

ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Hawthorn Villa,
Main Road, Onchan.

IN PUBLIC

20th February 2008

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 February 2008

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 January 2008 **(Minutes – APPENDIX 3)**
 - 3.2 Extraordinary meeting held on 20th February 2008 **(Minutes – APPENDIX 3.1*)**
***Minutes to follow**
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 **28th January 2008** (*Minutes – APPENDIX 7.1*)
 - 7.2 Works and Cleansing Committee
- Meeting Held **4th February 2008** (*Minutes – APPENDIX 7.2*)
 - 7.2.1 Works and Cleansing Committee
Extraordinary meeting held **11th February 2008** (*Minutes – APPENDIX 7.2.1*)
 - 7.3 Leisure and Amenities Committee
- Meeting Held **11th February 2008** (*Minutes – APPENDIX 7.3*)
 - 7.4 Policy and Finance Committee
- Meeting held **19th February 2008** (*Minutes – APPENDIX 7.4*)
 - 7.5 Rural Committee
- Meeting Held **13th February 2008** (*Minutes – APPENDIX 7.5*)
- *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**
 - 1.2 Plans – **list circulated**
 - 1.3 Planning Recommendations, Rural Committee
 - 8.2 Richmond Hill Consultative Committee minutes of meeting held 10th October 2007 – **letter circulated**
 - 8.3 Department of Health and Social Security – Telecommunication Masts – **letter circulated**
 - 8.4 Department of Education – Bemahague School – **letter circulated**
 - 8.5 Department of Local Government and the Environment – Public Sector Rent – **letter circulated**
 - 8.6 Department of Transport – Governors Bridge – **letter circulated**
 - 8.7 Manx Motor Racing Club Limited – Manx Classic – **letter circulated**
 - 8.8 Peel Town Commissioners – Civic Sunday – **letter circulated**
9. **To consider any report from the clerk or the surveyor**
- None.
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 January 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr A.T.W. Norton (Chairman)
Mr G.K. Astill
Mr S.T. Black
Mrs J. Kelly
Mr E.D.R. Killey (from 8.10 p.m.)
Mrs W. Megson
Mr B. Stowell
Mr J.K. Watterson

Apologies: Mr M.J. Kennaugh
Mr D. Crellin

In Attendance: Mr P.M. Hulme (Chief Executive)
Mr T.R. Craig (Deputy Clerk)
Mr B. T. Price (District Surveyor)
Ms A.S. Dentith (Personal Assistant)

C08/01/01/01

TO CHOOSE A PERSON TO PRESIDE IF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN BE ABSENT

Not necessary.

C08/01/01/02

BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE DEALT WITH BY STATUTE

None.

C08/01/01/03

MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the ordinary meeting held on 12th November 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

C08/01/01/04

BUSINESS ARISING

1. **C7/12/01/03 – Minutes**

It was agreed to remove the name of Mr Killey from the voting list regarding the School Crossing Patrol as his name appeared twice.

C08/01/01/05

ANY BUSINESS REMAINING OR ARISING FROM MEETINGS HELD PRIOR TO THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING

None.

C08/01/01/06

ANY BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C08/01/01/07

HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee meeting of 27th December 2007, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. H07/12/01/02(1) – Ballachrink Bus Stop

It was noted that there was an error in the first line and should read “the Department of Tourism and Leisure”.

In answer to question, the Deputy Clerk advised that the progress was still as detailed within the minutes. The Department of Tourism and Leisure could only supply a large enclosed bus stop immediately. It was the decision of the Housing Committee to install a half canopy bus shelter to minimise intrusion upon the neighbouring residents garden. He further advised the Board that there were two bus stops at either end of the road but there currently was not a bus stop at the agreed site of the new shelter.

2. H07/12/01/13(1) – IOM Municipal Association – Better Use of Housing Stock

Mrs Megson wished to express her appreciation to the Members of the Housing Committee and the Deputy Clerk regarding the draft submission which was to be considered in private.

C08/01/01/08

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Housing Committee Meeting held on 27th December 2007 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein which required the consent of the Board.

C08/01/01/09

WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting of 3rd January 2008, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. WC08/01/05(1) – Green Waste Collection

In answer to question, the Chairman of the Works and Cleansing Committee advised that several meetings had taken place. The problems seemed to be associated with the disposal of the collected green waste and concerns regarding an outlet for the end product.

2. WC08/01/06(1) – Street Lighting – Officers Report

2.1 Street Lights – Timing/Light Ingress

In answer to question, the Chairman of Works and Cleansing Committee advised that the District Surveyor was looking into the problems of ingress of light into peoples property and the installation of controlled lighting panels, in order to gain some uniformity in the street lighting, e.g. the timing. He further advised that the timing of street lighting within the district on the dark mornings was under consideration to improve the safety of residents within the district.

2.2 Street Lights – Cronk-ny-Mona

In answer to question, the Chairman of Works and Cleansing Committee advised that the footpath from Cronk-ny-Mona to Signpost Corner was in the borough of Douglas. To enable lighting to be installed on Onchan side of the boundary, would entail digging across the T.T. Course. The Committee are very conscious of the need to control costs and at this stage, would prefer to direct any resources to any inferior lighting within the district.

3. WC08/01/09(2) – Pennington Hall

In answer to question, the Chairman of Works and Cleansing Committee advised that the District Surveyor was investigating the contingency provision within the contract to permit the contractor to install additional surface water drainage and eliminate the flooding.

The District Surveyor reported that the flooding was under control - a pump had been running 24 hours a day and there were no further problems on site regarding flooding, construction was well under way. He further clarified that the flooding was caused due to a previously unknown culvert being unearthed.

3. WC08/01/09(1) – Port Jack Glen Refurbishment

In answer to question, the Chairman of Works and Cleansing Committee advised that after significant refurbishment works and gardening works at Port Jack Glen, it will reopen prior to Easter 2008.

4. WC/08/01/09 – Sports Arena

In answer to question, the Chairman of Works and Cleansing Committee advised that until the surface of the Wembley Sports Arena was completed as per the contract, and to the satisfaction of the Works and Cleansing Committee, Officers were instructed not to release any further payments.

5. WC08/01/05(1) – Bin Collection

Mr Watterson gave thanks to the office staff and the refuse staff for the refuse collections carried out over the Christmas period. He advised that residents in the Rural area do not receive the free local newspaper and therefore were unaware of the refuse collection arrangements over the Christmas period. He asked that the Works and Cleansing Committee give consideration of this matter for future years.

The Chairman of Works and Cleansing gave assurance that the matter has been placed on the agenda for consideration nearer the time.

6. WC08/01/13(1) – Outstanding Matters

6.1 Scollag Road – Ponding

In answer to question, the Chairman of Works and Cleansing Committee advised that he was not pleased that the matter had been outstanding for 9 years. He understood that the works had been scheduled for completion in 2009.

Mr Watterson pointed out that the numbers referred with in the reference of 91 appearing in previous minutes equates to 1991, therefore the matter had been outstanding longer than 9 years. He advised that the Rural Committee had been asking questions of the Department of Transport and realise that it was a funding issue.

The Chairman of Works and Cleansing agreed that the Committee would undertake to ask the Department of Transport their intention regarding the Scollag Road as a matter of urgency. Ponding had now reached an extreme level, spreading from hedge to hedge over a length of 50 metres and 18 inches deep.

C08/01/01/10
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee meeting held on 3rd January 2008 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C08/01/01/11
WORKS AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee extraordinary meeting of 16th January 2008, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. There were no questions arising therefrom.

C08/01/01/12
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Works and Cleansing Committee extraordinary meeting held on 16th January 2008 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C08/01/01/13
LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 7th January 2008, copies of which, having been circulated at the meeting, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. **LA08/01/05(c) - Land for allotments – Molly Carrooins Cottage**

The Chief Executive clarified that there had been some small demand for allotments in Onchan. This is covered by a law which allowed the Authority to provide allotments if a certain number of people made the request, which allowed the Authority to compulsory purchase land but he did not believe the demand was sufficient to bring the relevant statute into place.

The Chief Executive further clarified that he had made initial enquiries with the landowners who were the Department of Local Government and the Environment, for parcel of land between the area where the new roundabout would be situated and the football pitch on Blackberry Lane.

He advised that land at Molly Carrooins was too small for an allotment but suggested that a resident might be willing to use the area to perhaps, develop a kitchen garden which would improve the visual aspect of Molly Carrooins Cottage.

2. **LA08/01/04(g) – CCTV**

In answer to question, the Chairman of Leisure and Amenities Committee advised that this related to CCTV installation at the Park and the cost was not a viable option at present. The Committee felt that the role and presence of the Community Officer was in itself effective within the village.

3. **LA08/01/09(d) – Public Art – Squash Court Walls**

In answer to question, the Chairman of Leisure and Amenities Committee mentioned a recent press report that suggested the Isle of Man had the lowest amount of art forms, museums, galleries and so on. It was felt that the outside walls of the Squash Court were bland and some interesting forms of art had been investigated. However, the Committee were awaiting a response from the Arts Council. It was not the intention to use it as a graffiti wall for self expression of the youth of the district.

The Chairman advised that the Committee would be interested in hearing from the public or other Members if they had any ideas that could be considered.

4. LA08/01/09(c) - Farmers Markets

It was noted that the name of the Chairman of the Association of Farmers Markets was incorrect and should read Mrs Sheila Gawne.

5. Youth and Community Centre

It was agreed that the District Surveyor would investigate water ingress through the double doors at the Community Centre.

Matter to be placed on the Works and Cleansing Committee Agenda.

C08/01/01/14

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 7th January 2008 be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C08/01/01/15

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 14th January 2008, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. There were no questions arising therefrom.

C08/01/01/16

RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 14th January 2008, be and are hereby received.

C08/01/01/17

RURAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members noted that the minutes of the Rural Committee meeting held on 9th January 2008, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered. The following matters were arising therefrom:-

1. **PA07/2368 – Proposed conversion of barn into separate dwelling, Sunnyside, Laxey Road (off Whitebridge)**

In answer to enquiry, the District Surveyor advised that it was too early to say if the redundant building qualification required by Planning Circular 3/89 and the strategic Plan had been met.

2. **R/08/01/03(c) – Brandish Corner – Speed Counts**

In answer to enquiry, the Chairman of the Rural Committee advised that after production of the minutes a facsimile had been received from the Department of Transport on 10th January 2008. It advised that a speed count machine would be installed on the section of Hillberry Road adjacent to Ballaskelly Farm and that speed count was now in operation.

He further advised that Members of the Committee had received concerns from the public regarding the completed widening and straightening of the corner and the increase of speed in traffic. The Committee were seeking assurance that a risk assessment had been carried out to take into account the increase of speed and were looking forward to receiving the results and recommendations.

The Chairman of Rural Committee quoted from a copy of a speed count received from the Department of Transport in March 2007 at Brandish Corner:-

- * North bound carriageway – maximum speed of 117 mph
- * South bound carriage way – maximum speed of 132 mph

3. **R/08/01/07(b) – Fly Tipping**

The Chairman of the Rural Committee expressed continued dismay that refuse was still being disposed in gateways, lanes and country roads. There was a Civic Amenity Site available for free disposal.

With regard to a specific incident, the District Surveyor advised that the person responsible for the tipping had been identified, was issuing a written apology and refunding the amount the property owner had been invoiced for removal of the refuse.

In answer to question, the District Surveyor advised that the long standing policy of the Board regarding fly tipping was:-

- if rubbish was dumped on private property, it is the private property owner's responsibility
- if rubbish was dumped on public property it is the Authorities responsibility for its removal,
 - the normal fees were applicable.
 - set charge for items for removal - £17 (based on special collection rate)

Removal of fly tipped waste from private property is classed as a special collection for which charges are made.

C08/01/01/18
RECEIVING OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public section of the Rural Committee meeting held on 9th January 2008, be and are hereby received. There were no resolutions contained therein requiring the consent of the Board.

C08/01/01/19
LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

None.

1.2 The following plans were considered:-

1.2.1 PA08/00004 – Flat 1, 19 Falkland Drive – Installation of a door to replace existing window and construction of external steps on rear elevation

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

1.3 Planning Recommendations of the Rural Committee

1.3.1 P07/2312 – Field 534193, Slegaby – Proposed creation of three ponds with associated planting

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Rural Committee to approve the planning application as submitted.

1.3.2 PA07/2332 – Highfield, Bibaloe Beg Road – Proposed additional garage

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Rural Committee to approve the planning application as submitted.

1.3.3 PA07/2368 – Sunnyside, Laxey Road (off Whitebridge) – Proposed conversion of barn into separate dwelling

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Rural Committee to advise the Planning Committee that there is no objection to the application subject to the Planning Committee being satisfied that the redundant building qualification required by Planning Circular 3/89 and the Strategic Plan is met.

2. Manx Scouts – St Georges Day Service and Parade

Chief Executive reported receipt of two letters from the Scout Association Isle of Man dated 8th January and 18th January 2008, requesting permission to hold a St George's Day Service and Parade in Onchan Park. He further advised that the Manx Scouts had sought the agreement of the tenant of Nivison Stadium. It was agreed that the Chief Executive contact the Manx Scouts to seek further clarification regarding the route of the parade and whether a road closure order would be required.

A letter of thanks to be issued for the invitation.

3. Holocaust Memorial Day

Letter received from the Office of the Chief Minister, dated 31st December 2007, inviting Members to the Island's commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day on Sunday 27th January 2008. The Vice-Chairman, Messrs Watterson, Stowell, Mrs Kelly to attend. Mrs Megson issued apologies.

C08/01/01/20
CLERKS REPORT

1. Housing Recommendations to the Isle of Man Municipal Association

A memorandum had been circulated with the agenda from the Deputy Clerk dated 16th January 2008, detailing draft recommendations from the Housing Committee to make better use of all social housing stock on the Island.

Mr Black thought it should be left to the Department of Local Government and the Environment to make that type of decision.

Mrs Megson thanked the Chairman and Deputy Clerk for their report in producing the recommendations. She advised that the Chief Minister has agreed to meet the association with a view to encouraging the authorities to work together. If all the Authorities could join the Municipal Association it would be an excellent forum.

Mr Stowell offered support to Mr Black. Whilst the Municipal Association has a role and a function, not all members Housing Authorities. Such decision are better left to individual Authorities who deal with housing on a day to day basis.

Mr Watterson agreed with the document as prepared for the Municipal Association. He felt that, whether a Local Authority was a Housing Authority or not, elected members are there to represent the public, and potential applicants for social housing will approach their local commissioner for advice and assistance. He supported the general ideas reflected in the Deputy Clerk's memorandum but agreed that there needs to be a great deal of further discussion on this subject.

Mrs Megson advised that Douglas, Braddan and Onchan are members of the Association, so housing authorities are represented.

C08/01/01/21

DISTRICT SURVEYORS REPORT

None.

C08/01/01/22

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Appointments

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

- 19th December - Chairman's Christmas Reception
- 23rd December – St Peters Church Carol Service

2. Annual Dinner Dance

The Chairman advised that the Onchan District Commissioners would be holding an end of term dinner dance on 29th February 2008 at the Masonic Hall, Woodbourne Road, Douglas. There would be live music by Pipedream and the cost would be £20.00 per person. All were welcome.

C08/01/01/23

QUESTIONS

None

C08/01/01/24

MOTIONS

None.

C08/01/01/25

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

***There being no further public business
the meeting terminated at 8.05 p.m. and the Board moved into Committee.***

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Wednesday 20th February 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

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

Apologies: Mr D. Crellin
Mrs W. Megson

In Attendance: Mr P.M. Hulme (Chief Executive)

C08/02/01/01
WELCOME

... The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the Commissioners, then invited the Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee, Mr Killey to make his budget statement. *Attached as appendix 1.*

It was proposed by Mr Killey that a rate of 262p in the pound be levied by this Authority for the 2008/09 financial year.

... The proposal was seconded by Mr Stowell who made a short statement in reply. *Attached at appendix 2.*

Vote for: Messrs Norton, Killey, Stowell, Kennaugh, Watterson and Mrs Kelly
Vote Against: Messrs Black and Astill

It was therefore **RESOLVED that a rate of 262p in the pound be levied by this Authority for the 2008/09 financial year.**

During Mr Stowell's reply he indicated that he would wish to propose that the Authority ceased paying expenses to its elected members after the commencement of the forthcoming year.

The Chairman ruled that such a decision should be left to the new Board after it had been elected in April.

Meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan on Monday 28th January 2008, commencing at 7.18 pm.

Present: Mr M K Kennaugh (Chairman)
Mr S T Black
Mr G K Astill
Mrs J Kelly
Mr A T W Norton JP (Chairman, ODC)

In attendance: Mr T R Craig (Deputy Clerk)
Mr A B Sutherland (Housing Maintenance Manager)

H08/01/01/01
MINUTES

The In Committee minutes for the meeting held on 28th December 2007 were confirmed and signed. The In Public minutes are to be confirmed and signed at a later date.

H08/01/01/02
BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. H07/09/01/02(1) - Ballachrink Bus Stop

The Deputy Clerk has not had the opportunity to discuss this matter, but will continue to progress it.

H08/01/01/03
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

H08/01/01/04
HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES BUSINESS

1. Maintenance Report

The Housing Maintenance Manager referred members to his report which had been previously circulated.

Vacant Properties	Void Out	Anticipated Completion	Actual Completion
46 School Road	21 st January 2008	27 th February 2008	

Completed Properties	Void Out	Anticipated Completion	Actual Completion
56 Heywood Drive	3 rd January 2008	18 th January 2008	18 th January 2008

The Housing Maintenance Manager said that a lot of work had been done at 46 School Road and it had been an ideal opportunity to upgrade it. No. 56 Heywood Drive was allocated last week.

2. Asbestos Surveys

The Housing Maintenance Manager stated there was no further report to be made regarding the asbestos surveys.

3. Any other business

None.

H08/01/01/05
SPRINGFIELD COURT MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

The Housing Maintenance Manager referred members to his report which had been previously circulated. He said the joiners have completed a thorough inspection of all the flats and carried out all the necessary works. He added he would like the joiners to do annual inspections at Springfield Court.

2. Retirement of Warden

The Deputy Clerk stated that Rose McMurray, the warden at Springfield Court, is going to retire on 31st January 2008 and her presentation will take place on 30th January 2008 at 3.00 pm. Mr Norton asked the Deputy Clerk if he had received price regarding the on call system. The Deputy Clerk confirmed he had received a budget price, but it had been in excess of the threshold, so the scheme will go for tender and he will draw up the tender specification.

3. Any other business

None.

H08/01/01/06

HEYWOOD COURT MATTERS

1. Maintenance Report

The Housing Maintenance Manager referred to his report which had been previously circulated to members. He said he had met with the Occupational Therapist regarding replacement of a bath with a shower facility and an order for the tray, screen etc had been placed. He hoped to start the job a week on Monday. In answer to a member's query, the Deputy Clerk said when a shower is installed, there is a bath elsewhere in the complex.

2. Any other business

None.

H08/01/01/07

PLANNED HOUSING MAINTENANCE

1. Planned Housing Maintenance Report

The Housing Maintenance Manager referred to his report which had been previously circulated to members.

2. Any other business

None.

H08/01/01/08

HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

1. Health and Safety Matters

Members noted the contents of the report previously circulated by the Housing Maintenance Manager. There were no accidents or incidents to report.

2. Any other business

None.

H08/01/01/09

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

1. Any business arising

None.

H08/01/01/10

ANY FURTHER REPORTS FROM THE DEPUTY CLERK OR HOUSING MAINTENANCE MANAGER

3. Any other business arising

None.

H08/01/01/11

ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

5. Any other business

The Deputy Clerk circulated copies of correspondence for members' consideration.

The Housing Maintenance Manager left at 8.12 pm.

H08/01/01/12

FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Housing Maintenance Expenditure

The report had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted.

2. EPC Maintenance Expenditure

The report had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted

3. Rent/Mesne Profit Receipt Report

The Chief Cashier's report regarding rent defaulters was circulated prior to the meeting, and the Deputy Clerk updated members with the current position on various tenants as appropriate. Following brief discussion the report was noted, and members welcomed the positive stance taken on debt management.

4. Housing and EPC Deficiency Claims

No comment.

5. Repossession Action

The Deputy Clerk reported one property had been repossessed and had been allocated.

6. Any other business arising

None.

H08/01/01/13

ANY MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

H08/01/01/14

HOUSING APPLICATIONS

1. Waiting List

The Deputy Clerk referred to the report which had been previously circulated and said 2 applications for general housing had been accepted and 2 applications had been refused.

2. New applications received

The Deputy Clerk informed members one incomplete application had been received.

3. Review of applications

None.

4. Appeals

None

5. Any other business

None.

H08/01/01/15

Sheltered Housing Applications

1. Waiting List

The Deputy Clerk advised members there were no applications to date.

2. New applications received

The Deputy Clerk advised these had been circulated.

3. Review of applications

None.

4. Appeals

None.

5. Any other business

None.

H08/01/01/16

HOUSING/TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

1. Transfer List

The Deputy Clerk referred members to a report previously circulated.

2. Letters/File Notes/Reports

The Deputy Clerk referred members to correspondence previously considered.

3. Surgery Visit Reports

The Deputy Clerk referred members to copies of reports previously circulated.

4. Transfer/Sheltered Housing Application – Review

None.

5. Any other business

None.

H08/01/01/17

MEETING DATES

1. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Housing Committee is to take place on Monday 3rd March 2008.

2. Commissioners' Surgery

The next Commissioners' surgery will take place on Thursday 28th February 2008.

H08/01/01/18

REVIEW OF MINUTES/RESOLUTIONS

To decide upon any that are to be placed in the Private (In Committee) Section of the minutes. The Deputy Clerk will exercise discretion.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.48 pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **WORKS & CLEANSING COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 4th February 2008 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Mr B Stowell (in the chair)
Mr G.K. Astill
Mr S.T. Black
Mr A T W Norton, J.P.

Apologies: Mr D Crellin

In attendance: Mr P Sutton Waste Operations Manager

WC/08/02/01 **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2008 were approved as a true record.

WC/08/02/02 **PLANNING MATTERS**

PA 08/00046 – The Max Restaurant, King Edward Bay Golf & Country Club, Groudle Road – Proposed covered smoking area situated on the rear patio area.

Following consideration it was
- Resolved to recommend approval.

PA 08/00064 – 14 Governors Road – Proposed extension to the side comprising of kitchen and family room at ground floor with bedroom over in extended former roof.

Following consideration and on condition that neighbours at no. 12 were notified it was
- Resolved to recommend approval.

PA 08/00070 - 5 St Catherines Terrace – Proposed single story extension to rear of property. (Resubmission of 07/00986/B).

Members noted this proposal is to a reduced size and the Chairman showed members a photograph of the rear of the property. Following consideration it was
- Resolved to recommend approval.

PA 08/00077 – 12 Ballachrink Drive – Proposed replacement conservatory to rear elevation and widening of driveway access.

Following consideration it was
- Resolved to recommend approval.

PA 08/00081 – 59 Governors Road – Proposed demolition of existing utility room and construction of two storey extension to rear of the property forming kitchen and bedroom over.

Following consideration it was
- Resolved to recommend approval.

PA 08/00082 – 64 Royal Avenue – Proposed replacement windows with UPVC.

Following consideration it was
- Resolved to recommend approval.

WC08/02/03 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

WC/08/02/04
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

WC/08/02/05
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND OTHER CLEANSING BUSINESS

1. Officer's Report

The report had been previously circulated. The Chairman commented on the problem of blocked gullies, during the recent heavy rain, especially at Avondale Road and recommended the gullies are cleared as they become blocked with detritus. He added that loose aggregate at St. Catherines Terrace causes problems, clearing gullies is a rolling programme and they should be cleared once a year. The Waste Operations Manager said that we have had a spell of extraordinary rainfall and the normal schedule of gulley clearing may have been put back to deal with emergency gulley clearing. A member added that because of climate change, we are more likely to get these frequent heavy downpours of rain. The Chairman stated the Authority must address the issue as the gulley discharges are in places used by pedestrians. The Waste Operations Manager added that if a request is made to clear gullies, then this is passed on to the Department of Transport.

A member asked if the street cleaning machine was working and the Waste Operations Manager confirmed that it was. The same member stated that the Royal Avenue to St Peter's Church footpath is in need of cleaning and the Waste Operations Manager said he intended to use the pavement sweeper there once the brambles at the side of the path have been trimmed. He added it is a priority matter to be dealt with now we have access. The Chairman said he was happy the matter is receiving attention.

2. Electricity Costs

A report had been previously circulated to members and comments were invited.

3. Chewing Gum Removal

The Waste Operations Manager stated the Authority can borrow a gum removal machine from Douglas and is progressing this matter.

4. Any Other Cleansing Business

None.

WC/08/02/06
STREET LIGHTING, SIGNS, SEATS AND OTHER STREET FURNITURE

1. Officer's Report

A report had been previously circulated to members and comments were invited.

2. Alterations To Lighting Hours

A report had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted. A member said that a street light was not operating at the top of Church Road. The Waste Operations Manager stated as soon as a query arrives at the office, it is passed onto our contractor who would normally deal with the problem within 24 hours.

3. Any Other Relevant Business

None.

WC/08/02/07
DRAINAGE FUNCTION

1. Officer's Report

The report had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted.

2. Any Other Drainage Business

None.

WC/08/02/08

PLANNING MATTERS

1. Communications

A schedule of planning communications had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted.

PA 07/01879 – Alterations and erection of a two storey extension to provide ancillary living accommodation, 25 Belgravia Road

Originally the ODC had recommended refusal of the application. This application had been approved by Planning subject to the condition that the dwelling is tied to the existing property. The Chairman stated this decision was not worth appealing, as the committee would need grounds for the appeal.

PA 07/01904 – Alterations, erection of an extension, conversion of garage into additional living accommodation and widen existing driveway, 10 Briarfield Avenue.

Originally the ODC had recommended refusal of the application. This application had been approved by Planning, but the decision appears to contravene the Onchan Local Plan. The Chairman suggested that the committee should write to the Director of Planning asking for a clarification, so the committee can understand more clearly the implications to the Onchan Local Plan. The Waste Operations Manager stated the District Surveyor has written to the Director on two occasions, but is still waiting for a reply.

2. Any Other Planning Business

None.

WC/08/02/09

CAPITAL AND REVENUE PROJECTS

1. Officer's Report

The Officer's report had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted.

2. Any Other Relevant Business

None.

WC/08/02/10

HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

A member said he was concerned with the state of some of the pavements and roads in Onchan. He cited a pothole in Main Road and an area near St Peter's Church as examples. The Chairman had also received several complaints. In response to a complaint about unsuitable parking, the Chairman stated he will discuss this matter at the next PACT meeting to be held on Friday 15th February 2008.

WC/08/02/11

NUISANCE ABATEMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

1. Officer's Report

Reports had been previously circulated to members and their contents noted.

2. Any Other Relevant Business

None.

WC08/02/12

ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

1. Any Other Communication Received

The Waste Operations Manager gave the Chairman a report concerning sewage treatment for six proposed new homes at Groudle Road.

WC/08/02/13

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

1. To Review Outstanding Matters

A list had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted.

WC/08/02/14

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

1. Water Ingress To YCC

The Waste Operations Manager stated the problem concerned the fire doors at the Community Centre. When there is heavy rain and strong wind, the rain goes through the doors and they become wet through capillary action by the rain coming up through the doors. He suggested fitting new seals to the existing doors. It must be ensured any alterations do not become a trip hazard. A member suggested planting hedging to act as a barrier, but the Waste Operations Manager stated this had been considered however a safe exit via the fire door must be maintained. The Chairman suggested putting in a drain to remove any water from the area of the fire exit and the Waste Operations Manager replied he would pass his suggestion on for consideration.

2. None.

WC/08/02/15

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Any Relevant Business Arising

A member stated he had been told that many children were crossing the road near the library and asked about the absence of the pedestrian crossing lady at Royal Avenue. The Waste Operations Manager said large numbers of children were using the new pedestrian crossing directly outside the Commissioners building.

A member said he was concerned about the gate to the Snugborough garage being left open, to which the Waste Operations Manager replied that our servicing contractor has a set of keys for the garage and vehicles may have been taken for servicing at that time.

WC/08/02/16

MINUTES/RESOLUTIONS

1. To Decide Upon Any That Are To Be Placed In The Private (In Committee) Section Of _____ The Minutes

To be decided.

WC/08/02/17

MEETING DATES

1. **Next Ordinary Meeting** will take place on 10th March 2008 at 7.00 pm.

2. **Plans meeting** will take place on 20th February 2008 at 9.30 am.

Meeting terminated at 9.25 pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**, held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 11th February 2008 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Mrs W. Megson (in the chair)
Mrs J. Kelly
Mr S. T. Black
Mr J.K. Watterson

Apologies: Mr A.T.W. Norton J.P.

In attendance: Mr B. Price (District Surveyor)
Mr Peter Kelly (Administrative Officer)

LA/08/02/01
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2008, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered, agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

LA/08/02/02
MATTERS ARISING

None.

LA/08/02/03
MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

LA/08/02/04
PLAYGROUND/PARKS

a) **Playground Log Books**

The District Surveyor confirmed there were no extraordinary items to report and everything is up-to-date.

b) **Amenities Officer's Report**

The report had been previously circulated to members and comments invited. A member referred to there being mixed swing arrangements at the Lakeside Play Area and the possibility of a youth knocking into a baby swing was aired. It was stated that several playgrounds have segregated swings. The Chairman asked the District Surveyor to look at the cost of providing a baby unit.

The Chairman stated she had received some feedback from a member of the public, who commented that the climbing frames looked dark with moss and the park looked dreary. She said she presumed there was a rolling programme concerning maintenance at Lady Taverners. The Administrative Officer stated there is an allowance for general repairs.

c) **Parks Foreman's Report**

The report had been previously circulated to members and noted.

d) **Community Officer's Report Relevant To Parks And Open Spaces**

The report had been previously circulated to members and noted. A member commented about the dog fouling in an area of Port Jack and the District Surveyor will investigate.

e) **Candles And Drinking In Grandstand At Nivison Stadium**

The Committee discussed suggestions for deterrents.

f) **Playground Inspection By Insurers**

The District Surveyor reported he had contacted the Lappset and received a risk assessment report, which will be passed on to the Authority's insurers. He confirmed the investigators' inspection covered the entire park. A member said there was chewing gum under the pirate ship, the tops of the swings were rusty and the entrance to Jubilee Park was muddy and the District Surveyor will investigate.

g) **Skateboard Park – Petition Work Commencement/Jubilee Trust**

The District Surveyor made his report to the committee.

h) **Crazy Golf – Boat Feature By End Of January**

The District Surveyor stated the boat feature is due for installation this week.

j) **Putting Green – Viable Alternative Use – Outside Interest**

The Administrative Officer told the committee he had written to various business concerns advising them of the possibility of sharing the summer season, but so far no one could work on a rota basis.

k) **Park Inspection**

A list had been previously circulated to members and the contents noted.

In answer to a question the District Surveyor stated that the necessary tiles for repair to the surfacing were on the mainland and it would cost four times the cost of the tiles to send them to the Island. He suggested that granules could be used instead. A member suggested using Manx Independent Carriers for transportation. The District Surveyor will investigate the cost of using them and Data Post.

m) **Staff Working Christmas And Boxing Day**

The District Surveyor said that staff had found broken glass on Christmas and Boxing Day mornings. The Chairman asked for the committee's appreciation to be given to the staff.

n) **Smoking Ban Effect On Onchan Park**

The District Surveyor confirmed that a No Smoking ban will come into effect on 30th March 2008 and he is doing an assessment of the signs etc which will be needed.

p) **Passport For 2008**

After discussions with members, it was decided to allow the Passport to finish in June, the same as last year.

q) **Set Prices For 2008 Season**

Members perused the list of Onchan Park Charges from 2004 – 2007 inclusive and comments were invited.

r) **Tennis Coaching- Fee For Courts**

The Administrative Officer's report had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted. Representatives of the proposed tennis club met with the committee to discuss fees.

s) **St George's Day Parade (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)**

The Administrative Officer gave his report to members concerning the hiring of the stadium by the Scouts.

t) **Any Other Matters**

None.

LA/08/02/05
OPEN SPACES

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

The report was circulated to members and its contents noted. The District Surveyor stated the cutting back of shrubs etc at the Heywood Estate had started. The Parks Foreman had noted rodent activity in the grounds of Heywood Court and action had been taken by Pest Control. The Chairman thanked the Park Foreman for his vigilance. In answer to a member's query, the District Surveyor advised that he will ensure that all manual staff are briefed on the risks of infection and the symptoms displayed by Weils Disease. The Chairman asked the District Surveyor to visit the lane behind Shoprite as it is littered with debris from storm damage and other refuse.

b) **Port Jack Glen – Sealing Off – Progress Report**

The District Surveyor stated that fencing has been placed at the top section of Port Jack, where gorse has been cut back. More gorse is intended to be removed next winter and so a risk assessment on the impact of the removal will be undertaken to determine whether the area will need further protection.

c) **Land For Allotments – Molly Carrooins – Offer To Enquirer**

The District Surveyor said an interested party is going to have a look at the area.

d) **Wembley Arena – Further Repairs To Tarmacadm/Ponding**

The District Surveyor stated that the contractor has a solution to the problem and the Authority will not accept a patched surface.

e) **Feasibility Study Onchan Park – Finding Alternative Firms**

The District Surveyor has contacted several companies, but they would not give free estimates. He will give members a list of companies he has contacted, together with their responses at the next meeting.

f) **Ballachurry Play Area**

The District Surveyor confirmed the required mesh has been ordered and progress is being made.

g) **Lazy Corner Grassed Areas**

The Administrative Officer stated that the twenty years' lease on the grassed areas is up. He had contacted the Department of Transport, but he had received a plan excluding the grassed areas, so it has been sent back to be redone.

h) **Village Cross**

In respect of the de-lamination of the face of the cross the District Surveyor advised that the financial provision suggested was too late for inclusion in this years estimates. Members were also informed that the matter had been discussed by the full Board who had resolved to seek costings for the replacement.

j) **Any Other Matters**

None.

LA/08/02/06

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

The report had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted. The Chairman had received a complaint about the toilets in the park. The District Surveyor stated they had been refurbished three to four years ago. A member asked what improvements had been requested and the Chairman stated there were no good baby changing facilities. In answer to a member's query, the District Surveyor said that all surfaces are cleaned and checked when they should be.

LA08/02/07

LIBRARY

a) **Librarian's Report**

The Administrative Officer stated the librarian's report is contained in item (d)

b) **Amenities Officer's Report**

The report had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted.

c) **Disability Awareness Training**

The District Surveyor stated that a training course is being looked at for anyone requiring it.

d) **Any Other Matters**

Members discussed a letter from the Borough of Douglas and the librarian's report.

LA/08/02/08

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) **Amenities Officer's Report**

The report had been circulated to members and noted.

b) **Revamping Of Upper Toilets**

The District Surveyor will submit a scheme to the committee.

c) **Feedback From Youth Club/Services**

The Administrative Officer will try again to obtain feedback as he has not received a reply to his letter.

d) **Restructuring Of Charges**

The report for the Onchan Youth and Community Centre Hiring Comparison had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted.

e) **Any Other Matters**

The Administrative Officer distributed a memorandum to members concerning Car Boot Sales.

LA/08/02/09

PROMOTIONS

a) **Web site – statistics**

The report detailing the web site statistics for January 2008 had been previously circulated to members. The Administrative Officer said the reason for the decrease in the number of hits compared to last year was probably due to Google revamping their search engine, so people can better refine their searches.

b) **Enquiries**

The Administrative Officer said there had been two enquiries, one promoted by the photograph of Radio Caroline.

c) **Public Art – Squash Court Walls**

The District Surveyor is still awaiting replies from interested parties, but the Chairman will refer this matter to a possible interested party.

d) **Proposed Tennis Club**

The Administrative Officer's report had been previously circulated to members. Representatives of the proposed tennis club met with the committee and club requirements were discussed.

e) **Any Other Business – Tourist Information Centre**

The Administrative Officer stated that Onchan did not produce a brochure, so that is the reason for the lack of information about Onchan at the Tourist Information Centre. However, the Authority gives the Centre the Christmas and Easter leaflets and there is a flyer advertising the park. The Administrative Officer will write to the Department of Tourism asking them to re-print leaflets and the Chairman will also contact the Department to establish the cost of printing leaflets about Onchan and would like the matter of promoting Onchan to be put on the Agenda for the new commissioners.

Village Fair

The Administrative Officer told members that St Peter's Church will organise the Village Fair as part of its 175th anniversary celebrations, but as yet the date is unknown.

LA/08/02/10
OUTSTANDING MATTERS

A list had been previously circulated to members and its contents noted.

LA/08/02/11
MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

LA/08/02/12
CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman said she had received a letter from the Mother's Union about the World Day of Prayer on 7th March 2008.

LA/08/02/13
SURGERY REPORTS

Nil.

LA/08/02/14
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 17th March 2008.

b) **Any other relevant matters**

The Chairman said she had received a request from the newspaper concerning the facilities that are available in Onchan Park and what the Commissioners do to prepare for the season, and was preparing a statement for issue to them.

Meeting terminated at 11.00 pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Monday, 18th February 2008, at 5.30 p.m.

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

In Attendance: Mr P.M. Hulme (Chief Executive/Clerk)
Mr C.D.C. Clague (Chief Finance Officer)
Ms A.S. Dentith (Personal Assistant)

PF08/02/01
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2008, copies of which having previously been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PF08/02/02
BUSINESS ARISING

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

PF08/02/03
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.

PF08/02/04
OUTSTANDING MATTERS

None.

F06/02/05
CLERK'S REPORT

There were no matters for consideration in public.

F06/02/06
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 12th February 2008 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 12 th February 2008 less refunds	£1,670,582.00(100%)

Comparative figures

2006/07 estimated amount collectable including arrears brought forward	£1,586,988.00
2006/07 collected to 12 th February 2007 less refunds	£1,592,874.00(100.37%)

2. Revenue Account Payments

The lists of payments from revenue account during the month of January 2008 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.*

PF08/02/10

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PF08/02/08

MATTERS REFERRED BY COMMISSIONERS/OTHER COMMITTEES

None

PF08/02/09

RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY OR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

PF08/02/10

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PF08/02/11

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be held at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 25th March 2008.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.05 p.m.

IN PUBLIC

Minutes of a meeting of the **RURAL COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, Main Road, Onchan, on Wednesday 13th February 2008 at 5.01pm.

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

Apologies: Messrs D. Crellin and B.H. Moore (both off the island)

In attendance: Peter Kelly (Clerk to the Committee) and B.T. Price (Surveyor) (until 5.34pm)

R/08/02/1
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2008, copies of which having previously been circulated, was taken as read, confirmed and signed.

R/08/02/2
PLANNING MATTERS

a) **Planning Decisions**

The following planning decisions had been received from DOLGE.

PA 07/1809 Insattaltion of replacement windows Glen Bower, Little Mill Road for Mr & Mrs McCauley

- Approved

It was noted that there was not a condition requiring sliding sash windows which the committee and board had requested given the age of the property and the fact that the windows would be visible from Ashley Road. The matter of seeking Appeal was discussed and finally it was Resolved not to seek same.

PA 07/2094 Erection of decked areas to rear elevation, The Old Barns, Bibaloe Beg Road for Mr & Mrs Moore

- Approved

Standard condition relevant to commencing within four years had been applied

PA 07/2048 Proposed sign at entrance to Tromode Industrial Estate, Tromode for Clucas PLC

- Approved

Members noted that the application had been approved under the control of advertisement regulations and consequently a series of conditions had been applied which were more applicable to advertising than the permanent structure proposed. It was noted that the recommendation of the committee and the board that the approval be subject to there being no subsidiary signage erected in the same area was not specifically referred to in the approval notice. The conditions applied could however achieve the same end in a roundabout way.

IN PUBLIC

b) Appeals

The Surveyor advised as to the following :-

PA 07/1653 Appeal against refusal for demolition of existing Tuck Mill and erection of dwelling, Slegaby and Ballacottier Farms for Clypse Farms Limited

Notification had been received from the Chief Secretary's Office that written submissions had to be made by 19th February. Noted. Mr Skillicorn declared an interest in the matter but no discussion took place.

c) New Applications

PA 08/141 Proposed alterations and extensions Barravore Abbeylands for Mr Peter Nash

Members viewed the plans and noted the extent of the proposals which incorporated a two storey section double gable overlooking the valley but the ridge height of the existing dwelling did not alter. Concern was expressed over the appearance given conditions that had been applied to other properties in the Rural Ward which had to have a traditional appearance. It was noted that the proposals would generally not be seen given the position behind trees along the roadside. After further discussion it was

RESOLVED "to advise the Planning Committee that no objection was raised to the application and that such decision was based on the fact that the property was hidden from view".

d) Previous Decision

The Surveyor produced copies of the Appeal Decision in respect of PA 06/866 Alterations to existing sludge pit and erection of a building to incorporate leisure activities, Ballakaighen Farm off Laxey Road for Mr A. Clague. The Independent Inspector had recommended the dismissal of the applicant's Appeal whilst acknowledging the advantage the proposals would have to residents and visitors alike, on balance he felt the size and appearance of the building would have an impact on the landscape and could create a precedent for similar development on other farms. The Minister confirmed the refusal but a note was added that should a further application be made there should be prior consultation with the Environmental Protection Unit of DOLGE and the Highway Division of DoT. Noted. The Chairman requested that a copy of the documentation be forwarded to the two missing members of the committee.

R/08/02/3

MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:-

a) Future of ODC – Standing Orders

Members referred to the recent extraordinary meeting of the Board held to work through the proposed Standing Orders to come into force with the new reduced number of board

IN PUBLIC

members. There were no particular comments other than a general query as to what happens next.

b) Fly Tipping Clypse Beg

The Surveyor advised that the policy in respect of fly tipping was that if the items were on private land the owner of the land was requested to remove them and if this task was undertaken by the authority then the owner was billed. If the items were on public land then the items were removed at the cost of the authority but in the case of public highways every endeavour was made to recoup the cost from DoT. In all events efforts were made to establish the culprit.

In the case in question at Clypse Beg the culprit was found and they were arranging to pay back the charge of removal to the property owner.

c) Brandish Corner – Speed Counts

Correspondence with the Director of Highways had been circulated and members noted the figures produced for traffic numbers and speeds recorded in a location between the entrance to Ballaskelly Farm and Slegaby Lane during the period 14th – 21st January 2008. These showed that 85% of vehicles travelling northbound had an average speed of 58 miles per hour and southbound 61 miles per hour. Maximum speeds in both directions were 114 miles per hour northbound and 119 miles per hour southbound. The covering letter advised that if there was an all island maximum speed limit of 60 miles per hour then 85% of the traffic was travelling at the appropriate speed.

Mr Skillicorn referred to the traffic numbers recorded as being at a date of Wednesday 16th April 2008. This showed the greatest volume of traffic southbound was between 7am and 8am and northbound between 4pm and 5pm. He was of the opinion that these figures were one hour out and that there was a greater flow of traffic between 8am and 9am and equally between 5pm and 6pm. The department had been thanked for the figures but it was agreed that this comment be brought to their attention.

The Administrative Officer reported receipt of a letter from the Chief Executive of DoT expressing concern that there appeared to be dissatisfaction within the commissioners regarding correspondence/communications from his department. It was noted that the letter referred to queries having been responded to previously whereas in fact they were subsequent to the last meeting of the committee. Mr Stowell commented that whilst the information had now been received, it was frustrating in efforts that had to be made in order to achieve it. Reply to be sent to the Chief Executive of DoT outlining the sequence of events for his information.

IN PUBLIC

R/08/02/4

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

The list of outstanding matters had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted without further comment.

R/08/02/5

MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil.

R/08/02/6

MATTERS REFERRED BY BOARD/OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil.

R/08/02/7

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Time and Date of next meeting

Wednesday 19th March 2008 at 5.15pm.

b) Road Safety for Horse Users

Mr Stowell referred to a recent incident in the Abbeylands area between a motorist and equestrians on the road. He queried whether the commissioners had a policy in relation to horses on the road to which the Administrative Officer replied that such a matter was outside the remit of the commissioners. The Chairman made reference to there being an established practice regarding horses in the countryside and there were signs on the Scollag Road advising motorists as to the presence of horses. Members were not aware as to whether the Road Safety Section of DoT had any published guidelines for horse users and other road users in respect of horse traffic and it was agreed that an enquiry should be made to establish the status quo.

c) Closed Footpath

The Chairman referred to the footpath running from Sir George's Bridge through to Lark Hill in so much that it was currently closed to users. Agreed that an enquiry should be made at DoT as to why it was closed and the timescale for reopening.

d) Scollag Road Ponding

The Chairman made reference to the fact that the problems of ponding on the Scollag Road had first been raised with DoT in 1991 and despite having initially started to install drainage at the lower end, the work appeared to be getting put further and further back despite the fact

IN PUBLIC

that the ponding appeared to be increasing. Mr Stowell commented that during the last period of flooding pedestrians were forced to walk on the top of the hedges as the road was completely impassable on foot. He further added that the hedge on the south-east side of the road was now eroding due to the passage of water due to the ponding. Agreed that a letter be sent to DoT enquiring as to what they proposed to do in order to alleviate the situation and what was the timescale.

e) Flooding Abbeylands Road

The Chairman made reference to water coming down the farm lane at Strenaby Farm and out onto the highroad. The culverts in the area were blocked and had continued to be blocked for sometime. These had been installed by DoT but they had not been maintained since their installation. Matter to be referred to the department.

f) Water Build Up Hillberry Straight

Mr Skillicorn advised members that there had been a vehicle accident towards the bottom of the Hillberry Straight resulting in a section of wall being knocked into the field. Water coming down from Brandish Corner was now accumulating in this location. Agreed matter be referred to DoT.

g) Stable Conversion, Sunnyside, Laxey Road/The Garey Road

The Chairman referred to the planning application considered at the previous meeting and that some little time after the meeting he was contacted by a local resident who was of the opinion that approval for a new stable block in this location around 20 years previous had a condition requiring the old stable to be demolished. This had been investigated by the Administrative Officer and the only condition relevant to that location was the fact that all effluent produced from the then new stables should be kept within the curtilage of the property. Noted.

Meeting terminated 6.01pm.