

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 11th December 2023 at 7:00 pm

Present: Miss Z Lewin (Chair)
 Mr A Allen
 Mr D Crellin
 Ms F Logan (Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes)
 Mr R Turton (Lead Member for Housing)
 Mr D Quirk (Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services)

Apologies: Miss K Williams (Vice Chair)

In attendance: Mr R Phillips (Chief Executive/Clerk)

C23/12/01/01

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

None.

C23/12/01/02

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

None.

C23/12/01/03

MINUTES

1. Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Allen and **RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.**

Mr Crellin and Mr Turton did not cast a vote as they were not present at the meeting.

2. Staff Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023

To be considered In Committee.

C23/12/01/04

TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES

1. Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023

Page 6 – Matters Arising:

Mr Allen commented that Miss Williams questioned the use of the word “we” instead of “I” in his statement regarding Mr Quirk. Mr Allen further commented that it seemed to be pedantic and unnecessary for the following reasons:

- Miss Williams has been critical on record and in private of Mr Quirk’s behaviour and previously voted for him to stand down in a vote of no confidence; and
- Any Board Member who thinks Mr Quirk’s behaviour is acceptable and reaches the standards expected from the Nolan Principles can openly say that they approve of Mr

Quirk's behaviour and distance themselves from his statement. The collective "we" is Board Members.

Mr Crellin asked the Chair if he could comment even though he was not present at the Board Meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023. The Chair confirmed that Mr Crellin could comment.

Mr Crellin made the following comments:

- That he agrees with Mr Allen's comments. Mr Quirk needs to improve the way he addresses individuals and to stop interfering in operational matters;
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- Mr Quirk has made curt and rude comments towards attendees at the Authority's public meetings and a vexatious allegation of threatening behaviour against an innocent person in the public gallery which is unacceptable; and
- As an elected Commissioner Mr Quirk needs to abide by the 7 Nolan Principles and adhere to the Authority's Corporate Governance and Code of Conduct and that he should have more respect for the Authority's staff, colleagues and the public.

C23/12/01/05

TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

C23/12/01/06

TO DEAL WITH ANY BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C23/12/01/07

PLANNING DECISIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(i) PA 23/00124/B Mr & Mrs T Cox - -"White Oaks" 54 King Edward Road

Members were advised that the application is for the erection of a double storey side extension, enlarging the existing rear raised patio area, alterations to the conservatory finish and extension of driveway (amended plans).

In answer to questions, the Chief Executive/Clerk advised that:

- No comments had been received from neighbouring properties; and
- The return date for the application is the 29th December 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Turton and seconded by Mr Crellin and agreed that the Authority would not provide any further comment in relation to **PA 23/00124/B – "White Oaks", 54 King Edward Road**

***For: Miss Lewin, Mr Allen, Mr Crellin, Ms Logan and Mr Turton
Against: Mr Quirk***

(ii) **PA 23/01349/B Mr N Newing – “The Grange” Clypse Moar Road**

Members were advised that the application is for removal of existing conservatory and replace with an orangery extension on the south-east corner of the existing dwelling.

In answer to questions, the Chief Executive/Clerk advised that:

- No comments had been received from neighbouring properties; and
- The return date for the application is the 22nd December 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Ms Logan and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 23/01349/B – “The Grange” Clypse Moar Road be recommended for approval.**

(iii) **PA 23/01368/B Mr A Lloyd – 23 Hillcrest Grove**

Members were advised that the application is for the installation of a flue for wood burning stove.

In answer to questions, the Chief Executive/Clerk advised that:

- No comments had been received; and
- The return date for the application is the 29th December 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Mr Allen and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA23/01368/B – 23 Hillcrest Grove be recommended for approval.**

7.2 Planning Communication – PA 23/01177/B – 17 The Park

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised Members that correspondence had been received after the agenda was published regarding the above mentioned planning application.

The Chief Executive/Clerk further advised that the Board had recommended that the application be refused when it was considered at the Board Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Ms Logan and **RESOLVED that the Authority do not appeal planning application PA 23/01177/B – 17 The Park.**

For: Miss Lewin, Ms Logan and Mr Quirk
Against: Mr Allen, Mr Crellin and Mr Turton

Miss Lewin used her casting vote.

C23/12/01/08

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**1. Financial Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2023**

To be considered In Committee.

2. Miscellaneous Charges 2024/25

To be considered In Committee.

C23/12/01/09

REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER

1. Traffic Management Purchase

The report of the Environmental and Technical Services Manager dated 4th December 2023, a copy of which having previously been circulated was considered.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that approval is given to allocate £4,000 from the Authority's reserves to purchase highway safety equipment, including traffic cones and signage for use by the Parks and Refuse Departments to undertake services on behalf of the Authority.**

2. Street Lighting Pilot Scheme

To be considered In Committee.

C23/12/01/10

CONSIDERATION OF ANY RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Local Government (Members' Attendance Allowance) Order 2023

A copy of the correspondence dated 17th November 2023, received from the Department of Infrastructure in relation to the above, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Members with an overview in relation to the above.

Mr Allen confirmed that he is in favour of the Local Government (Members' Attendance Allowance) Order 2023 ("the Order") proposals regarding allowing Local Authorities to set their own Members' allowances but notes that making changes to the Order would be more preferable as suggested by Port Erin Commissioners.

Mr Crellin asked the Chair if he could leave the meeting, permission was granted and he left the meeting at 7:29 pm

Mr Quirk stated that he is in agreement with Mr Allen's comments.

Mr Turton requested that the Authority write to the Local Government Unit to confirm the Authority's support for Port Erin Commissioners request.

Ms Logan commented that allowing Local Authorities to set their own Members' allowance in the future causes her some concern as those Local Authorities who may choose to offer no or minimal allowances may discourage potential candidates confirming forward at elections, for example those who are self-employed or on low incomes.

Mr Crellin returned to the meeting at 7:32 pm.

A discussion took place between all Members.

The Chair requested that the Chief Executive/Clerk correspond with the Local Government Unit to confirm the Boards support of Port Erin Commissioners request.

2. Built Environment Reform Programme – Consultation to Change to Town Planning Secondary Legislation

A copy of the correspondence dated 20th November 2023, received from the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an overview in relation to the above matter.

It was agreed that the information is to be provided to Members after the meeting for them to consider and bring their suggestions to the Board Meeting to be held on Monday 22nd January 2024.

C23/12/01/11

TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

None. .

C23/12/01/12

TO CONSIDER ANY MOTIONS

None.

C23/12/01/13

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

None.

C23/12/01/14

HOUSING MATTERS

1. Pet Permission Appeal

To be considered In Committee.

C23/12/01/15

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Chair's Attendances

Miss Lewin advised that she had attended the Authority's Night of Light Event on Wednesday 29th November 2023.

2. Dates for the Diary

Date	Organisation	Event	Time
8 th December 2023	St Peter's Church	Evening of Christmas Music presented by Roc Vannin – St Peter's Church	7:30 pm
10 th December 2023	St Peter's Church	Christingle	5:00 pm
11 th December 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
13 th December 2023	Onchan Methodist Church	Carol Service with Onchan Silver Band	7:00 pm

15 th December 2023	Onchan Methodist Church	Christmas Coffee Morning	10:00 am
15 th December 2023	Onchan Baptist Church	Christmas all age Fun Evening	7:00 pm
17 th December 2023	Onchan Baptist Church	Carol Service	10:30 am
17 th December 2023	St Peter's Church	Nine Lessons and Carols	6:30 pm
24 th December 2023	Onchan Methodist Church	Family Carol Service	10:30 am
24 th December 2023	St Peter's Church	Crib Service	11:00 am
24 th December 2023	Onchan Methodist Church	Christmas Eve Communion	7:00 pm
24 th December 2023	St Anthony's Church	Mass (Carols from 7:30 pm)	8:00 pm
24 th December 2023	St Peter's Church	Midnight Holy Communion	11:30 pm
25 th December 2023	St Anthony's Church	Christmas Day Mass	9:30 am
25 th December 2023	Onchan Methodist Church	Family Service	10:00 am
25 th December 2023	Onchan Baptist Church	Christmas Day Service	10:30 am
25 th December 2023	St Peter's Church	Holy Communion – Christ Church Laxey	10:30 am

C23/12/01/16
MINUTES

1. Staff Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023

See Staff Minute Book.

C23/12/01/17
TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES

1. Staff Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023

See Staff Minute Book.

C23/12/01/20
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Kenyons Youth Café

Mr Crellin provided the Board with an overview in relation to Kenyons Youth Café opening evening held on Friday 24th November 2023 at the Hub which he and Mr Allen had attended.

Mr Crellin advised that on the evening thanks was given to the Authority's Officers and Contractors who assisted to complete the recent refurbishment works.

Mr Crellin further advised that compliments were given to the charity and their representative Mr Martin Macfarlane who without his efforts the service would not be the success that it is. Mr Crellin stated that he hopes the Board will continue to support the facility.

It was noted that the other Board Members gave their apologies for not attending the event but stated that they will make efforts to attend in the future.

2. Night of Light

Miss Lewin on behalf of the Board wished to give thanks to the Officers of the Authority for their efforts in making the Night of Light event held on the 29th November 2023 a success.

It is noted that they had received lots of positive feedback following the event.

C23/12/01/23

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

1. **Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2023**

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

The report of the Chief Finance Officer dated 4th December 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk and Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes provided the Board with an overview in relation to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 ("the Financial Statements").

It was noted that all Members expressed concerns regarding the Elderly Persons Housing reserves deficit and how these will impact the forthcoming year.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Allen and unanimously **RESOLVED that:**

- **the Financial Statements be and are hereby approved;**
- **the Chair and Responsible Finance Officer be authorised to sign the Financial Statements on behalf of the Authority;**
- **the Letter of Representation be and is hereby approved; and**
- **the Responsible Finance Officer be authorised to sign the Letter of Representation on behalf of the Authority.**

As discussion between all Members and the Chief Executive/Clerk took place regarding the upcoming budget and rate setting for the 2024/25 Financial Year and concerns regarding increased operation costs and high interest rates for loans.

The Chief Executive/Clerk stated that he will e-mail the Members after the meeting to confirm the programme for meeting to consider the budgets before the deadline of the 31st January 2024.

2. **2024/25 Miscellaneous Charges**

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

The report of the Chief Finance Officer dated 7th December 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

Commercial Refuse Collection Charges:

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Allen and unanimously **RESOLVED** that commercial refuse collection charges be increased by 6% for the financial year 2024/25.

Domestic Refuse Collection Charges:

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Allen and **RESOLVED** that the refuse collection charge for an additional domestic bin for the 2024/25 financial year be increased to £60.00 + VAT per annum for every additional 120 litre capacity receptacle provided.

For: Miss Lewin, Ms Logan, Mr Allen, Mr Crellin and Mr Turton
Against: Mr Quirk

C23/12/01/24**CONSIDERATION OF ANY REPORTS FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER****1. Street Light Pilot Schemes**

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

The report of the Environmental and Technical Services Manager dated 1st December 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an overview in relation to the schemes and a discussion took place.

A discussion took place. Miss Lewin requested following the Members comments that the Chief Executive/Clerk bring more information for the Board to consider regarding due diligence checks of the proposed manufactures, and examples of other Councils and Authorities who are currently using the proposed products.

C23/12/01/25**HOUSING****1. Pet Permission Appeal**

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

The report of the Housing Manager dated 4th December 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an overview in relation to the request.

The Lead Member for Housing provided the Board with an overview in relation to the appeal.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Turton and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED** to not grant the tenant permission for a second dog to occupy the property and that the Authority's Pet Permission Policy is upheld.

C23/12/01/26

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1. Elm Tree House – Commercial Tenancy

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an update in relation to the commercial tenancy of Elm Tree House.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 21:20 pm