

Minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 15th January 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. A. Allen (Chairman)
Mr J. Cherry (Lead Member for Properties and Amenities)
Mr D. Crellin (Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services)
Mr M. Macfarlane (Vice-Chair and Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes)

Mr C. Quirk
Mr R. Turton

Apologies: Miss K. Williams

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

C18/01/02/01
2018/19 Rate

The following matter was considered in committee.

Members considered the previously circulated documents in respect of the Authority's income and expenditure for the current financial year, proposed additional expenditure and proposals for the rate for the coming year.

A number of queries were raised on the income and expenditure as follows:-

1. Is there opportunity to obtain sponsorship for the kiddie kars. The Deputy Clerk stated that the Administration Department would make enquiries of local businesses.
2. Concern was expressed over the occupancy of a commercial property and the failure of the tenant to pay rent regularly. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to pursue recovery of the property and outstanding rent.
3. Members asked that officers explore further commercial waste collection opportunities in other areas. It was agreed that having customers in geographic proximity was the most economic method of increasing commercial business.
4. Members asked for a breakdown of all current loans serviced by the Authority, and what they are for. The Deputy Clerk undertook to discuss the matter with the Authority's accountant.
5. Members asked for costs on the provision of public Wi-Fi access in various parts of the village. The Deputy Clerk advised that he would discuss the matter with the service provider at a forthcoming meeting.
6. Members discussed the cost of grass cutting services and it was agreed that officers discuss the matter with Douglas Borough Council as a potential contractor on a shared service basis. It was further agreed that a tender process be undertaken as in previous years to establish private sector interest and prices.
7. Members agreed that the installation of a lift at Views Restaurant be considered as part of the Onchan Park Consultation rather than as a standalone item in the rates budget.
8. Members agreed that the cost of a replacement tipper vehicle for the Parks Department comes from reserves, but approval to purchase would be based on a report concerning the current vehicle.

9. Members agreed that the purchase cost of wheeled bins to replenish the stocks held by the Authority should come from reserves, but approval to purchase would be based on a business case to be submitted by the Surveyor's Department.
10. A Member expressed concern that the Commissioners instruction for the installation of additional lighting along the footpath from the car park to Views Restaurant had not been progressed. The District Surveyor advised that there were issues with the strength of the lampposts in the area and our contractor did not think they would take the additional weight of the light string requested. The District Surveyor was asked to address an alternative solution, such as stringing lights through the trees, as a matter of urgency as there had already been one fall reported due to the lack of illumination.

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that a rate increase of 4 pence to 346 pence would only be an increase of 1.3% and well below the rate of inflation. The original proposal from officers of a 9 pence increase was made on the basis of additional expenditure not being met by reserves, but as Members had decided otherwise a small increase was still recommended.

Following protracted discussion on the financial pressures facing all residents of the District, Members noted that it was possible to meet proposed additional expenditure from reserves and on the proposal of Mr Macfarlane, seconded by Mr Turton, it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the District Rate for the 2018/19 financial year be held at 312 pence in the pound.**

C18/01/02/02

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Onchan Hub

The following matter was considered in committee.

The Lead Member for Finance noted that the detailed management information for the current year showed a very high overspend on repairs and maintenance for the Onchan Hub and asked for an explanation. The Deputy Clerk stated that he had looked into the overspend and found it related to additional work and equipment to create the I.T. infrastructure and meeting room at The Hub, which were outside the contracted refurbishment works.

In answer to question, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that some expenditure had been approved by the Board in February 2018, but the resolution was not specific. The reminder was at the discretion of the then Clerk.

2. Staffing Matter

See Staff Minute Book.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.