

**MINUTES OF ISLE OF MAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING
HELD AT BRADDAN COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES AT 6.40PM ON THURSDAY
27 APRIL 2017**

Vivien Quane	Lezayre Commissioners	Chairman
Alison Lynch	Marown Commissioners	Vice Chairman
Adrian Cowin	Arbory Commissioners	
David Dentith	Braddan Commissioners	
Andrew Jessopp	Braddan Commissioners	
Betty Quirk	Douglas Borough Council	
Carol Malarkey	Douglas Borough Council	
Janet Thommery	Douglas Borough Council	
Christine Faid	German Commissioners	
Barbara Brereton	Malew Commissioners	
Bob Pilling	Malew Commissioners	
James Cherry	Onchan Commissioners	
Chris Quirk	Onchan Commissioners	
Geoff Gelling	Patrick Commissioners	
Lindsey Ridley	Patrick Commissioners	
Eddie Convery	Peel Commissioners	
Alan Jones	Peel Commissioners	
Luke Parker	Ramsey Commissioners	
Graham Connor	Secretary	

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The speaker this evening was the Chief Minister who had kindly arrived early since he needed to leave for a further appointment at 7.20pm

2. Speaker – The Chief Minister Howard Quayle M.H.K.

The Chief Minister focussed his talk on two subjects, these being the Programme for Government and Brexit. He was accompanied by Jennifer Wheeler from Cabinet Office.

a) Programme for Government

The Council of Ministers' document was given to Members along with a presentation on the strategic objectives and main themes. The Strategic Objectives are:

- An Inclusive and Caring Society
- An Island of Enterprise and Opportunity
- Financially Responsible Government

The twenty outcomes beneath these objectives are grouped into five main themes:

1. Enterprise and Opportunity Island
2. Responsible Island
3. Sustainable Island
4. Inclusive and Caring Island
5. Healthy and Safe Island

It was emphasised that the programme was not set in stone and changes along with revisions in priority might occur at any time during the project. Key markers within the themes were identified and expanded upon. Following the presentation, a series of questions and observations were put forward by Members. These included:

- The nature and extent of involvement by Local Authorities.
- The need to work with Local Authorities and the extent to which devolvement was possible.
- The need to learn from previous mistakes.
- The need for proper planning and Departmental collaboration on major work and projects. Foxdale (was cited as an example).
- Current plans in respect of the appointment of a Government Ombudsman

b) Brexit

The Chief Minister re-emphasised his view on the nature of Brexit to the Isle of Man and that this remained the current most important issue for the Island. He went on to outline the wide range of meetings attended and the collaborative approach which had been adopted between the Island and the Channel Islands wherever possible.

Members were reminded that updates on the Brexit position were available on the Government website. The Chief Minister was aware that several other Ministers were scheduled to speak at Municipal Association meetings and he felt sure that Chris Thomas MHK would be able to provide a face-to-face briefing at an appropriate date in the future

The Chairman thanked the Chief Minister for coming along and felt sure that the time spent with him had provided much food for thought.

3. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Raina Chatel (Douglas Borough Council), Andy Phair (Port St Mary Commissioners), Carol Quine (Castletown Commissioners), Neal Mellon (Braddan Commissioners), Martyn Faid (German Commissioners), Alex Toohey (Marown Commissioners), and Robert Moughtin (Garff Commissioners).

4. Minutes of March 2017 meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. Treasurer's Report

The report had been circulated and was noted.

7. Secretary's Report

The report had been circulated and was noted.

8. Training events for Commissioners and Clerks

The Human Resources training session was now confirmed for 19 September at Onchan. Invitations and full details would be sent out around a month in advance of this. Catherine Ashton has asked for some guidance regarding the subject of her

presentation. Carol Malarkey advised that she would speak with her but any suggestions from other Members should be given to the Secretary as soon as possible.
AP Carol Malarkey

9. Ramsey Courthouse

Congratulations were offered to Ramsey Commissioners on the apparently successful outcome of negotiations regarding acquisition of the Courthouse building.

10. Regional Swimming Pools meeting

Adrian Cowin reported that there had again been no progress on consideration of an all-Island swimming pool rate due to the absence of appropriate senior people from the meeting. Members were advised that the schools swimming policy was currently subject to review and that a centralised insurance policy would not happen. There was also likely to be work on a new pool floor at the NSC during 2018 which would result in the pool being closed for around 3/6 months. This was not a job which could have been carried out following the flood damage in 2016 as it had to be subject to a tendering process and the previous damage repair work had been part of an insurance claim. The next meeting was scheduled for 12 July 2017.

11. Richmond Hill Consultative Committee

Concern and frustration was expressed regarding what appeared to be a fundamental breakdown in the aims and workings of the above committee. Members were particularly bothered by the apparent lack of communication and co-operation between parties. For instance, the promised data on the performance and operation of the plant did not appear to have been made available as proposed. Regular meetings are no longer being held, and it is proving difficult for group members to fulfil their remit. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Minister Boot to express concern and seek clarification. Andrew Jessopp would review the draft letter for content. **AP Secretary**

12. Waste Management issues

Bob Pilling provided a verbal update from the meeting held in late March. Rather than list the key points here he advised that the minutes from the meeting would be forwarded to the Secretary for distribution as soon as they were available. **AP Bob Pilling and Secretary**

13. World War I Commemorations

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

14. Any other business

a) Annual General Meeting – 25 May 2017

The Chairman reminded Members that positions within the Municipal Association would be subject for renewal at the AGM. In line with the constitution the presidency would pass to the next alphabetical Local Authority (Garff) and it was understood that Robert Moughtin was to fulfil the role of President for the next twelve months. Alan Jones proposed and Carol Malarkey seconded that the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary should remain with the current incumbents. This was agreed unanimously but would be subject to formal ratification at the AGM.

b) Positive Action Group

Andrew Jessopp advised that Roger Gethin, the Policy Director for Cycling UK was to attend a meeting of the Group on 22 May 2107 and, sponsored by Minister Harmer, would be making a presentation to Tynwald on policies and campaigns. It was hoped that this presentation would also be open to members of Local Authorities.

c) Conversion of telephone boxes to defibrillator stations

Geoff Gelling advised regarding an initiative being taken by Patrick Commissioners. All agreed that this seemed an excellent idea. Members were advised that details of how this might be achieved were available on request.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Date of next meeting: **AGM Thursday 25 May 2017 7pm for 7.30pm.**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....