MINUTES OF ISLE OF MAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING
HELD AT BRADDAN COMMISSIONERS’ OFFICES AT 1900 ON THURSDAY 19
MAY 2016

Present:

Vivien Quane  Lezayre Commissioners  Chairman
David Talbot  Patrick Commissioners  Vice-Chairman
Kevin Weir  (formerly of Castletown)  President
Andrew Jessopp  Braddan Commissioners
Raina Chatel  Douglas Borough Council
Ann Corlett  Douglas Borough Council
Betty Quirk  Douglas Borough Council
Liam Miller  Garff Commissioners
Robert Moughtin  Garff Commissioners
Christine Faid  German Commissioners
Martyn Faid  German Commissioners
Bob Pilling  Malew Commissioners
Alex Toohey  Marown Commissioners
Alison Lynch  Marown Commissioners
Rob Callister  Onchan District Commissioners
David Talbot  (formerly of Patrick)
Alan Jones  Peel Town Commissioners
Eddie Convery  Peel Town Commissioners
Luke Parker  Ramsey Town Commissioners
Peter Gunn  Rushen Commissioners
Barbara Dunworth  Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from:

Arbory Commissioners, Richard McAleer of Castletown Commissioners, Julie Pinson of Laxey and Mr Graham Connor

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed German Commissioners who recently confirmed their full membership and were represented this evening by their Clerk, Mrs Christine Faid and her son
Martyn Faid, recently elected as a Commissioner and appointed representative to the Municipal Association Executive Committee.

Other new Executive Committee Members present were: Mrs Betty Quirk of Douglas Borough Council, Mr Liam Miller of Garff Commissioners, Mr Alex Toohey of Marown Commissioners, Mr Eddie Convery of Peel Town Commissioners and Mr Luke Parker of Ramsey Town Commissioners.

There will be more new Members to welcome to the Executive Committee in June by which time all Municipal Representatives should have been appointed.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from Minutes

(a) Mr Graham Connor, unable to attend this evening due to a long-standing prior commitment off Island, will be attending the Annual General Meeting giving Members an opportunity to meet him before he moves fully into his role as Secretary. During the month he has been working with the present Secretary on the hand-over process.

(b) Local Authority Elections Results were discussed and all agreed how nice it was to see so many young people coming into local government. It is regrettable that there have still to be quite a lot of Bye-Elections.

(c) Nominations for Vice-Chairman: The Secretary reported that two nominations had been received, each nominating the other, namely Mr Rob Callister and Mrs Alison Lynch, each being content to see the other elected. However, following discussion, Mrs Lynch deferred to Mr Callister who then suggested Mrs Lynch take over in September should he be elevated to the House of Keys. It was therefore resolved that Mr Callister be put forward for election at the Annual General Meeting as Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Association and agreed that Mrs Lynch should take his place if he ceased to be a Commissioner.

Treasurer’s Report

The report had been circulated and was noted. The Secretary advised that the Treasurer will be recommending that the annual subscription remains at £255.00 per annum.
Secretary’s Report

The report had been circulated and was noted. A further report had been circulated today, mainly for general information. The Secretary elaborated on the contents and in particular sought approval - which was given - to change the date of the meeting due to be held on 25 August to 18 August due to MGP practice road closures.

The Secretary hoped Member Authorities would respond to the Fair Trade Organisation individually regarding any action they have taken to assist in promoting this important initiative.

ACTION: Members

Public Services Commission – Joint Consultative Committee

There was nothing new to report at this time.

Richmond Hill Consultative Committee

Mr Paul Craine had written tendering his resignation from his role as Municipal Association representative on the Richmond Hill Consultative Committee (RHCC); he expressed his thanks for the opportunity to take on this role which he had enjoyed immensely and learned a great deal in the process.

Paul advised that there had not been an RHCC meeting for several months. He strongly believes that the committee should continue to exist and contribute to the monitoring of the Energy from Waste Plant (EfWP) and urged the Municipal Association to appoint a replacement rather than allow the committee to disappear. As the EfWP is in Braddan, who always are represented at meetings by Mr Andrew Jessopp, it would be useful to appoint someone from another authority to attend alongside Braddan at all meetings.

Concern was expressed by Members that the DEFA Officer responsible for the administration of the RHCC had informed one of the RHCC representatives from Braddan that he was unable to hold a meeting of the committee owing to a lack of resources.

Members agreed that a delegation comprising Andrew Jessopp (Braddan), Cath Turner (Douglas), Alan Jones (Peel) and Eddie Convery (Peel) would seek to meet with the DEFA Minister, Richard Ronan, at the earliest opportunity to discuss the situation and hopefully agree a way forward so that meetings could resume as soon as possible.

It was further agreed that individual authorities would be asked to write supporting letters to the Minister to express their concern that such an important committee was having its work disrupted and that resources need to be found to enable the committee to meet and carry out its vital remit.

ACTION: New Secretary/Delegation/Member Authorities
**World War I Commemorations**

Mr Alan Jones reported that the committee meeting had been cancelled but a letter detailing Local Awards had been circulated and the Royal Artillery Association had taken the Commander General’s Baton around the Island.

**Training Forum for all Clerks and Commissioners**

Our Training Forum programme will commence being rolled out, following on from the Drop-In Session on 13 June when the Municipal Association will have a table and information board attended by the Chairman and Secretary with hopefully other Members dropping in from time to time during the period 3.00pm to 7.00pm. Information will be supplied with regard to the importance of the Municipal Association.

It was agreed that the Municipal Association should have a supporting brief at the Drop Inn session and then the Regional meetings planned by the Department, but also – and very importantly - progress the Municipal Association plans. For those new Members who would like it we should organise an induction evening to assist people who do not have the benefit of, say, Ramsey or Douglas staff to organise one for them.

Mr Talbot commented on the importance of clarifying for new members how our training programme came about in the first instance, when the Department ceased their training initiative, and that our training is not just for new Commissioners/Councillors but also to update all Members. We should not relax our position because the Department is running this drop in session and then risk seeing it all peter out; so a strong presence is required at this drop in session. We need to organise, co-ordinate and focus on the training we had already planned, without delay.

It was agreed that what we need to offer are the basics of being a Commissioner/Councillor, Standing Orders, Bye-Laws and what one is expected to actually do for the rate-payers. Mr Talbot said he felt this has to come from here - and would be better coming from here - for it is all to do with every day running. It needs to be presented as a ‘Refresher for All’, including Induction for newcomers, all learning from each other. We should, of course, keep going with the Government initiatives on Planning, Treasury and Housing, but do our own thing as well.

A lengthy discussion took place at this juncture with particular concern that the Department should not receive the credit for what the Municipal Association has been and will be doing. At the earliest opportunity we need to review the list of topics, set dates and secure venues.

**ACTION: New Secretary/Members**
**Name Badges for Officials**

The Chairman suggested having Municipal Association name badges for use at the Drop In session and other occasions. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea and the new Secretary would be instructed to source these.

**ACTION:** New Secretary/Members

**Any Other Business**

There was no further business to discuss at this time.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 2025.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 30 June at 7.00pm

Signed .......................................................................................... Chairman

Date..................................................................................................