

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 22nd 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	
	Miss K. Williams	(from 7.10 p.m.)
In Attendance:	Mr T.R. Craig	(Deputy Clerk)
	Mr B.T. Price	(District Surveyor)
	Ms A.S. Dentith	(Senior Administrator)

C18/01/03/01

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

Not necessary.

C18/01/03/02

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

1. Rate Setting 2018/19

The Lead Member for Finance & General Purposes reported on the projected financial results of the Authority's rate-borne activities for the financial year and on the budget for the forthcoming financial year ending 31 March 2019. The Lead Member thanked his fellow Commissioners and Officers of the Authority for their contribution and prudent scrutiny throughout the budget setting process.

The Lead Member stated as follows:-

"At the beginning of the current financial year, the Commissioners set out to maintain the current level of services to the community whilst working to find more cost effective and innovative ways of providing those services.

One example of innovation was the development of a wristband system for Onchan Park which provided a good deal for visitors and overall growth in revenue for the Authority by increasing footfall.

As a result of good work throughout the year, the Authority is set to achieve its budget projections and result in a small surplus of approximately £7,000 for the current financial year.

The overall financial position of the Authority is sound as a result of forward thinking and strong budgetary control in recent years.

In focusing on the forthcoming year, the budget is once again designed to sustain the current level of services to the community, maintain a rolling programme of maintenance and make provision for a small enhancement package to Onchan Park (subject to outcomes of the Onchan Park strategic review).

The Board of Onchan District Commissioners have recognised the needs and pressures faced by social housing tenants and private households alike within our community. Combining these

factors with the sound financial position of the Authority, the Commissioners are delighted to announce that the district rate is frozen for the forthcoming year at 312p in the pound.

It is worth recognising that the core offering of the Authority is service driven, which is naturally subject to rising external costs through inflation and increased charges passed on from central government. The forthcoming budget will accommodate the foreseeable increases while funding a proportion of capital expenditure from the Authority's healthy reserves.

The Commissioners remain mindful of increasing costs in future budgets and will continue exploring more cost effective and innovative ways of providing services to sustain the current offering.

It will be a challenge to find the balance between providing the services our community expect, and delivering those services in a way that demonstrates careful and considerate financial management. Predicting the future is always a difficult task, but the Commissioners are confident that by working with Officers of the Authority we can continue providing services in a sustainable manner, not only in the coming year, but in the years to come thereafter."

A Member expressed thanks to the Board for their consideration and input in the rate setting process, taking into account the views of the Authority's tenants and residents of the District.

C18/01/03/03
MINUTES

1. Ordinary meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

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

2. Staff Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018

To be considered In Committee.

3. Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018

To be considered In Committee.

4. Staff Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018

To be considered In Committee.

C18/01/03/04

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

None.

C18/01/03/05

BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C18/01/03/06BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING**1. Consultation – Access and Eligibility Criteria**

The briefing paper by the Deputy Clerk, having previously been circulated, was considered.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the consultation was issued by the Department of Infrastructure, which refers to a survey undertaken by the David Tolson Partnership in 2012. He stated that survey gave no weighting or other value to the responses from Local Authorities or other Housing providers over those who replied as individuals. The Survey lacked credibility on that basis and was strongly challenged by the housing providers.

A Member stated that when the results of the survey were first published it had been proven that the survey was badly flawed and it should not be used again. They were surprised that the Department are using the survey, as at the time Government had stated that they would not use that data.

A Member commented that the David Tolson Report had been done and sunk like the Titanic and was not to be used again. Objections had been raised due to the bias of the report, and it was troubling that the Department had referred to this report again.

In answer to question, the Deputy Clerk advised that he could not recall the fee for the David Tolson work which was paid from public funds. He would have to seek further clarification. The fees came from central government finances, and the Authority's budget was not affected at the time.

After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Mr Cherry, seconded by Mr Quirk, and unanimously **RESOLVED that the briefing paper submitted for Members consideration shall form the response to the public consultation on the Access and Eligibility Criteria for General Housing.**

C18/01/03/07PLANNING 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 17/01339 – 4 Royal Terrace, Demolition of existing store area to the rear with replacement family room extension.

It was proposed by Mr Crellin, seconded by Mr Cherry, and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 17/01339 – 4 Royal Terrace be recommended for approval.**

- (ii) PA 18/00023 – 1 Sycamore Close – Retrospective application for the erection of a timber fence to the side and front of the property.

The District Surveyor referred to the Permitted Development Order, and advised that the fencing does not impede any sight lines.

Members commented as follows:-

- Expressed concern over the height of the fencing at the front of the property.
- The original estate layout was open plan.
- A 1 metre high fence was acceptable.
- Concern that a precedent would be set for other areas.

It was proposed by Mr Crellin, seconded by Mr Quirk, and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 17/00023 – 1 Sycamore Close be recommended for refusal.**

- (iii) PA 18/00036 and PA 18/00027 – Welch House, Church Road, replacement of windows in registered building.

Mr Crellin, Miss Williams and Mr Allen declared an interest.

It was proposed by Mr Cherry, seconded by Mr Quirk, and **RESOLVED that PA 18/00036 and PA 18/00027 – Welch House, Church Road be recommended for approval.**

2. Planning Communications

None.

C18/01/03/08 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

None.

C18/01/03/09 REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER

None.

C18/01/03/10 LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

1. Dog Fouling

Correspondence received from a concerned resident regarding dog fouling, having previously been circulated, was considered.

Members made comments as follows:-

- That the Surveyor's Department investigate where further dog bins could be sited within the District, and to possibly include a location on Auburn Road.
- That all litter bins should have a sign on to say that dog waste is acceptable.
- That a stencil be purchased, to paint on the pavement where dog fouling is occurring.
- There are no bins on the estates of Ballachurry, Birch Hill and Lakeside.
- Investigate improved signage on greenfield areas.

The Deputy Clerk cautioned that an increase in provision will also add to the cost of the waste collection service.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the installation of dog bins was considered on main routes some years ago, under the legislation that prevailed at the time, dog waste was only acceptable in certain dog bins. The legislation changed to allow dog waste to go in normal litter bins but providing they were of a certain design. There are perhaps better bins available than those that we traditionally used.

The spray signs on the pavement to be commenced as soon as possible.

The Chairman requested that a report be presented to the second meeting in February, detailing the number and siting of dog/waste bins with an approximate cost.

2. **Garff Constituency Name Change**

Correspondence received dated 16th January 2018, having previously been circulated was considered.

Miss Williams declared an interest.

Vice Chairman thanked Mr Perkins MHK for asking for the views of the Board on this matter.

Members commented as follows:-

- People are already confused.
- The constituency boundaries which were changed were contrary to the views of the Board and residents at the time. The answer from Government was that they were not going to change the boundaries back as the change in effect brought the number of voters in line with the rest of the two seat constituencies on the Island.
- It would have been helpful if suggestions had been put forward.
- All of the constituency members should have the opportunity to have a say.
- A name change has to be well thought out.
- It should be up to the people affected to assist in making the decision.

Members felt Mr. Perkins should be thanked for his enquiry, but there should be wider consultation before any final decision is reached.

C18/01/03/11 **QUESTIONS**

None.

C18/01/03/12 **MOTIONS**

None.

C18/01/03/13 **ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES MATTERS**

None.

C18/01/03/14 **PROPERTIES AND AMENITIES MATTERS**

1. **Onchan Park Consultation**

Members agreed that an extraordinary meeting be held on Monday 12th February 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

2. **Commissioners Surgery – 9th January 2018**

To be considered In Committee.

3. **Housing Allocations**

To be considered In Committee.

C18/01/03/15
CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dates for the Diary

- 28th January 2018 – Holocaust Memorial Service
- 30th January 2018 – Junior Commissioners' Board Meeting
- 6th February 2018 – Commissioners Surgery
 - 2.30 p.m. – Heywood Court – Miss Williams and Mr Quirk
 - 6.30 p.m. – Onchan Hub – Mr Cherry and Mr Crellin
- 9th February 2018 – Crosh Pobble Chonnaghyn Presentation
- 4th March – Malew Parish Commissioners, Civic Service

C18/01/03/16
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The meeting moved to In Committee proceedings at 7.50 p.m.

C18/01/03/17
MINUTES

1. Minutes from the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018

The following matter was considered in committee and transferred to the public domain.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

The Deputy Clerk was requested to amend the minutes regarding the discussion on the installation of lighting from the car park to Views Restaurant.

District Surveyor left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

2. Staff Minutes from the Ordinary meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018

The following matter was considered in committee and transferred to the public domain.

The staff minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

The minutes to come back before the Board for approval after agreed amendments had been made.

3. Minutes from the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018

The following matter was considered in committee and transferred to the public domain.

Mr Price returned to the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

Matters arising from the extra-ordinary meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018 were discussed.

A Member advised that the Board were still awaiting responses to the Points 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 within the minutes.

In answer to question, the District Surveyor advised that the most cost effective way of increasing the street lighting in Onchan Park is by the installation of two lamp standards, one at the car park and one by the bin stores. Works are programmed for completion in the next two weeks.

A Member wished to record their disappointment in the length of time it has taken to resolve the issue of additional lighting in Onchan Park.

4. Staff Minutes from the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018

The following matter was considered in committee and transferred to the public domain.

The staff minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

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.**

C18/01/03/18

PROPERTIES AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. Commissioners' Surgery

(a) 01/46

Correspondence dated 12th January 2018 to the tenant, having previously been circulated was considered. Members were given the background information to the case.

Members who were in attendance at the Commissioners Surgery stated that the tenant was calling into question the integrity of the staff and Members of the Board. The allocation process was explained to the tenant.

A Member stated that the allegations were being made without any substance, and it was felt that the allegations were to try and promote the case. They felt that a robust letter should be issued from the Board explaining the process, and that as far as the Board was concerned, there was no impropriety, and that the correspondence be signed by the Chairman and issued under recorded delivery.

In answer to comments, a Member stated that there are checks and balances in places to make the process robust. Nobody was getting preferential treatment and no bias being undertaken.

1. Housing Allocations

The following matter was considered in committee and transferred to the public domain.

On the proposal of Mr Cherry, seconded by Miss Williams, it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the following housing allocations be approved en bloc:-**

(a) 14/62 – 2 Bed Bungalow - that the tenancy of E1/21 be offered to TG 432.

(b) E1/15 – 1 Bed EPC - that the tenancy of E1/15 be offered to TS 354.

C18/01/03/20
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Parks Department

The Deputy Clerk advised that a business case would be presented to the Board for the replacement of the vacancy within the Parks Department.

2. Code of Conduct

In answer to question, the Chairman advised that some amendments to correct the terminology had been undertaken. The concept was to be a supplement to the existing Code of Conduct and specifically fashioned to include the Clerk and Senior Officers.

The Deputy Clerk explained that the Authority was currently understaffed, and this had not been a high priority due to the nature of other duties being undertaken, but the amended document would come to the Board in due course.

Members felt that it was not unreasonable to be kept up to date with progress.

3. Staff Vacancies

A Member stated that a temporary member of staff should be appointed to assist the Administration Department.

The Deputy Clerk advised that business cases would be coming before the Board for replacement of three members of staff within the Authority.

3. Housing Questions – Tynwald Sitting

The Lead Member for Properties and Amenities brought to Members' attention that the questions relating to housing which were put before Tynwald at its sitting on Tuesday 16th January 2018.

A discussion ensued, and Members wished to speak with Port St Mary Commissioners.

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