

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7:00 pm.

<b>Present:</b>	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	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Miss A Goldsmith	(Deputy Clerk)
	Mrs S Johnson	(Chief Finance Officer)
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mr R Phillips	(Chief Executive/Clerk)
	Mr R Forgie	(District Surveyor)
	Miss A Crellin	(Executive Officer/Assistant)

**C26/05/02/01**

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

Not applicable.

**C26/05/02/02**

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS (in accordance with Standing Order 18.3)**

The Chairman 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.

The Chairman 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.

**C26/05/02/03**

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

None.

**C26/05/02/04**

**MINUTES**

**1. Notes of the Meeting with the Department of Infrastructure held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

The notes of the Meeting with the Department of Infrastructure held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

Mr Lockwood requested the following amendment:

<b>Page 4</b>	-	<b><u>Legacy Commitments and Service Reviews</u></b>
		Third bullet point amend “report.im” to “report a problem.im”

Subject to the above amendment, it was proposed by Mr Lockwood and seconded by Mr Turton and RESOLVED that the Notes of the Meeting with the Department of

Infrastructure held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings.

***Mr Wilson, Miss Corkish and Mr Gibson did not cast a vote as they were not present at the meeting.***

## **2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

Mr Lockwood requested the following amendments:

Page 3	-	<b><u>Special Leave Policy &amp; Procedure</u></b> First paragraph amend “2027” to “2026”
Page 7	-	<b><u>Motion 78 – Submitted under Standing Order 19</u></b> Thirteenth paragraph amend “longer term risk” to “longer term basis”.
Page 8	-	<b><u>Motion 78 – Submitted under Standing Order 19</u></b> First bullet point after replace “contributions” with “only contributions”. Eighth paragraph amend “trail period” to “trial period”

Subject to the above amendments, it was proposed by Mr Lockwood and seconded by Mr Wilson and unanimously **RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.**

## **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Lockwood and seconded by Mr Wilson and unanimously **RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.**

### **C26/05/02/05**

#### **TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES**

### **1. Notes of the Meeting with the Department of Infrastructure held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

None.

### **2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

None.

### **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

None.

**C26/05/02/06****TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING**

None.

**C26/05/02/07****TO DEAL WITH ANY BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE**

None.

**C26/05/02/08****PLANNING DECISIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE ISLE OF MAN GOVERNMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

(i)	PA 26/00079/B	<p><b>Mr C Millar – 12 Howe Road</b></p> <p>The Board Members were advised that the planning application is in relation to the erection of a summer house to the rear curtilage of the existing dwelling.</p> <p>In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments have been received from neighbouring properties;</li> <li>• The return date for the planning application is the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026; and</li> <li>• It was noted that the site notice had not been displayed and that it has been reported to the Planning and Building Control Directorate.</li> </ul> <p>Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Gibson and seconded by Miss Corkish and unanimously <b>RESOLVED that planning application 26/00079/B – 12 Howe Road be recommended for approval.</b></p>
(ii)	PA 26/00245/B	<p><b>Mr M Duchars – 10 Beech Close</b></p> <p>The Board Members were advised that the planning application is in relation to the erection of a single storey extension to the east and north elevations and the widening of the existing vehicular access onto Beech Close.</p> <p>In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments have been received from neighbouring properties; and</li> <li>• The return date for the planning application is the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026.</li> </ul> <p>Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Gibson and seconded by Mr Wilson and unanimously <b>RESOLVED that planning application 26/00245/B – 10 Beech Close be recommended for approval.</b></p>
(iii)	PA 26/00230/B	<p><b>Ms K Colquitt – 13 Laurel Avenue</b></p> <p>The Board Members were advised that the planning application is for the widening of vehicular access and driveway to the front curtilage of the existing dwelling house (retrospective).</p>

		<p>In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments have been received from neighbouring properties;</li> <li>• The return date for the application is the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026; and</li> <li>• Highways Services has commented that they find it has no significant negative impact upon highway safety, network functionality and/or parking. A S109 highways agreement will be required for the proposed dropped kerb vehicle access.</li> </ul> <p>Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Gibson and seconded by Miss Corkish and unanimously <b>RESOLVED that planning application 26/00230/B – 13 Laurel Avenue be recommended for approval.</b></p>
(v)	PA 26/00289/B	<p><b>Mr &amp; Mrs S Keeley – 23 The Fairway</b></p> <p>The Board Members were advised that the planning application is for the alteration of fenestration to the front elevation.</p> <p>In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments have been received from neighbouring properties; and</li> <li>• The return date for the application is the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026.</li> </ul> <p>Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Gibson and seconded by Mr Lockwood and unanimously <b>RESOLVED that planning application 26/00289/B- 23 The Fairway be recommended for approval.</b></p>

**C26/05/02/09****FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

None.

**C26/05/02/10****CONSIDERATION OF ANY REPORTS FROM THE CLERK AND OTHER OFFICERS****1. Ancient Order of Foresters War Memorial – Proposed Sites for Public Display**

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

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

- The Ancient Order of Foresters War Memorial is currently in storage following its removal from the Authority's Heywood Court Sheltered Housing Complex.
- Following its removal, he has been in liaison with the Isle of Man Government Preservation of War Memorial Committee and representatives of the Royal British Legion Onchan Branch regarding potential new sites for it to be displayed.
- The proposed new sites for the War Memorial are the internal wall of the Sports Hall at the HUB or the exterior wall overlooking the War Memorial at Elm Tree House;
- The Committee has confirmed that the proposed sites are agreeable, and are large enough to site the Memorial.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Wilson stated that he would support the recommendation that the Ancient Order of Foresters War Memorial be displayed in the Sports Hall of the HUB, School Road.
- Mr Gibson stated that he thinks the War Memorial should be displayed on the wall of Elm Tree House as more people would be able to view it without the need to obtain access to the HUB.
- Mr Quirk queried if the Manx Museum still holds the spears which used to accompany the War Memorial.
- Miss Corkish stated that she is in favour of the War Memorial being displayed in the Sports Hall at the HUB.
- Mr Turton stated that he does not think that it should be displayed at either location, and that it should be returned to the War Memorial Committee as it does not belong to the Authority. Furthermore, he has concerns regarding the cost of installation at Elm Tree House, and queries if it would require lighting.
- Mr Lockwood stated that this initial view is to support locating the Memorial at Elm Tree House, largely due to the existing war memorial nearby, as well as the principle of public access to view it.
- Mr Allen stated that he is in agreement with Mr Turton and that the War Memorial should be returned to the War Memorial Committee.
- Mr Quirk recommended that the Authority should not look to be getting into an argument with the War Memorial Committee as it could become costly in relation to legal fees, as well as providing the Authority with negative publicity.

Following a discussion, the following proposal was tabled:

It was proposed by Mr Gibson and seconded by Mr Lockwood that the Authority displays, maintains and preserves the Ancient Order of Foresters War Memorial at Elm Tree House, Main Road, on the exterior wall overlooking the Onchan War Memorial.

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

The proposal failed.

It was proposed by Mr Turton and seconded by Mr Allen that the Ancient Order of Foresters War Memorial be returned to the Isle of Man Prevention of War Memorials Committee.

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

The proposal failed.

The following proposal was tabled:

It was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Mr Wilson and **RESOLVED that the Authority displays, maintains and preserves the Ancient Order of Foresters War Memorial at the HUB, School Road, within the sports hall.**

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

## 2. Unoccupied Urban Sites Register – Public Consultation

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

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

- The Authority has recently been contacted by the Cabinet Office regarding the Unoccupied Urban Site Register consultation. The Cabinet Office is updating the Unoccupied Urban Sites Register to help identify, monitor and unlock brownfield sites for redevelopment.
- In November 2018, Tynwald<sup>[ODC 01/03/2016]</sup> resolved to approve Recommendation 1 of the Tynwald Select Committee on the Development of Unoccupied Urban Sites. Recommendation 1 states that the Cabinet Office should publish at regular intervals data on planning approvals given and taken up in brownfield and greenfield sites respectively.
- Further to this recommendation, the Cabinet Office published the Unoccupied Urban Sites Register: East (2020), which focused on Douglas and Onchan and updated the register in December 2022 to include the North, South and West.
- Sites that were included on this register were eligible for consideration to receive funding from the infrastructure grant scheme run by the Department for Enterprise that offered financial support, by way of a grant and/or loan, towards development projects of up to 25% of eligible expenditure.
- The consultation seeks suggestions for new sites to be included on the register and to receive comments on those sites that are already on the register to help inform a future update.
- The deadline for responses is 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026; and
- Board Members are requested to consider responding to the consultation.

Mr Lockwood made the following comments:

- He agrees a proposed response should be discussed at the Ordinary Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.
- He notes that currently the only Onchan site on the register is the Molly's Kitchen/Follies Cabaret site on Harbour Road, but further unoccupied sites have previously been identified and presented to the Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 as part of the Board's consideration of a social housing development strategy.
- It is proposed that these previously identified sites should be considered for inclusion in the register as it will entitle prospective developers to claim a grant under the Island Infrastructure Scheme; and
- It is noted that unfortunately local authorities are not eligible for assistance under the Island Infrastructure Scheme.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the matter be deferred and that Officers draft responses for the Board to consider at the Ordinary Board Meeting due to be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.

### **3. Ballacurn Trust – Meadow View Housing Update**

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

- He contacted the Department of Infrastructure and the Department of Health & Social Care for further updates following the Board's request that the Authority's expression of interest in the properties be progressed with urgency.
- A representative on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care has confirmed that the Authority's expression of interest is the most favourable submission in relation to the properties based on Second Avenue in Onchan.
- A conditions survey has been undertaken, and it will be shared with the Authority shortly, which he will circulate to the Board for consideration as part of a Board Report; and
- The two Departments are in the process of arranging an open market valuation, and they will then approach the Authority with a proposal regarding a potential purchase.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Turton suggested that the Authority consider obtaining a valuation from Deanwood and Chrystals estate agents who have previously advised the Authority regarding property valuations rather than relying on the valuations provided by the Departments.
- Mr Quirk expressed his frustration that the properties continue to be unoccupied and that the Authority are being delayed in being allowed to repurpose them to house people on the Authority's social housing waiting list. It was further expressed that the delays in making decisions are embarrassing for the current Isle of Man Government administration; and
- Mr Wilson suggested that the Authority invites the Minister for Health and Social Care to meet with the Board to discuss the matter further and that he was going to prepare a public statement.

It was agreed that once the property condition surveys are received, the Chief Executive/Clerk is to contact Deanwood and Chrystal estate agents to obtain valuations, in addition to contacting the Minister for Health and Social Care to invite her to attend a meeting with the Board to discuss the matter to try to speed up the process.

#### **4. The HUB – Commissioner Surgeries**

The Chief Executive/Clerk reported to the Board that the Commissioner's Surgery, which was due to be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026, at the HUB, had been cancelled as only one Commissioner was available to attend and asked the Board Members if they wished to rearrange the cancelled Surgery.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Wilson noted that the last surgeries which he has attended on a Saturday had no attendees and he would argue that the sessions currently do not provide any benefit.
- Mr Lockwood suggested that a surgery not be held until the new ratepayer questions process during Ordinary Board Meetings has been implemented and reviewed; and
- The remaining Board Members agreed with the comments.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that the Authority's updated Standing Orders will be brought back to the Ordinary Meeting due to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 for consideration, including the new governance provisions for allowing ratepayers to ask questions of the Board Members.

Mr Allen concluded that no further surgeries will be hosted until the end of the review period of the due to be implemented ratepayer questions process during Ordinary Board Meetings, following which the Board can then make a decision as to how it wishes to proceed in relation to future surgeries.

#### **5. Isle of Man Municipal Association – Annual General Meeting Attendance**

Mr Allen advised the Board of the following:

- Historically, the Authority has supported an unlimited number of Board Members and, on occasion, relevant officers, to attend the annual Isle of Man Municipal Association annual general meetings to represent the Authority.
- Each year, the Authority has funded the payment of each attendee's dining fee for the meal served. The current fee per attendee is £30.
- It is felt that this is not a responsible use of public funds from the Authority's Rates; therefore, it is proposed that the Board Members exercise good governance for future years, and record a resolution to resolve the matter.
- I propose that during each Municipal Year, the Authority will pay the dining fee of one nominated representative to attend the Isle of Man Municipal Association Annual General Meeting on behalf of the Authority. Furthermore, any additional

representatives who wish to attend on behalf of the Authority will be responsible for paying their own dining fee.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Lockwood, Mr Gibson, and Miss Corkish confirmed that they agree with Mr Allen's proposal.
- Mr Quirk expressed his disappointment that some Board Members are supporting the proposal as the Authority has always supported Board Members attending the Annual General Meetings and dinners, and has always paid for the dinner on behalf of the Board Members.
- Mr Turton stated that that he is not surprised by the proposal and those who support it; however, he disagrees with what is being proposed as the Authority's representation on the Association has worked well in past years, and attendance at the Annual General Meeting and dinner has always provided an opportunity for Board Members, especially newly elected Members, to meet other political representatives in different areas, and to share information.
- Mr Turton highlighted that the Annual General Meeting and dinner invitation is open to all Board Members, and not just the representative nominated by the Board, but if the Board Members do progress this proposal then he is not averse to having to pay for his own dining fee; and
- Mr Quirk stated that there are no benefits to being a political representative of a local authority, and that the Member's allowances are minimal, so the Authority paying the dining fee seems reasonable. Additionally, he has never received any complaints from ratepayers regarding this matter and the use of ratepayers' money.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Allen and seconded by Miss Corkish and **RESOLVED that during each Municipal Year, the Authority will pay the dining fee of one nominated representative to attend the Isle of Man Municipal Association Annual General Meeting on behalf of the Authority. Furthermore, any additional representatives who wish to attend on behalf of the Authority will be responsible for paying their own dining fee.**

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

**C26/05/02/11**

### **CONSIDERATION OF ANY CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **1. Isle of Man Post Office – Invitations for Expressions of Interest**

A copy of the correspondence dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026, in relation to invitations for Expressions of Interest from suitable businesses to provide postal counter services on a commission basis, or alternatively to host a postal kiosk in Onchan, Foxdale and Jurby.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised the Board that they are asked to consider if the Authority will submit an expression of interest to the Isle of Man Post Office to obtain more information.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Chief Executive/Clerk is to submit an expression of interest in order that further information can be obtained, and that the matter be brought back to the Board for further consideration.

#### **2. Onchan Pleasure Park – Event Request**

A copy of the correspondence dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026, received from Arlo's Venture regarding holding a family funday in Onchan Pleasure Park, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

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

- Arlo's Adventures has hosted events in other locations, and they have approached the Authority to see if they can host an event in Onchan Pleasure Park to assist with the charity's fundraising efforts.
- The proposed date for the event is Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2026, does not clash with any other events in the Park; and
- Are the Board Members in favour of the event being hosted at Onchan Pleasure Park.

Mr Turton asked for further information regarding the charity.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised the Board that Arlo's Adventure was set up in memory of Arlo Owen, who was diagnosed with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis. The charity brings communities together through events, as well as raising awareness and supporting families facing similar circumstances.

Mr Gibson highlighted that the Board had previously requested that a set of event ground hire charges be developed for the Board to consider before allowing any more events to be held at Onchan Pleasure Park.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that he intends to bring a report regarding this matter to the Board for consideration at the Ordinary Board Meeting due to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Board are in favour in principle of the event being held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2026 at Onchan Pleasure Park, but the decision be deferred until the Board has resolved the event ground hire charges.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the matter will be brought back to the Board for further consideration.

### **3. Groudle Glen Railway**

A copy of the invitation received from Groudle Glen Railway inviting Members to attend their 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered and noted.

#### **C26/05/02/12**

#### **TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 25**

None.

#### **C26/05/02/13**

#### **TO CONSIDER ANY MOTIONS**

##### **1. Motion 80 – Submitted under Standing Order 19**

Mr Allen advised the Board that he tabled Motion 80 and it was seconded by Mr Lockwood at the previous meeting and that the Board Members can now debate the matter.

Mr Allen advised that the Motion states *“that the Board will consider and set all future District Rates during the In Public section of Ordinary and Extra Ordinary Board Meetings commencing from the 2027/28 financial year”*.

Mr Allen provided the Board with the following comments:

- Historically, the Board of Ochan District Commissioners has considered and set the District Rate during the In Committee section of Ordinary and Extra

Ordinary Board Meetings. The resulting decisions and resolutions have then been transferred into the public domain through the resolved Minutes.

- It is proposed that this practice be changed to strengthen transparency, improve public confidence, and enhance the accessibility of information for ratepayers and the wider community. This proposal aligns with the principles of public life and supports greater public understanding of how rates are determined.

Mr Lockwood made the following comments:

- He agrees with enhancing the transparency of the rate setting process; however, the Motion also raises broader questions around which items the Board should consider in public and which in private.
- This is a fundamental aspect of how the Board operates, but there would not appear to be any rules in the Authority's Standing Orders regarding this.
- He has thought about whether a principle could be stated in Standing Orders that items are considered in private if and only if they relate to an existing or proposed relationship with a specific individual or entity.
- He notes that there are some items not relating to relationships with a specific individual or entity that the Board currently considers in private, including management accounts and internal audit matters.
- An example was provided regarding management accounts where the Board decided not to release these publicly when he raised the matter previously, but it might be forced to do so if a Freedom of Information request is made.
- Regarding the internal audit, given the nature of the findings from the most recent internal audit, there is no reason why the Authority would not wish to publicise these.
- The Board should still have discretion to overrule the default categorisation of an item as public or private where the circumstances warrant; and
- If no agreement can be reached on changing the Standing Orders, it still makes sense to move rate setting only into the public session of Board meetings.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Miss Corkish confirmed that for transparency and accountability, future District Rate setting processes should be considered in public and she is happy to support the Motion.
- Mr Wilson confirmed that he supports both the current Motion and Mr Lockwood's proposals; however, he has concerns regarding considering everything In Public, as there will be times when the Board needs to consider some matters in private, such as commercially sensitive quotations and legal advice.
- Mr Quirk confirmed that he is in favour of the Motion, and welcomes the additional proposals suggested by Mr Lockwood; and
- The remaining Board Members confirmed that they are in support of Mr Allen's Motion, and would support in principle Mr Lockwood's proposals once more information is provided.

The Chief Executive/Clerk asked Mr Allen if he wishes to amend his Motion, or to withdraw it, and to consider bringing back a new Motion that is wider reaching to include the proposals put forward by Mr Lockwood.

Mr Allen confirmed that he would like to progress his Motion in its current form, and suggested that Mr Lockwood consider bringing his own motion to the Board for consideration regarding matters to be considered In Public rather than In Committee, as well as the potential change to the Standing Orders to govern any changes.

Motion 80 was proposed by Mr Allen and seconded by Mr Lockwood and unanimously **RESOLVED that the Board will consider and set all future District Rates during the**

**In Public section of the Ordinary and Extra Ordinary Board Meetings commencing from the 2027/28 financial year.**

Mr Allen stated that the recent Motions that have been considered by the Board should be seen by members of the public as examples that it is a priority of the current Board to be open, transparent and accountable to the ratepayers of Onchan.

**2. Motion 81– Submitted under Standing Order 19**

Mr Wilson tabled Motion 81 which states:

*“That the Authority resolves to create and formally adopt a Code of Practice for the Proactive Publication of Information.”*

**Motion 81 was proposed by Mr Wilson and seconded by Miss Corkish and will stand adjourned without discussion until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Authority due to be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.**

**3. Motion 82 – Submitted under Standing Order 19**

Mr Allen asked Mr Quirk if he recollects the reason why, on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025, the Board resolved with immediate effect to cease the Joint Political Meetings between Members of the Board of Onchan District Commissioners and the Members of the House of Keys for Onchan and Garff.

Mr Quirk stated that he did not recollect the reason why, but he notes that he was against the proposal at the time it was considered previously, and that he would like to promote the Board having a greater working relationship with the local Members for the House of Keys.

Mr Allen raised the following concerns:

- There has been email correspondence between the Board Members prior to this meeting where concerns have been raised and discussed.
- Currently, the Board has two Members who are both employed by the Isle of Man Government, and in accordance with the Civil Service Regulations they are not permitted to comment or discuss any matters which relate to the Isle of Man Government.
- The Chairman of the Public Service Commission is a Member of the House of Keys for Onchan; therefore, it is not appropriate for all parties affected to take part in the proposed meetings; and
- A Member of the Board has recently declared her intention to stand in the 2026 House of Keys General Election, which could lead to potential conflicts within meetings.

Mr Quirk and Mr Turton queried the reference to email correspondence between the Board Members prior to the meeting, and noted that they have not received any emails relating to the matter.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised Mr Allen that to comply with Standing Order 19, Mr Quirk is to be allowed to table his Motion to see if it is seconded before allowing the matter to be considered and debated. Furthermore, the Motion, if seconded, will not be considered at the current meeting, unless Mr Allen uses the Chairman’s discretion to allow it to be considered at the meeting at which it is brought forward under the provision of Standing Order 19.5.

Mr Quirk tabled Motion 82, which states *“that the Board resolves to invite the Members of the House of Keys for Onchan to recommence the Joint Political Meetings with the Members of the Board of Onchan District Commissioners on a quarterly basis.*

*Furthermore, to resolve any concerns regarding conflicts of interest, appropriate procedural safeguards should be put in place to protect those in attendance at such meetings.”*

Motion 82 was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Mr Turton.

Following advice received from the Chief Executive/Clerk, Mr Allen confirmed that under the provision of the Authority’s Standing Order 19.5, the Motion can be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward as it is conducive to the despatch of business.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Allen stated that now is not the time to recommence the Joint Political Meetings; furthermore, should they be recommenced, then they should take place after the House of Keys General Election.
- Mr Wilson suggested an amendment to the Motion to include the Members of the House of Keys for Garff.
- Mr Lockwood and Mr Gibson agreed that it is not the right time to recommence the Joint Political Meetings and the matter should be considered after the House of Keys General Election.
- Miss Corkish agreed that now is not the right time to recommence the Joint Political Meetings. Furthermore, that both she and Mr Wilson, as Isle of Man Government employees, have to comply with the Civil Service Regulations; therefore, meeting with Members of the House of Keys would be difficult for them to navigate, so they would not be able to partake in any meetings.
- Mr Turton stated that he can see no reason why the meetings cannot be recommenced now. It is noted that following discussions outside of the Board Room, at least three of the four Members for the House of Keys for Onchan and Garff are disappointed that the meetings are no longer being held.
- Mr Quirk stated that by not meeting with the local national politicians the Authority is being discourteous to them. He understands the employment concerns of the two Board Members, but the Motion does provide safeguards for all those who would be in attendance at a meeting.
- Mr Turton highlighted that as Members of the Board they are the political representatives for the District and that as representatives they should be regularly meeting with the national politicians to discuss any areas of concern and to see where we can find common ground and work together; and
- Mr Wilson queried that is it not the role of the Isle of Man Municipal Association at which the Board has representation to meet and discuss matters with national politicians, and if so, it is suggested that if the Board supports the Motion then the Board should consider not attending any further Isle of Man Municipal Association meetings and save the membership fee as it would be seen as doubling up of the same process.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that there are two matters which are not covered within the wording of the motion relating to the Members of the House of Keys for Garff being invited and also that the meeting should recommence after the 2026 House of Keys Election.

Mr Allen asked Mr Quirk whether he wished to make any amendments to the original Motion.

Mr Quirk confirmed that he does agree with including the Members of the House of Keys for Garff within an amendment to the Motion, but is in agreement to include that the meetings should recommence after the 2026 House of Keys Election.

Mr Quirk proposed that the Motion be amended to state *“that the Board resolves to invite the Members of the House of Keys for Onchan to recommence the Joint Political Meetings with the Members of the Board of Onchan District Commissioners on a quarterly basis, commencing after the 2026 House of Keys General Election.*

*Furthermore, to resolve any concerns regarding conflicts of interest, appropriate procedural safeguards should be put in place to protect those in attendance at such meetings.”*

Mr Turton seconded the amended motion.

Following advice obtained from the Chief Executive/Clerk, Mr Allen confirmed that under the provision of the Authority’s Standing Order 21.2 he will allow the amended Motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward as it is conducive to the despatch of business.

Mr Allen asked the Board Members to vote on the amended Motion 82.

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

The motion failed. It was noted that in accordance with the Authority’s Standing Order 24.1 no motion or amendments to the same effect as one which has been rejected within the preceding six months, shall be proposed unless the notice thereof given in pursuance of Standing Order 19 bears the signature of at least four Members of the Board.

#### **C26/05/02/14**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES**

##### **1. Motion 79 – Play Park Accessibility and Inclusivity Audit**

To be considered In Committee.

#### **C26/05/02/15**

#### **HOUSING MATTERS**

##### **1. Housing Allocations Undertaken**

The report of the Housing Manager dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered and noted.

##### **2. Quarterly Standards of Performance Data – Quarter 4**

The report of the Housing Manager dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered and noted.

#### **C26/05/02/16**

#### **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **1. Dates for the Diary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
20 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Isle of Man Youth Services	Party in the Park	5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
12 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Onchan Methodist Church	Coffee Morning	10:00 am to 12 noon
15 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm

C26/05/02/17ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**1. Statement of Intent to Stand as a Candidate for the House of Keys Election**

Mr Lockwood made the following statement:

*"I am today announcing my candidacy for the Onchan constituency in the September General Election.*

*Onchan needs two Members of the House of Keys who will work effectively together both to hold the Government to account across a range of policy areas, and to communicate with constituents across a range of channels.*

*I have my nomination paper with me for anyone willing to sign it"*

Mr Allen wished Mr Lockwood good luck with his intention to stand at the upcoming General Election.

**2. Moor Vannin Offshore Windfarm**

Mr Wilson and Miss Corkish confirmed that they had both recently been approached by representatives involved with the No Offshore Turbines 4 IOM group who have requested a meeting with the Board to discuss the current ongoing examination of the Moor Vannin offshore windfarm proposals.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- In the interests of fairness, Mr Wilson suggested that Orsted also be invited to attend a meeting with the Board.
- Mr Turton queried whether any meetings should be a public meeting.
- Mr Quirk suggested that both No Offshore Turbines 4 IOM and Orsted be invited at the same time to attend a meeting with the Board; and
- The remaining Board Members agreed that they are in favour of meeting with both parties separately to discuss the matter in private, followed by public meetings hosted at the HUB if deemed appropriate.

Mr Wilson confirmed that he would contact the representatives from No Offshore Turbines 4 IOM to see what availability they have to meet with the Board at 6:00 pm on either Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June or Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026, and to provide the Chief Executive/Clerk with the details for inclusion in a Meeting summons.

**3. Motion Stages within the Agenda**

Mr Wilson requested that future Board Meeting agendas be altered to show who has submitted a motion and at what stage it is at to make the agenda easier for the Board Members and the readership to understand.

The Chief Executive/Clerk agreed that this amendment will be made for future agendas.

***There being no further business, the public***<sup>[ODC 01/03/206]</sup> ***meeting ended at 8:39 pm.***

C26/05/02/18ENVIRONMENTAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES**1. Motion 79 – Play Park Accessibility and Inclusivity Audit**

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

The District Surveyor provided the Board with the following overview:

- Following the resolution recorded in relation to Motion 79, Officers have approached competent companies who can carry out a play park accessibility and inclusivity audit on behalf of the Authority.
- A playground accessibility and inclusivity report is to move beyond mere legal compliance concerns to create a holistic play environment where children of all abilities, including consideration of physical, sensory, and cognitive elements, can play together safely and meaningfully.
- Such a report will act as an assessment tool to identify barriers, inform design decisions, and ensure the space fosters social interaction and equitable play for all children.
- Officers have researched suitable companies and have successfully managed to obtain only one estimate for the scope of works.
- The scope of the audit is:
  - Assess the suitability, condition and inclusivity of the existing equipment.
  - Identify what is currently considered accessible and inclusive play provision for children and young people with disabilities, having regard to recognised standards and best practice.
  - Evaluate the extent to which the current provision meets the needs of children and young people with a range of physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities.
- The quote received includes a five point audit and assessment criteria assessing the following areas:
  - Families' journey to the playground.
  - Access to and around the playground.
  - Dynamic and sensory play value.
  - Rest and recharge opportunities; and
  - Community engagement.
- A detailed report for each site. The reports will outline the current strengths and any weaknesses of the Authority's play provision and provide strategic recommendations to help increase inclusivity where needed; and
- A follow up Teams call to discuss the findings and recommendations.

Miss Corkish thanked the District Surveyor for having the report available so quickly.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Miss Corkish and seconded by Mr Wilson and unanimously **RESOLVED that the Board accepts the proposal from Play Inclusive Play Areas (PIPA) to carry out assessments and a report for each play park in the Authority's ownership, as well as Onchan Pleasure Park and the Jubilee Garden. Furthermore, that this work is to be funded from the Authority's General Reserves.**

**C26/05/02/19**

**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**1. Birch Hill – Jubilee Play Park**

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

Mr Allen raised that the Board Members may have seen the recent publicity regarding vandalism which occurred in the Jubilee Play Park in Birch Hill. Mr Allen confirmed that he had spoken with the District Surveyor, who has confirmed that the matter has been reported to the Isle of Man Constabulary, who are investigating the incident, and that replacement parts for the damaged equipment have been ordered.

**2. Change to the Format of the Board Meeting Minutes**

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

The Chief Executive/Clerk queried if the Board Members are content with the changes to the format of the Minutes of the Authority's Meetings following the recent resolution of the Board. The Chief Executive/Clerk apologised for not raising the matter earlier during the Meeting under Matters Arising.

It was noted that all of the Board Members are in favour of the new format that the Minutes are presented in.

***There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:00 pm.***