

C06/10/02/03
BUSINESS ARISING

1. Motion Number 46 – Reduction in Board Membership

The Deputy Clerk advised that he had not progressed any further with this Agenda item. He advised the Board that he would research the file and report back at the next meeting.

2. Kerbside Collection Statutory Group - Meetings

The Deputy Clerk advised that he had not yet received the outstanding minutes of previous meetings, and would progress with the Department accordingly. The Deputy Clerk also advised that there had been a further meeting on Friday 13th October, for which no minutes had yet been produced. The position regarding outstanding minutes was noted with some concern by Members and the Deputy Clerk was asked to progress the matter as soon as possible.

C06/10/02/04
ANY BUSINESS REMAINING OR ARISING FROM MEETINGS HELD PRIOR TO THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING

Mr Quirk raised the subject of the report dated September 2006 and titled 'A Review of the Scope and Structure of Government in the Isle of Man', and suggested that time be put aside to consider the document. There was discussion regarding various elements of the report and the appropriate timing of a meeting of the Board to consider its ramifications. It was agreed that a date be fixed after the forthcoming general election for the Board to consider the report.

C06/10/02/05

ANY BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C06/10/02/06

HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting held on 18th September 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

Mr Quirk indicated that he wished to raise a matter concerning item 4 of the public minutes in the Committee section of the Board Meeting.

C06/07/01/07

WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 25th September 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

1. WC/06/06/03(a) – War Memorial - Handrails

In answer to question, the District Surveyor updated the Board regarding progress on fitting handrails at the War Memorial. There was discussion regarding match of the new rails to existing, during which Mr Quirk suggested that it be appropriate to meet with members of the British Legion. It was agreed that Mr Quirk and the District Surveyor make arrangements to meet with members of the British Legion and liaise regarding the handrails.

2. Street Lighting

Mr Kennaugh noted that replacement street light heads were considerably brighter than previously, and there was discussion regarding problems that this may cause to householders close to the light. The subject of some form of shading was discussed and it was agreed that the matter be continued in the private session.

3. Surface Water Drainage at The Butt

The District Surveyor advised the Board that the drainage survey had been done and the Department of Transport were looking to fund some refurbishment work. The District Surveyor also advised that a full scheme to alleviate the problem would be very expensive, and again up to the Department of Transport to fund. Mr Quirk asked for an update to be provided at the next meeting of the Works and Cleansing Committee.

4. Street Signage

Mr Stowell noted that the street sign for King Edward Park was to be re-instated.

5. Surveyor's Report

The Chairman enquired whether the report on Ridgeway Road had been forwarded from the Surveyor to the chairman of the Works Committee. Mr Quirk advised that that report had been received; likewise a report on the British Legion Hall had also been received. The Chairman thanked the District Surveyor for the provision of the reports.

C06/07/01/07
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was resolved that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee Meeting held on 25th September 2006 be and are hereby received. There were no recommendations contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C06/07/01/8
LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Public Section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 2nd October 2006, copies of which, having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

1. **LA/06/10/04(g) – Park Takings for the Season**

In response to an enquiry whether there were any conclusions to be drawn on the happy hour. Mr Stowell advised that the findings were inconclusive at present.

2. **LA/06/10/9(a) – Website**

Mr Norton expressed his concerns regarding the amount of detail in the public minutes and the Deputy Clerk advised that all minute takers were to go on a course to standardise the level of information and the method of recording. It was agreed that in future all draft minutes be approved by the Chairman of the individual Committees prior to their issue. Mr Kennaugh noted the increase in visits to the website and enquired whether there was a revenue stream that could be generated. The Deputy Clerk undertook to see if there was an appropriate method by which income could be earned from the website.

C06/10/02/09
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was resolved that the minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 2nd October 2006 be and are hereby received. There were no recommendations contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C06/10/02/10
POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Deputy Clerk advised that these minutes were still outstanding due to pressure of other duties and undertook to complete them as soon as possible.

C06/10/02/11
RURAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 4th October 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered. There was discussion regarding a particular comment from a Commissioner contained within the minutes regarding the Consultative Committee, and it was confirmed his view that the Committee should progress. There was discussion on the lack of minutes for the Consultative Committee, which the Commissioners noted with concern. The Deputy clerk was asked to contact the previous Chief Executive Clerk regarding production of the minutes.

C06/10/02/12
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was resolved that the Public Section of the Rural Committee Meeting held on 4th October 2006, be and are hereby received. There were no recommendations contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C06/07/02/13

LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

1.1 It was noted that the planning approval for 58 Howe Road had been approved on appeal.

1.2 The following plans were considered:-

P A NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
	115 King Edward Road.	ODC recommendation – Accepted.
	25 Belgravia Road	ODC recommendation – Accepted
	26 Wentworth Close	ODC recommendation – Decision Deferred – District Surveyor to seek further information

1.3 Planning Recommendations – Rural Committee

The planning recommendations of the Rural Committee, formulated at a meeting of that Committee held on 4th October 2006 had been previously circulated. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the decisions of the Rural Committee relating to planning matters debated at the meeting held on 4th October 2006, be and are hereby endorsed.

8.2

BRADDAN PARISH COMMISSIONERS INVITATION

The invitation from Braddan Parish Commissioners to members and their partners to a Christmas function at the Commissioners Office on Friday 8th December 2006 was noted. Mrs Megson, Mr Norton, Mr Quirk and Mr Stowell indicated that they would be attending.

8.3

RECEIPT OF PAINTING FROM MR JM RILEY

The Deputy Clerk displayed the painting that was being donated to the Commissioners by Mr Riley and members were appreciative of both the work involved and the unusual medium. After discussion it was agreed that the proper place for the display of such a work was the Onchan District Library. The Deputy Clerk to write to Mr Riley and thank him on behalf of the Board and advise where the picture will be displayed.

C06/10/02/14

CLERKS REPORT

None.

C06/10/02/15

DISTRICT SURVEYORS REPORT

None.

C06/10/02/16

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:-

- Presentation of prizes for Royal Skandia Reading Mission at Onchan District Library.
- Presentation of prizes for Onchan District Commissioners Gardens Awards.
- Manx Blind Welfare Society volunteers reception.
- Visit to Onchan of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.
- Castletown Civic Service.
- Braddan Civic Service.

The Chairman advised that he would be attending Marown Civic Service on Sunday 22nd October and the invitation to Balaugh Civic Service was noted.

C06/10/02/17
QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted under the provisions of Standing Order Number Seven.

C06/10/02/18
MOTIONS

None.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main road, Onchan on Monday, 23 October 2006, commencing at 7.00 pm.

Present:	Mr J.K. Watterson Mr S.T. Black Mr M J Kennaugh Mrs W.E. Megson	(Chairman)
Apologies:	Mr D Crellin	(Chairman, ODC)
In attendance:	Mr T M Craig Mr A.B. Sutherland Mrs S. Dougherty Mr A T W Norton	(Deputy Clerk) (Housing Maintenance Manager) (Administrative Assistant) (Deputy Chairman, ODC)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Norton, who suitably responded.

H06/10/01/01 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday, 18 September 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

H06/10/01/02 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

A discussion took place over School Road parking as there had been complaints by residents of the area about the changes. As it was not a Housing Committee issue, and had been referred back to the Works Committee at the previous Housing Committee meeting, it was noted that it was on the Traffic Management Agenda. Nevertheless enquiries would be made on behalf of residents by officers of the Commissioners to the Police and the Department of Transport.

H06/10/01/03 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

None.

H06/10/01/04 **HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES BUSINESS**

1. H06/10/01/04(1) - Maintenance Report

The report, dated 23 October 2006, had been circulated with the agenda and the Housing Maintenance Manager having answered questions thereon:

4. H06/10/01/04(4) Any Other Business Arising

None.

H06/10/01/05

SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

1. H06/10/01/05(1) Maintenance Report

The Housing Maintenance Manager reported that the Finance Department had confirmed that funds were available to replace blinds, ceiling tiles and carpets costing approximately £3,000, items were to be ordered.

2. H06/10/01/05(1) Ramp at Springfield Court

A discussion ensued in regard to certain access difficulties experienced by some residents at Springfield Court, the advice that ramping would be extremely expensive, and alternative solutions should be sought. Stair-lifts and the problems encountered with locked areas at night, and possible vandalism were also considered. The Deputy Clerk suggested that a ramp scheme could be considered with the estimates at the appropriate time.

A Commissioner requested that a hand book, or photographs and maps could be provided on screen, showing the complex, for their improved information. The Administrative Assistant advised that she had been compiling a handbook of the Onchan Commissioners' Housing and Garage Stock for use by staff and the information of commissioners.

H06/10/01/06

HEYWOOD COURT MATTERS

1. H06/10/01/06(1) Maintenance Report

The Housing Maintenance Manager reported that McGarrigle & Jackson, Architects for Heywood Court Complex, had instructed Parkinson Ltd to expedite the replacement of failed units as soon as possible.

Astin Bros have been continuing to replace trace heating system with a gravity system. Work would be completed by end of November.

2. H06/10/01/06(2) Gardens and Lawns

The Housing Maintenance Manager reported that the lawns and borders were satisfactory and that they would now be under the umbrella of the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

3. H06/10/01/06(3) Any Other Business Arising

None

H06/10/01/07

GARAGE MATTERS

1. H06/10/01/07(1) Maintenance Report

The Housing Maintenance Manager referred to his report, which had been previously circulated, stating that the Department of Transport had agreed to lay 'wearing course' tarmac to the front apron of garages at Hackett Close. No time scale had been given.

2. H06/10/01/07(2) Any Other Business Arising

1. On being asked if the Commissioners kept spare keys to the rented garage stock, the Deputy Clerk advised that the Commissioners did not, and he would not endorse such practice. Much discussion ensued.

2. The condition of the lane by the garages at Barrule Drive was queried, and this would be referred to the Works committee. The Housing Maintenance Manager advised he would approach the District Surveyor for discussions.

H06/10/01/08

PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Housing Maintenance Manager reported that he had received the Stage 4 report on electrical rewiring on Nursery Avenue , Schemes 1 and 2. He explained the process in relation to the 38 units, and that the next stage is Tender Analysis.

H06/10/01/09

HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

The Housing Maintenance Manager reported that an additional set of steps and a replacement aluminium extension ladder had been purchased for the Works Department, and it was

RESOLVED that the redundant aluminium extension ladder should be cut to prevent further use and the aluminium recycled.

H06/10/01/10

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

References were made to a radio report that the Government would support windmills and solar power. However a report in the Guardian suggested that insulation, draft proofing, electrical items switched off, ie not left on standby, could save a lot of energy and expense. The Deputy Clerk advised that he would explore Department of Local Government & the Environment funding, although it was believed that there was no support for the private householder. He also suggested a feasibility study, and this should be investigated by the Housing Maintenance Manager.

H06/10/01/11

OUTSTANDING MATTERS – MONITORING OF ACTION TAKEN

1. H06/10/01/11(1) Housing Allocations Report

The Administrative Assistant advised the Committee of the current situation in regard to recent allocations, the report having recently been circulated.

3 H06/10/01/11(2) Quarterly Housing Report

The quarterly housing report previously circulated, was discussed and the Administrative Assistant answered questions thereon. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to the Housing Maintenance Manager on the low level of void days.

4 H06/10/01/11(3) – Housing Management Software System

The Deputy Clerk reported that the new DPN Housing Software Package had been installed, and meetings had been held at officer level, and reports thus far were good. The level of access for management and other officers was yet to be determined, and further meetings were to be held. The Deputy Clerk offered to arrange for Commissioners to attend a demonstration by DPN. The whole system would be live by 1 April 2007, but housing and maintenance would be operational before then.

5. H06/10/01/11(4) – Regenda Visit

The Housing Maintenance Manager reported with some detail on the visit that he and the Administrative Assistant made, with the Housing Directorate and other Housing Officers from most of the other Local Authorities on the island, to the Regenda Housing Group in Liverpool, managers of some 13,000 homes in over 30 local authority areas. The visit had been interesting and informative, and although the group was infinitely larger than Onchan District

Commissioners and benefited from the economies of scale, it was felt that the Commissioners, and indeed the island as a whole, was doing very well with its public sector housing, but that there was always room for such education and new ideas.

The Vice Chairman to the Commissioners and the Housing Maintenance Manager left at 9.15 pm.

6. H06/10/01/11(5) – Any Other Business Arising

None.

06/10/01/12 – Any Other Correspondence/Communications

None.

H06/10/01/13 - FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. H06/10/01/13(1) – Housing Maintenance Expenditure

None

2. H06/10/01/13(2) - EPC Maintenance Expenditure

None.

3. H06/10/01/13(3) – Rent/Mesne Profit Receipt Report

The Deputy Clerk explained that this was on course, the Finance Staff helping overcome the recent difficulties, beyond the call of duty. Items over £1,000 were explained to Commissioners, and the Deputy Clerk was to take further action as a matter where required as a matter of urgency. The Committee wished to thank the staff for their efforts, and particularly the Chief Cashier for his work.

4. H06/10/01/13(4) - Garage Rental Receipt

The Garage report had previously been circulated, and no questions were asked.

5. H06/10/01/13(5) - Housing and EPC Deficiency Claims

None

6. H06/10/01/13(6) – Repossession Action

The Deputy Clerk advised that the repossessions were to be placed in the hands of the advocates, and that there was nothing further to add.

7. H06/10/01/13(7) – Public Address System for Board Room

The question was raised of a Public Address System for the Board Room, but no decision taken or resolution made.

8. H06/10/01/13(8) – Paper v Laptops

The question was raised as to the way the printing had been carried out for this meeting, as one sided printing had used a lot of unnecessary paper, however it was explained that this was due to a printer problem which manifested too late to be fixed for the print-run for the Housing Committee meeting. Other technical problems were being encountered and addressed in relation to electronically provided information.

9. H06/10/01/13(9) – Common Tenancy Agreements

On being asked about the position with the Common Tenancy Agreements which were outstanding, it was explained that this was due to get back on track with help from a part-time staff member. A significant number of tenants had not returned their Common Tenancy Agreements at all, and many were incorrectly signed, the exercise becoming much more complicated than perhaps envisaged.

H06/10/01/14

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Maintenance Recording – Sheltered Housing

It had been asked previously if the new housing software management system, would be linked to maintenance, and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that it was included, and it should now be removed from the Agenda.

H06/10/01/15

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Housing Committee would take place on Monday, 27 November 2006, commencing at 7.00 pm.

2. **Commissioners' Surgery**

It was noted that the next Commissioners' Surgery was to take place on Thursday, 23 November 2006, commencing at 6.30 pm.

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

IN PUBLIC

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS & CLEANSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 30th October 2006 at 7pm.

Present: Mr D.J. Quirk (in the chair), Messrs G.K. Astill, D. Crellin JP, M.J. Kennaugh and E.D.R. Killey (from 7.02pm)

In attendance: B.T. Price (Surveyor), Peter Kelly (Administration) and P. Sutton (Waste Operations Manager) (until 7.40pm)

WC/06/10/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

WC/06/10/2
PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following new planning applications were considered:-

PA 06/1686 Alterations, 3 Laurel Avenue for Mrs T. Barton

Members viewed the application and it was

- Resolved to recommend approval of the application subject to the Surveyor notifying the owner/occupiers of No 1 Laurel Avenue of the application.

PA 06/1707 Extension to rear elevation, 12 School Road for Mr A. Quayle

The Surveyor explained the proposals and how there was already an extension on the adjoining property. After considering the application it was

- Resolved to recommend approval subject to the owner/occupier of No 14 being notified.

PA 06/1733 Alterations to property and conversion of existing integral garage into living accommodation together with the erection of a detached garage and creation of a new vehicular access 31 The Park for Mr & Mrs A. Harrison

Members viewed the application and no problems could be anticipated from the proposals. It was therefore

- Resolved to recommend approval of the application.

PA 06/1748 Extension to rear elevation and rebuilding of garage to increase width, at 37 Birch Hill Avenue for Mr A. Glaister

The Chairman declared an interest in this application and left the room whilst it was considered.

Members viewed the plans and were of the opinion that the extension to the rear of the property would not affect anyone. With regard to the rebuilding of the garage flank wall it was noted that this would be virtually on the boundary line and would result in no access to the rear of the property on that side. Also maintenance and even the application

IN PUBLIC

of wall finish to the extension would not be practicable from within the boundaries of the property. After further consideration it was

- Resolved to recommend approval of that part of the application relevant to the rear extension but to question the practicality of the garage widening due to future problems of maintenance but, if the Planning Committee were so minded to approve the garage widening then a condition should be placed upon same limiting its use to domestic purposes. It was further agreed that the neighbours on both sides of the property should be notified of the application.

PA 06/1751 Lead capping to top of portico roof and safety rail to flat roof garage at the Isle of Man Bank 26 Main Road for the Royal Bank of Scotland

The Chairman returned to the room and queried the handrail on the garage roof. The Surveyor pointed out that there was already a rail in existence and it was primarily a matter of health and safety when personnel were attending to the air conditioning system on the garage roof. After consideration it was

- Resolved to recommend approval of the application.

WC/06/10/3**WASTE MANAGEMENT AND OTHER CLEANSING BUSINESS****a) Officer's Report**

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

i) Bin Weighing

Members noted the failures with the system as indicated by the Waste Operations Manager in his report. In answer to question, the Waste Operations Manager advised that over the previous two weeks a lot of the problems had been sorted out which were often due to not having the right chips in the bins. An engineer from PM OnBoard was due on the island the following day. The Waste Operations Manager did not feel there were any major problems with the system. The engineer was bringing an upgrade to the software system which would run side by side with the existing system. Noted.

ii) Street Cleaning

In answer to question, the Waste Operations Manager advised that there had been one breakdown with the pavement sweeping machine but it was now back and fully operational. Mr Astill enquired if the machine was doing its job properly to which the Waste Operations Manager replied that there was one mechanical problem which seemed to occur on a regular basis. Mr Crellin commented that in Mount View Road on the corner with Wybourn Drive and close to the post box there were overhanging bushes and branches. Contact to be made via the Community Officer with the owner/occupiers to request the bushes etc to be cut back.

IN PUBLIC**b) Sale of Seddon Atkinson**

The Waste Operations Manager advised that the vehicle had been sold for £610 plus VAT to a firm called Morecambe Recycling who sent such vehicles to Africa.

c) Any Other Business**i) Poppies**

The Chairman produced an example of the poppy now available for vehicles. It was not as large as previous poppies but was on sale in the commissioners foyer. He requested that poppies be purchased and displayed on the refuse vehicles. The Waste Operations Manager agreed to action the request.

ii) Majestic Drive

The Waste Operations Manager referred to the previous minutes and the comment regarding Majestic Drive where the staff merely removed the black bin liners from the bins rather than pushing bins uphill to the refuse vehicle. He commented that there were a number of residents in the vicinity who produced very little waste and this was well contained within a single black plastic bag. The staff therefore walked the 100 yards to the vehicle with the bag. The Chairman commented that this was against the commissioners' own health and safety policy. The Waste Operations Manager informed the meeting that he would pass on the Chairman's comments with his own endorsement.

The Waste Operations Manager was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 7.40pm.

WC/06/10/4**MATTERS ARISING**

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) War Memorial – Handrails

The Surveyor advised that they were currently being constructed and should be in position prior to the British Legion Remembrance Day Service. Two handrails were to be installed, one on the upper flight and one on the lower flight. They would be on opposite sides of the steps but would in reality line up due to the juxtaposition of the steps. The cost was £250 per set of rails. Noted.

b) Legion Hall

The Surveyor advised that all work was now complete. Mr Killey commented that his wife, as tenant, was responsible for the boiler but the roof of the boiler house was leaking. He had advised the Deputy Clerk that cement caulking was required where the flue pipe passes through the roof. Inside there were two fluorescent light fittings which did not

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work and he enquired if the electrician could be sent to check the lights over. Furthermore, when the new windows were fitted the paintwork had not been touched up.

c) Library/Data Protection Building

The Surveyor advised that consideration had been given to redecorating the exterior of the library and Data Protection building in time for the visit of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. As it happens that part of the proposed itinerary was removed as the Lieutenant Governor was a member of the library and visited it regularly. At that time an approximate price of £5,000 had been received to carry out the work and it was now proposed to include this in the estimates for the forthcoming financial year. Noted.

d) Molly Carrooin's Cottage

The Surveyor advised that there was nothing in the current property repair budget to cover the re-roofing of Molly Carrooin's Cottage. The Administrative Officer pointed out that in the past the policy had been purely to repair the roof where necessary and in fact to make the repairs look like slipped slates so as not to alter the character of the cottage.

WC/06/10/5**MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Nil.

WC/06/10/6**STREET LIGHTING/SIGNS/FURNITURE****a) Officer's Report**

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

Repairs

The Chairman advised that both he and Commissioner Stowell had reported streetlights as being out utilising the commissioners website. However, repairs did not seem to be getting carried out. He referred to AR6 in Avondale Road and the second light in School Road. He then enquired as to whether the public clock on the Manx Arms was adjusted with the change from British Summertime. The Surveyor replied that that was part of the lighting contract.

b) Lane Off Mount View Close

The Surveyor advised that the estimates originally provided by the MEA for the provision of three lights in the lane was £13,211 whereas they had now quoted for reducing this to two lights at £13,086. There would therefore only be saving of £200 through omitting

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one lamp standard. He pointed out however that there was nothing in the estimates for new works and therefore it was agreed that the matter be held in abeyance in any event.

c) Other Lighting Matters**i) Ballachurry Avenue**

The Chairman made reference to the complaint made at the last meeting regarding the change in bulb outside Commissioner Kennaugh's house. Mr Kennaugh advised that it was not just a case of being too bright but also the position of the lamp standard. The Surveyor advised that he had asked the lighting contractor to see if it was possible to shade the lamp in one direction.

ii) Time Clocks

Mr Kennaugh enquired as to whether the accuracy of time clocks were checked as some streetlights were on at periods when it was not necessary and he was concerned as to how much per hour this was costing. The Surveyor responded that the account for street lighting was worked out on the basis of the number of streetlights and the length of time per day they were set to be on. If a streetlight remained on all day it was not costing any more but equally if a streetlight was not functioning the commissioners were still charged for the electricity that it would have consumed. There were no individual meters for each lamp standard and obviously therefore individual readings were not obtained. Noted.

WC/06/10/7**DRAINAGE FUNCTION****a) Officer's Report**

Copies of the District Surveyor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with the following matters being raised further

i) Derwent Drive/Royal Court Flooding

The Surveyor advised that tests had been undertaken and no identifiable cause has been found other than the size of pipes not being able to cope in flash flood conditions. It was recommended, however that two properties in Derwent Drive have non-return valves fitted.

ii) Manhole Covers

The Surveyor advised that he hoped DoT would make provision in their budget for the forthcoming year to deal with the problems experienced in Main Road and Royal Avenue.

*IN PUBLIC***b) School Road Recreation Ground**

This was a matter for the Leisure and Amenities Committee and a report on same would be given at their meeting.

c) Other Drainage Business**i) Procedure**

The Chairman enquired as to what was happening over the introduction of a procedure relevant to complaints received regarding blocked sewers etc. The Surveyor responded that calls coming to the office of that nature was directed to him and it was he who then issued the instruction for investigation or rectification as the case maybe. He would, therefore, set up a database so that such incoming complaints and directions for work to be carried out are recorded.

ii) Scollag Road

The Chairman again requested that DoT be contacted to establish what proposals they have to eliminate ponding on the Scollag Road.

WC/06/10/8**CAPITAL AND REVENUE SCHEMES****Officer's Report**

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

a) Port Jack Glen Refurbishment

The Surveyor advised that a meeting was to be held between the contractor and the quantity surveyor regarding value for money and a petition to DOLGE for borrowing powers was yet to be made until such time as that meeting had been held. The Chairman requested an update of the situation for the next meeting of the Board.

b) Pennington Hall

The Surveyor informed members that there had been a slight hiccup to the programme in so much that an objection had been received to the planning application. This had hopefully been resolved by the resubmission of a plan showing the building moved further away from the residential properties in Alberta Drive. Providing an Appeal was not requested to any decision of the Planning Committee then matters should still run pretty well to time. At the last meeting with the design team the planning supervisor advised that one of the contractors who had expressed an interest in tendering had not made further contact. If nothing was received by the end of the month they would off the

IN PUBLIC

list. Tender documents etc were being sent out to the approved contractors on Wednesday of that week. Noted.

e) Mezzanine Floor – Refuse Depot

The Surveyor confirmed that all materials were on the island and he understood the contractor was going onsite to commence work that day. Noted.

WC/06/10/9**HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC MATTERS**

There were no highway and traffic matters for discussion.

WC/06/10/10**FURTHER REPORTS FROM CLERK/SURVEYOR**

Nil.

WC/06/10/11**CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS****Radio Mast Birch Hill**

The Surveyor reported having been contacted by a resident in Birch Hill Park enquiring after proposals for the erection of a Telecom radio mast on land behind the semi – subterranean reservoir at the top end of the Birch Hill estate. The Surveyor advised that no details had been received from Manx Telecom in respect of any proposals in this area although he understood the residents had received some form of notification. After brief discussion it was agreed that Manx Telecom should be requested to provide information as to their proposals and that the resident who had contacted the commissioners should be thanked for doing so.

WC/06/10/12**OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

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

EW 91/10(4)R Scollag Road – Ponding – The Chairman confirmed the request made at the previous meeting for enquiries to be made with DoT as to progress.

WC/ Nursery Avenue Lane – Surveyor again requested to resurrect discussions with Shoprite.

W99/7/14(a) Adoption of roads and lane – Marion Court – The Surveyor advised that he had spoken with Graham Higgins at DoT since the last meeting and requested that the matter be expedited. Noted.

IN PUBLIC

WC/05/04/14(c) Church Avenue – One Way suggestion – the Surveyor again requested to provide update at next meeting.

W95/9/11 Proposed extension/establishment of new conservation area – The Administrative Officer reported that he had written to DOLGE requesting an update of the commissioners' request in 1995 for an extension to the Onchan Conservation Area. Letter as sent was read to the meeting.

The Chairman then asked if a further letter could be sent enquiring as to the position with the commissioner's request for the Registration of Government House. The Administrative Officer replied that whilst he thought Government House was in the list of buildings proposed for consideration for Registration within the Onchan Plan he was not aware that a formal request had been made for same. He would, however, take the matter up with DOLGE.

WC/06/10/13**MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES**

Nil.

WC/06/10/14**ANY OTHER BUSINESS****a) Time and Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 4th December 2006 at 7pm.

b) Next Public Meeting for Plans

Wednesday 15th November 2006 at 5pm.

c) Minutes

The division of the minutes into public and committee sections was left to the Administrative Officer.

d) Bio Fuel

Mr Kennaugh enquired whether the commissioners had considered bio fuels for their vehicles. The Surveyor replied that there was a slight monetary saving by switching to bio fuels but the expenditure in time to drive to Laxey in order to obtain it negated any saving. The Chairman directed that the Surveyor write to Mr Andrew Smith whose company were promoting the fuel to obtain further details.

Meeting terminated at 8.57pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 6th November 2006 at 7.00pm.

Present: Mrs W. Megson (in the chair), Messrs S.T. Black, D. Crellin JP and E.D.R. Killey (from 9.12pm)

Apologies: Mr B. Stowell and Mr E.D.R. Killey gave advanced notice of a late arrival.

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration), R.C. Quane (Amenities Officer) and B.T. Price (Surveyor) (until 7.55pm)

LA/06/11/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2006, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

LA/06/11/2
MATTERS ARISING FOR THE SURVEYOR

a) Lighting Scheme in Onchan Park

The Surveyor confirmed that phase one of the scheme was now complete and the total cost had been £3,597.42. Originally £12,000 had been allowed in the budget but the overall scheme was going to work out considerably more and therefore phase one was undertaken in an effort to appraise the necessity for phase two. The balance of the budget had previously been agreed to be applied towards the cost of providing an all purpose/disabled toilet at the YCC. Members noted that there would be a requirement to make provision in the following year's budget to undertake phase 2 of the lighting scheme in the park.

The Vice Chairman enquired as to the effectiveness of the new lights but both the Amenities Officer and Surveyor advised they had not seen them in the hours of darkness. The Surveyor undertook to carry out an inspection. The Vice Chairman also enquired if the completed lights were in good working order and represented value for money.

b) Tenders for Port Jack Glen Scheme

The Surveyor reported that 2 tenders had been received with the lowest tender amounting to £143,500. This was now being looked at by the quantity surveyor to evaluate the costings and documentation was being put together for the petition to DOLGE for borrowing powers. The Vice Chairman enquired whether the tender and specification covered everything to which the Surveyor replied in the affirmative. Mr Crellin asked when the scheme was likely to start. The Surveyor responded by firstly stating that arrangements were being made for the contractor to use the commissioners' large pump at no cost and that it was hoped the work would begin in December. If that was too close to Christmas and the close down of the building trade then it would be early in the New Year. The Vice Chairman asked as to the duration of the contract to which the Surveyor replied that it was 16 weeks. He further added that the glen would be closed during that period. The Vice Chairman asked how the public were to be notified and the Surveyor responded that signs would be erected at either end together with barriers. She then asked what if children were to climb over the barriers and an accident occurred. The Surveyor responded that in the absence of a 12 foot high fence around the whole of the glen then there was no way to stop anyone who was determined to enter. The rights of the trespasser and the commissioners were covered in law. The Vice Chairman asked that the public be notified in the press when the glen was closed.

c) **Wembley Arena**

The Surveyor had placed on display boards the various schemes received from manufacturers. One scheme for the arena surround was entirely in timber set into metal shoes. Others were in steel with finishes ranging from plastic coated to powder coated. The Surveyor informed members that the timber structure only provided ten year standard guarantee on materials whereas the steel was for fifteen years but only five years on the paint finish. The Administrative Officer sought information from the Amenities Officer as to other wooden play equipment in the district to which the Amenities Officer replied that this had been in existence long in excess of ten years without problem.

Mr Crellin indicated that he thought the scheme supplied by SMP was the best. The Surveyor added that they gave two colour choices purple/orange and blue/silver. The scheme supplied by UAC had plastic coated steel whereas the SMP was powder coated. The matter could not proceed any further until the arrival of Mr Killey when a voting quorum would be present.

Following the arrival of Mr Killey it was, on the proposal of Mr Killey, seconded by Mr Black

***RESOLVED**

“to accept the scheme of SMP for a complete Wembley Arena at the School Road Recreation Ground at a price of £50,997 (inclusive of £2,000 contingency figure) plus VAT, subject to borrowing powers and grant assistance from DOLGE for playground schemes”.

d) **Skateboard Park**

The Surveyor advised he had not got very far with this project due to the absence of a Clerk and the promotion of the Waste Management Officer to Deputy Clerk. He confirmed that he had details in respect of some of the ramps and jumps and it was just a matter of putting it all together. He anticipated being in a position to put in a planning application for the reserved matters by the end of the year. The Vice Chairman requested a comprehensive report providing a full update for the next meeting of the committee. The Administrative Officer queried whether the original planning permission was still valid which the Surveyor undertook to establish.

e) **Bow Top Fencing**

The Surveyor informed members that following their previous meeting when the lowest tender was proposed to be accepted, he had established that the contractor had let his registration lapse. Consequently an application had now been made to renew registration and until that had been received then neither formal acceptance was being given to the tender and equally the work would not commence. The Amenities Officer confirmed that once the contractor had

been notified to proceed with the work then the present hedging would be removed by the parks men.

f) Community Officer's Report

The Surveyor advised that the Board had previously resolved that the Community Officer would just produce one report and that the Chairman of the various committees would extract portions relevant to their committee from the report for reporting back to that committee. The Administrative Officer advised that the Leisure and Amenities Committee had in fact requested a direct report to them in view of the time spent by the Community Officer visiting Onchan Park, playgrounds, open spaces and public conveniences in the district. What was provided in the overall report did not give details that would be expected by the committee such as the number of visits, the number of persons spoken to regarding dog offences, vandalism spotted, perceived problems etc. The Vice Chairman was of the opinion that it would be better if there was a separate report. Mr Crellin commented that more itemisation was required and after general discussion it was agreed that the Community Officer's report should contain a parks and open spaces section dealing with all the items referred to.

g) School Road Recreation Ground – Safety Flooring

The Surveyor made reference to the larger set of swings where problems had been experienced for some years over the safety flooring tiles. The Amenities Officer had obtained a quotation from the firm who were carrying out work at Jubilee Park for wetpour surfacing. This came to £2,387 but was based on the work being carried out whilst the contractors were still on island. If it was to be done at any other time then it would be at least another £1,000 added to cover transportation of men and materials as well as overnight accommodation. The Amenities Officer reported that £6,300 had been provided in the current year's budget for safety tiling. The Surveyor pointed out that if the matter was to go out to tender then all contractors would have to come to the island to carry out the work which would result in a greater cost. Mr Crellin enquired whether wetpour had been used before to which the Amenities Officer replied that it was under the timber structures in Onchan Park. He also stated that it was under the baby swings alongside the swings proposed to receive it (sic). After discussion it was

***RESOLVED**

“to accept the quotation of Lappset (UK) Limited for the provision and laying of wetpour safety flooring beneath one set of swings in the School Road Recreation Ground at a cost of £2,387 subject to being carried out whilst the pirate ship is being erected at Jubilee Playground”.

LA/06/11/3

MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

LA/06/11/04

PLAYGROUNDS/PARKS

a) Playground Log Books

The Amenities Officer advised that he had brought the books with him ready for signing. He further added that there was nothing to report other than what was already covered in his written report. It transpired that the books had not been countersigned by the Chairman of the Committee for some time and they were left for his signature relevant to the current period as well.

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 matters being discussed further:-

i) Store Area, Onchan Park

Mr Crellin queried the proposed treatment to the roof of the store area used partially to cover an oil tank and secondly as a small repair workshop for the boatman/mechanic during the summer season. The Amenities Officer responded that the concrete roof is beginning to become porous and therefore the intention was to cover the roof with insulation board and then felt to overcome the problems of dampness and potential condensation. Noted.

ii) Rocking Horse

The Vice Chairman commented that the rocking horse looked a lot better now that the new plastic inserts had been put in the seats.

iii) Crazy Golf

The Vice Chairman congratulated Bettacrete on the repairs they had undertaken the Amenities Officer added that such repairs were being undertaken at the cost of the contractor and that he would be purchasing rubber headed clubs in the spring of 2007 when he would normally back up existing stock with new stock. Noted. The final feature, a motorboat which was being supplied free of charge by the manufacturer would be put in place in time for the Easter opening.

c) Park Foreman's Report

Copies of the Park Foreman's report had been circulated with the agenda and noted with the following matters being discussed further:-

i) War Memorial

The Amenities Officer reported that polyanthus had been planted around the Onchan War Memorial. Mr Black made reference to the flags which were placed at the side of the War Memorial and asked if they were taken in at night. The Amenities Officer replied that they were. The task of putting them out and taking them in used to be voluntarily undertaken by the late Mr George Kewley but this year the work was being undertaken by the Amenities Officer. They were however being taken in a little earlier than in the past as his duties finish at 4.30pm.

d) Annual Tour of the Park 2005 and 2006

Copies of the lists of items noted had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following items were discussed further:-

- Sign at entrance to Onchan Park – main path requires cleaning up – **delete** as work undertaken
- Crazy Golf items – being damaged since painting – **delete** as repair now undertaken
- Pennington Hall – sand and gravel bins to be located at Hawthorn Villa Complex – in answer to question, the Amenities Officer advised that he understood the practice would now be mixing concrete and cement on the back of the pickup truck rather than at Pennington Hall as this would be out of bounds during the construction work. In answer to question from Mr Crellin he advised that the garage at Hawthorn Villa was now being partially used for the storage of motorboats but others were to be brought up to the site. With regard to the vintage lamp standards it was explained that these were obtained for the Church Road area and the remainder may one day be used through the Village Green. After discussion it was agreed that the Amenities Officer should speak with the successful contractor for the Pennington Hall scheme to see if it were possible to keep them stored onsite during the contract works.
- Tree limbing near park bungalows – The Amenities Officer undertook to establish any balances left in the account to cover additional limbing.

- Aviary and Shelter – consider alternative use – The Vice Chairman suggested that perhaps solar panels could be placed on the roof to generate power to run a water feature set inside the aviary. The Amenities Officer replied that the roof was greatly shaded by the trees in the adjoining garden and he was concerned for safety of any glass panels placed on the roof. Comment was made that if electricity was required it would be comparatively easy to lay a duct from the lighting column straight across to the building. The Administrative Officer queried whether the committee wished to remove the mesh from the aviary and demolish the dwarf wall below it as people were obviously going to look for the birds which were not there. The Vice Chairman suggested that perhaps if the mesh was left in place paintings could be put on the wall in behind. No decision was made.

e) Bowling Green Surrounds – Spraying

The Amenities Officer advised that the weeds had not been treated. It was intended however to use a watering can and spot each weed rather than overall spraying as there was a concern that this could blow onto the edges of the bowling green. The Vice Chairman enquired as to when this would be done and the Amenities Officer advised in the early spring once additional weeds began to appear. In answer to further question he confirmed that spotting could take place to those weeds that were apparent at the moment.

f) Signage Survey

The Amenities Officer had circulated prior to the meeting copies of photographs of the various large directional signs which were mostly green and yellow lettering on a white background. After discussion it was agreed that allowance be made in the estimates for the replacing of these signs with something more appropriate. With regard to the brown directional signs the Amenities Officer advised that these were in a reasonable condition and only needed slight adjustment in the direction they pointed in some cases. Noted.

LA/06/11/5
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) Jubilee Playground

The Amenities Officer advised that the construction crew had returned home for the weekend as they were held up waiting for hardcore material. The fencing posts sent for the bow top fencing did not provide for variable height and these had to be replaced. The work was otherwise progressing well. The Vice Chairman commented that she noted that seats had now been provided as requested.

ii) Tree Removal

The Amenities Officer confirmed that the Forestry Officer had condemned the large, old elm tree in the School Road Recreation Ground backing onto Nursery Avenue. The tree had a large hole in the trunk which had been there for many years. The Officer advised that the core of the tree was rotten and therefore the tree could blow over or fall over at any time.

In addition there was a small walnut tree within the children's playground which was dead and the Forestry Officer had indicated that it should be removed. A licence was not necessary in the case of the dead tree. Arrangements had been made with a contractor to remove both trees and make good to the grass surface after removal.

iii) Millennium Shelter

Whilst noting that the Amenities Officer had obtained a price for replacing three damaged glazed panels in the Millennium Shelter, members confirmed that those sections of glazing were to be removed in the overall comprehensive scheme for Port Jack Glen and therefore saw little point in replacing them at this stage.

b) Centenary Park – Soil Enhancement

The Amenities Officer advised that he was in agreement with the recommendation of the Foreman in so much that the whole area needed to have top soil added or have manure and green waste spread in order to build up the planting medium. Members concurred and reminded the Amenities Officer of the free offer from Commissioner Stowell of horse manure from his livery stables. Agreed the offer should be taken up and that the commissioners' tractor be used to spread the manure over the vacant area on the plateau prior to the depositing of soil which was being provided from time to time by a local building/haulage contractor.

c) Centenary Park – Foreman's Recommendations

Copies of the Foreman's Recommendations had been circulated with the agenda. The Administrative Officer made reference to the suggestion of planting willow, silver birch and elder in the wet area on the plateau and suggested that this could probably be carried out under the DAFF Small Woods Scheme. Enquiries to be made. With regard to providing paths of bark it was agreed that the overall soil condition should be improved first and the site enhanced prior to the laying out of paths.

d) Lazy Corner Bollard

The Amenities Officer explained that at sometime in the recent past the folding bollard on the concrete lay-by had been totally removed. The lay-by was originally provided in the scheme so that when commissioners' staff were cutting the grass or planting out, the vehicle could be parked safely off the road. It was also there for Telecom, DoT or any other utility when carrying out work in that location. Since the removal of the bollard a resident in the area had been using the concrete pad as a private parking space. A new bollard had now been installed. The Amenities Officer did not know when the bollard had been removed or by whom but named one of the utilities who had been working in the area of recent may have done so. After brief discussion it was agreed that the Amenities Officer should contact that utility and establish if they had the bollard.

e) School Road Playing Fields – Drainage

The Amenities Office reported that the drainage work was now complete. In answer to question, he advised that it was working and was effective. Nothing had been done in respect of the concrete path running through the recreation ground. Mr Crellin commented that there was still ponding on the car park but the Amenities Officer replied that that was nothing to do with the present drainage scheme it was a matter of levels on the car park itself.

LA/06/11/6

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:-

Port Jack Toilets – Electrics

Members noted with pleasure that the electric wiring to the lights on the steps of the adjoining property had now been properly tidied and was no longer vulnerable to unauthorised interference.

b) Regular Inspections

The Amenities Officer advised that the Community Officer visited all the public toilets in the district on a daily basis and he did a weekly inspection. He was satisfied with the cleaning and advised that the contractors now had a new employee dealing with the Onchan toilets as the previous employee had retired. The new employee had indicated that the stainless steel hinges on the Port Jack fittings required a daily spraying with WD40 and a light rub with wire wool. In answer to question, he advised that he very much doubted that this had been provided for in the new contract which was shortly to go out to tender. Arrangements to be made to ensure that it was incorporated.

The Amenities Officer then referred to photographs provided by the Chairman of the Committee at an earlier meeting and was of the opinion that the dark staining which showed on the photographs within the WC pans was due to the angle of the waste which tended to hold materials back. Comment was made that this would suggest the pans selected was not suitable for the purpose which it was intended but the Amenities Officer was confident that the fittings were now properly cleaned.

LA/06/11/7 **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 it was noted that no maintenance had been necessary at the library since the previous meeting.

LA/06/11/8 **YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Amenities Officer's Report

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

LA/06/11/9 **PROMOTIONS/ADVERTISING/PUBLIC INFORMATION**

a) Website

Copies of the statistics received from WebOne UK for September and October had been circulated with the agenda. It was noted that in September the total hits for the month were 42,342 compared to 27,326 the previous year. Page views were 14,169 compared to 9,208. Visits to the site were 6,509 compared to 4,502. During the month of October total hits were 46,321 compared to 35,595. Page views were 18,690 compared to 12,214 whilst visits were 7,787 compared to 5,040. Noted.

The Administrative Officer confirmed that the What's On Section was kept up to date although no photographs had been added since the visit of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Haddacks to Onchan.

b) **Enquiries**

There have been one enquiry during the month via the website. This related to Caley's the Bakers which the enquirer noted had closed down but understood one member of the family was still baking celebration cakes. Details of address and phone number were requested which had been provided after permission was obtained from the person in question. Noted.

c) **Lantern Light/Torchlight Procession**

The Administrative Officer advised that he had written to the Isle of Man Director of Coutts regarding the use of their car park to form up the procession but no reply had been received to date. Since that time a sold sign had been placed on the building and he had endeavoured to contact Chrystals Commercial to arrange contact with the new owner. Alternative locations for the commencement may be necessary. Mr Crellin suggested that No 2 car park in Onchan Park. Matter left with the Administrative Officer to progress.

d) **Estate Garden Competition**

There was no feed back from the prize presentation which took place on 13th October. The Administrative Officer, however, reminded members that the prize money had not been increased for several years and with a third prize of £15 there are very little plants could be purchased for that amount. After a general discussion it was

RESOLVED on the proposal of Mr Killey, seconded by Mr Black

"that the prize money in each category be increased by £5 per prize for future competitions".

e) **Christmas Trees**

The Amenities Officer confirmed that the annual letter enquiring if Christmas trees were required by the properties with brackets on Summerhill Road and Main Road had been distributed. The cost of the Christmas trees to the commissioners this year was £8.90 including VAT which was the price being quoted to the householders. Noted.

LA/06/11/10

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

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

LA/05/9/4(b) Port Jack Glen – Tenders for Comprehensive Scheme to be received in September – **Amend to relate to commencement of contract.**

LA /05/04/3(g) Surveyor to advise as to revised cost and balance for new light heads for Onchan Park. Work to commence immediately park closes in September. – **Delete as work on phase 1 carried out.**

LA/05/04/3(f) Wembley Football Arena – School Road Recreation Ground – Surveyor to obtain schemes/tenders – **Amend to cover commencement of contract now that schemes received.**

LA/06/01/7(c) Surveyors' Department to supervise creation of multi functional toilet at lower level using direct labour – **Delete as work now carried out.**

LA/06/11/11

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

LA/06/11/12

CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

a) Douglas Dog Training Club

The Administrative Officer advised that an invitation was received from the club for two representatives from the commissioners to attend their 25th Anniversary Prize Presentation and buffet at the Onchan Squash Club on 21st October. This was forwarded to the Board Chairman who was unable to attend as was the Vice Chairman. On the directive of the Chairman it was then passed to the Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee. The Committee Chairman has subsequently advised that he apologized to the club that he was unable to attend on the night in question. The commissioners were therefore not represented.

b) Isle of Man Oslamie Association

A note of thanks received from the Association with regard to their hiring of the YCC for a religious festival was read and noted.

c) Island in Bloom

Invitation reported as received from the Department of Tourism for representation by the commissioners at the prize presentation to take place on Friday 10th November at 2pm at the Villa Marina. The actual prize won by the commissioners was not indicated in the letter. After discussion it was agreed that the Board Chairman together with Mrs Megson, Vice Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, should attend.

d) IOM LTA

The Administrative Officer reported having been contacted by Mr Ian Watson of LTA who used to use the tennis courts in Onchan Park. It transpires they then moved to Mount Murray but the courts there are going to close and be used for other purposes. The LTA were therefore enquiring as to rates for use in Onchan Park. After discussion it was agreed to seek further information from them in respect of potential usage.

LA/06/11/13

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11th December 2006 at 7pm.

b) Remembrance Sunday

Mr Killey advised that he would be off island on Saturday 11th November and would be returning the following day but would miss the service at the Onchan War Memorial. He queried what was the position in respect of a Road Closing Order which Inspector Caine had advised was necessary. Mr Crellin responded that it was a matter for the British Legion but they had not applied for a Road Closing Order. A general discussion then took place and finally Mr Crellin asked that the Amenities Officer ensure that the War Memorial precincts were clean and tidy for the wreath laying ceremonies on both Saturday and Sunday. The Amenities Officer responded that he had staff coming in on both days. Noted.

Meeting terminated 10.36pm.

Policy and Finance committee meeting of 13th November 2006 to follow