

ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Hawthorn Villa,
Main Road, Onchan.

IN PUBLIC

20th June 2007

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, 25th June 2007

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

Yours faithfully,

P.M. HULME
CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CLERK

AGENDA

The order of business at every meeting of the authority shall be in accordance with that laid down in Standing Order No 4 unless varied by the Chairman at his discretion (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 21st May 2007 *(Minutes – APPENDIX 3)*
- 4. To dispose of business (if any) remaining or arising from the last and any intermediate extraordinary meeting.**

None
- 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.**
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 **29th May 2007** *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.1)*
- 7.2 Works and Cleansing Committee
- Meeting Held **4th June 2007** *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.2)*
- 7.3 Leisure and Amenities Committee
- Meeting Held **11th June 2007** *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.3)**
- 7.4 Policy and Finance Committee
- Meeting held **18th June 2007** *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.4)**
- 7.5 Rural Committee
- Meeting Held **16th May 2007** *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.5.1)**
- Meeting Held **13th June 2007** *(Minutes – APPENDIX 7.5.2)**
- *Minutes to follow*
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** *(to follow)*
- 1.2 Plans – **list circulated** *(to follow)*
- 1.3 Planning Recommendations, Rural Committee – **13TH June 2007** *(to follow)*
- 8.2 Manx Telecom – Public Payphone, Heywood Park – **letter circulated**
- 8.3 Mr A.S. Booth – Retirement Presentation – **correspondence circulated**
- 8.4 Department of Education – Freedom to Flourish – **letter circulated**
- 8.5 Ramsey Town Commissioners – Civic Sunday – **letter circulated**
- 8.6 Royal Air Forces Association – Concert Evening – **letter circulated**
- 8.7 IOM Veterans Day - **letter circulated**
- 8.8 RNLI Douglas Branch - **letter circulated**
- 8.9 Department of Tourism and Leisure – TT 2007 – **letter circulated**
- 8.10 Onchan Horticultural Society – Annual Show - **letter circulated**
- 8.11 Manx Arms Refurbishment
9. **To consider any report from the clerk or the surveyor**
- 9.1 Onchan Dog Control Byelaws 2007 – Final Draft – **copy circulated**
- 9.2 IOM Strategic Plan – **report circulated**
- 9.3 Mobile Phone Masts – **memorandum circulated**
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.

Extracts from Standing Orders relating to Agenda items 7, 11 and 12

Standing Order No. 5 - Notices of Motion

5. (1) Notice of every motion, other than a motion which under standing order 6 may be moved without notice, shall be given in writing and signed by a member of the Authority and delivered, at least five clear days before the next meeting of the Authority, at the office of the clerk, by whom it shall be dated, numbered in the order in which it is received and entered in a book which shall be open to the inspection of every member of the Commission.
- (2) The clerk shall set out in the summons for every meeting of the Authority all motions of which notice has been duly given in the order in which they have been received, unless the member giving such a notice intimated in writing, when giving it, that he proposes to move it at some later meeting or has since withdrawn it in writing.
- (3) If a motion thus set out in the summons be not moved either by a member who gave notice thereof or by some other member on his behalf it shall, unless postponed by consent of the Authority, be treated as withdrawn and shall not be moved without fresh notice.
- (4) If the subject matter of any motion of which notice has been duly given comes within the province of any committee or committees it shall, upon being moved and seconded, stand referred without discussion to such committee or committees, as the Authority may determine, for consideration and report.
- (5) Every motion shall be relevant to some matter in relation to which the commission have powers or duties or which affects the district.

Provided that the chairman may, if he considers it convenient and conducive to the dispatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward.

Standing Order No. 7 - Questions

7. (1) A member of the Authority may ask the chairman of a committee any question upon an item of the minutes, report or recommendations of a committee when that item is under consideration by the Authority.
- (2) A member of the Authority may:-
 - (a) if one clear day's notice in writing has been given to the clerk ask the Chairman or the Chairman of any committee any question on any matter in relation to which the Authority has powers or duties or which affects the district.
 - (b) with the permission of the chairman put to him or the chairman of any committee any questions relating to urgent business, of which such notice has not been given; but a copy of any such question shall, if possible, be delivered to the clerk not later than three o'clock in the afternoon of the day of the meeting.
- (3) Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer.
- (4) An answer may take the form of:-
 - (a) a direct oral answer; or
 - (b) where the desired information is contained in a publication of the Authority, a reference to that publication; or
 - (c) where the reply to the question cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated to members of the Authority.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 21st May 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr A.T.W. Norton (Chairman)
Mr S.T. Black
Mr D. Crellin
Mrs J. Kelly
Mr M.J. Kennaugh
Mr E.D.R. Killey
Mrs W. Megson
Mr B. Stowell
Mr J.K. Watterson

Apologies: Mr G.K. Astill

In Attendance: Mr P.M. Hulme (Chief Executive/Clerk)
Mr B. T. Price (District Surveyor)
Mr T. R. Craig (Deputy Clerk)

C07/05/02/01
BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE DEALT WITH BY STATUTE

None.

C07/05/02/02
MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on 16th April 2007, extraordinary meeting held on 20th April 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Onchan District Commissioners held on 1st May 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered and agreed subject to the following amendment:-

“that the entry under Election of Chairmen and Members of Committees be amended to read:-

On the proposal of Mr Black, seconded by Mrs Kelly, it was unanimously RESOLVED that the Chairmen and Membership of the various Committees of the Authority be established in accordance with the recommendations of the Selection Committee. “

C07/05/02/03
BUSINESS ARISING

None.

C07/05/02/04
ANY BUSINESS REMAINING OR ARISING FROM MEETINGS HELD PRIOR TO THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING

None.

C07/05/02/05
ANY BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C07/05/02/06
HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting of 23rd April 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. **H07/04/01/07(3) – Steps from Patio Doors**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to *accept the recommendation of the Housing Committee that the quotation of £2,931 from Sapphire Developments be accepted.*

C07/05/02/07
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Housing Cleansing Committee Meeting held on 23rd April 2007 be and are hereby received.

C07/05/02/08
WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting of 30th April 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. There were no questions arising therefrom.

C07/05/02/09
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 30th April 2007 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C07/05/02/10
LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2007, copies of which, having been circulated at the meeting, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. **LA/07/04/04 – Playground/Parks**

Questions raised by members regarding progress on the Park and the signing of the playground log books were noted by the Chairman of the Committee, who undertook to provide written answer under Standing Order 7.4(c).

In answer to further question regarding the provision of a second set of goal posts at Onchan Park, the Chairman of the Committee indicated that the matter would be put back on the agenda for further discussion.

C07/05/02/11
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2007 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C07/05/02/12
LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 2nd May 2007, copies of which, having been circulated at the meeting, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. **LA07/05/06(b) – Centenary Park – Soil Enhancement**

In answer to question, the Chairman of the Committee advised that the Parks Foreman will be in touch with the supplier of manure in the near future. A Member noted that waste wood was currently being burnt in Centenary Park, and the District Surveyor was asked to investigate the matter further.

2. **LA07/05/05(a) – Playground Log Books**

In answer to question, the Chairman of the Committee advised that playground log books were now being signed by the appropriate officers. There was brief discussion regarding the liability of the Authority should the books not be signed, and it was the advice of the Clerk that there was no additional liability.

3. **LA07/05/05(p) – Any Other Business – Bumper Boats**

A Member noted that bumper boats were not in use over one weekend and was advised by the Chairman of the Committee that the matter was being investigated.

4. **Shredder**

It was noted by a Member that the shredder did not appear to have been used for some time and a report on its last date of use was asked for. The Chairman of the Committee undertook to provide answer at the next meeting.

5. **LA07/05/10(a) - Website**

A Member raised the possibility of gaining income from the website by agreeing to have sponsors adverts placed on various pages, and after general discussion it was felt that any advert may be seen as the Commissioners' endorsement of that supplier. A Member asked for the clarification of the terms "hit" and "page view" which the Chairman of the Committee undertook to provide.

6. **LA07/05/14(c) – Onchan Youth Development Fund**

There was brief discussion regarding financial support to be provided under this heading, and the Chairman of the Committee confirmed that nothing specific had been resolved for this particular year and suggestions were welcome.

C07/05/02/13

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 2nd May 2007 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C07/05/02/14

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 14th May 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. There were no questions arising therefrom.

C07/05/02/15

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 14th May 2007, be and are hereby received. It was further unanimously **RESOLVED that the statement of accounts provided with the minutes are approved.**

C07/05/02/16

RURAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members noted that the minutes of the Rural Committee meeting held on 4th April 2007 and 16th May 2007 were to follow.

LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

1.1 The following planning communications were considered:-

P A NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
07/0296	19 Bemahague Avenue – Patio Door	ODC recommendation - Refusal Planning decision – Approval District Surveyor reported that planning approval had been granted.
07/0333	5 Marine View Close – extend existing driveway	ODC recommendation - Refusal Planning decision – Approval District Surveyor reported that planning approval had been granted.

1.2 The following plans were considered:-

1.2.1 PA 07/00827 – 37 Sunningdale Drive – Erection of Conservatory

After brief discussion it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the application as submitted, with notification to next door neighbour.

1.2.2 PA 07/00834 – Slegaby and Ballacottier – Erection of Advertising Signage

After brief discussion the application was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the application as submitted.

1.2.3. PA 07/00835 – 19 Third Avenue – Creation of Vehicle Hardstanding and access on to highway

After extended discussion regarding the Commissioners' policy on retention of front gardens, a proposal to permit removal of all of the front garden failed.

For: Messrs Crellin and Black

Against: Messrs Stowell, Watterson, Kennaugh, Killey, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Megson

It was **RESOLVED** that the application was refused without prejudice to a resubmission indicating a loss of no more than 50% of the garden.

1.2.4 PA07/00843 – 44 Groudle Road – Change of Roof Finish

After brief discussion it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the application as submitted.

1.3 Rural Plans

1.3.1 PA07/668 – Glenville House – Car Port

After brief discussion it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation for approval of the application as submitted from the Rural Committee.

1.3.2 PA07/802 – Woodland Heights, Ashley Road – Construction of New Two Storey Wing

After discussion, Members noted the recommendation of the Rural Committee but felt that additional conditions should be imposed on any approval. It was **RESOLVED** that the application be approved with the condition that the altered and extended property can only be used as one dwelling.

For: Messrs Stowell, Watterson, Kennaugh, Crellin, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Megson

Abstained: Messrs Black, Killey and Norton

2. Richmond Hill Consultative Committee

Members noted receipt of the minutes of the 11th January 2007. Mr Stowell advised Members that as a result of the latest meeting, they will be asked to consider the effects of reduction in temperature of the secondary waste stream, the display of minutes of the Committee, and the requirement to achieve a higher standard in emissions control. With respect to the last point, the question that needs to be answered is "Should the current equipment be kept until the end of its working life, or should it be replaced earlier?". Mr Stowell indicated that he would welcome Members views prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

C07/05/02/18

CLERKS REPORT

None.

C07/05/02/19

DISTRICT SURVEYORS REPORT

None.

C07/05/02/20

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised Members that he had attended the following functions in an official capacity:-

- 5th May 2007 – Played bowls with Onchan Ladies Bowling Club
- 9th May 2007 – Attended public meeting regarding amalgamation of the Rural Ward
- 10th May 2007 – Attended the presentation of the Harvey Briggs Cup at Onchan Library
- 17th May 2007 – Attended Municipal Association AGM
- 20th May 2007 – Attended Heywood Court Summer Fayre

The Chairman reminded Members that Onchan District Commissioners' Civic Sunday would be on 1st July 2007 at 3.00 p.m.

C07/05/02/21

QUESTIONS

None.

C07/05/02/22

MOTIONS

1. Motion 52 - Amalgamation of the Wards.

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

"1. If adopted this Motion will:-

- (i) *take precedence over, but run concurrently, with a similar Motion Numbered 47 and dated 24th April 2006.*
 - (ii) *Maintain a mandate for the Officers and staff of the Authority for the continuous acquisition of legal services whilst allowing the Officers of the Authority to, (for the absolute avoidance of the possibility of legal challenge), retrace the necessary procedures and ensure that due process is followed precisely in every instance.*
 - (iii) *But will not invalidate, rescind, or otherwise affect Motion 47. Which will remain as Board Policy until deemed redundant by virtue of the successful implementation or enactment of this Motion.*
2. *The presentation of this Motion does not deem, or in any way suggest, that the previous Motion Numbered 47 and dated 24th April 2006 is flawed, or the procedures adopted throughout its implementation thus far are in any way unsound, inaccurate or inappropriate.*

3. *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.*
4. *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.*
5. *With all aspects of this Motion "Time Should Be Considered Of The Essence"?*
6. *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 2007 or as soon as practicable thereafter should logistics dictate."*

The Motion was laid before the Board.

Mr Stowell spoke briefly that the motion was one of minor rectification to Motion 47 and noted that Members had attended the public meeting on 9th May 2007 where they had received the feedback of the electorate. He noted that there was a clear will to support the Bill currently before the House of Keys and that his Motion was most specific in regard to the Wards only, not the reduction in number of the Commissioners.

The Motion was seconded by Mrs Megson, and in turn all Members indicated their support.

Concerns were expressed that the consultation process had originally not been carried out in a proper manner and the lack of representation from people within the rural community may mean a lack of local knowledge during discussion. All Members were conscious that they should be seen to act in unison on this occasion, and while noting the concerns, expressed satisfaction that the Board were ready to move forward with the proposal.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that **Motion 52 dated 19th March 2007 be adopted by the Board.**

C07/05/02/23
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan on Monday 29th May 2007, commencing at 7.00 pm.

Present: Mr M.J. Kennaugh (Chairman)
Mr G.K. Astill
Mr S T Black
Mrs J. Kelly

Apologies: Mr A.T.W. Norton

In attendance: Mr T R Craig (Deputy Clerk)
Mr A B Sutherland (Housing Maintenance Manager)
Mr K.W. Bragg (Chief Cashier)

H07/05/01/01 **MINUTES**

The Deputy Clerk apologised to Members for not having the minutes prepared for signature from the Housing Committee meeting dated 23rd April 2007, although it was noted that they had been circulated with the Board meeting papers prior to 21st May 2007. It was agreed that the Chairman would sign the minutes as convenient.

H07/05/01/02 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1. H07/04/01/03(1) – Sky Plus Dish at Marion Court

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that he had been in touch with Sky and was awaiting their calculation of the increased costs.

H07/05/01/03 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

1. H07/04/01/04(1) – Ballachrink Bus Stop

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that he had confirmed with the Department of Tourism and Leisure the agreed site for the bus stop and the matter was now with them to gain a Bus Stop Order from the Department of Transport.

H07/05/01/04 **HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES BUSINESS**

1. Maintenance Report

The report of the Housing Maintenance Manager, dated 22nd May 2007, having been circulated with the agenda was considered and noted. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes at *Appendix A*.

It was also noted that 29 Ashley Park was to be allocated at the next full meeting of the Board.

2. H07/03/01/05(2) - Asbestos Surveys

The Housing Maintenance Manager reported that the only known occurrence since the last meeting was in 33 Main Road, formerly occupied by Robinsons. Asbestos had been found around the boiler serving Fire Service Headquarters in Elm Tree House, and steps were being taken to replace the boiler and remove the asbestos in an approved fashion.

3. Any Other Business Arising

(a) Solar Panel Heating

The Chairman raised the potential for tenants to opt for solar panel heating replacing the gas boiler, and following discussion, it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would write to Department of Local Government and the Environment seeking their views.

H07/05/01/05

SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

The report of the Housing Maintenance Manager dated 22nd May 2007 having been circulated with the agenda was considered and noted. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes at *Appendix B*.

H07/05/01/06

HEYWOOD COURT MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

The report of the Housing Maintenance Manager, dated 22nd May 2007, having been circulated with the agenda was considered and noted. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes at *Appendix B*.

2. H07/04/01/27(1) – Refuse Management

Following discussion, Members agreed to closure of the bin store at the rear of the building, and residents be asked to take their refuse to the two bin stores at the front of the building.

3. H07/04/01/07(3) – Steps from Patio Doors

The Housing Maintenance Manager reported that the fitting of the steps was in progress.

4. H07/04/01/07(4) – Summer Fair

Members noted that thanks had been received from the residents for their attendance at the Summer Fair.

H07/05/01/07

GARAGE MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

The report of the Housing Maintenance Manager, dated 22nd May 2007, having been circulated with the agenda is attached to the minutes at *Appendix C*.

(a) Lane rear of School Road and Ballachrink Drive

In addition to the written report, a verbal report was received on the state of the lane serving garages and properties to the rear of School Road and Ballachrink Drive. The Housing Maintenance Manager indicated that the lane was currently unadopted and required patching of the tarmac in two areas. Following further discussion, and before progressing with the tarmac the Housing Maintenance Manager was asked to write to the Department of Transport and obtain their views on what work would be required to bring the lane up to such a standard where it could be adopted.

H07/05/01/08

PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE

1. Planned Maintenance Report

The Housing Maintenance Manager advised the Committee that £211,959 had been approved by the Department of Local Government and the Environment for the electrical rewire scheme in Nursery Avenue, and Easthopes were to start work after the T.T. fortnight. Members noted that a further meeting was to be held with representatives of Department of Local Government and the Environment on 13th June to report on Park Bungalows and other projects ongoing.

H07/05/01/09

HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

Members noted that there had been no accidents or incidents in the reporting period.

H07/05/01/10

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

None.

H07/05/01/11

OFFICERS REPORT

1. Housing Allocations

The Deputy Clerk reported that a house swap previously approved by the Board between an Onchan tenant and a tenant from Department of Local Government and Environment stock in Braddan had been undertaken at the end of May with no problems.

2. H07/04/01/12(2) - Barrule Drive Parking

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Department of Local Government and the Environment had agreed to these works being integrated in the School Road improvement scheme, and funding was being sought accordingly.

3. H07/04/01/12(3) – Quality Assurance

The Deputy Clerk advised that although this matter had been considered by the Board in recent past it was still important to progress in order to comply with Department of Local Government and the Environment's standards. It was agreed that Mrs Kelly bring forward a Motion to put the matter before the Board at an early date.

07/05/01/12

ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

1. Sheltered Housing Authorities

Members considered the invitation from Department of Local Government and the Environment to a meeting regarding sheltered housing issues at Braddan Parish Commissioners Offices on Monday 2nd July at 2.00p.m. It was agreed that the Committee Chairman and the Deputy Clerk would attend.

H07/05/01/13

FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Housing Maintenance Expenditure

Members noted that a report from the Chief Finance Officer was not available.

2. EPC Maintenance Expenditure

Members noted that a report from the Chief Finance Officer was not available.

3. Rent/Mesne Profit Receipt Report

The report provided by the Chief Cashier was circulated and noted. The Chief Cashier provided Members with an up to date position on rent debt and progress on recovery through the Courts.

4. Garage Rental Receipt Report

Members noted that there was no report from the Chief Finance Officer.

5. Housing and EPC Deficiency Claims

Members noted that there was no report from the Chief Finance Officer.

6. Repossession Action

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that one repossession was to take place at the end of May and the Coroner had been advised accordingly. There was brief discussion regarding management of press interest, and it was agreed that any comment in the press should indicate that Onchan District Commissioners were taking a robust management with regard to rent debt.

H07/05/01/14

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

H07/05/01/15

HOUSING APPLICATIONS

1. Housing Application Waiting List

Members noted that due to the absence on sick leave of the Housing Officer, the list was not available.

2. New Applications Received

Members noted that due to the absence on sick leave of the Housing Officer, the list was not available.

3. Review of Applications

None.

4. Appeals

None.

H07/05/01/16

SHELTERED HOUSING APPLICATIONS

1. Sheltered Housing Application Waiting List

Members noted that due to the absence on sick leave of the Housing Officer, the list was not available.

2. New Applications

Members noted that due to the absence on sick leave of the Housing Officer, the list was not available.

3. Review of Applications

None.

4. Appeals

None.

H07/05/01/17

HOUSING/TRANSFER APPLICATIONS – UPDATES AND SURGERY VISIT REPORTS

1. Transfer Applications

Members noted that due to the absence on sick leave of the Housing Officer, the list was not available.

2. **Letters/File Notes/Reports**

Members noted that due to the absence on sick leave of the Housing Officer, the list was not available.

3. **Surgery Visit Reports**

Members considered copies of the reports taken from the Surgery on 24th May 2007 and received update reports from the Deputy Clerk regarding action taken.

4. **Transfer Sheltered Housing Applications Review**

None.

H07/05/01/18

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Housing Committee would take place on Monday 2nd July, 2007, commencing at 7.00 pm.

2. **Commissioners' Surgery**

It was noted that the next Commissioners' Surgery was to take place on Thursday 28th June 2007 at 6.30 p.m..

In attendance Mrs J. Kelly and T.B.A.

H07/05/01/19

REVIEW OF MINUTES/RESOLUTIONS

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should decide upon any minutes to be placed in the Private (In Committee) Section of the minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom at Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 4th June 2007 at 7.00p.m.

Present Mr B. Stowell (In the chair)
Mr G.K. Astill
Mr D. Crellin
Mr S.T. Black
Mr A.T.W. Norton JP

In Attendance Mr B.T. Price (District Surveyor)

WC/07/06/1
MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

WC/07/06/2
MATTERS ARISING

a) **Shoprite Land/Lane**

The Surveyor advised that he had spoken with Shoprite Representatives in respect of this matter, but progress was slow. Discussion ensued wherein it was recommended that a further push be made by the Surveyor, and if there was little improvement with progress the Committee Chairman should make representation.

WC/07/06/3
MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

WC/07/06/4
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND OTHER CLEANSING BUSINESS

a) **Officer's Report**

Copies of the Waste Operations manager's Report had been circulated and the contents were noted.

b) **Braddan Contract**

The Surveyor advised the members that revisions to the document had been made and the final format was with Braddan and due for consideration at their meeting of 12th June 2007.

WC/07/06/5
STREET LIGHTING/SIGNS/FURNITURE

a) **Officer's Report**

Copies of the District Surveyor's Report had been circulated and the contents noted with reference to the number of columns that required painting prior to the end of the contract.

b) **Other Matters**

It was noted that the new street name plates now included the Onchan Crest, but were generally smaller than previous signs and looked out of place on the large backing board. In an attempt to blend the new signs in, it was

RESOLVED to paint the backing board of those signs already erected, and replace any backing boards for future new signs.

The Committee was advised by a member that the sign for Mount View Close was missing. The Surveyor agreed to look into the matter and arrange for its replacement.

WC/07/06/6

DRAINAGE FUNCTION

a) **Officer's Report**

Copies of the District Surveyor's Report had been circulated and the contents noted.

In answer to questions the Surveyor advised that the majority of works being carried out by Insituform were to the east of the district, and that the works had been completed to Governors Road.

WC/07/06/7

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following new planning applications were considered:-

PA07/00876 – Extension, 20 Groudle Road for Mr D. Campbell

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application. Notify 22 Groudle Road.

PA 07/00883 – 22 Sheltered Housing Apartments with wardens and ancillary accommodation, Former Follies Cabaret Restaurant Site, Harbour Road for Howstrake Developments Ltd

The Surveyor identified the changes to the proposals from the previous submissions for this site. After discussion it was

RESOLVED to recommend approval subject to a requirement for the developer to carry out percolation tests to establish the sizing for the proposed soakaways.

PA07/00894 – Extension, 20 Victoria Avenue for Mr & Mrs McGonagle

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application. Notify 18 Victoria Avenue.

PA07/00912 – Sunlounge Extension. 10 Windermere Avenue for Mr & Mrs Hamilton

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application.

PA07/00943 – Installation of replacement windows and door on front elevation, 6 Nursery Avenue for Ms C.E. Curphey

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application.

PA07/00946 – Creation of an additional window, 27 Groudle View for Mr & Mrs R. Cowin

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application.

WC/07/06/8

PLANNING COMMUNICATIONS

The District Surveyor reported on the following planning communication:-

a) **Planning Decisions**

PA07/00487 – Demolish single storey dwelling and erect new two storey dwelling with integral garage, 125 King Edward Road

The District Surveyor advised members that the application had been approved by the Planning Department against the recommendation of the Committee. After discussion it was

RESOLVED not to seek an appeal of the decision.

b) **Isle of Man Strategic Plan**

A report from the District Surveyor had been circulated and the contents were noted with further discussion about the implications of the document on the future of Onchan. The matter was to be referred to the Board with a

RECOMMENDATION that the Authority have no objections to development, but it has to be controlled development.

Members were advised of correspondence from Commissioner Megson in relation to the Island Strategic Plan and it was

RESOLVED that as the matter is to be referred to the Board, Mrs Megson can raise her comments at that meeting.

WC/07/06/9

CAPITAL AND REVENUE SCHEMES

a) Officer's Report

Copies of the report had been circulated and the contents noted with the following items discussed further:-

i) Pennington Hall

In answer to questions the Surveyor advised that the temporary accommodation would be in place in ample time for the Parks Staff to transfer out of Pennington Hall before commencement of the demolition.

ii) Port Jack Glen

The Surveyor advised members that works were nearing completion and in response to questions further advised that he would ensure that there is adequate lighting to the Millennium Shelter following its alterations.

WC/07/06/10

HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS

Members raised concerns over the road markings to Mount View Road/Close and were advised by the Surveyor that the matter had been referred to the Department of Transport who had put it on their schedule but no date was available as to when the works would be done.

Members also questioned the Surveyor on large vehicles parking in Victoria Avenue. It was resolved that the Surveyor should instigate and refer the matter to the Police as necessary.

WC/07/06/11

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

a) Tree and High Hedges Fee Order

A copy of the order had been circulated and was noted.

b) Ashley Hill School

A letter from the Headmistress of Ashley Hill School requesting additional street lighting had been circulated.

The Surveyor produced a plan indicating the location of existing lighting and after discussion it was **RESOLVED** to *replace the existing heads with new metal halide lamps which produce a brighter light and then review the lighting.*

c) Questions from Commissioner Mrs Megson

Mrs Megson had submitted a question asking if any Island Authority undertook a green waste collection. The Surveyor advised the meeting that Malew Parish Commissioners did carry out such a function.

WC/07/06/12
OUTSTANDING MATTERS

A copy of the list had been circulated and noted with comment in respect of the disabled parking space in Kelvin Road to be added to the list.

WC/07/06/13
MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

WC/07/06/14
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

Monday 9th July 2007 at 7pm. The Surveyor advised the meeting that he would not be available on that date and asked if the planning matters could be dealt with on the preceding Friday.

Plans meetings are to be held on Wednesday 20th June 2007 at 9.30am and Friday 6th July 2007 at 9.30am.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8.45pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**, held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 11th June 2007 at 7.42pm.

Present: Mrs W. Megson (in the chair), Mrs J. Kelly, Messrs S.T. Black, A.T.W. Norton and J.K. Watterson

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

LA/07/06/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

LA/07/06/2
MATTERS ARISING NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

The Chairman enquired as to members views in respect of inviting the Librarian, Parks Foreman and Community Officer to meetings periodically. Mr Watterson was of the opinion that if the staff were desirous to attend then once every six months would be sufficient. Mr Black saw little advantage in the proposal and Mrs Kelly felt twice a year would suffice. The consensus was therefore to invite the office holders to attend meetings of the committee twice per year.

LA/07/06/3
MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

LA/07/06/4
PLAYGROUNDS/PARKS

a) **Playground Log Books**

The Amenities Officer advised that the rope ladder on the unit in the Taverners Playground was beginning to wear with a strand of the metal hosier coming through the sisal rope. This had been cut off and a new rope ladder would be placed on order the following day. Noted.

b) **Amenities Officer's Report**

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

i) **Playground Inspections**

Mr Watterson made reference to his suggestion which the committee had taken up in respect of the commissioners' insurers carrying out an annual inspection of playground equipment. He suggested that there may be other authorities who have services carried out or tackle other functions in a different way and therefore there maybe a benefit in sharing experiences and information. After further discussion it was agreed to refer the matter to the Isle of Man Municipal Association for consultation with its member authorities.

ii) **Safety Surfacing**

The Amenities Officer advised that he had obtained material for carrying out a minor repair to the wetpour surfacing under part of the Taverners Playground equipment. He had carried out his inspection of all safety flooring in the company of the Community Officer and photographs had been taken. Allowance to be made in the following year's estimates for carrying out the necessary work of renewal/replacement. A full report would be provided at the next meeting.

c) **Park Foreman's Report**

Copies of the Park Foreman's report covering the period 2nd May to 11th June 2007 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted with the following points being discussed further:-

i) Planting Out

The Amenities Officer reported that all the bedding out had now taken place. Mr Watterson made comment in respect of observed practices when working on the highway which appeared to be contrary to health and safety recommendations. The Amenities Officer to follow up. The Chairman commented that the village centre was beginning to look nice with the new planting.

ii) Sickness

The Amenities Officer confirmed that all members of staff were now back on duty.

d) Community Officer's Report

Copies of the Community Officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The Chairman expressed thanks to the Community Officer for his report.

e) Planning Application for Port-a-Cabin and Compound

The Amenities Officer reported that the planning application for the temporary port-a-cabin and compound within Onchan Park during the reconstruction of Pennington Hall had been submitted. Members noted that the application had been advertised in the press of recent and therefore it was possibly a further 8 weeks before a decision was known.

f) Park Takings

Copies of the takings for each of the facilities in Onchan Park for the period week ending 8th April to week ending 10th June 2007 were circulated at the meeting. Members noted the income for the TT period which was satisfactory. It was further noted, however, that takings over the Easter period exceeded those from practice week and TT week. The Chairman made reference to the bigger picture in respect of takings, having regard to weather conditions and after a discussion it was agreed that future figures should show the previous year's figures alongside for comparison and that at the end of the season an analysis of takings for each facility be provided in graph form so that the committee can establish what facilities need to be replaced with more up-to-date attractions.

g) Damage to Pick-Up Vehicle

The Amenities Officer reported that the police had concluded their enquiries with no further action being taken.

h) Bumper Boats Not in Use

The Amenities Officer had established that on the afternoon in question two of the engines had failed resulting in a long queue for the bumper boats and to overcome that problem the staff stopped selling tickets for that attraction.

j) Skateboard Park - Tenders

The Amenities Officer informed members that he had been advised by the Surveyor that at the meeting of the Works and Cleansing Committee held the previous week the skateboard park was put on hold as the funds were being diverted to the Wembley Arena project. Concern was expressed that the committee in question did not have the authority to redeploy the budget of another committee. The Chairman offered to investigate the matter.

k) STRI Report

Copies of the report from the Agronomist of the Sports Turf Research Institute had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Copies of the report without the recommendations had been circulated to the secretaries of the bowling clubs. Mr Watterson made reference to the importance of the professional report and then a discussion ensued in respect of the recommendation regarding verti-drain treatment of

the football pitch. The Amenities Officer confirmed that no provision had been made in the current year's estimates for this work to be carried out and therefore the matter would have to be held over until the following financial year. Mrs Kelly proposed that contact be made with Onchan AFC regarding sharing costs in respect of the treatment but there was no seconder.

LA/07/06/5
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 items being discussed further:-

i) Jubilee Playground

The Amenities Officer confirmed the grass seed had been spread but now rain was awaited. With regard to the damaged sections of the pirate ship one of the parents of the culprits was a tradesman and offered to install the replacement parts which were being supplied by Lappset. A general discussion took place and it was agreed that the Amenities Officer should check whether there were no drinking signs on the playground and he was also to arrange for plank seating to be placed close to the amenities for parents. It was confirmed that there were a set of swings for toddlers and the under section of the pirate ship was designed for children of that age group.

ii) Festoon Lighting

Members noted that more detailed costings would be provided at the next meeting.

iii) Village Décor

The Amenities Officer was congratulated on his initiative in putting out the flags for TT Week. Only two had been stolen from the Governors Bridge area.

iv) Port Jack Glen

The amenities Officer advised that the Park Foreman's intended to cut the grass in the glen during the following week and it was his intention also to cut down the gorse and growth on the rocky sections. The Chairman made reference to the amendments made to the entrance shelter and thanked the Administrative Officer who produced the original sketch plans.

b) Centenary Park – Soil Enhancement

The Amenities Officer advised that this had not been carried out as all the park staff had been involved in planting out the bedding plants and furthermore he did not think it would be wise to cart manure along the TT Course until such time as the races were over. Noted. In answer to question regarding the burning of wood at Centenary Park he advised that this was wooden pallets which had been collected from throughout the village playgrounds as used for BMX jumps. The alternative of breaking the pallets apart and de-nailing prior to shredding was a time consuming exercise.

c) Centenary Park/Highfield Crescent - Wayleave

Members had received copies of an offer from the Isle of Man Water Authority in respect of a wayleave for a water main to pass partially through Centenary Park and across the grassed area at the junction of Highfield Crescent and Highfield Close. In addition there was a request and offer in respect of having a general compound on Centenary Park during the 20 weeks contract for the new water main and a smaller compound on the grassed area to hold pipes that were being used in that area. Mr Watterson reminded members of the co-operation received from the Water Authority a few years previous in the creation of the Clype and Kerrowdhoo walks and he therefore proposed that the offer be accepted. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED

“to recommend the acceptance of the offer from the Isle of Man Water Authority in respect of the wayleave for a new water main to pass through 32 metres of Centenary Park and 48 metres across the grassed triangle of land at Highfield Crescent in the sum of £1,000 and a payment of £250 for the use of an area

approximately 20 metres by 10 metres at Highfield Crescent for the storage of pipes, together with a payment of £350 for an area approximately 50 metres by 20 metres in Centenary Park as a storage area/compound. Duration of the storage areas being approximately 20 weeks from commencement of the contract”.

Resolved unanimously.

d) Memorial Seat – Sea Cliff Road

The Amenities Officer advised that the concrete ends and timbers had all been prepared but he was awaiting a contractor to install the concrete base. He was hoping that the work would be carried out during the following week. Noted.

LA/07/06/6

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

a) Amenities Officer’s Report

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

b) Spiders Webs

The Amenities Officer advised that the electrician had cleaned all the shades in the toilet lights removing anything that was in them or on them.

c) Other Matters

The Amenities Officer informed members that he had purchased new signs to be placed outside the ladies toilets during cleaning periods which informed patrons that the toilets were being cleaned by a male operative.

LA/07/06/7

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’s Report

Copies of the Amenities Officer’s report advising that the fire extinguishers had been tested and a new certificate issued was noted. Mr Watterson enquired whether the number and type of extinguishers in the library had been reassessed based on the increased number of computers now in use. Agreed that the Amenities Officer check whether account had been taken of the increase in electrical equipment. Continuing with the subject Mr Watterson enquired whether the library staff or indeed the staff in the commissioners office had received training on how to operate a fire extinguisher and if not then he suggested that when extinguishers are to be tested by setting off that this be incorporated in a training session. The Amenities Officer to progress with the District Surveyor.

LA/07/06/8

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. The Chairman enquired as to what had happened with the proposals for rearranging the toilets at the upper level and providing additional storage space. Members were reminded that provision was to have been made in the current year’s estimates but this was cut out along with other items.

b) Use of YCC by Children of Chernobyl

The Administrative Officer reported having written to the organisers of the Friends of Chernobyl's Children (Isle of Man) and they had accepted the condition of leaving the premises in a clean condition following the hire periods. Noted.

c) Youth Development Fund

The Administrative Officer advised that the Booking Clerk to the YCC who handled the Youth Development Fund was still on sick leave and therefore an advertisement for applications for financial assistance from youths had not yet been attended. Mr Norton informed members that the collection to be taken at the forthcoming Civic Sunday was to be divided equally between the Onchan Youth Development Fund and the Onchan Live at Home Scheme.

LA/07/06/9

PROMOTIONS/ADVERTISING/PUBLIC INFORMATION

a) Website

Statistics received from WebOne UK regarding the Onchan Website for the month of May had been received.

Total hits for the month were 53,253 compared to 40,452 in 2006. Page views were 21,875 compared to 14,473. Visits were 12,810 compared to 6,807.

During the month the Administrative Officer had circulated a memo to members explaining the various terminology as requested.

Mr Norton expressed a concern that he thought the information on each commissioner was too lengthy and detailed and equally the photographs were out of date. The Administrative Officer responded that the information on the website was that provided by the commissioners and in some instances since being placed on the website they had requested additional or amended information be added. The photographs could be replaced if the necessary arrangements were made for all members to be professionally photographed and with regard to the information on each commissioner then a decision needed to be made as to the outline of what was regarded suitable and then all entries could work to that formula. Members to consider the matter and it would be discussed at the next meeting. Mr Watterson was of the opinion that there seemed little point in changing the website as it stood at the moment as in less than a years time there would be an election with potentially some different members and then the site could be changed as part of an overall exercise.

b) Village Fair

The Administrative Officer gave an update in respect of work carried out to date regarding the village fair. A discussion took place in respect of the Onchan Youth Development Fund and finally it was agreed that a bucket collection should be undertaken during the afternoon.

c) Vikings in Onchan Park

Copies of correspondence to and from the Viking Festival Events Manager at Peel had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted the potential of a Viking skill display taking place in Onchan Park on a day between 1st and 8th July 2007. Further details were awaited pending information as to how many Vikings from Russia and elsewhere were coming to the Island. After discussion, on the proposal of Mr Watterson, it was unanimously agreed that the principle of the Vikings performing in Onchan Park and holding a bucket collection be approved. Finalised details left to the Administrative Officer.

d) Talk on Onchan

Request noted as received from the Onchan Ladies Club for a representative from the commissioners to address the group on the History of Onchan. The matter had been referred to the Administrative Officer by the Clerk for action. Noted.

e) Christmas Lighting

The Amenities Officer advised that the faulty lighting as used on the elm tree had been returned to the manufacturer and a full refund received. He had ordered new lighting which came in 12 metre lengths and therefore if, for some reason, a section failed then the remainder of the tree would still be lit. Noted.

LA/07/06/10

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/07/05/17(a) Amenities Officer to contact the owners of 29 Ridgeway Road re cutting back hedge in Taverners Playground – Delete as meeting has now taken place.

LA/07/06/11

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

LA/07/06/12

CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Onchan Ladies Bowling Club

Letter reported as received from Onchan Ladies Bowling Club expressing their thanks for the efforts which had taken place on the crown green bowling green and surrounding area as well as Onchan Park in general. After a brief discussion it was agreed that a copy of the letter should be provided to the Parks Foremen for the information of his staff.

LA/07/06/13

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of Next Meeting

Monday 16th July 2007 at 7pm..

b) Absence

Mr Watterson gave inclusive dates in July when he would be on holiday and therefore not be available for the inspection of Onchan Park.

c) Grass Cutting Equipment

The Chairman advised as to a note received from Commissioner Kennaugh suggesting that any future sit on mower to be purchased have a mulching facility rather than picking up the grass. The Amenities Officer advised that it was possibly only 18 months since the last sit on mower was purchased and it would be some years before it will need replacing. He did not favour the mulching system as this would still result in grass blowing onto footpaths etc which was the whole reason for collecting it at the moment. Noted.

d) Action Sheet

The Chairman referred to the action sheet which is prepared by the Administrative Officer and distributed to other members of staff the day following the meeting so that they are aware of any tasks which had been set by the committee. The Chairman enquired whether members would find this useful if they were to receive a copy. The consensus was that copies should be distributed.

e) Minutes

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

Meeting terminated 10.06pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday, 18th June 2007, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Mr E.D.R. Killey (In the Chair)
Mr M.J. Kennaugh
Mrs W. Megson
Mr B. Stowell
Mr A.T.W. Norton

In Attendance: Mr P.M. Hulme (Chief Executive/Clerk)
Mr C.D.C. Clague (Chief Finance Officer)

PF07/06/01 **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PF07/06/02 **BUSINESS ARISING**

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

PF07/06/03 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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

PF07/06/04 **OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

None.

F06/01/05 **CLERK'S REPORT**

There were no matters for consideration in public.

F06/01/06 **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 8th June 2007 compared with the previous financial year were as follows:-

2007/08 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,670,647.00
2007/08 collected to 8 th June 2007 less refunds	£ 642,524.00(38.46%)

Comparative figures

2006/07 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,586,988
2006/07 collected to 8 th June 2006 less refunds	£ 629,853(39.69%)

2. Revenue Account Payments

The list of payments from revenue account during the month of April 2007 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.*

PF07/06/07

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PF07/06/08

MATTERS REFERRED BY COMMISSIONERS/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

PF07/06/09

RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY OR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

PF07/06/10

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PF07/06/11

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be held at 5.30 pm on Monday 23rd July 2007.

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

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan on Wednesday 16th May 2007 at 5.17pm.

Present: Mr J.K. Watterson (in the Chair), Messrs D. Crellin, B.H. Moore, W.A. Skillicorn and B. Stowell (from 5.24pm)

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration) & B.T. Price (Surveyor)(until 5.53pm)

Observer: A.T.W. Norton

R/07/05/1
WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed members to the first meeting of the new municipal year and extended a special welcome to Mr Crellin and to Mr Stowell in his absence. He expressed a wish that they would be able to make a positive contribution towards the Rural Ward.

R/07/05/2
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed. Mr Crellin advised that he wished to make comment on the minutes as he felt the Board Chairman also had comments which had been sent in writing to the Committee Chairman. The Chairman advised that whilst he had received a communication from Mr Norton it was a personal point of view and not a matter referred from the Board. The Administrative Officer reminded members of Standing Order No 8 which prohibited discussion on the minutes except upon their accuracy. Mr Moore proposed that the meeting proceed to the next item of business, this was seconded by Mr Skillicorn.

R/07/05/3
PLANNING MATTERS

a) New Applications for Consideration in Public

PA 07/668 Proposed widening of existing entrance gateway and construction of timber car port, Glenville House, Scollag Road for Mr & Mrs R. Melhuish

Mr Stowell declared an interest as an adjoining landowner and took no part in the discussions. In examining the plans members noted that the alteration to the entrance was on one side only of the present splay and incorporated a new pillar and wooden gates. The creation of a car port necessitated the removal of holly trees and cutting back of a rhododendron. After discussion it was

- RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application as submitted.

PA 07/802 Proposed demolition of existing garages, building of new two storey wing, alterations and extensions to existing dwelling, Woodland Heights, Ashley Road for Mrs A.I. Rooney

Concern was expressed over the two storey extension but it was confirmed that there was a field between this property and properties on Maple Avenue. The field also sloped downwards in the direction of the applicant property and there was also a high hedge in-between. It was not felt, therefore, that the proposals would in any way affect the properties in Maple Avenue. After further debate it was

- RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application as submitted.

PA 07/834 Erection of site signboard, Slegaby/Ballacottier Development Site, Ballacottier Road for The Slegaby Estates Limited

Mr Skillicorn declared an interest in the application due to his employment. Members noted that this was primarily the contractor's site board and would be in position only during the construction work. After discussion it was

- RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application as submitted.

b) Planning Decisions

PA 07/41 Retention of a port-a-cabin in field 534360 (opposite Creg-na-Baa Hotel) Mountain Road for Mr D. Slater

– **Approved subject to use only for storage of agricultural items and equipment. Retention onsite permitted only up to 31st March 2010 where upon it must be removed from the site.**

Members recalled that the objection to the port-a-cabin was on the grounds of a lack of proof of agricultural need for storage of that nature given that the land ownership only related to one small field. After discussion it was

- **RESOLVED to seek Appeal.**

PA 07/132 Erection of a sun room extension on rear elevation, 15 Larch Hill Grove for Mr S. Skillen

- **Approved subject to commencement within a four year period.**

PA 07/147 Approval in principle for the demolition of existing building and erection of a replacement dwelling Ballacashin, Abbeylands for Mr & Mrs Formby

- **Refused on the grounds that the proposal was contrary to the zoning of the site, would represent the erection of a new residential development contrary to planning circular 1/88 and was contrary to the Local Plan. The Planning Committee recognised that approval had been given for the alterations and extensions to the existing dwelling but the proposal would represent the erection of a new dwelling in the countryside. Noted.**

c) Planning Appeals

Notification had been received in respect of the decision of the following application.

PA 06/993 Approval in principle to replace former farm dwelling, Ballachrink Farm, fields 531204, 531206 and part 531122 with access taken from Ballacottier Road for Heritage Homes Limited

- **Refused.**

The Inspector had regard to a previous approval but noted that there were no remnants of the old farmhouse, the site of the proposed dwelling was not on the footprint of the former building, the erection of a dwelling would represent a new dwelling in the countryside and would be detrimental to the amenities of the area. Noted.

R/07/05/4

MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) TT Road Closures and Parking on Ballacottier Road

The Surveyor reported that at the Eastern Sector Meeting held on 25th April 2007, the TT in general was discussed. He advised as to the concerns of the Rural Committee and was informed that DoT were going to discuss matters with local landowners. The one-way system over the Mountain Road during the TT fortnight had been discussed at some length. There were going to be clearways in various locations. Mr Skillicorn commented that the residents appears to be content with the proposals.

b) Shannon Rae Site – Making Good

The Administrative Officer reported letter as sent to Central Marts reminding them of their commitment. Mr Skillicorn offered to speak to the directors again. Mr Stowell expressed his disappointment having been contacted by Mr Noel Cringle originally who gave his assurance that making good would take place immediately following the sale.

c) Wetland Loss at Hillberry

The Administrative Officer reported correspondence to and from the Wildlife and Conservation Division of DAFF. Mr Stowell expressed his concern on the loss of wetland and the affect it had on wildlife and the fact that the stream which came from the wetland formed the boundary between Douglas and Onchan. The Chairman commented that minimal work had been done in the area but after discussion it was agreed to monitor the situation and to establish from the complainant the exact nature of their concern.

d) Containers Clypse/Kerrowdhoo Reservoirs

Correspondence read from which it was noted that the Water Authority intended to remove the containers during the summer. Noted.

e) **Dog Fouling at Reservoirs**

Correspondence reported from which it was noted the Water Authority were now to consider whether to request the commissioners to incorporate the paths around the reservoirs in the next Onchan Dogs Order. Reply awaited.

f) **Motion Number 52**

The Chairman made reference to the questions raised by the committee and the answers supplied in written form. He expressed his concern that the request of the committee for the questions to be discussed by the Board had not taken place and that the answers, he could only assume, had been drafted by the Clerk. The Chairman then read each of the six questions and the answers provided. After each answer the point in question was discussed by the meeting.

Members accepted that the answer to question three in respect of the percentage of voters in the Rural Ward in April 1986, and the answer to question four in that no letters had been received from rural residents requesting greater or equal representation, were accepted as statements of fact. In relation to each of the other questions the Chairman and the two Rural Members did not accept the answers given whereas Messrs Crellin and Stowell did.

g) **Public Meeting 9th May 2007**

The Chairman commented that he felt there was fair split between rural and urban residents at the meeting even though he noticed one or two people from outside Onchan were present. Mr Crellin commented that he felt it was useful meeting and that he didn't hear anyone speak out against the amalgamation of the wards. Mr Stowell was of the opinion that the meeting turned out different to how he had expected. He apologised for comments which he had made in his radio interview which he had anticipated would have been edited before broadcast.

Mr Stowell then enquired as to what were the views of the committee in respect of Motion Number 52. Mr Crellin enquired whether the committee had considered that the committee itself should continue should Mr Quirk's Bill fail in Tynwald. The Chairman replied that at the end of the day the committee didn't really have a say in the matter as his was only one voice and vote at the board meeting. The committee had functioned under the Onchan Act since 1986 and managed very well until a couple of years ago since when it has had to struggle to have a meaningful and happy existence due to being continually attacked by the Board. Mr Crellin again enquired whether the continuance of the committee was something to be considered at a future time. Mr Skillicorn commented that obviously it depended on whether the Bill passed or failed.

Mr Stowell then asked if the committee was content to see the Bill find its way through the legislative process. The Chairman responded that the matter had not been discussed by the committee and he personally was not happy with some of the contents of the Bill or the processes which had taken place to get thus far. He was looking into the possibility of taking action as a private ratepayer. From the public meeting he gained the opinion that the ratepayers were not particularly bothered but that may have been because the Bill was already passing through the House of Keys.

Mr Stowell commented that if any challenges were to be made they needed to be addressed now. He then proposed that the committee was content for the Bill to proceed. Mr Moore said the Bill was already passing through Tynwald and it really should have been sorted out before it got that far. The Chairman commented that there seemed little point in putting forward a proposal as the Bill was going through in any event. Mr Skillicorn made reference to the fact that both the position of himself and Mr Moore as Rural Members were to be dispensed with and he was hardly going to vote for that. He further advised that he may take his own action in respect of the Bill.

The proposal was not put to the meeting. The Chairman commented that there seemed to be a consensus that no formal objection was being made by the committee.

R/07/05/5

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Additional Refuse Charges

The Chairman reminded members that at the last meeting of the Board the Clerk had indicated that he had not had time to look into the legalities of the matter. In contacting the Clerk of recent, the Chairman was advised that there was motion coming forward to deal with the matter. Mr Stowell advised that he had a misconception in respect of what the charge was for when raised and after giving the matter consideration informed the Clerk that he was considering a motion for the repayment of the charge levied on the rural ratepayers. The problem was, however, that no provision had been made in the budget for this repayment and therefore the motion, if approved was to give a discount on the next two year's rates to equate the amount of money paid in each case.

Mr Skillicorn indicated that he would be happy if this occurred. The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the Clerk was able to provide the necessary information to Commissioner Stowell but was unable to do so for the benefit of the committee.

R/07/05/6

MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

R/07/05/7

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

R/07/05/8

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of next meeting

Wednesday 13th June 2007 at 5.15pm.

b) Highway Matters

The Chairman advised that he had reported to DoT a defect in the pavement close to The Spinney, Ballanard Road and also a blocked road gully on the opposite side of the road.

c) Vice-Chairman

Mr Moore was elected Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year.

d) Beating the Bounds

Mr Stowell enquired about the Beating of the Bounds as there was a new commissioner on the Board. The Chairman informed members that the Clerk had advised that this was already in hand. Noted.

e) Minutes

Mr Crellin again raised the question of the length and content of the minutes. The Clerk to the Meeting offered to explain the position but Mr Crellin didn't think that the Clerk should speak. The Chairman advised that he had no problem with the Clerk speaking particularly as he was the one who took and wrote the minutes. Members agreed.

The Clerk explained the outcome of the one to one course which he attended and read extracts from the information sheet provided at the end of the course. He further advised that he worked to that sheet although other officers didn't. The Chairman commented that if members did not like what they said coming out in the public then they should be more guarded in what they say. He then made reference to minutes of board meetings which were too scant giving examples. He reminded members that he was a

member of the Road Traffic Licensing Committee and that body had been given advice by the Attorney General that minutes should show how, in making a decision or conclusion, the path that was taken to arrive at that decision. He further advised that there were minutes from the commissioner's board and other committees where it was not possible for someone who had not been present at the meeting to understand what had taken place. Mr Moore added that if a meeting was lengthy with a lot being said then obviously the minutes would be lengthy. Mr Skillicorn informed members that he was involved on many committees and he felt that the minutes provided to the Rural Committee were probably the best that he received from any of them.

Meeting terminated at 7.37pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan on Wednesday 13th June 2007 at 5.17pm.

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

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Administration) & B.T. Price (Surveyor)(until 5.26pm)

R/07/06/1
MINUTES

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2007 had been distributed that afternoon. Mr Crellin advised that he did not have his copy. It was agreed therefore to hold over consideration of the minutes until the next meeting.

R/07/06/2
PLANNING MATTERS

a) New Applications for Consideration in Public

PA 07/948 Retention of visibility improvements made on land opposite Creg-na-Baa Hotel, Mountain Road for the Department of Transport

Members noted that the work had already been carried out as part of improvements related to the TT period. Comment was made that the ownership of the land in question was possibly in dispute. After viewing the plans it was

- RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application as made.

b) Planning Decisions

PA 07/668 Erection of a timber car port and widening of drive entrance, Glenville House, Scollag Road for Mr & Mrs Melhuish

- Approved subject to commencement within a four year period. Noted.

PA 07/186 Removal of agricultural worker occupancy condition on approved dwelling (02/2323) field 534245 Ballacashin, Abbeylands for Mr S.T. Harvey

The Surveyor advised that notification had been received from the Planning Committee of DOLGE that the application was deemed to have been withdrawn. Mr Stowell advised that he had been speaking with the applicant of recent and was of the opinion that the applicant had certain matters to finalise but it was not his intention to withdraw the application. The Chairman informed the meeting that to the best of his knowledge the Planning Department had requested certain information by a set date and as this had not been forthcoming then the decision relevant to withdrawal was made.

R/07/06/3
MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising from the minutes:-

a) TT Road Closures and Parking on Ballacottier Road

Mr Skillicorn advised that the parking on Ballacottier Road was the same as in previous years but he thought that very little could be done about it. Parking on the Creg-na-Baa Back Road was orderly and on one side of the road only but there were problems at Slegaby Lane. Mr Stowell said there were no problems in Scollag Road and for the first time, after roads opened the road from Sign Post to Cronk-ny-Mona was two way which greatly assisted the traffic flow instead of traffic having to divert through the Governors Hill estate in order to gain access to the Scollag Road. Mr Skillicorn made reference to a bend sign on the Creg-na-Baa Back Road close to the junction with the Honeyhill Road which had been knocked down and consequently motor cyclists were unaware of the approaching hazard. Agreed that a letter be sent to DoT and the police congratulating them on the traffic arrangements for the TT period and also informing them as to the missing sign.

b) Shannon Rae Site – Making Good

The Administrative Officer advised as to further correspondence as sent to Central Marts and the telephone message received from them one weekend. Members noted that the ruts in the ground had been filled and whilst no grass seed had been planted, vegetation was beginning to be re-established. After discussion it was agreed to remove the matter from the list.

c) Wetland Loss at Hillberry

The Administrative Officer reported further correspondence with DAFF and the complainant. In supplying further information the defendant indicated that the loss actually took place in the 1990s. Noted and agreed that the matter be removed from the list.

R/07/06/4

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

a) Additional Refuse Charges

Mr Stowell advised that he did not proceed with his intended motion for repayment of the charge as the Clerk had checked with DOLGE who advised that to do so would ultra viries. They also advised that the original charges were perfectly legal. Comment was made by members that this was contrary to the legal advice sought and paid for by the commission. The Chairman commented that it would have been preferable if the Clerk had informed the committee of the situation and further added that the point in question illustrated how a committee could not really be expected to discuss a motion until it was formally put as it could be withdrawn or indeed not even proceeded with as was the point in case.

b) Consideration of a Future Rural Committee

The Administrative Officer advised that this had been placed on the agenda following comments made at the previous meeting. Mr Stowell commented that if the second part of the Onchan Bill goes through Tynwald then with a reduction of commissioners to seven, the whole system was going to have to change which could see less committees or no committees but obviously that was a matter for the Board to consider. Mr Crellin advised that he anticipated there would probably be a special meeting set aside for that purpose alone. The Chairman requested that in the meantime members gave thought to the question of a future Rural Committee.

R/07/06/5

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

R/07/06/6

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

e) Time and Date of next meeting

Wednesday 18th July 2007 at 5.15pm.

f) Car Park

Mention was made of the creation of an additional car park at the Creg-na-Baa Hotel for which members could not recall having seen a planning application. Agreed the matter be referred to the Planning Enforcement Officer for investigation.

Meeting terminated at 5.55pm.