

IN PUBLIC

Minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 17th July 2017 at 1.00 p.m.

Present: Mr A, Allen (Chairman)
 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
 Miss K. Williams

Apologies: Mr J. Cherry (Lead Member for Properties and Amenities)
 Mr M.J. Morrison (Chief Executive/Clerk)

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

C17/07/02/01**PA16/00859/B – LAND ADJACENT ONCHAN SCHOOL**

The Chairman advised of a complaint made by residents of Sandringham Drive regarding the planning application submitted by Onchan Primary School which had been discussed at the meeting of the Board held 8th May 2017. He informed Members that the Board had recommended approval of the planning application, with a condition that 'there is no public access to or through the site.'

The Chairman informed Members that following meetings held with residents of Sandringham Drive, the residents do not understand how the Authority came to recommend approval to the planning application as every single resident of Sandringham Drive had submitted some objection in the form of written correspondence and in two cases through their Advocates.

In answer to question, the District Surveyor stated that the correspondence had not been forwarded to the Authority. Members had been made aware during consideration of the planning application that there were objectors and the residents were not happy.

The Chairman commented that he was surprised that the Authority were not copied into the correspondence submitted to the Planning Department and advised that the information was available online.

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the objection on file was received between the original application being received and the resubmission of the application with the further details. The Authority had not received details of the vast quantity of objectors which had been indicated by the Chairman. This Authority is a statutory consultee, but the ultimate decision maker is the Planning Department and they have the information they need to make a decision.

Lead Member for Environment and Technical Services stated that the Authority had party status and felt that it would carry more weight than that of an individual with party status. It was felt that the Board should receive all the information so that they could make an informed decision.

In answer to question, the District Surveyor advised that one resident had been in touch regarding the planning application.

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The Lead Member for Environment and Technical Services felt it was unacceptable that no letters of objection were circulated and felt the application should be reconsidered. The strength of feeling should have been conveyed to the Board.

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that if objections were not copied to the Authority and were a matter of public record with the Planning Committee then that was not the Officer's responsibility.

Discussion ensued with regard to the style of fencing and proposed access detailed within the planning application.

The Chairman commented that the residents of Sandringham Drive were meeting with Planners later that day.

In answer to question, the Chairman stated that the objections from the residents were:-

- As the land is adjacent to residential property the proposed fencing should be in keeping with the surrounding area;
- There should be no access from Sandringham Drive on to the plot of land;
- There is limited access on Sandringham Drive and would it be possible to have access from School Road where there is already an entrance.
- That access should only be from School Road area during clearance of the land.
- Why would you need dual access when there is already access on School Road.

A Member stated that the condition submitted to the Planning Committee states that there should be no public access to or through the site.

C17/07/02/02**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

It was proposed by Mr Crellin, seconded by Mr Quirk, and it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow reconsideration of PA16/00859/B – Land adjacent Onchan School and the Commissioners' original decision in view of further information that had been received.

For: Messrs Allen, Crellin, Quirk, Macfarlane

Against: Miss Williams and Mr Turton

C17/07/02/03**PA16/00859/B – LAND ADJACENT ONCHAN SCHOOL continued**

It was proposed by Mr Crellin, seconded by Mr Quirk, and **RESOLVED** that PA16/00859/B – Land adjacent Onchan School be recommend for refusal on the grounds that the:

- **Visual appearance of the perimeter fencing is not in keeping with the streetscape; and**
- **Access from Sandringham Drive is considered inappropriate.**

Members requested that the letter state that Onchan District Commissioners had no objections to the use of the land by the school, just the detail within the planning application.

For: Messrs Quirk, Macfarlane, Crellin and Allen

Against: Miss Williams and Mr Turton.

Officers were requested to leave the meeting. 1.45 p.m.

*IN PUBLIC***C17/07/02/04**
CODE OF CONDUCT

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

As no officers were present, the Vice-Chairman took the minutes of the meeting.

The Chairman discussed the history of the Code of Conduct and the reason for bringing a new version to the Board. It was felt that the current document which was adopted by the Board was more of a reference template document than a Code of Conduct which reflected the organisation.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman met with representatives of the Department of Infrastructure for advice on standards of their reference document, and any requirements for their approval of introducing a new or replacement Code of Conduct. The advice received was that the Board had the freedom to develop and adopt a Code of Conduct for their Authority.

It was felt a new version was required to update references in the document to Onchan District Commissioners and reflect the expectations of senior staff members.

A Member recommended seeking input from representatives of the staff.

A further Member stated the document was very similar to the current document in place with a few amendments and suggested that if staff wished to make recommendations with any policy adopted by the Board, they should be free to-do-so at any time – the main point is the majority of the document is already in place.

A Member suggested that the Board set an enforcement date which allowed some time for the staff to review and engage prior to implementation.

It was proposed by Mr Quirk, seconded by Mr Crellin, and unanimously **RESOLVED that the Corporate Governance Principles and Code of Conduct (July 2017) be adopted and accepted to replace the existing and be implemented as from start of business 7th August 2017.**

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 14.20 p.m.