

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Harvey Briggs Onchan Library, Willow House, Main Road, on Monday 8th February 2021

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|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Present: | Mr D Crellin | (Chairman) |
| | Mr M Macfarlane | (Vice-Chair & Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes) |
| | Mr A Allen | (Lead Member for Housing) |
| | Mr C Quirk | (Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services) |
| | Mr R Turton | |
| | Miss K Williams | |
| | Mr D J Quirk | |
| In Attendance: | Mrs L Radcliffe | (Chief Executive/Clerk) |
| | Mr R Phillips | (District Surveyor) |
| | Mrs S Johnson | (Finance Manager) |
| | Miss A Crellin | (Executive Officer/Assistant) |

C21/02/02/01

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

Not necessary.

C21/02/02/02

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

1. 2021/22 Rate Setting

At the meeting of Onchan District Commissioners on the 1st February 2021, the rate was set for the financial year ending March 2022.

The Vice-Chairman & Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes Mr Martin Macfarlane thanked his fellow Commissioners and Officers for their diligent contribution in setting a rate for the forthcoming year.

Commissioner Macfarlane reported on the probable financial result for the current year which is set to achieve its budget projections and result in a small surplus – which is attributed to four months of reduced non-essential services and careful financial management in response to COVID-19. The financial standing of the Authority remains comfortable with good cashflow and healthy reserves.

In focusing on the forthcoming year, a budget has been designed to sustain the current level of services with provision for the upcoming election, enhancements to resilience & security of digital assets, property portfolio maintenance scheme, 'The Rec' footpath & lighting improvements and to meet inflation including substantial increases to waste disposal charges set by central government.

The Board of Onchan District Commissioners have recognised the current economic climate and agreed that a proportion of expenditure be drawn from the Authority's reserves to reduce some of the impact to ratepayers.

The district rate for the financial year ending March 2022 will be increased by 3p to 326p in the pound, equivalent to a 0.93% increase.

Commissioner Macfarlane said "This budget has been challenging to meet the demands of natural inflation on products and services procured by the Authority while remained mindful of the financial pressures members of our community may be facing in response to COVID-19."

"I would like to thank Officers and Staff of the Authority for their careful and considerate financial management throughout this extraordinary year while remaining dedicated to delivering core services to support our community in a time of need."

If you have concerns about paying your rates or social housing rent, you are encouraged to contact Onchan District Commissioners for advice and support in confidence by phone 675564.

Onchan District Commissioners offer a prompt payment discount of 4% where payment of rates is made in full by the 30th June.

C21/02/02/03
MINUTES

1. Ordinary meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Allen and seconded by Mr C Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.**

2. Staff Meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021

To be considered In Committee.

C21/02/02/04
BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES IF NOT REFERRED TO IN THE MINUTES

None.

C21/02/02/05
BUSINESS ARISING NOT REFERRED TO IN THE MINUTES

None.

C21/02/02/06
BUSINESS ARISING NOT REFERRED TO IN THE MINUTES CONTINUED

None.

C21/02/02/07
BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C21/02/02/08
BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Onchan Raceway Lease & Onchan Stadium Licence

To be considered In Committee.

C21/02/02/09PLANNING DECISIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE
PLANNING COMMITTEE1. Plans to the Board

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

(i) **PA 20/01307 Mr M Weldon - Land corner of Lhonvane/Lhondhoo Close**

Members were advised that the application is for the construction of 9 new garages and 4 bike stores.

In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised that:-

- Comments had been received in relation to the application; and
- The return date for the application is the 1st January 2021.

The Chairman advised the Board that legal advice had been received from the Authority's lawyers in relation to the Authority making a comment regarding the planning application.

The Chairman further advised the Board that the Authority's lawyer has advised that the Board should not make a comment due to them having a conflict of interest.

A Member commented that they he is not a lawyer but he does not believe that the Authority has a conflict of interest.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr C Quirk and seconded by Mr Allen and **RESOLVED that the Authority make no comment in relation to PA 20/01307 – Land Corner of Lhonvane/Lhondhoo Close.**

For: Mr Crellin, Mr Macfarlane, Mr Allen, Mr C Quirk and Miss Williams

Against: Mr D J Quirk and Mr Turton

A counter proposal was received from Mr D J Quirk and seconded by Mr Turton that the Authority should support the residents in relation to PA 20/01307 – Land Corner of Lhonvane/Lhondhoo Close.

For: Mr D J Quirk and Mr Turton

Against: Mr Crellin, Mr Macfarlane, Mr Allen, Mr C Quirk and Miss Williams

(ii) **PA 20/01436 Mr D Howland - 8 Groudle View**

Members were advised that the application is for extensions to rear elevation and porch extension to front elevation.

In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised that:-

- No comments had been received; and
- The return date for the application is the 12th February 2021.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr C Quirk and seconded by Mr Macfarlane and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 20/01436 – 8 Groudle View be recommended for approval.**

(iii) PA 20/01513 Mr & Mrs S Thompson - 9 Glen View Road

Members were advised that the application is for alterations and an extension.

In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised that:-

- No comments had been received; and
- The return date for the application is the 12th February 2021.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr C Quirk and seconded by Mr Macfarlane unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 20/01513 – 9 Glen View Road be recommended for approval.**

(v) PA 21/00055 Miss L Kinrade - 74 Main Road

Members were advised that the application is for the removal of a rear chimney stack.

In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised that:-

- No comments had been received; and
- The return date for the application is the 26th February 2021.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr C Quirk and seconded by Mr Allen and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 21/00055 – 74 Main Road be recommended for approval.**

The District Surveyor declared an interest.

(vi) PA 21/00090 Miss N A Johnson - 6 Highfield Crescent

Members were advised that the application is for the erection of extension, replace garage door with a window and widening of driveway and vehicular access.

In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised that:-

- No comments had been received; and
- The return date for the application is the 26th February 2021.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr C Quirk and seconded by Mr Allen and unanimously **RESOLVED PA 21/00090 be recommended for approval.**

The District Surveyor declared an interest.

C21/02/02/10FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

None.

C21/02/02/11REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER1. Public Consultation – 2021 Dog Bye-Laws

The Report of the District Surveyor dated 3rd February 2021, having previously been circulated was considered. .

The District Surveyor advised the Board of the following:-

- 18 comments had been received from the public;
- a lot of confusion had arisen from the definition of a dog at large;
- the Bye-Laws also include maps and areas that have not previously been included;
- the Authority's website need to be more user friendly;
- comments have been received as to why dogs are not encouraged to exercise in Onchan Park.

The Board were advised that Officers would only be available to enforce the Bye-Laws during working hours.

A Member commented that another Local Authority has a Bye-Law Officer and could enquiries be made to see if they would be in a position to enforce the Authority's Bye-Laws.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that enquiries had already been made and they would only be available to enforce the Bye-Laws during working hours. If they were to enforce the Bye-Laws outside of working hours it would be as a private contractor.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr D J Quirk and seconded by Mr Turton and unanimously **RESOLVED that the status quo in Onchan Park remain the same.**

C21/02/02/12LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS1. Department of Enterprise – Night of Light Survey

A copy of the survey received from the Department of Enterprise in respect of the Authority's Night of Light event, having previously been circulated and noted.

A Member requested what funding was received from the Department of Enterprise. The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the event cost £8,500 and the Department of Enterprise had confirmed that their support would be £5,218.34 which is yet to be received.

C21/02/02/12QUESTIONS

The Chairman advised the Board that the following questions in accordance with Standing Order 34 has been received from a Member:-

11.1 **Question:-**

Would the Chairman make a statement as to when the prompt payment discount was changed from 5% to 4% and what reason was the decision made?

Answer:-

At the Board Meeting of Onchan District Commissioners of the 6th February 2017, the following decision was made:-

Onchan District Commissioners currently offer a prompt payment discount where payment of rates is made in full by the 30th June each year. A growing number of rate payers make instalment payments either direct from their bank account or by direct debit and do not receive a discount, the Board decided to reduce the prompt payment discount to 4%.

C21/02/02/13**MOTIONS**

None.

C21/02/02/14**ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES MATTERS**

None.

C21/02/02/15**HOUSING MATTERS****1. Housing Allocations – Update**

To be considered In Committee.

C21/02/02/16**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS****1. Attendances**

The Chairman advised the Board that due to the COVID-19 Circuit Breaker Lockdown he did not have any attendances to report.

2. Dates for the Diary

| Date | Organisation | Event | Time |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 st February 2021 | Onchan District Commissioners | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm |
| 6 th February 2021 | Onchan District Commissioners | Commissioners Surgery - The Hub | 11:00 am to 1:00 pm |
| 8 th February 2021 | Onchan District Commissioners | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm |

C21/02/02/17**ANY OTHER BUSINESS****1. Commissioners Surgery – Heywood Court**

The Lead Member for Housing advised the Board that a Commissioner's surgery at Heywood Court had recently been cancelled and residents had requested that an additional surgery be held.

It was agreed that an additional surgery would be held on Tuesday 16th February 2021, at 2:30 pm and Mr Crellin and Mr Allen would be attending the surgery.

The Public session of the Meeting ended at 19:50 pm

C21/02/02/18
MINUTES

1. Staffing Meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021

The following was discussed In Committee and transferred to the Public domain.

The staff minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr C Quirk and seconded by Mr Macfarlane and unanimously **RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.**

C21/02/02/19
BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Onchan Raceway Lease

The following was discussed In Committee and transferred to the Public domain.

The Report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 28th January 2021, having previously been circulated was considered.

After a discussion, it was agreed that the Chief Executive/Clerk would contact the tenant to offer a 3 year lease and would report back to the Board.

2. Onchan AFC Licence

Mr D J Quirk declared an interest and left the meeting whilst the matter was discussed.

The following was discussed In Committee and transferred to the Public domain.

The Report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 28th January 2021, having previously been circulated was considered.

After a discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Chief Executive/Clerk contact the tenant and offer a 3 year lease at the same licence fee which they are currently paying.

After a further discussion it was agreed that the 2nd and 3rd year would be subject to a 5% increase.

***For: Mr Crellin, Mr Macfarlane, Mr Allen, Mr Turton and Miss Williams;
Against: Mr C Quirk***

C21/02/02/20
BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C21/02/02/21
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

None.

C21/02/02/20

BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C21/02/02/22

REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER

None.

C21/02/02/23

LETTERS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

C21/02/02/24

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES MATTERS

None.

C21/02/02/25

HOUSING MATTERS

1. Quarterly Standards of Performance Data

The following was discussed In Committee and transferred to the Public domain.

The Report of the Housing Manager dated 3rd January 2021 having previously been circulated was considered and noted.

C21/02/02/23

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. 3rd Avenue, Onchan

The following was discussed In Committee and transferred to the Public domain.

A Member advised that he would be making an appointment to come into the office to see the District Surveyor to review the file in relation to the above derelict property to see what can be done regarding this.

2. Sale of Land – Bemahague Avenue

The following was discussed In Committee and transferred to the Public domain.

The offer of a potential sale of land would need to be brought back to the next Board Meeting as an agenda item.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 21:04 pm