

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 27th November 2023 at 7:02 pm

Present: Miss Z Lewin (Chair)
 Miss K Williams (Vice Chair)
 Mr A Allen
 Ms F Logan (Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes) [From 7:04 pm]
 Mr D Quirk (Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services)

Apologies: Mr D Crellin
 Mr R Turton (Lead Member for Housing)

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

C23/11/02/01

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

None.

C23/11/02/02

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

None.

C23/11/02/03

MINUTES

1. Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Miss Lewin and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that the minutes be deferred to the end of the meeting to allow time for Ms Logan to attend.**

2. Staff Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023

To be considered In Committee.

C23/11/02/04

TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES

Deferred to the end of the Meeting.

C23/11/02/05

TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Deferred to the end of the Meeting.

C23/11/02/06

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

Deferred to the end of the Meeting.

C23/11/02/07**PLANNING DECISIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE
PLANNING COMMITTEE****(i) PA 23/01113/B Mr P Buckleigh- Garey Ween, Hague Drive**

Members were advised that the application is for the erection of a garden office using a timber clad 20 foot shipping container for personal use and working from home (retrospective) **(amended plans)**.

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

- Comments had been received from neighbouring properties; and
- The return date for the application is the 8th December 2023.

After a discussion, it was agreed that the Authority would not provide any further comment in relation to **PA 23/01113/B - Garey Ween, Hague Drive**

(ii) PA 23/01292/B Ms J T Kissack - 20 Snaefell Crescent

Members were advised that the application is for the widening of the driveway (retrospective).

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

- Comments had been received from the Highways Division of the Department of Infrastructure; and
- The return date for the application is the 1st December 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Miss Williams and unanimously **RESOLVED that PA 23/01292/B – 20 Snaefell Crescent be recommended for approval.**

(iii) PA 23/01267/B DHSOB AFC - Blackberry Lane

Members were advised that the application is for a single storey flat roof extension to the front of the current clubhouse with a roof terrace above.

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

- No comments had been received; and
- The return date for the application is the 8th December 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Ms Logan and **RESOLVED that PA 23/01267/B – DHSOB AFC – Blackberry Lane be recommended for approval.**

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

(v) PA 23/01333/B Mr M J Thomas - 32 Sunnybank Avenue

Members were advised that the application is to demolish the existing conservatory, add an extension to the rear of the property and to undertake minor internal remodelling.

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

- No comments had been received; and
- The return date for the application is the 8th December 2023.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Quirk and seconded by Miss Williams and unanimously RESOLVED that **PA 23/01333/B – 32 Sunnybank Avenue be recommended for approval.**

C23/11/02/08

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

1. Onchan Park 2024/25 Year End Charges

To be considered In Committee.

2. Miscellaneous Charges 2024/25

To be considered In Committee.

C23/11/02/09

REPORT FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER

1. Onchan Park Kiosk Operator

To be considered In Committee.

2. Centenary Park Entrance Road

To be considered In Committee.

3. Grass Cutting Tender

To be considered In Committee.

C23/11/02/10

CONSIDERATION OF ANY RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Consultation – Principles, Tynwald for Administration (Amendment Bill)

A copy of the consultation in relation to the above, having previously been circulated was discussed.

It was noted that no comments were received from Members.

2. Manx Shop Fronts

A copy of the correspondence dated 3rd November 2023, received from Manx Shop Fronts in relation to the project, a copy of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an overview including the Boards previous comments regarding this project when it was considered earlier during 2023.

Ms Logan commented that the project is of interest but the level of expenditure requested from the Authority is high. Ms Logan suggested that maybe a corporate entity could be approached for funding.

Mr Quirk suggested that the applicant approach the business owners whose shops would be photographed to see if they would contribute toward the costs.

Miss Lewin commented that committing expenditure to the project is hard to justify when she is aware that many of the Authority's key operating costs have increased since the current financial year's budget was set, and essential operating costs are only going to further increase within the next financial year.

Mr Allen commented that he is not in support of funding the project from the rates now or in the future.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and **RESOLVED that provision is not made during the 2024/25 budget setting to fund the requested amount from www.manxshopfronts.com but future budget consideration may be given should the applicant be able to secure additional funding from other sources.**

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

3. Onchan Silver Band – Christmas Concert

A copy of the invitation received to attend Onchan Silver Band's Christmas Concert on Saturday 2nd December 2023 at Onchan Methodist Church, a copy of which having previously been circulated was noted.

C23/11/02/11

TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

None. .

C23/11/02/12

TO CONSIDER ANY MOTIONS

None.

C23/11/02/13

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

None.

C23/11/02/14

HOUSING MATTERS

1. Housing Allocations Update

A copy of the report of the Housing Manager dated 21st November 2023, a copy of which having previously been circulated was considered and noted.

2. Permission to Operate a Business from Home Address

To be considered In Committee.

C23/11/02/15
CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Chair's Attendances

Miss Lewin provided an overview in relation to the dates.

Miss Lewin advised that the Heywood Court Social Housing Commissioners Surgery had been re-scheduled to Thursday 7th December 2023. Mr Quirk confirmed that he and Mr Turton are due to attend the surgery on behalf of the Authority.

2. Dates for the Diary

Date	Organisation	Event	Time
13 th November 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
27 th November 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
29 th November 2023	Onchan District Commissioners	Night of Light – Onchan Park	5:30 pm

C23/11/02/16
MINUTES

3. Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th November 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 **RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.**

Miss Lewin and Miss Williams did not cast a vote as they were not present at the meeting.

C23/11/02/17
TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES

None.

C23/11/02/18
TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

C23/11/02/19
TO DEAL WITH ANY BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

None.

C23/11/02/20**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Allen made the following statement:

“Following on from the last Commissioners meeting where questions were not answered in public.

It is in the public interest how Onchan rate-payers money is spent.

The Authority paid £2,250 in legal fees re-vexatious complaints referred to in the public minutes by Commissioner David Quirk. This complaint was closed by the previous Chair, Kathryn Williams with no fault recorded against any Member.

On the 9th December 2022 as recorded in the public minutes Kathryn Williams was thanked for the letter she issued closing the complaint made by Commissioner David Quirk.

Commissioner Quirk also made an expensive Data Subject Access Request to the Authority about himself and is responsible for other unnecessary legal expenditure costing many thousands of pounds recently made public in a Freedom of Information Request by a member of the public.

Commissioner Quirk continues to drain staff time and resources without any understanding of how things work. The level of disruption he causes means staff are distracted from carrying out necessary and essential work on behalf of all rate-payers.

Rate-payers money should be spent wisely on public services and treated with more respect than shown by Commissioner Quirk in recent times.

Commissioner Quirk’s comments in the public meeting of the 17th October 2022 were reported in the Isle of Man Newspaper.

On the 3rd November 2022 Kathryn Williams wrote to Isle of Man Newspapers to correct the article published.

As this year draws to a close, we hope Commissioner Quirk will show restraint in his behaviour remorse for his actions and respect for every Onchan rate-payer.

Miss Williams questioned Mr Allen if he is making his statement on behalf of the Board as the statement given refers to “we”.

Mr Allen agreed that the wording be changed to “I” instead.

The Public session of the Meeting ended at 7:45 pm

C23/11/02/21**MINUTES**

1. Staff Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023

See Staff Minute Book.

C23/11/02/22**TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES**

1. Staff Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023

See Staff Minute Book.

C23/11/02/23FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**1. Onchan Park 2024/25 Year End Charges**

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

The report of the Chief Finance Officer dated 20th November 2023, a copy of which having previously been circulated was considered.

Tickets:

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the following pricing structure for the Onchan Pleasure Park amenities for the 2024/25 financial year be and are hereby approved:

	Pricing	
	Current	2024/25 Fees
	£	£
Adult day ticket	10.00	10.00
Child day ticket	5.00	5.00
Family day ticket (2x adult & 1x child)*	20.00	20.00
Family day ticket (2x adult & 2x child)*	25.00	25.00
Family day ticket (2x adult & 4x child)*	30.00	30.00
Single ticket - Adult	3.00	3.00
Single ticket - Child	2.00	2.00
Single ticket - over 65	2.00	2.00
Kiddie cars (per token)	2.00	2.00
Kiddie cars (per 3 tokens)	5.00	5.00
Tennis court hire	5.00	5.00

*Family ticket includes over 65s

Group Bookings:

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Miss Williams and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the pricing structure for group bookings for the Onchan Pleasure Park amenities for the 2024/25 financial year remain the same as 2023/24.

Bowling:

After a discussion it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and **RESOLVED** that the following fees for the 2024/25 financial year be approved:

	Current Fee	2024/25 Fees
	£	£
Adult Fee	70.00	75.00
Seniors Fee	60.00	60.00
Junior Fee	15.00	20.00
Bowling Festivals (for two festivals)	1,400.00	1,400.00
New Member Fee (1 st year)	18.00	20.00

Hut Charges	300.00	300.00
Greenage Fee	125.00	125.00

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

Opening Dates and Hours:

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Allen and unanimously **RESOLVED** that **2024/25 park season opening dates and hours are:**

Easter Holidays	-	Friday 29th March 2024 to Sunday 14th April 2024
Weekend Opening	-	Saturday 20th April 2024 to Sunday 26th May 2024
Summer Opening	-	Monday 27th May 2024 to Tuesday 3rd September 2024

It was resolved that the opening hours for Onchan Park remain at 10:30 am to 5:30 pm for the financial year 2024/25 and that the park would operate on weekend opening from Saturday 7th September 2024 to Sunday 29th September 2024 at the discretion of the Chief Executive/Clerk.

2. Miscellaneous Charges 2024/25

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

The report of the Chief Finance Officer dated 21st November 2023, a copy of which having previously been circulated was considered.

After a discussion, it was proposed Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Allen and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the following be and are hereby approved:

Miscellaneous Charges

Letter of Comfort	£125.00
Replacement Copy Documents	£95.00
Search Fee	£150.00

Garage Rents:

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Allen and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the **2024/25 garage rents be increased to £24.00 per week including VAT.**

Commercial Refuse Collections

It was agreed that this matter be brought back to the Board.

Additional Domestic Bin Collections

It was agreed that this matter be brought back to the Board.

C23/11/02/24CONSIDERATION OF ANY REPORTS FROM THE CLERK OR OTHER OFFICER**1. Onchan Park Kiosk Operator**

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

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 17th November 2023, a copy of which having previously been circulated was considered.

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

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that Gary Whitehead be awarded the Onchan Pleasure Park Kiosk Operator contract for the 2024/25 financial year.**

2. Centenary Park Entrance Road

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

The report of the Environmental and Technical Services Manager dated 14th November 2023, a copy of which having previously been circulated was considered.

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

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Quirk and unanimously **RESOLVED that TCQ Limited be appointed to undertake and complete the road access improvement works to Centenary Park before the end of the 2023/24 financial year.**

3. Onchan District Commissioners – Grassing Cutting (In-House)

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

The report of the Environmental and Technical Services Manager dated 20th November 2023, a copy of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with an overview regarding the above matter.

A discussion took place between the Members.

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

- the Authority will employ and budget for 3 additional Parks Department Gardeners within the 2024/25 financial year;
- the Authority will cease the requirement to employ an annual grass cutting contractor; and
- the Authority will budget for and source the required machinery and equipment within the 2024/25 financial year.

For: Miss Lewin, Miss Williams, Mr Allen and Ms Logan

Against: Mr Quirk

C23/11/02/25
HOUSING

1. Permission to Operate a Business from Home Address

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

The report of the Housing Officer dated 22nd November 2023, a copy of which having previously been circulated was considered.

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

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms Logan and seconded by Mr Allen and **RESOLVED that the housing tenant referenced within the Housing Officer's report be granted permission to operate a part-time nail technician business from the premises subject to obtaining planning permission for an additional use.**

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

C23/11/02/26
ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Ms Logan provided the Members with an overview of the recent discussions between the Members of the Isle of Man Municipal Association regarding the Department of Infrastructure's proposed changes to social housing and the formation of a Housing Association.

Ms Logan confirmed that she has been asked to compile a letter to the Department of Infrastructure on behalf of the Municipal Association to highlight their concerns.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9:07 pm