

The Monthly Meeting was held on Wednesday 15th February 2017 at 7.30pm at the Halley MacLiaig. Present were Mr Cowin (Chairman), Mrs Glover, Mr Cringle, Mr Gawne and Miss Greenhalgh. The Clerk was in attendance.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th January 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Risk matters

It was noted that Mr Edwin had advised that, due to ill health, he could no longer act as Risk Advisor to the Board, but that he intended to submit an annual report to the end of 2016. There were no new risk matters to report.

Highways – Commissioners Responsibilities

Work done past month:-

Gulleys - Main Road & parts of Friary Park.

Sweeping - Main Road

Planned for next month:-

Sweeping upland roads & elsewhere as required.

Complaints were received regarding mud on the road at Ballagawne Farm. It was agreed to contact Mr Cooil in connection with this problem.

Other Highways matters

Resurfacing Duck Street – it was noted that work on kerbs and drains had commenced, and that the road would be subject to closures for resurfacing from 27th February.

Friary Park Entrance – advice was received that the DOI had not gained permission from land-owners regarding the proposed alterations at the junction, and that therefore it was unlikely that improvements to the junction would proceed in the short term. It was felt by the Commissioners that there were several small-scale improvements that could still be made to improve the safety of the junction, and it was agreed to ask the DOI to reconsider the matter. The possibility of a pedestrian crossing was again discussed.

Speed Limit in Ballanorris Area – a letter was received from Mr F Lowey, Ballanorris, in connection with the increase in the speed limit from 30mph to 40mph in the Ballanorris area. There was sympathy with his argument that this increase would create additional dangers on the Ballanorris bend and in the Iron Gate vicinity, and it was agreed to advise the DOI accordingly.

Youth Facilities in Arbory and the South

Mrs Glover reported that a planning application was being submitted in connection with a skate park at Poulson Park, Castletown.

Facilities for teenagers within the Parish was discussed again, and although it was felt that this did not seem to be a major issue, the Board would remain open to considering any suggestions coming forward from parish residents.

Friary Park Play Area

Miss Greenhalgh reported that the play area was very wet underfoot and more or less unusable. The members felt that the facility was very under-used, even during the summer months. It was agreed to look into having the area properly drained and the purchasing of some additional, more modern play equipment.

Sundry Matters

- **Civic Service** – It was confirmed that the Service was to be held on Sunday 19th February.

- **Meeting with Rushen Parish Commissioners** – it was noted that the planned meeting with Rushen Commissioners had been postponed due to the unavailability of several members., and that another date would be arranged.
- **National Week Concert** – it was noted that Arbory School had agreed that its choir would take part in the National Week concert on 1st July.
A letter was received from Ballabeg Chapel, advising that they intended to hold a Manx Tea and Concert event during National Week, and seeking the support of the Commissioners. It was agreed to take part in this.
- **Lights in Bus Shelters** – it was noted that IOM Transport had indicated that it was willing to co-operate with the Commissioners in providing solar powered lighting in bus shelters in the Parish, and that a meeting was being arranged to discuss the matter further.
- **Freedom of Information** - it was noted that the Freedom of Information Act would be extended to local authorities from 1st January 2018, and that various training sessions would be held prior to this.
- **Deep South Festival** – the organiser advised that the Festival was to be held again on Colby AFC ground in early July, and that refuse collection and disposal facilities would be required. It was noted that Jones Services Ltd was prepared to provide the service on the same basis as last year. It was agreed that the Board would pay 50% of the refuse cost, as last year.

Planning Matters

New Applications:-

- 1700061 – Reayrt Aalin, Glen Road – additional access – no comments.
- 1700116 – Ballastewart, Ballakilpheric Road - alterations & extension – no comments.

Decisions:-

- 1601328 – 7 Ballacubbon, Ballabeg - replacement conservatory roof – Approved.

Accounts for payment

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

- Manx Telecom – telephone	65.02
- Jones Services Ltd – refuse collection - Feb	3,509.95
- IOM Government - Refuse disposal	4,460.76
- W I Lowey - reimbursement postages, etc	295.80
- Jones Services Ltd - road sweeping & gully cleaning	1,594.80
- Colas (IOM) Ltd - flags and halyard	204.26
- Manx Utilities - standard replacements (November)	1,696.07

Sundry Correspondence & Other Matters

- Invitation – Mona’s Queen memorial service – 29 May
- Road closures – Duck Street to Billown, from 27 February for re-surfacing.
- Use of Douglas Library – A letter was received from Douglas Corporation, offering to make the library available to Arbory residents in return for an annual fee of £550. This was not considered worthwhile, given that contributions were already being made to three libraries in the South.
- Proposed road closures for 2017 for racing on the Southern 100 course – no comments.

- Road closures for the Manx Autosport Car Rally in May – no comments.

Sundry Matters Raised by Members

Arbory School - it was noted that comments had been received from parents concerning the facilities at the school, and it was agreed to enquire whether there were any plans to replace the mobile classrooms in the near future.

The Meeting ended at 9.30 pm.