

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 26th June 2023 at 7:20 pm

Present: Miss Z Lewin (Chair)
 Mr D Crellin
 Ms F Logan (Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes) ^(From 7:18 pm)
 Mr D Quirk (Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services)

Apologies: Mr A Allen
 Miss K Williams (Vice Chair)
 Mr R Turton (Lead Member for Housing)

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

It was noted that under the Authority's Standing Order 5.4 which states the following:

"If at the expiration of fifteen minutes after the time of the scheduled meeting at which any meeting of the Authority is appointed to be held, a quorum shall not be present, no business shall be transacted".

It was further noted that the Members in attendance agreed to suspend Standing Orders and continue with the meeting as there was a quorum present from 7:20 pm.

C23/06/02/01

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

Not necessary.

C23/06/02/02

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

None.

C23/06/02/03

MINUTES

1. Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered.

Amendments:

Page 6 – under to Dispose of any Matters arising from the Minutes of the 15th May 2023 include the following:

Ms Logan stated that during the meeting she had provided an example in relation to Mr Crellin's comments regarding private meetings and these comments had not been included within the Minutes.

The example given was that Mr Crellin spoke to^[ODC 10/07/2023] Ms Logan prior to the 2022 Annual General Meeting to discuss some^[10/07/2023] potential roles for the Members during the 2022/23 Municipal Year. This private discussion is no different to what has been proposed happened prior to the 2023 Annual General Meeting.^[ODC 26/06/2023]

Mr Crellin stated that he made it clear at the meeting in reply to Ms Logan's comments regarding the 2022 Annual General Meeting, the advice from the Authority's former Data Protection

Advocate was received long after the 2022 Annual General Meeting. Prior to this advice and training provided there was no guidance for Members regarding private meetings.

Mr Crellin requested that his comments also be included within the minutes of the 12th June 2023.

After a discussion, and subject to Ms Logan's amendments, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and **RESOLVED that Ms Logan's comments be included , and that the minutes be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.**

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

A counter proposal was received from Mr Crellin to include his amendments, but no seconder was received and the counter proposal failed.

C23/06/02/04

TO DISPOSE OF ANY RELEVANT BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES

1. Ordinary Minutes of Monday 12th June 2023

Mr Crellin stated that he made it clear during his comments at this meeting in reply to Ms Logan's comments regarding the 2022 Annual General Meeting, the advice received from the Authority's former Data Protection Advocate was received long after the 2002 Annual General Meeting. Prior to this advice and the training provided there was no guidance for the Members regarding private meetings.

Mr Crellin further stated that he had made the comments during the meeting of the 12th June 2023, and wished for them to be included within the minutes, but this was disputed^[ODC 10/07/2023] by other Members, so he wished for his comments to be recorded under matters arising from such minutes.

Mr Quirk requested that it be minuted that he disagrees with Mr Crellin's comments being recorded.

C23/06/02/05

TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

C23/06/02/06

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

None.

C23/06/02/07

PLANNING 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 23/00613/B Mr J W Moore – Middle Begoade Farm

Members were advised that the planning application is for the construction of a slurry lagoon.

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

- Comments had been received from the Manx Utilities Authority; and
- The return date for the application is the 7th July 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Ms Logan and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA23/00613/B – Middle Begoade Farm be approved subject to the comments of the Manx Utilities Authority.**

(ii) PA23/00692/B Mr P Barlow – 8 Seafield Crescent

Members were advised that the planning application is for the demolition of the existing single storey garage, erection of a two storey extension to side of dwelling and the widening of driveway and vehicular access.

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

- Neighbouring property had been notified; and
- The return date for the application is 7th July 2023

After Members consideration, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Ms Logan and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 23/00692/B – 8 Seafield Crescent be recommended for approval.**

C23/06/02/08

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

None.

C23/06/02/09

REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER

1. Potential Purchase of Land

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised the Board that he had been contacted by an Onchan MHK regarding a potential purchase of land for additional social housing for the Authority.

After a discussion, the Board agreed not to pursue this site for re-development for social housing due to the restrictive conditions of the site.

2. Manx Shop Fronts Project

A copy of the correspondence and presentation received in relation to the project regarding Manx shop fronts having previously been circulated was discussed.

Ms Logan stated:

- Due to the funding requested not being accounted for within the 2023/24 budget that no funding be provided during the 2023/24 financial year;
- Consideration be given to funding and for a project of this kind within the 2024/25 budget.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that due to there being no funds budgeted for within the 2023/24 budget no**

funds be provided to the project and that consideration be given to budgeting funding within the 2024/25 budget.

Ms Logan also stated that it is not appropriate to use funds from the Authority's Reserve to fund this project.

Mr Crellin proposed that the Board should consider setting a resolution to protect the Authority's current Reserves, including a provision to only use the Reserves for emergency or unforeseen circumstances.

Ms Logan advised that the Chief Finance Officer is currently compiling a report for the Board to consider the current Reserves and that Members should review this information before proposing a resolution.

C23/06/02/10

CONSIDERATION OF ANY RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Friends of the Chernobyl's Children (Isle of Man)

A copy of the correspondence dated 5th June 2023, received from the Friends of the Chernobyl's Children, having previously been circulated was discussed.

All Members expressed their sadness of the news and the Chair requested that the Chief Executive/Clerk write to the charity to reflect their comments.

2. Friends of the Chernobyl's Children

A copy of the charity's newsletter having previously been circulated was noted.

C23/06/02/11

TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

The Chair advised the Board that the following question in accordance with Standing Order 34 had been received from Commissioner Quirk:

1. Question:

As stated in the minutes Data Protection advised that a private meeting was acceptable, but all members must be present.

Why was there, a private meeting called at the close of the last Board meeting with only 3 Board Members and the Clerk and what was the outcome?

Answer:

The "private meeting called" as referred to by Mr Quirk was not a meeting of the Authority, but a discussion, between myself, Miss Williams and Mr Crellin. The Chief Executive/Clerk was also present to allow the Commissioner's Offices to remain open to allow the discussion to be held.

The discussion held related to a personal grievance between Mr Crellin and I, and therefore it was dealt with and resolved in an appropriate manner with those Members with which the grievance related to.

C23/06/02/12

TO CONSIDER ANY MOTIONS

None.

C23/06/02/13**ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES**

None.

C23/06/02/14**HOUSING MATTERS**

None.

C23/06/02/15**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS****1. Chair's Attendances**

Miss Lewin asked Members if they had any achievements on behalf of residents or clubs to announce.

Mr Crellin highlighted the work recently completed at the Hub to extend Kenyon's Café and asked for his thanks to be given to the Authority's Officers and contractors who completed the works on behalf of the Authority. Mr Crellin also thanked Mr Martin Macfarlane on behalf of Kenyon's Café.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised Members that the Authority in conjunction with Kenyon's Café are due to publicise the extension.

2. Dates for the Diary

Date	Organisation	Event	Time
1 st July 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Commissioners Surgery – The Hub	10:00 am to 12 noon
6 th July 2023	Manx Wildlife Trust	Yoga with Howard Caine and nature based mindfulness practice with Adam Denard – Village Green	7:00 pm
10 th July 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
15 th July 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Party in the Park	12 noon to 11:00 pm
20 th July 2023	Manx Wildlife Trust	Outside fitness with Liz Corran – Village Green	7:00 pm

C23/06/02/16**ANY OTHER BUSINESS****1. Bemahague Avenue – Garages**

Mr Quirk highlighted the issue regarding the construction of new garages at Bemahague Avenue, adjacent to Lhon Dhoo Close and Lhon Vane Close.

Mr Crellin confirmed that the Authority's District Surveyor had met with those responsible for the development today to ascertain the details. Mr Crellin further confirmed that the Authority's District Surveyor had e-mailed both himself and Mr Quirk to confirm that the Authority's interests would be protected.

2. Dilapidated Property

Mr Quirk asked for an update in relation to matters affecting a privately owned dilapidated property within the District. The Chief Executive/Clerk provided an update including the involvement of Environmental Health.

3. Update of the Authority's Standing Orders

Miss Lewin gave an overview of the newly drafted Standing Orders, and advised that she had asked the Chief Executive/Clerk to include wording within the draft to reflect Mr Crellin's previously proposed motion to allow members of public to ask questions at the public meetings of the Authority.

A discussion between all Members and the Chief Executive/Clerk took place regarding potential associated risks and previous practices of the Board when allowing members of the public to speak at the public meetings of the Authority.

The Chief Executive/Clerk suggested that the draft Standing Orders be issued to the Members in due course and that an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Authority be arranged to discuss them once the Members have had time to consider them.

All Members present agreed with the Chief Executive/Clerks suggestion.

The Public session of the Meeting ended at 8:35 pm