

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:00 pm

**Present:** Miss K Williams (Chair)  
 Mr D Quirk (Vice Chair)  
 Mr A Allen  
 Mr D Crellin  
 Ms F Logan (Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services) <sup>From 7:10 pm</sup>  
 Mr R Turton (Lead Member for Housing)

**Apologies:** Miss Z Lewin (Lead Member for Finance & General Purposes)

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

**C23/02/02/01**

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

Not necessary.

**C23/02/02/02**

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

None.

**C23/02/02/03**

**MINUTES**

**1. Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

Amendments:

Page 1 – Present - delete Mr A Allen

Page 4 – paragraph 1 before Mr Crellin insert following a question from a resident.

Page 4 – paragraph 15 after “should provide assistance and support” add it is a public open space and is it covered by the Authority’s Bye-Laws.

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

***Mr Allen and Ms Logan did not cast a vote as they were not present at the meeting.***

**2. Staff Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

To be considered In Committee.

**C23/02/02/04**

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

None.

C23/02/02/05TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING1. 2023/24 Christmas Office Closures

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, having previously been circulated was considered and noted.

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

None.

C23/02/02/07PLANNING DECISIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE1. Plans to the Board

(a) The following plans were considered by the Board:-

(i) **PA23/00045/B Mr and Mrs D Allen – 64 Laurel Avenue**

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

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

- Neighbouring properties had been notified; and
- The return date for the application is the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Allen and **RESOLVED that PA 23/00045/B – 64 Laurel Avenue be recommended for approval.**

**For: Miss Williams, Mr Quirk, Mr Allen, Ms Logan and Mr Turton**

**Against: Mr Crellin**

(ii) **PA  
23/00051/B****Mr M Quayle – 11 The Park**

Members were advised that the planning application is to demolish the timber side extension, remove existing stone cladding and re-render external walls, erect sun room and erect 2 m high fence.

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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Crellin and **RESOLVED that PA 00051/B – 11 The Park be approved.**

**For: Miss Williams, Mr Quirk, Ms Logan, Mr Crellin and Mr Turton**

**Against: Mr Allen**

iii) PA  
23/00096/B

**Mr P J Lawther – 137 King Edward Road**

Members were advised that the planning application is for the removal of two chimney stacks.

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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 23/00096/B – 137 King Edward Road be recommended for approval.**

(v) PA  
23/00113/B

**Miss K M Errock – 50 Laurel Avenue**

Members were advised that the planning application is to replace an existing rear window with French doors.

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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 23/00113/B – 50 Laurel Avenue be recommended for approval.**

(vi) PA  
23/00123/B

**Mr I Hemensley – 30 Groudle Road**

Members were advised that the planning application is a balcony extension to the front elevation and relocate a flue for a log burner.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 23/00123/B – 30 Groudle Road be recommended for approval.**

**C23/02/02/08**

**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

**1. Heating Charges**

To be considered In Committee.

## 2. Quarter 3 Management Accounts

To be considered In Committee.

C23/02/02/09

### REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER

#### 1. Bowling Greens – Income received for the 2022/23 season

A copy of the Report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, having previously been circulated was considered and noted.

#### 2. Dates for the Diary

A copy of the Report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, having previously been circulated was considered. The dates for the Events were agreed and noted.

Mr Quirk thanked the Officers involved with the organisation of the competitions and commented that he is not in favour of stopping the photograph and gardening competitions are suggested.

Mr Turton comment that he is also not in favour of stopping the competitions and made the following suggestions:

- that the competitions be split in to 4 quarters with 4 awards;
- that perhaps the photographs should be displayed in the Harvey Briggs Onchan Library; and
- the Onchan Schools should be encouraged to take part.

Ms Logan commented that she would support the Events Team trying again with the competitions for 2023.

Miss Williams stated that she would like to see the competitions remain and asked the Events Team to continue work on these.

#### 3. Onchan Raceway Lease

To be considered In Committee.

#### 4. External Refurbishment – Scheme 10 Barrule Drive

To be considered In Committee.

C23/02/02/10

### CONSIDERATION OF ANY RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE

#### 1. Scouts Isle of Man

A copy of the correspondence dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023, received from Scouts Isle of Man, thanking the Authority for their donation of £500.00 from the Youth Development Fund to assist with their fund raising for the World Scout Jamboree taking place in August 2023, having previously been circulated was noted.

C23/02/02/11

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

None.

**C23/02/02/12****TO CONSIDER ANY MOTIONS**

None.

**C23/02/02/13****ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES****1. Kerbside Recycling Collections**

Ms Logan provided the Board with an overview in relation to the proposal which had already been circulated to Members.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised the Board that he and Ms Logan had meet with Recycle Collect.

Mr Crellin commented that:

- The recycling<sup>[ODC 06/03/2023]</sup> bring banks currently located around the District are well used.
- the proposal mentions the Authority moving to fortnightly collections in the future and that this has been controversial elsewhere recently; and
- what are the legalities of paying for a private company to collect the recycling.

Mr Crellin and Mr Turton commented that they both have concerns as to how the recycling boxes are stored in complexes of flats as the former kerbside service that the Authority provided with subsidies from the Isle of Man Government received complaints.

Ms Logan explained to the Board how flats currently recycle and clarified that the reference in proposal relation to fortnightly collections is mentioned within Recycle Collect's proposal and not her report to the Board.

Mr Turton stated that all ratepayers need to be treated with fairness and how would the Authority dictate who would receive the subsidy when there is a suggested limit on numbers.

Ms Logan proposed that it would be on a first come first served basis. Ms Logan suggested that if the then the service could be reviewed and increased each year. Miss Logan believes that there would not be any more than a 10% uptake within the first year.<sup>[ODC 06/3/2023]</sup>

Mr Crellin queried that recycled material disposal outlets and disposal routes which Ms Logan clarified.

Mr Quirk commented that:

- it is positive that Ms Logan had highlighted recycling;
- everyone is trying to reduce waste and recycle more; and
- the recycle bring banks currently provided by the Authority are good.

The Chief Executive/Clerk explained in relation to the bring banks in the District that most are well used, however, they do require investment due to them at times being used beyond their capacity.

Mr Allen commented that:

- there is currently approximately 120 residents already on the Recycle Collect scheme who can supposedly afford this; and
- in the current financial circumstances relating to living costs he would not consider paying for this service as an additional rate bourne expense.

Mr Quirk requested that Officers prepare a report in relation to:

- the tonnage collected at the bring banks for disposal; and
- the impact on costs at the Energy for Waste Plant.

Mr Quirk further stated that the Authority had previously provided households with green waste bins which could be considered again to reduce disposal costs at the Energy for Waste Plant.

Mr Crellin asked the Chief Executive/Clerk if the Authority currently makes an income from recycling. The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an overview of how the Authority currently recycles and confirmed that the Authority makes a negligible income.

Ms Logan stated that:

- the Authority under the new legislation and regulations relating to the Climate plan will need to report on their carbon footprint;
- removing non burnable items from the refuse stream will reduce energy from waste costs that are currently one of the biggest burdens on the rates.

Mr Turton gave an overview in relation to the previous kerbside collection services around the District.

Mr Quirk commented that residents need further educations in relation to recycling and for the Authority to do more promotion.

Mr Allen commented that:

- this issue had been debated on multiple occasions;
- that he would be more comfortable if the Board made a decision on the current proposal present this evening; and
- he does think if the Authority were to offer a subsidy that it would benefit the minority and would not be supported by all residents.

Ms Logan advised that:

- she will raise this matter again as she was voted into position with recycling as part of her manifesto;
- she will continue to promote recycling; and
- reducing the rate expenditure in relation to waste disposal at the Energy for Waste Plant.

Miss Williams asked Members to confirm if they would vote on this matter tonight.

Original proposal received:

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk **that the Authority provide an additional refuse charge in addition to the rates which would provide a subsidy of £25.00 per annum for all households.**<sup>[ODC 06/03/2023]</sup>

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

A counter proposal was received:

After discussion, it was proposed by Miss Williams and seconded by Mr Allen and **RESOLVED that the Authority investigate recycling further and it be brought back to the Board and that the Authority will continue to provide recycling bring banks service.**

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

The original proposal failed.

**C23/02/02/14**  
**HOUSING MATTERS**

None.

**C23/02/02/15**  
**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. Chair's Attendances**

The Chair advised that she had attended the following:

- the Commissioners Surgery held at Springfield Court on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023.<sup>[ODC 06/03/2023]</sup>
- Marown Civic Sunday on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**2. Commissioners Surgery - Heywood Court**

It was noted that Mr Turton would be attending the Commissioners Surgery at Heywood Court on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 2:00 pm.

**3. Dates for the Diary**

Date	Organisation	Event	Time
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Onchan Baptist Church	Link Meeting	7:00 pm
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Commissioners Surgery – The Hub – Commissioner Crellin attending	10:00 am to 12 noon
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
7 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Commissioners Surgery – Heywood Court	2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**C23/02/02/16**  
**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Springfield Court – Defibrillator**

Mr Turton requested that a further defibrillator be installed at phase 1 of Springfield Court.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Turton and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that a further defibrillator be installed at phase 1 of Springfield Court.**

**2. Live Streaming of the Authority's Public Session of the Board Meetings**

Mr Turton asked the Chief Executive/Clerk for an updated in relation to the live streaming of the Authority's public sessions of their Board Meetings.

Mr Turton stated that Douglas Borough Council are currently looking in to this matter as reported in the local press.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that the matter would be brought back to the Board at a future date, following full consideration of all the impacts of Data Protection.

### 3. **Third Avenue – Dilapidated Property**

Mr Quirk asked the Chief Executive/Clerk for an update in relation to this matter.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that Officers attended recently to remove the broken glazing at the front of the property to make it safe and that the property is currently the subject of a court order for it to be sold privately or by auction via the coroner.

*.The Public session of the Meeting ended a 20:30 pm*

### **C23/02/02/17** **MINUTES**

#### 1. **Staffing Minutes of the Ordinary Board Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

See Staff Minute Book.

### **C23/02/02/18** **FINANCE AND GENERAL PROPOSES**

#### 1. **Elderly Persons Complexes Heating and Service Charges**

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

The Report of the Finance Manager dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023, having previously been circulated was considered and discussed.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an overview and advised that the Authority is legally required to provide tenants with 4 weeks' notice in relation to any changes to their rent.

##### **a) Heating Charges:**

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

- with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 the gas heating charge be reduced from 86p to 72p per point for the heating charges at Springfield Court; and
- with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 the oil heating charge be reduced from 55p to 50p per point for the heating charges as Heywood Court.

##### **b) Service Charges:**

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Turton and seconded by Ms Logan and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Elderly Person Complexes service charge of £2.26 per week remain the same.

#### 2. **2022/23 - Quarter 3 Management Accounts**

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

The Report of the Finance Manager dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023, having previously been circulated was considered, discussed and noted.



C23/02/02/19REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER**1. Onchan Raceway Lease**

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

The Report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an overview in relation to the lease, and confirmed that if a rent review was required then Deanwood Estate Agents would undertake a valuation.

It was agreed that the matter would be brought back to the Board following a valuation for consideration.

**2. External Refurbishment – Scheme 10 Barrule Drive**

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

The Report of the District Surveyor dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023, having previously been circulated was considered.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Turton and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED** that expenditure of a minimum of £200,000 made up from £106,723.13 being the balance of the sale proceeds from 23 & 23A Main Road and £93,276.87 from the Housing Reserves to provide solar photovoltaic panels as part of the external refurbishment to Scheme 10 Barrule Drive.

C23/02/02/20HOUSING MATTERS

None.

C23/02/02/21ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:45 pm*