

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7:05 pm

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

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

**C23/05/02/01**

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

Not necessary.

**C23/05/02/02**

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

None.

**C23/05/02/03**

**MINUTES**

**1. Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

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

*Mr Allen did not cast as vote as he was not present at the meeting.*

**2. Minutes of the Ordinary Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Annual General Meeting held Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

Amendments:

Page 3 – Eastern Civic Amenity Site – Delete “Mr Quirk declined the appointment” and amend to “for continuity Mr Quirk requested that Ms Logan continue as the representative, as the construction for the Eastern Civic Amenity Site is still ongoing”

Subject to the above amendment, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Mr Turton and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair

*Mr Allen did not cast a vote as he was not present at the meeting.*

**C23/05/02/04**

**TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING**

None.

**C23/05/02/05****TO DISPOSE OF ANY RELEVANT BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES****1. Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

Mr Crellin made the following statement:

“The public who were present at the Annual General Meeting, have expressed there was poor governance at the meeting, these comments are not directed at the Chair.

One Member in particular during nominations was controlling the meeting, from the side-lines by nodding and winking at other Members during nominations and the public were unimpressed by his conduct.

It was quite clear that only some Members had agreed to the appointments prior to the Annual General Meeting being held.

The meeting should have been more professional.”

Miss Williams stated that Mr Crellin comments are welcomed, however, it had been normal practice that previous Boards have discussed proposed roles of Members prior to the Annual General Meeting in private. [ODC 12/06/2023]

Mr Quirk stated that the Minutes should actually reflect what happened at the Annual General Meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the accuracy of the Minutes.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised the Board that the Minutes have now been ratified and will not be altered.

Mr Allen stated that he was not present at the Annual General Meeting, however, the Members are aware that the Local Government Unit have been reviewing the Authority's actions during the past 12 months. If there are issues regarding governance then the Authority should not ignore this, as the Board are elected to ensure good governance.

Mr Turton stated that other Local Authorities vote in this manner at their Annual General Meetings when electing roles for the municipal year.

Mr Crellin stated that at a recent presentation by the Authority's former Data Protection Advocate, the Advocate advised Members that private meetings are acceptable provided that all Members are present and two Members had been deliberately excluded. [ODC 12/06/2023]

The Chair called the Members to order and informed them that she hoped that this year will be more productive and that personal disputes between the Members will not have an impact on the functioning of the Authority.

**C23/05/02/06****TO DEAL WITH ANY BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE**

None.

C23/05/02/07PLANNING 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 23/00375/B Stephen Christian and Sons – Glenholme, King Edward Road**

Members were advised that the planning application for the installation of a new septic tank and drainage field.

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

- No comments had received from neighbouring properties; and
- The return date for the application is the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Ms Logan and **RESOLVED that PA 23/00375/B – Glenholme, King Edward Road be recommended for approval.**

***Mr Crellin did not cast a vote as he was not present at the time.***

**(ii) PA23/00402/B Mr J Geldart – 1 Clypse Mooar Cottage**

Members were advised that the planning application for a new gate access.

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 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023..

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Mr Turton and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 23/00402/B – 1 Clypse Mooar Cottage be recommended for approval.**

**(iii) PA23/00497/B Mrs E Sun – 36 Royal Avneue**

Members were advised that the planning application is for the erection of a first floor annex extension.

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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Mr Allen and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 23/00497/B – 36 Royal Avenue be recommended for approval.**

**C23/05/02/08**  
**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

None.

**C23/05/02/09**  
**REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER**

**1. Commissioners Surgeries for Children and Younger Persons**

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023, having previously been circulated was discussed.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an overview in relation to the proposed Commissioners Surgeries for Children and Younger Persons to encourage engagements with the Members.

Mr Allen made the following comments:

- He has concerns regarding the Authority's responsibilities and safe guarding of children;
- He thinks that it is a great idea for the general public to use the Harvey Briggs Onchan Library for surgeries, and to promote engagement, although there is nowhere private for the discussions to take place should someone want to discuss a private or sensitive matter.

Miss Williams made the following comments:

- Younger persons can attend the Commissioners Surgeries anyway;
- The Authority used to provide talks to Bemahague students and this could be considered again to all Onchan Schools to encourage engagement.

Ms Logan made the following comments:

- She is in favour of engaging with children, however, the Authority needs to be aware of safe guarding issues, and how the surgeries would need to be conducted.

Mr Quirk made the following comments:

- The Harvey Briggs Onchan Library has nowhere private for sensitive discussions with the public to take place; and
- He had safe guarding concerns with regards to the children.

Mr Crellin made the following comments:

- that more information is required in relation to safe guarding and how the surgeries would be undertaken.

Miss Lewin stated that the topic needs addressing, and provided the Board with an overview of children and younger persons engagement options.

It was agreed that the matter would be brought back to the Board by Miss Lewin and the Chief Executive/Clerk with further considerations.

**C23/05/02/10**  
**CONSIDERATION OF ANY RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE**

**1. Mona's Queen III 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Anchor Memorial Service**

A copy of the invitation received from Port St Mary Commissioners to the Mona's Queen III 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Anchor Memorial Service at Kallow Point on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 2:00 pm was noted.

## 2. Local Authorities Pensions Reforms

A copy of the correspondence received from the Administrator, Douglas Borough Council dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in relation to Local Authorities Pensions Reforms, having, previously been circulated was noted.

*Mr Quirk declared an interest.*

## 3. 2023 Tynwald Ceremony

A copy of the correspondence received from the Office of the Clerk of Tynwald dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023, inviting the Chair to attend the Tynwald Court on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, having previously been circulated was noted.

Miss Lewin confirmed that she would be attending.

### C23/05/02/11

#### TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

None.

### C23/05/02/12

#### TO CONSIDER ANY MOTIONS

#### 1. Motion 68 – Submitted under Standing Order 26

Mr Crellin tabled Motion 68:

*“that in the interest of transparency, members of the public be given the opportunity to ask oral questions of the Chair at the public meetings of the Authority”.*

Motion 68 was proposed by Mr Crellin seconded by Mr Allen and **RESOLVED to stand adjourned without discussion to the next meeting of the ordinary meeting of the Authority to be held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

### C23/05/02/13

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

None.

### C23/05/02/14

#### HOUSING MATTERS

#### 1. Housing Allocations – Update

The report of the Housing Manager, dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023, having previously been circulated was considered and noted.

The Chief Executive/Clerk and Mr Turton provided an overview in relation to the current Soldier, Sailors and Airmen’s Families Association allocation process in relation to the Sheltered Housing Complex at Heywood Court, and advised that a meeting is to be arranged to agree new terms with them to hopefully speed up the allocation process of their flats.

**C23/05/02/15****CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS****1. Chair's Attendances**

Miss Lewin confirmed that she and Ms Logan had attended the Commissioners Surgery on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

It was noted that Mr Allen and Mr Crellin had attended the Onchan Horticultural Society's coffee morning on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**2. Dates for the Diary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Live at Home Scheme	The Platform Singers – Onchan Methodist Church	7:00 pm
25 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	(P) Extra Ordinary Board Meeting	2:00 pm
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Friends of Onchan Heritage	Molly Carrooin's Cottage Open Days	1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
30 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm

**C23/05/02/16****ANY OTHER BUSINESS****1. Publicity**

Mr Quirk requested that the Authority publicise that Onchan Silver Band and Onchan Primary School had received awards in the Manx Music Festival which has recently taken place.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that he had approached both, Onchan Silver Band and Onchan Primary School, but to date no information had been received. The Chief Executive/Clerk is to progress the matter.

**2. Isle of Man Municipal Association**

Mr Crellin asked if the minutes of the Isle of Man Municipal Association held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 are in public.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that he would look into the matter and report back to Mr Crellin.

**3. Weed Spraying around the District**

Mr Turton asked the Chief Executive/Clerk when the weed spraying around the District is due to commence.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the Refuse Department had commenced weed spraying in Birch Hill, last week and are due to work down through the Village to lower Onchan. IF requested the routes plans can be shared.

#### 4. Onchan Boundary Signs

Miss Lewin asked when the boundary signs around the District are due for replacement.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the signage is due for replacement in this current financial year as funds were budgeted for during the Authority's rate setting process, and the Board had approved the expenditure.

*The Public session of the Meeting ended a 20:00 pm*

C23/05/02/217

#### REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER

##### 1. Elm Tree House

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

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, having previously been circulated was discussed.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Turton and seconded by Miss Lewin and unanimously **RESOLVED that a property valuation in relation to Elm Tree House be obtained and that the matter be brought back to the Board.**

##### 2. Onchan Raceway Limited

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

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, a copy having previously been circulated was discussed.

##### The Original Proposal:

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Turton that Onchan Raceway Limited be offered a rent freeze for the final year of the lease term.

##### The Counter Proposal

After a discussion, it was proposed by Miss Lewin and seconded by Mr Quirk and **RESOLVED that the rent remain as agreed in the current lease to the end of the lease terms.**

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

It was noted that the Original Proposal failed.

Mr Crellin noted that the Board fully supports the Chief Executive/Clerk in relation to the current Notice to Repair which had been issued to Onchan Raceway Limited.

After a further discussion, it was proposed by Mr Allen and seconded by Mr Crellin and unanimously **RESOLVED that no extension to the current lease term be granted to Onchan Raceway Limited.**

C23/05/02/21

#### ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:25 pm*