

**MINUTES OF ISLE OF MAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING
HELD AT BRADDAN COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 29
JUNE 2017**

Vivien Quane	Lezayre Commissioners	Chairman
Alison Lynch	Marown Commissioners	Vice Chairman
Neal Mellon	Braddan Commissioners	
Raina Chatel	Douglas Borough Council	
Carol Malarkey	Douglas Borough Council	
Anthony Allen	Onchan Commissioners	
James Cherry	Onchan Commissioners	
Chris Quirk	Onchan Commissioners	
Lindsey Ridley	Patrick Commissioners	
Eddie Convery	Peel Commissioners	
Alan Jones	Peel Commissioners	
Juan McGuinness	Ramsey Commissioners	
Peter Quinn	Rushen Commissioners	
Graham Connor	Secretary	

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The speaker this evening was Geoffrey Boot MHK – Minister at the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

2. Speaker – Geoffrey Boot M.H.K.

Mr Boot opened his talk by recognising the valuable role of the Municipal Association and the strengthened part the forum was playing as a conduit for ideas and feedback. He gave a brief history of his involvement and roles within Government, both local and national, over the years and what he saw as his current priorities. Mr Boot went on to give a wide-ranging description of the many and varied functions within his Department including:

- Agricultural vision and policy
- Meat plant
- Grants and support
- Food distinction and provenance
- Cattle identification and disease control
- Fisheries – quotas, marine conservation and freshwater fishing issues
- Environmental safety and health including regulatory control and biosphere issues
- Forestry and amenity
- Government laboratory – real time diagnosis, drinking water and food analysis
- Radiation monitoring
- Planning and building control including strengthening of enforcement, high level planning review etc.

- Corporate services
- Wildlife Park
- OFT – consumer protection bill, contracts and monopolies.
- Road Transport Licensing Committee – operational not policy.

Mr Boot gave details of three areas which were particularly important for his Department in terms of delivering on the Programme for Government. These were:

1. The Competition Bill
2. Delivery of an Energy Efficiency Scheme by December 2017
3. An urgent review of Building Safety in the wake of events in the United Kingdom.

The Minister took a number of questions on a wide range of topics including the Richmond Hill Consultative Committee, fisheries, food culture and provision for the hungry on the Island, discharge licences. There was some discussion on operational delivery as opposed to policy and strategy matters. Mr Boot advised that if Members felt that there were day-to-day shortcomings he could always be contacted directly with appropriate examples and, if necessary, would intervene personally to ensure resolution. Inevitably there would be times when not everyone could be satisfied with a specific decision.

In particular, Mr Boot asked for Local Authority feedback on a proposal of his to have an elected local representative from each authority as part of the Planning Committee. He also advised that he was very much an advocate of putting local community plans in place and wished to encourage Local Authorities to prepare them. Again, views would be welcomed.

Members advised that they would take these issues back to their respective authorities and arrange for feedback to be given directly and/or collated through the Secretary of the Municipal Association. **AP Members and Secretary.**

3. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Geoff Gelling, Betty Quirk, Bob Pilling, Barbara Brereton, Chris Kinley, Carol Quine, Adrian Cowin and Alec Toohey.

4. Minutes of April 2017 meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 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. Treasurer's Honorarium

The Secretary reported on a discussion which had been held between the Treasurer, President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and himself regarding the lack of provision for reclaiming of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the former. The Secretary advised

that there was such provision within the terms of his post. Members agreed that this was a discrepancy but were reluctant to create further bureaucracy.

As a result, Alan Jones proposed and Carol Malarkey seconded a motion that the Treasurer's honorarium should be increased by £100 with immediate effect to recognise this issue and the diligent work which had been carried out by the current incumbent over many years. The award was not to be pro-rated. The motion was carried unanimously.

8. Secretary's Report

The report had been circulated and was noted.

9. Training events for Commissioners and Clerks

The Human Resources training session remains confirmed for 19 September 6.30p.m. at Onchan (finish anticipated around 9pm). There would be a "faith supper" as usual. 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. Members suggested that the following topics might be appropriate:

- Contracts of engagement
- Disciplinary matters
- Conflicts of interest.
- Uniform role descriptions for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Commissioners
- Difficult or unusual scenarios encountered which might be of wider interest.

The Secretary advised that he would pass on this information. **AP Secretary.**

10. Municipal Association archive material – request from MNH

The Secretary went through the content of an email sent by Braddan Commissioners who stored some Municipal Association archive material from 2002-2014. There had been a discussion between them and the Manx Museum regarding the feasibility of this being amalgamated with material already held by them covering the period 1903-1984. The whereabouts of records covering the period from 1985-2001 was unknown. Members discussed the position at some length and were anxious to help in widening access to material for research purposes and the like.

There was some concern expressed that some material was relatively recent and fell into various categories i.e. minutes which were currently available to the public via Facebook and the website but also correspondence etc which may or may not contain personal and/or privileged or confidential information. The Secretary advised that it would be a significant task to review this within current resource availability.

Members resolved that the Secretary should approach the Local Government Unit for advice and report back. The potential for Freedom of Information requests from the Municipal Association ought also to be considered. **AP Secretary.**

11. Richmond Hill Consultative Committee.

The letter to Mr Boot and matters arising had been discussed within the Q&A session with the Minister earlier. It seemed clear that this committee was now defunct and Members were anxious to move on and rebuild trust but also wanted to seek clarity on previous events. With that in mind the Secretary was asked to seek a copy of the note

which had been read out at the meeting and which seemed to conflict with previous understanding. Alan Jones also confirmed that he would speak with Paul Crane, Andrew Jessopp and, if necessary Rob Collister on their recollection and understanding of historical issues. **AP Secretary and Alan Jones.**

12. Waste Management issues

Bob Pilling was not at the meeting tonight but had reported to the Secretary that minutes from the Waste Management meeting held in March were still outstanding. These would be forwarded to the Secretary as soon as they were received and he would arrange for them to be distributed. **AP Secretary.**

13. World War I Commemorations

There was nothing further to report at present.

14. Any other business

a) August meeting

It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for 31 August would be postponed given that it clashed with MGP and no available speaker had been identified. This date often clashed with holidays. Consideration would be given to having a break from meetings each August when reviewing 2018 and later year meeting dates

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday 27 July 2017 at 7pm.**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....