

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 2nd October 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. A. Allen (Chairman)
Mr J. Cherry (Lead Member for Properties and Amenities)
Mr M. Macfarlane (Vice-Chair and Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes)
Mr C. Quirk

Apologies: Miss K. Williams
Mr D. Crellin (Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services)
Mr R. Turton

In Attendance: Mr T.R. Craig (Deputy Clerk)
Mr B.T. Price (District Surveyor)
Ms A.S. Dentith (Senior Administrator)

Apologies: Mr D. Vincent (Interim Finance Manager)

C17/10/01/01

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

Not necessary.

C17/10/01/02

BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE DEALT WITH BY STATUTE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

C17/10/01/03

MINUTES

1. Ordinary meeting held on Monday 18th September 2017

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 18th September 2017, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

(a) C17/09/02/14(1) – Shared Housing Waiting List Eastern Region

First sentence, change to read “disagreed with the following points”.

(b) Page 8, amend meeting terminated to read 9.55 p.m.

It was proposed by Mr Macfarlane, seconded by Mr Cherry and unanimously **RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed as a correct record of proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.**

C17/10/01/04

BUSINESS ARISING NOT REFERRED TO IN THE MINUTES OF ANY SPECIAL COMMITTEES

1. C17/09/02/10(1) – 5 Year Service Review – Local Bus Service Provision

The Deputy Clerk advised that no response received from the public. The Chairman requested that the comments made at the previous meeting of the Board be forwarded to Bus Vannin.

The Vice-Chairman also indicated that residents at Springfield Court have commented on the frequency of the bus services, and also if they have to go to the Hospital the connection is at Avondale Road. Those residents indicated that if there was a nominal fee to pay for their bus

passes they would not object if it improved the bus service. The Vice-Chairman also stated that the young people's perception is that the bus service is well run in Onchan, but this is probably because they are more able to get to the bus stops.

2. C17/09/02/22(4) – Civic Sunday

Memorandum of the Senior Administrator dated 28th September 2017, having previously been circulated.

It was agreed that this matter be held over for further consideration to the meeting of the Board to be held on 30th October 2017.

C17/10/01/05

BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C17/10/01/06

BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

C17/10/01/07

PLANNING DECISIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Plans to the Board

(a) The following plans were considered by the Board.

- (i) PA 17/00771 – 11 Beech Avenue, change of use of the garage to bedroom and provision of additional off-street parking.

It was proposed by Mr Cherry, seconded by Mr Quirk, and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 17/00771 – 11 Beech Avenue be recommended for approval.**

- (ii) PA 17/00998 – 85 King Edward Road, Replacement of two conservatories with a dressing room/sunroom extension.

It was proposed by Mr Cherry, seconded by Mr Quirk, and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 17/00998 – 85 King Edward Road be recommended for approval.**

- (iii) PA 17/00999 – 23 Furman Close, Proposed extension and alterations comprising of a kitchen/utility extension to the rear, a porch to the front and a dormer to the rear.

It was proposed by Mr Cherry, seconded by Mr Quirk, and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 17/00999 – 23 Furman Close be recommended for approval.**

- (iv) PA 17/01000 – 54 Seafeld Close, Proposed conversion of existing garage into bedroom and extension to existing driveway to provide additional parking.

It was proposed by Mr Cherry, seconded by Mr Quirk, and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 17/01000 – 54 Seafeld Close be recommended for approval.**

2. Planning Communications

None.

C17/10/01/08
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

None.

C17/10/01/09
REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER**1. Meeting with Onchan MHK's – 25th September 2018**

To be considered In Committee.

C17/10/01/10
LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**1. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor**

Letter of thanks regarding Civic Sunday received from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Sir Richard Gozney and Lady Diana Gozney dated 18th September 2017. *Noted with pleasure.*

2. IOM Municipal Association – Meeting Date

Correspondence dated 20th September 2017, from the Secretary of the IOM Municipal Association, advising of a training session regarding Adult Safeguarding which is to be held on Tuesday 17th October 2017 at the Noble's Community Room. *Noted.*

Many compliments received regarding the refurbishment of the Onchan Hub.

3. 2nd Onchan Scouts

Letter of invitation from the Group Secretary, 2nd Onchan Scout Group to attend the Group Awards Night and Annual General Meeting on 20th October 2017 at 7.30 p.m.. The Chairman indicated his attendance.

4. Onchan Methodist Church – Carol Service

Letter of invitation dated 15th September 2017 from the Secretary of Onchan Methodist Church inviting Members to attend the Carol Service on 13th December 2017 at 7.00 p.m. Chairman indicated his attendance.

5. Invitation to Mayor's Parlour

Letter of invitation dated 26th September 2017 from the Worshipful the Mayor of Douglas to attend a social meeting in the Mayor's Parlour at 4.30 p.m. on Friday 27th October 2017. Members indicated their attendance.

C17/10/01/11
QUESTIONS

None.

C17/10/01/12
MOTIONS

None.

C17/10/01/13
ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES MATTERS

1. **Christmas Trees**

Members considered the costs involved in offering external Christmas trees to residents of Main Road.

It was proposed by Mr Macfarlane, seconded by Mr Cherry, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the status quo remains with a charge of £20 per Christmas Tree, to include decorative lighting, installation and removal by Commissioners' Staff.

C17/10/01/14
PROPERTIES AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. **Commissioners' Surgery – 3rd October 2017**

2.30 p.m.	Springfield Court	-	Commissioner Mr Quirk to attend
6.30 p.m.	Onchan Hub	-	Commissioner Mr Quirk and Vice-Chairman Mr Macfarlane to attend

2. **Onchan Raceway Lease**

To be considered In Committee.

3. **Onchan AFC Licence**

To be considered In Committee.

4. **Housing Allocations**

To be considered In Committee.

5. **IOM Woodland Trust**

To be considered In Committee.

6. **Housing Deficiency Claim**

To be considered In Committee.

7. **Eastern Housing Meeting**

To be considered In Committee.

C17/10/01/15
CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Attendances**

29th September 2017 - Presentation to Graham Bell, IOM Alzheimer's Society, of a donation to the Dementia Friends Group from contributions made on Civic Sunday.

2. Dates for the Diary

- Commissioners' Surgery - 3rd October 2017
- IOM Woodland Trust - 9th October 2017
- IOM Municipal Association - 17th October 2017

C17/10/01/16

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Dates for Diary

15th October – Civic Sunday, Jurby Parish Commissioners
22nd October – Municipal Sunday, Ramsey Town Commissioners

2. C17/09/02/15 – Rally IOM

The Deputy Clerk advised of a reply from the Department of Infrastructure regarding traffic congestion thanking the Commissioners for their feedback. The Rally IOM road racing clashed with a number of events around the Island which contributed to the traffic congestion. However, problems will be considered as part of the event debrief and planning for the next event.

C17/10/01/17

REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER

1. Meeting with Onchan MHK's – 25th September 2018

The Deputy Clerk referred to the joint meeting, and Members indicated their agreement to the format of the notes which had been circulated. It was noted that some additions had been made by attendees, and the Members were given updates where applicable.

Members were concerned to learn of the recent posting by Mrs Edge MHK on social media which appeared to show Onchan District Commissioners had in some way held up a very important road safety initiative.

In answer to question, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that the lamp posts are safe.

The Chairman requested that once the new lights have been installed that a news item be placed on the Commissioners' website and social media pages welcoming the Department of Infrastructure's contribution to installation of warning signs on the Main Road, and that the Authority acted promptly to give permission at the initial request.

C17/10/01/18

PROPERTIES AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. Onchan Raceway - Lease

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

It was agreed that this matter be held over for further consideration to the meeting of the Board to be held on 30th October 2017.

2. Onchan AFC - Licence

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

It was agreed that this matter be held over for further consideration to the meeting of the Board to be held on 30th October 2017.

3. **Housing Allocations**

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

It was proposed by Mr Cherry, seconded by Mr Macfarlane and unanimously **RESOLVED that the housing allocations be granted as follows:-**

10/28 – tenancy be granted to HA 3701.

13/16 – tenancy be granted to HA 3863.

4. **IOM Woodland Trust**

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

Members were advised of an invitation to attend a meeting with the IOM Woodland Trust on 9th October 2017 at 10am in the Commissioners' Boardroom. A copy of the lease would be circulated to the Commissioners for their information prior to the meeting.

5. **Housing Deficiency Claim**

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

Correspondence received dated 14th September 2017 from the Acting Finance Director for the Department of Infrastructure regarding the 2016/17 Housing Deficiency overclaim.

The Deputy Clerk explained that the details of the letter were a result of the housing revenue and the housing deficiency claim which is based on the previous year's figures.

Members agreed that they would like a review of the original decision to amalgamate the general housing stock revenue account with the elderly person's complex revenue account. Ultimately, the Department of Infrastructure needs to give a reason as to why they are not going to review their decision, based on the fact that other Housing Authorities are being supported in their EPC costs. It is only Douglas Borough Council and Onchan District Commissioners which have had to combine their general and elderly persons housing revenues.

The Deputy Clerk was requested to write a response advising that the Board are not content to receive an invoice on the basis that it is detrimental to the tenants of Onchan. This is based on the fact that other Housing Authority areas are not contributing to their elderly person's complexes. Should the decision to uphold the combined revenue account be made, Members wished to know if there is any objection to Onchan District Commissioners segregating the Onchan elderly person's complexes into a separate housing body.

The Vice-Chairman stated that should the Department object to the segregation of the housing, they would need to state the reasons and how their decision was reached.

6. **Eastern Housing Meeting**

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

Correspondence received dated 26th September 2017 from the Business and Quality Improvement Manager of the Public Estates and Housing Division of the Department of Infrastructure having previously been circulated was considered. Members agreed that they would attend and requested that an officer be present.

Members also requested the Deputy Clerk to arrange a joint board meeting between Castletown Town Commissioners and Onchan District Commissioners.

C17/10/01/19
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Road Sweeper

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

Chairman requested that an article be published on the purchase of the new sweeper.

In answer to comment, the District Surveyor will investigate the frequency of the sweeping of Lakeside Gardens Estate.

2. Recycling – Seaview Road

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

In answer to question, the District Surveyor advised that when the new parking regime has been created at Seaview Road, this would give an opportunity to investigate the relocation of the recycling bins.

3. Happy Valley

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

In answer to question, the Deputy Clerk advised that the road leading to Happy Valley is understood to be an adopted highway. However, the land on either side is in private ownership down to the high water mark.

4. Onchan District Commissioners' Website

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

The Chairman requested that the picture on the welcome page is changed to reflect autumn or Armistice. [amended by ODC 16/10/17]

Members agreed that a photographic competition should be run, the winner's picture to be used on the website and to offer a cash prize of £50.

5. Onchan Park Café

The following matter was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that a meeting had been arranged with the directors of Onchan Park Café Ltd. The purpose of the meeting was resolve some of the irregularities within the lease. Unfortunately, the Directors did not attend and no information has been received.

6. Onchan Park Marquee

In answer to question, Members were advised that the marquee was due to be removed on 3rd October 2017.

Members were advised of the events that had been held that week. It was agreed that in the event of the marquee being reinstated for the following year, that more notice would be required, and that tighter controls would be in place for certain aspects of the operation.

7. Fly Tipping

A Member questioned the use of official signage adjacent to private property. ^[amended by ODC 16/10/17]
The District Surveyor advised that fly tipping was being experienced in a layby on a minor road near its junction with King Edward Road. The layby was part of the highway but the land was in private ownership, and the situation was being monitored due to the frequency of grass clippings being dumped on the site.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.