

The Monthly Meeting was held on Monday 24th July 2017 at 7.15pm at the Halley MacLiag. Present were Mrs Glover (Chairman), Mr Cowin, and Mr Cringle. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Gawne and Miss Greenhalgh. The Clerk was in attendance.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Risk matters

Having received three quotes, it was agreed to appoint NFU Mutual as the new risk advisor.

Highways – Commissioners Responsibilities

Recent work done:-

Hedge trimming Grenaby Road (for DOI ditching and Southern 100 alternative route).

Work planned next month:-

Hedge trimming Ronague Road, B39 Cringle Road, others hedges as required.

It was reported that the DOI had received complaints that elsewhere on the Island hedges were being cut too soon, and that the DOI would therefore be issuing new guidelines. It was however felt that the early trimming of hedges on the narrow parts of the Ronague Road and the B39 could be justified on road safety grounds.

A complaint was received regarding over-hanging vegetation at Ballacriy entrance – it was agreed to ask the hedge trimming contractor to look at the situation, but it was thought that the problem was tree branches rather than bushes, and therefore beyond his remit.

Municipal Association Matters

It was noted that Mr Boot, DEFRA Minister, had attended the June Meeting of the Association and that he had floated the idea that representatives of local authorities might become members of the Planning Committee. The Commissioners discussed this suggestion, but for several reasons, it was not felt to be a practical suggestion.

Police Matters

A letter of introduction was received from Inspector Mark Newey, the new southern area inspector, and noted.

Sundry Matters

National Week concert – it was reported that the concert had been successful and well-attended, and would probably be repeated in 2018.

Annual Garden Competition – Mrs Glover reported that judging was taking place and that the results would be made available in the near future.

Meeting with Hartford Homes re Cronk Cullynn adoptions – it was reported that Mr Cowin and Mr Gawne and the Clerk had met Mr N Greenhalgh of Hartford Homes on site to review the extent of the public open spaces to be adopted. It was agreed, subject to the resolution of a few minor issues, to proceed with the adoption.

Signage on Cronk Cullynn. – following concern expressed at the difficulty experienced by visitors with the house numbering system, Hartford Homes agreed to erect small direction signs

Publicity Cronk Cullynn Adoption – a draft proposed press release regarding an official handover of public open spaces and the play area to the Commissioners was received from Hartford Homes. It was agreed that Mrs Glover would liaise with Mr Greenhalgh regarding the wording of the press release.

Arbory School facilities and numbers – a copy of correspondence between Mrs K Jenkins and the Department of Education and Children regarding Arbory School facilities and pupil numbers was received and discussed.

Millennium Wood – a complaint was received regarding trees in the Millennium Wood reducing light to a nearby property. It was felt that the trees concerned were sufficiently far away to not have any significant effect.

Dogs Byelaws – the Clerk reported that the proposed renewed dogs byelaws had been available for public comments on the Commissioner’s website for more than six weeks and that no comments had been received. It was therefore agreed to commence the procedure for introducing these byelaws.

Overgrown property, 1 Ballastroan – the Clerk reported that a financial company in Douglas had agreed to pass on correspondence to the executors of the deceased owner’s will, but that no response had yet been received.

Laa Columb Killey – it was noted that the Laa Columb Killey Committee was intending to distribute publicity material to all houses in the Parish next year. At Mrs Glover’s suggestion, it was agreed to investigate with the Committee whether this could be expanded on a shared cost basis, to include the Commissioners’ annual newsletter and information from other Parish organisations.

Seagulls nuisance – It was reported that an issue had arisen regarding seagulls ripping open bags of refuse left beside bins for collection. It was agreed to arrange a letter drop to residents, seeking cooperation in taking various precautions not to attract the gulls.

Smiley Sid traffic speeding equipment - an e-mail was received from Rushen Parish Commissioners, suggesting that southern authorities should consider jointly buying and using a Smiley Sid speed warning system. It was noted that the Commissioners still had a similar Mr Smiley system, although it had not been used for many years. It was agreed to investigate whether this could be brought back into use before making a decision on Rushen’s suggestion.

Insurance cover re play equipment – a quote of £200 was received for insuring the play equipment at Cronk Cullyn and Friary Park. It was agreed that, in reality, this would only be cover for vandalism, and that, as this was an unlikely occurrence, it was not necessary to proceed with this additional insurance. It was noted that any third party claims relating to the use of the play areas was already covered by public liability insurance cover.

Speeding on Glen Road – it was brought to the Board’s attention that the 20mph limit on part of the Glen Road was largely being ignored. It was agreed to bring this to the attention of the DOI and the Police, to consider what steps could be taken to remedy this problem.

Freedom of Information – a Local Government Unit questionnaire, in connection with training and preparedness for Freedom of Information legislation being extended to local authorities, was received and responded to.

Sundry Correspondence

- Consultation – ending state pension contracting out. No comments.
- Consultation – means testing. No comments.
- Consultation - inshore marine nature reserves. No comments.
- Consultation – contracting out certain police services. No comments.
- Fire safety – at the request of the IOM Fire and Rescue Service, it was confirmed that the Board was not aware of any properties containing cladding of the type involved in the Grenfell Tower fire, and that there are no properties in the Parish of five stories or more.
- CRHS “Space launch.” - advance advice of event in October - noted.
- Royal British legion Poppy Appeal dates 2018 to 2020 – approved.

Planning Matters

New Applications:-

- 1700662 – 16 Friary Park – roof lantern to front porch. No comments.
- 1700697 - John Jimmy’s, Main Road, Colby – conservatory. No comments.
- 1700698 - Gat y Whing, Glen Road - ancillary detached accommodation unit. It was considered that it should be a firm condition that the proposed new accommodation should be and should remain ancillary to the existing dwelling.
- 1700717 - Belle Abbey House - alterations and extensions, including new garden room & garage. No comments.
- 1700623 - 50 Ballacriy - extension to replace conservatory. No comments.
- 1700725 - Ballakindry Mill, Ballagawne Road – conversion of mill to dwelling. No comments.

Decisions:-

- 1700446 – 9 Ballacriy – replacement conservatory roof – approved.
- 1700496 - 47 Ballacriy – porch & replacement windows – approved.
- 1700513 - 29 Cronk Cullyn – replacement conservatory roof – approved.
- 1701354 - 64A Friary Park – demolition of garage, erection of shed & extension – approved.
- 1700414 - Ballacubbon, Colby – 20 affordable homes and associated works – approved.
- 1700623 - 50 Ballacriy – alterations and rear extension - approved.

Appeals:-

- 1700414 - Ballacubbon, Colby – 20 affordable homes and associated works – Appeal against approval lodged.

Accounts for payment

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

- Manx Telecom – telephone	64.54
- Jones Services Ltd – refuse collection - July	3,587.17
- IOM Government - Refuse disposal - June	5,769.86
- S Booth - grass cutting & weed spraying	490.00
- Jones Services - Deep South Festival refuse service	300.00
- Southern Amenity Sire - Qtr 2 payment	8,341.26
- Jones Services - hedge cutting	630.00
- NFU Mutual - addnl cover re contractors	115.87
- IOM Bank - audit certificate fee	42.00
- Arbory School - National Week concert	50.00
- Meadowside Choir - National Week concert	50.00
- Manx Utilities (MEA) - Streetlights power	1,668.22
- Bond holders - half yearly interest	75.00
- Manx Utilities(MEA) - Streetlights maintenance	1,903.92
- Ballabeg Methodist Chapel - contribution towards Manx Tay and Concert event	50.00

Sundry Matters Raised by Members

The following matters were raised:-

- The poor state of the roads in the area was again raised and discussed. It was agreed to write to the DOI Minister, querying the priorities of the Department, when it had recently been decided to spend almost £21 million on Douglas Promenade , whilst country roads were being allowed to deteriorate and long delays were being experienced in basic maintenance such as repairing potholes and white line painting.
- It was reported that the footpath from Colby to Kentraugh was overgrown and that one of the footbridges was in a poor and possibly dangerous state of repair. It was also noted that the boardwalk on the top end of the Cronk Cullyn to Ballachrink footpath had collapsed. It was agreed to bring this general lack of maintenance to the attention of the DOI.

The Meeting ended at 9.45 pm.