Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 10th August 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Present:	Mr A Allen	(Chairman)
	Mr S Wilson	(Vice Chairman and Lead Member for Housing)
	Mr A Gibson	(Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services)
	Mr O Lockwood	(Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes)
	Miss G Corkish	
	Mr D Quirk	
	Mr R Turton	
Apologies:	Mrs S Johnson	(Chief Finance Officer)
	Miss A Crellin	(Executive Officer/Assistant)
In attendance:	Mr R Phillips	(Chief Executive/Clerk)
	Mr R Forgie	(District Surveyor)

C26/08/01/01
TO CHOOSE A PERSON TO PRESIDE IF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN BE ABSENT

Not applicable.

C26/08/01/02
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS (in accordance with Standing Order 18.3)

Mr Allen asked the Board Members and Officers if they wished to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda items due to be considered this evening.

Mr Allen reminded the Board Members and Officers that declarations of interests can be recorded now or when the agenda item is due to be considered during the meeting.

C26/08/01/03
BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE DEALT WITH BY STATUTE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

C26/08/01/04
MINUTES

1. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

Mr Lockwood requested the following amendments:

Page 3	-	**Motion 78 – Three Month Review of Board Members' Names Recorded within the Authority's Minutes** Second bullet point replace "trail period" with "trial period"
Page 7	-	**Question 1 – Submitted by Commissioner David Quirk** Replace "Environment" with "Environmental"

Page 10 - **Change of Speed Limits**

Replace "in the vicinity of School Road" with "at the far end of School Road and in the Stoney Road/Nursery Avenue area".

Page 11 - **Onchan Raceway Limited – Commercial Tenancy Review**

Second bullet point replace "resolve" with "review".

Subject to the above amendments, it was proposed by Mr Lockwood and seconded by Mr Wilson and unanimously **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Board Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026 be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.**

C26/08/01/05
TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES

None.

C26/08/01/06
TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

C26/08/01/07
TO DEAL WITH ANY BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C26/08/01/08
PLANNING DECISIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE ISLE OF MAN GOVERNMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

(i) PA 26/00512/B Mrs K Moore – 24 Birch Hill Grove

The Board Members were advised that the planning application is for a variation of condition 1 to PA 24/00562/A for the erection of a detached dwelling, addressing means of access for a period of 4 years.

In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised that:

- No comments have been received from neighbouring properties; and
- The return date for the application is the 21st August 2026.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Gibson, seconded by Miss Corkish, and unanimously **RESOLVED that planning application 26/00512/B – 24 Birch Hill Grove be recommended for approval.**

(ii) PA 26/00558/B Mr H Cameron – 31 King Edward Park

The Board Members were advised that the planning application is for the construction of a 0.6m high garden wall to the southern boundary with public highway and infilling of section of garden to reduce the slope.

In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised that:

- No comments have been received from neighbouring properties;
- The return date for the application is the 21st August 2026; and
- Highway Services have commented that the application has no negative impact upon highway safety.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Gibson and seconded by Mr Turton and unanimously **RESOLVED that planning application 26/00558/B – 31 King Edward Park be recommended for approval.**

C26/08/01/09
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

None.

26/07/01/10
CONSIDERATION OF ANY REPORTS FROM THE CLERK AND OTHER OFFICERS

1. **Standing Orders – Review**

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 10th August 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with the following overview:

- Following a recent review of the Authority's Standing Orders, it has been identified that the current wording of Standing Order 23, Motions of No Confidence or Censure, contains an incorrect description of a motion of censure; and
- The Board is therefore requested to consider amending Standing Order 23 to ensure that it provides a correct explanation of a motion to censure that accurately reflects the Board's intended governance procedures.

Mr Lockwood noted that what is referred to as censure in the current Standing Orders is actually suspension from participating in meetings; however, it appears that the legislation does not provide the power for local authorities to suspend Board Members from participating in meetings, hence this suggested change.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Miss Corkish and seconded by Mr Lockwood and unanimously **RESOLVED to amend Standing Order 23 of the Authority's Standing Orders so that the third paragraph states the following wording:**
- **"In such a case, a vote to censure a Member of the Board in his or her capacity as a Board Member shall be recorded and entered into the minutes. A resolution to censure shall constitute a formal expression of the Board's disapproval of the conduct or actions of the Board Member concerned but shall not remove the Board Member from office or affect their entitlement to continue serving as a Member of the Board."**

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that he would circulate the updated Standing Orders to the Board Members before the next Ordinary Board Meeting.

2. **2025/26 Annual Health & Safety Report**

The report of the District Surveyor dated 10th July 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The District Surveyor provided the Board with the following overview:

- The purpose of this report is to ensure that the Board is appropriately briefed on the Authority's health, safety and wellbeing performance, and understands how the Authority fulfils its responsibilities both as an employer and in relation to members of the public.
- The Health and Safety Committee, comprising management representatives from the Authority's departments and the Authority's external Health and Safety Adviser, meets on a quarterly basis. The Committee provides oversight of health and safety matters and a formal route for the escalation of issues where necessary.
- This report provides a summary of accident and near miss data recorded during the Authority's 2025/26 financial year.
- The report also includes details of the training delivered and inspections undertaken during the reporting period.
- In the previous report to the Board, it was recommended that the Authority commence work towards achieving ISO 45001 accreditation. ISO 45001 is the internationally recognised standard for occupational health and safety management systems, designed to protect employees, visitors and other stakeholders from work-related injury and illness; and
- During the past year, the Authority's external Health and Safety Adviser undertook an internal audit of the Authority's health and safety management system, processes and controls. The audit concluded that the Authority is in a positive position overall, with only a small number of minor recommendations identified to further strengthen existing arrangements.

Mr Quirk highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of accidents reported within the Parks Department.

The District Surveyor advised that this was attributable to the appointment of the new Parks Foreman, who had encouraged a more proactive approach to the reporting of incidents and near misses.

Mr Wilson stated that additional near miss reporting training may be required, given the pattern emerging from the reported incidents.

The District Surveyor advised that the Parks Foreman could undertake toolbox talks and that ongoing training was actively encouraged.

Mr Lockwood asked when a proposal to apply for ISO 45001 accreditation was likely to be brought before the Board.

The District Surveyor confirmed that he aimed to present a report to the Board in September 2026.

Mr Turton queried what was classified as property damage within the reporting framework.

The District Surveyor advised that this related to damage to property such as buildings, vehicles and other assets.

The Chief Executive/Clerk commented that the Authority should consider the use of a smaller refuse wagon to help reduce the likelihood of similar incidents occurring in the future. It was further advised that the Authority's Dennis refuse vehicle was approaching the point at which replacement would need to be considered. As part of the vehicle replacement review, a smaller refuse collection vehicle would be presented to the Board as one of the available options for consideration.

Mr Gibson stated that the report contained positive news and welcomed the fact that members of staff were actively using the reporting system.

Mr Quirk noted that a number of incidents had arisen as a result of parking issues encountered by the Refuse Department whilst undertaking collections. Furthermore, he commented that problematic parking continued to be experienced in various areas of the District, including Belgravia Road, where larger vehicles and motorhomes were sometimes left for prolonged periods. He also noted that there were occasions when parked vehicles prevented the Authority's refuse vehicles from accessing roads such as Nursery Avenue.

Mr Allen concluded the discussion, and the remainder of the report was noted.

3. **Centenary Park – Tenancy Renewal**

   To be considered In Committee.

4. **Ordinary Board Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026 – Board Member Conduct**

   To be considered In Committee.

5. **Ordinary Board Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026 – Governance Concerns raised regarding the Authority's Public Meeting**

   To be considered In Committee.

C26/08/01/11
CONSIDERATION OF ANY CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm**

   A copy of the correspondence received from Garff District Commissioners dated 6th August 2026, inviting local authority members and Tynwald election candidates to attend a meeting at the Manx Legion Club in Douglas to discuss the governance and due diligence matters in relation to the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm and any future wind farm proposals on Thursday 20th August 2026 at 7:00 pm, copies of which having previously been circulated was noted.

2. **Local Government (Amendment) Bill**

   A copy of the correspondence received from the Local Government Team dated 29th July 2026, inviting local authority clerk's to attend a Clerks' forum to engage and discuss the next steps and provide an opportunity for authorities to shares views and raise any questions ahead of the Bill's final progression to Act, on Wednesday 12th August 2026 between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm, copies of which having previously been circulated was noted.

   Mr Wilson raised concerns regarding the Isle of Man Government's long-term plans for local authorities. He expressed concern that the Civil Service may be progressing regulatory changes without clear political direction, particularly given that the current Members of the House of Keys are no longer in office pending the outcome of the forthcoming General Election.

   The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that he would seek further information through the Clerks' forum and would report back to the Board with any relevant updates.

<u>C26/08/01/12</u>
<u>TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 25</u>

None.

<u>C26/08/01/13</u>
<u>TO CONSIDER ANY MOTIONS</u>

None.

<u>C26/08/01/14</u>
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES</u>

1. **<u>25 Belgravia Road – Request for Confirmation under 1961 Covenants (Deed Recorded 1961/131)</u>**

   A copy of the correspondence dated 14th July 2026, received from the owner of the above-mentioned property, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

   The District Surveyor provided the Board with the following overview:

   - The Authority had been contacted by the owner of 25 Belgravia Road, who was seeking permission to undertake the following works to the property:
     - Painting of the front boundary walls.
     - Cleaning and painting of the roof; and
     - Alterations to the boundary treatment with neighbouring properties, including matters relating to privacy and openness.

- As the Authority benefits from restrictive covenants affecting the property, the owner had requested the Board's approval in respect of the proposed works; and
- It was advised that, if the Board was supportive of the proposed response, a formal Board resolution would be required.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Mr Gibson, seconded by Miss Corkish and **RESOLVED that the draft response prepared by the District Surveyor, dated 11th August 2026, be approved and issued to the owner of 25 Belgravia Road, Onchan, in respect of the requests for consent to undertake works to the property pursuant to Burden 2 of Title Deed No. 53-12832.**

For:	***Mr Allen, Mr Lockwood, Miss Corkish, Mr Turton, Mr Quirk and Mr Gibson***
Against:	***Mr Wilson***

<u>C26/08/01/15</u>
<u>HOUSING MATTERS</u>

1. **<u>Sheltered Social Housing Commissioners Surgeries – Review following receipt of Complaints</u>**

   The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 10th August 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

   The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with the following overview:

   - Following the most recent surgery held at Heywood Court, the Authority has received two complaints from tenants, one written and one verbal.

- The complaints relate to the manner in which the surgery was conducted, the conduct of certain tenants in attendance, and perceived shortcomings in the actions of Authority officers present.
- Over time these surgeries have evolved beyond the format and objectives originally established by the Authority in 1975; and
- As a result, governance concerns have arisen, including a lack of clearly defined procedures, roles, responsibilities and expectations. It is therefore appropriate for the Board to review and determine the intended function, governance arrangements and operating parameters of the surgeries.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Lockwood stated that it would not be a significant loss if the surgeries were moved to a drop-in format, noting that the majority of queries raised at the surgeries related to maintenance issues affecting individual flats.
- Mr Lockwood further commented that, as highlighted within the report, continuing to hold surgeries at the sheltered housing complexes without providing similar opportunities at the Hub presented potential equality concerns. He suggested that any tenant wishing to meet with a Board Member in person could be offered an appointment in line with the timetable previously used for surgeries. Such meetings would not be publicly advertised unless specifically requested; however, he emphasised that meetings with Board Members should only take place where an issue could not be resolved by the Authority's officers and required political direction from the Board.
- Mr Turton stated that he was disappointed that the matter had reached this stage and expressed support for Option 1, which is to continue offering the Commissioners surgeries at the sheltered social housing complexes only. He further advised that he had not been in attendance at the surgery in question and was therefore unsure of the circumstances that had led to the concerns raised.
- Mr Quirk stated that he supported Mr Turton's comments, noting that surgeries held at the Hub had historically been poorly attended. He further commented that notes of previous surgeries need to be recorded and circulated to the Board members and tenants.
- Mr Gibson stated that, in light of recent events and allegations of a Board Member scaremongering amongst tenants, he no longer supported Option 1 and advised that his preferred option was Option 4, namely, to cease holding Commissioners' surgeries and instead rely upon the existing ability of members of the public to contact Board Members directly through their publicly available contact details or by submitting questions to the Board in accordance with Standing Order 25.
- Mr Wilson stated that tenants were required to live together harmoniously and that any disruptive behaviour occurring during a surgery should be addressed through a set of procedures agreed by the Board.
- Mr Wilson further advised that he had been present at the Heywood Court surgery and considered that the Authority should write to the complainants to apologise for the incident and assure all tenants that the Board would seek to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.
- Miss Corkish stated that she agreed with Mr Gibson's comments; however, she suggested that Option 1 should continue on a trial basis.
- Miss Corkish further commented that concerns had been brought to her attention regarding alleged scaremongering of residents at the recent Springfield Court surgery. She also expressed the view that the actions of a Board Member prior to the surgery had contributed to tensions with residents and sought to cause issues which were not beneficial to the Board nor supportive of the Authority's officers.
- Mr Turton and Miss Corkish discussed the appropriate duration of any trial period for Option 1, and it was agreed that, should Option 1 be adopted, the arrangements would be reviewed at the end of 2026.

- Mr Wilson stated that an explanation of the Authority's responsibilities should be circulated to tenants and emphasised that it was not the role of Members of the House of Keys to resolve individual issues on behalf of tenants, as this responsibility rested with the Authority and its elected Board Members.
- Mr Turton agreed that such matters should not involve Members of the House of Keys and that information outlining the Authority's governance procedures should be circulated to tenants in advance of future surgeries.
- Mr Allen stated that he agreed that matters such as tenancy issues should not involve Members of the House of Keys without first being progressed through the appropriate channels, namely through the Authority's officers and, where necessary, subsequently through the Board Members.
- Mr Allen highlighted that some Members of the House of Keys had recently stated publicly that they worked closely with the Authority and expressed the hope that they would therefore respect and adhere to the Authority's established operational procedures.
- Mr Wilson requested that the proposed governance procedures include provision regarding whether officers of the Authority should be in attendance at surgeries.
- Mr Turton stated that it was preferable for officers to attend surgeries, as questions could often be answered immediately and accurate information provided at the time; and
- Mr Wilson referred to Commissioners' surgeries previously held at the Hub on Saturdays, at which no officers had been present, and noted that those arrangements had operated effectively.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Wilson and seconded by Miss Corkish and unanimously **RESOLVED to continue to hosting Commissioners surgeries at the Authority's sheltered housing complexes, subject to the adoption of agreed procedures governing the conduct and management of such surgeries.**

C26/08/01/16
CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Dates for the Diary**

Date	Organisation	Event	Time
10th August 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
24th August 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
29th August 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Party in the Park	12 noon to 6:00 pm

C26/08/01/17
ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1. **Sheltered Social Housing Complexes – Board Member Conduct**

Mr Wilson reported that he had been informed by some residents of Heywood Court that a Board Member had attended a recent coffee morning and, according to those residents, had made comments and behaved in a manner which they considered inappropriate in relation to events arising from the Ordinary Board Meeting held on 27th July 2026.

Mr Wilson further reported that, during the Commissioners' Surgery held at Springfield Court on 4th August 2026, a number of residents raised concerns regarding information they had received about the future of the complex. He stated that some residents believed comments attributed to the same Board Member had caused confusion and concern regarding the Authority's intentions and the potential impact on their tenancies, resulting in unnecessary anxiety and uncertainty amongst some residents.

Mr Gibson stated that he had also been made aware of similar concerns and expressed the view that the conduct attributed to the Board Member in question had the potential to adversely affect the reputation of both the Authority and its individual Board Members. He further stated that, when he stood for election as a Commissioner, he did not expect to find himself associated with conduct of that nature.

Mr Wilson concluded that the situation was detrimental to the Authority and expressed the view that Board Members should work together constructively and set aside personal differences in the interests of the District and the Authority, in order to avoid unnecessary embarrassment and maintain public confidence in the Authority.

There being no further business, the public meeting ended at 8:05 pm.

C26/07/01/18
CONSIDERATION OF ANY REPORTS FROM THE CLERK AND OTHER OFFICERS

1. **Centenary Park – Tenancy Renewal**

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

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 10th August 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated, was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with the following overview:

- The current lease of Centenary Park between the Authority and the Isle of Man Woodland Trust has inadvertently expired.
- Following discussions with the tenant, it has been confirmed that they wish to continue their occupation of the site and would be prepared to enter into a new tenancy agreement for a period of up to 5 years; and
- The Board is therefore requested to consider the future tenancy arrangements for Centenary Park and determine whether a new lease should be granted to the Isle of Man Woodland Trust.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Gibson stated that he was supportive of granting a five-year lease and considered that, as part of any new agreement, the Isle of Man Woodland Trust should undertake additional maintenance, and improvement works at the site.
- Mr Quirk stated that he was in favour of granting a three-year lease and that the Isle of Man Woodland Trust should be encouraged to undertake additional maintenance and enhancement works to the site during that period.
- Mr Turton asked whether residents were aware of the site and queried whether alternative tenants may be interested in taking over its management and carrying out improvements. He further commented that additional volunteers were needed and suggested that the Authority should raise awareness of the site and become more actively involved in its promotion and development.
- Miss Corkish stated that she supported the granting of a five-year lease. She advised that the matter could be raised at Destination First Board meeting to suggest that the Community Rangers may be able to provide assistance at the site.
- Mr Lockwood made the following comments:
    - In relation to the lease term, a five-year lease would expire relatively early in the term of the next Board. Assuming that the current Board had no desire to alter the use of the site, this would provide the next Board

with an opportunity to consider the long-term future of the site early in its term of office.
    - He agreed that no rent should be charged, as seeking to impose a rental charge could result in the Woodland Trust declining the tenancy or reducing the level of maintenance undertaken at the site; and
    - In relation to maintenance concerns, the Authority should make its expectations clear whilst remaining realistic about the level of maintenance that could reasonably be provided by a non-commercial tenant.
- Mr Wilson asked whether the Authority owned the site, and it was confirmed that the site was owned by the Authority.
- Mr Wilson further asked whether the site benefitted from any formal environmental or legal protection, and it was confirmed that it did not.
- Mr Wilson queried whether the Isle of Man Probation Service may be able to assist with maintenance and management activities at the site.
- Mr Allen commented that the tenants had, at times, proven challenging for the Authority to engage with and that the current representatives had undertaken limited maintenance works. He considered that involving additional organisations or volunteers could be beneficial, or alternatively, allow the Authority to take contract of the site and manage it.
- Mr Allen suggested that the tenancy should not be renewed, as he considered there to be limited benefit to the Authority in continuing the existing arrangement.
- Miss Corkish stated that she was concerned that, without sufficient volunteers, the condition of the site could deteriorate; and
- Mr Wilson commented that a regular arrangement involving the Isle of Man Probation Service could assist with the ongoing management and maintenance of the site. He further noted that it would be advantageous to seek support from relevant Government Departments.

The Chief Executive/Clerk and District Surveyor were asked whether it would present any issues if the Authority assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the site.

The District Surveyor advised that this would place additional pressure on the resources of the Parks Department and could have a detrimental impact on the delivery of maintenance services elsewhere within the District. He noted that, if existing resources were required to undertake the maintenance of the Centenary Park site, other areas of the District would likely receive a reduced level of service.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Miss Corkish and seconded by Mr Turton and **RESOLVED to offer the Isle of Man Woodland Trust a tenancy of Centenary Park for a period of three years on the following terms:**

- **The tenancy shall be backdated to commence on 1st July 2025.**
- **The tenancy shall be granted on the same terms and conditions as the current lease agreement, including that no annual rent shall be payable.**
- **The tenancy shall be subject to the tenant confirming in writing that it will endeavour to enhance and improve the upkeep of the site for the benefit of the Authority and visitors to the site, including working with the Authority to facilitate the involvement of volunteer groups where appropriate.**

For: ***Mr Wilson, Mr Lockwood, Miss Corkish and Mr Turton***
Against: ***Mr Allen, Mr Gibson and Mr Quirk***

C26/06/03/19
CONSIDERATION OF ANY REPORTS FROM THE CLERK AND OTHER OFFICERS

1. **Ordinary Board Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026 – Board Member Conduct**

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

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 10th August 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with the following overview:

- The Authority has received a complaint from a member of the public regarding an alleged incident and the conduct of Mr Quirk following the conclusion of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 27th July 2026.
- The Authority has also received a statement from Mr Quirk regarding the same matter.
- At present, the Authority has no established governance framework or procedure for the consideration and resolution of complaints of this nature involving Board Members.
- The Board is invited to determine how it wishes to address the complaint; and
- Options for the Board to consider have been provided within the Chief Executive/Clerk's report dated 10th August 2026.

The Chairman asked the Board Members if anyone has a conflict of interest.

No conflicts were declared.

Mr Wilson asked if Mr Quirk should leave the Board Room whilst the matter is considered.

The Board Members agreed that Mr Quirk can remain in the Board Room during the consideration of the matter.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Lockwood confirmed that he was in favour of an independent investigation and stated that the key factor giving rise to the need for such an investigation was that the facts surrounding the alleged incident were disputed.
- Miss Corkish stated that the Board needed to take action to address the matter, rather than not acknowledge it or ignore it.
- Mr Turton asked whether a formal complaint had been received from a member of the public.
- Mr Quirk confirmed that he had submitted a formal statement to the Chief Executive/Clerk regarding the alleged incident.
- Mr Gibson confirmed that he supported an independent investigation into the matter and the use of the process outlined in the Chief Executive/Clerk's report dated 10th August 2026.
- Mr Gibson further stated that the procedure proposed by the Chief Executive/Clerk should be considered by the Board for formal adoption in respect of any future complaints concerning Board Members. He noted that the Chief Executive/Clerk had previously advised the Board to adopt a formal complaints procedure for Board Member complaints, but that none of the previous proposals had been adopted.
- Mr Allen queried whether, should the matter become the subject of a police investigation, this would prejudice the Authority's ability to undertake its own independent investigation.
- Mr Wilson expressed concerns regarding the Authority undertaking an independent investigation alongside any potential police investigation and

suggested that consideration should be given to whether the Authority's investigation ought to be deferred pending the outcome of any police enquiries.
- Mr Quirk stated that the member of the public should never have been afforded the opportunity to approach him in such a manner and that the circumstances giving rise to the alleged incident should not have occurred.
- Mr Quirk further stated that the security arrangements for Board Meetings, together with the protection and welfare of Board Members, should be reviewed and considered.
- Mr Turton provided an overview of his recollection of the events following the conclusion of the Ordinary Board Meeting held on 27th July 2026.
- Mr Turton stated that, as the alleged incident was said to have occurred after the public meeting had concluded, he was uncertain as to why the Board should address the matter, as in his view it constituted a civil dispute between the parties involved.
- Mr Gibson and Miss Corkish expressed the view that the alleged conduct had the potential to cause reputational damage to the Authority and bring it into disrepute.
- Mr Wilson commented that the fact that the alleged incident occurred after the close of the public meeting did not, in his view, mean that the matter should not be considered and addressed by the Board.
- Mr Quirk raised concerns regarding the safety of Board Members and questioned what measures would be taken by the Authority in the event of a serious incident involving a member of the public; and
- Miss Corkish refuted Mr Quirk's comments and stated that Board Members are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and professionally when engaging with members of the public. In her view, this would minimise the likelihood of inflammatory interactions with members of the public arising and reduce the need for the Authority to consider additional unnecessary security measures.

A disagreement arose between Mr Quirk and Miss Corkish during the discussion.

Mr Allen intervened and requested that Board Members treat one another respectfully and allow each other the opportunity to contribute to the discussion without interruption.

A further discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Gibson stated that he strongly supported an independent investigation being undertaken to establish the facts surrounding the alleged incident and to provide reassurance to the public that the Authority addresses such matters openly, fairly and transparently, rather than ignoring them.
- Mr Turton stated that, in his view, the Board had no powers to take action in the matter and questioned how an investigation would resolve the issues under consideration.
- Mr Allen stated that the alleged incident and the conduct concerns raised could not simply be ignored and ought to be addressed by the Board.
- Mr Wilson stated that he was in favour of an independent investigation, subject to confirmation as to whether the matter was the subject of a police investigation and, if so, that the Authority should not proceed with its own investigation until that position had been clarified; and
- Mr Turton stated that both parties should contact the police and allow the matter to be dealt with through that process.

In response to the queries raised by some Board Members, the Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed:

- That the Authority has received a formal complaint from a member of the public regarding the alleged incident and the conduct of Mr Quirk.
- That it was not known whether the matter was the subject of a police investigation, but clarification could be sought as to whether any such

investigation would prejudice or otherwise affect the Authority's proposed independent investigation; and

- That an independent investigation would:
    - Promote transparency, fairness, and natural justice.
    - Provide an impartial assessment of the complaint.
    - Reduce the risk of allegations of bias, predetermination or procedural unfairness.
    - Assist the Board Members in making an informed decision based on evidence and recommendations; and
    - Support public confidence in the Authority's governance arrangements.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Mr Wilson and seconded by Miss Corkish and **RESOLVED that in light of the complaint received from a member of the public and the statement received from Mr Quirk concerning an alleged incident following the conclusion of the Ordinary Board Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026, the Board has considered the appropriate process by which the matter should be addressed.**

In doing so, the Board has had regard to the principles reflected in the Isle of Man Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023 concerning standards in public office, independent scrutiny, procedural fairness and transparency in the consideration of complaints against elected representatives.

The Board emphasises that it has reached no conclusions regarding the facts of the matter or whether any improper conduct occurred and considers it appropriate, in the interests of fairness, transparency and natural justice, that the matter be independently reviewed before any determination is made.

It was further resolved that the Board shall:

- **Establish if the Isle of Man Constabulary intends to investigate the matter and, if so, confirm that any such investigation will not prejudice the Authority's independent investigation.**
- **Establish a one-off independent investigation process to consider the conduct issues arising from the alleged incident.**
- **Appoint an appropriately qualified or experienced independent person to undertake that investigation and provide findings and recommendations to the Board.**
- **Ensure that both the complainant and Mr Quirk are afforded full procedural fairness, including the opportunity to provide information and respond to any matters identified during the investigation; and**
- **Receive and consider the investigation findings and recommendations before determining whether any further action is required.**

For:	***Mr Allen, Mr Wilson, Mr Lockwood, Miss Corkish and Mr Gibson***
Against:	***Mr Turton and Mr Quirk***

Mr Turton requested that it be recorded that he voted against the resolution because, in his view, the Authority has no legal power to take action in respect of the conduct of a Board Member.

Mr Allen acknowledged Mr Turton's comments and emphasised that the decision to appoint an independent investigator should not be interpreted as a finding of misconduct or wrongdoing. He noted that the purpose of the investigation was to establish the relevant facts and provide an independent report for the Board's consideration, following which the Board would determine any subsequent action, if any.

2. Ordinary Board Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026 – Governance Concerns Raised regarding the Authority's Public Meetings

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

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 10th August 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with the following overview:

- The Authority has received correspondence from Mr Quirk regarding the alleged incident following the conclusion of the Authority's Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026.
- The correspondence raises several concerns relating to the governance and operation of the Authority's meetings, including:
    - Board Member safety and security arrangements.
    - Public access to Board Meetings; and
    - The procedures for ensuring that members of the public leave the Boardroom promptly following the conclusion of the public session.
- The concerns raised may, in part, be addressed through a review of the Authority's existing governance framework, including the Standing Orders; however, a number of the issues raised, particularly those relating to security arrangements for Board Member safety, extend beyond the scope of the Standing Orders and may require separate consideration and development of additional policies and procedures, or operational arrangements; and
- The Board is invited to determine how it wishes to address the concerns raised by Mr Quirk.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Lockwood stated that these were matters in respect of which the Board should rely on the Chairman's discretion rather than amending the Authority's Standing Orders. He further stated that public access to Board Meetings is important in the interests of transparency and accountability.
- Mr Lockwood highlighted that the Chairman already has the authority to require a member of the public to leave a meeting in the event of disruptive or unruly behaviour, and that it is common practice for informal discussions between Board Members and members of the public to take place between the public and private sessions of a Board Meeting.
- Mr Lockwood further added that the Chairman retains discretion as to when members of the public should be asked to leave the Boardroom in order for the private session of the meeting to commence.
- Miss Corkish stated that she agreed with Mr Lockwood's comments.
- Mr Wilson stated that, in the interests of fairness, the concerns raised could be considered; however, he considers a review to be an unnecessary use of the Authority's resources.
- Mr Turton agreed with Mr Wilson's comments and suggested that if any measures are introduced, they should be proportionate and straightforward, such as the use of notices or signage and a statement from the Chairman at the commencement of public meetings to anyone sitting in the public gallery.
- Mr Gibson expressed the view that the discussion regarding meeting arrangements and governance is proposed to have detracted from the principal issue before the Board, namely the conduct matter considered during the previous agenda item; and
- Mr Quirk stated that responsibility for managing such matters rested with the Chairman and suggested that members of the public be made to engage with Board Members outside the formal meeting and away from the Boardroom.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Wilson and seconded by Miss Corkish and **RESOLVED that:**

- **Having considered the concerns raised by Mr Quirk regarding the governance and operation of Authority meetings, including Board Member safety, security arrangements, public access to meetings and procedures following the conclusion of public business, the Board is satisfied that the Authority's Standing Orders and operational arrangements remain appropriate and that no further review is required in respect of those matters; and**
- **Appropriate signage shall be displayed within the Boardroom setting out the standards of conduct expected of members of the public when attending Authority Board Meetings.**

Mr Quirk requested that the Chief Executive/Clerk provide his opinion regarding the matter.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that, if Board Members conducted themselves in line with the standards of behaviour expected of holders of public office, the likelihood of a similar occurrence arising in the future would be greatly reduced.

C26/06/03/20
ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1. **Board Member Conduct**

Mr Wilson requested that Board Members work together constructively for the benefit of the District rather than pursuing individual interests and conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates a collective commitment to improving public confidence in the Authority and avoiding any further potential reputational damage.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:19 pm.