

**MINUTES OF ISLE OF MAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING  
HELD AT BRADDAN COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 27  
JULY 2017**

Vivien Quane	Lezayre Commissioners	Chairman
Alison Lynch	Marown Commissioners	Vice Chairman
Neal Mellon	Braddan Commissioners	
Raina Chatel	Douglas Borough Council	
Betty Quirk	Douglas Borough Council	
Robert Moughtin	Garff Commissioners	
Fiona Moore	German Commissioners	
Bob Pilling	Malew Commissioners	
James Cherry	Onchan Commissioners	
Geoff Gelling	Patrick Commissioners	
Eddie Convery	Peel Commissioners	
Alan Jones	Peel Commissioners	
Peter Gunn	Rushen Commissioners	
Graham Connor	Secretary	

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The speaker this evening was Ray Harmer MHK – Minister at the Department of Infrastructure accompanied by Emily Curphey.

**2. Speaker – Ray Harmer M.H.K.**

Mr Harmer gave a wide-ranging description of the many and varied functions and priorities within his Department including:

- The National Infrastructure Strategy which covered undertakings such as sewerage, technology, telecommunications, flooding, harbour and maritime matters (including ports, cruise terminals and marinas), along with waste management
- Douglas promenade which would be a big and complex undertaking with the need to ensure a co-ordinated and joined up approach to things like drainage, electricity, lighting, the horse trams, and consider initiatives such as a park-and-ride facility at Summerland, and the cultural area. Depending on options exercised it might take anything from 9 months to two and a half years to complete. In those circumstances, it was clearly important to consider and mitigate the impact on homes and businesses in Douglas. There were already teams such as the Strategic Infrastructure Group and the Joint Utilities Group in existence to tackle some of these obstacles. Members also expressed the view that good design was integral to the overall success of the project.
- Local Authorities. Mr Harmer stressed that the government was in “listening mode” when it came to its dealings with Local Authorities. It particularly wished to engage when it came to issues such as the streamlining of byelaws.

The Minister took note of several concerns raised in respect of the clearing and maintenance of footpaths around the Island. He mentioned the work being undertaken to refurbish the heritage trail and hoped to get Beach Buddies involved in pathway matters. On the voluntary front, there were issues regards liability for accidents and the Minister could not promise that any additional central government funding would be available. Nonetheless Local Authorities emphasised their desire to be involved in pathway maintenance and improvement which they saw as representing a real service both to the local community and Island wide. There was recognition that there was still some way to go in respect of road repair, marking and urban footpath upgrading. Indeed, there were close on 550 out of 740 identified issues still to tackle. These matters would be sorted out but clearly priorities had to be established. If there were specific problems which it was felt needed to be escalated further reports should be made.

Following a positive discussion, the Chairman went around the table inviting questions for the Minister. These covered subjects such as recycling hardcore material, planting at Summerland, the Northern Civic Amenity site, airport, Railway Terrace, and Balthane, Onchan/Braddan housing lists, sheltered housing, high hedges, white lines etc.

It was also agreed that the D.O.I. should revert to attending meetings with the Municipal Association three or four times each year. This practice had slipped a little following the last election but could now get back on track. It might not always be possible for the Minister himself to attend but it would always be possible for senior political or Civil Service personnel to come along. With that in mind it was agreed that representatives would next come to the Municipal Association meeting on 26 October.

**3. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Andy Cowie, Adrian Cowin, Juan McGuinness, Carol Malarkey, Chris Quirk, and Lindsay Ridley

**4. Minutes of June 2017 meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 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 remains confirmed for 19 September 6.30p.m. at Onchan (finish anticipated around 9pm). Topics would include:

- Contracts of engagement
- Disciplinary matters
- Conflicts of interest.
- Difficult or unusual scenarios encountered which might be of wider interest.

Uniform role descriptions for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Commissioners would be left until later

It was agreed that the safeguarding event would take place on 03, 10, or 17 October at Peel depending on speaker and venue availability The Secretary advised that he would progress this new event but may have to make some independent decisions since invitations would need to be sent out prior to the next Municipal Association meeting which was not due until 28 September. **AP Secretary.**

**9. Municipal Association archive material – request from MNH**

Emily Curphey advised the Secretary to contact Angela Skitt at the Public Records Office to see what progress had been made in finalising a policy document with regard to retention and release of public records and whether the Municipal Association fell within the ambit of this policy. No further progress has been made. **AP Secretary.**

**10. Richmond Hill Consultative Committee.**

There had been no progress in obtaining information requested from Mr Boot. This was a source of considerable frustration especially as the Minister had read out some of the information requested. Alan Jones had produced an interim report based on what was already known but felt that a Freedom of Information request might be necessary to progress matters. It was hoped that more significant progress might be made in the two-month period to the next meeting with, at least a more substantive update, if not a final report, available by the end of September. **AP Secretary and Alan Jones.**

**11. Waste Management issues**

Bob Pilling had provided the notes from the Waste Management meeting held on 17 July. The notes from the previous meeting in March were still outstanding and had not been signed off. These would be forwarded to the Secretary as soon as they were received and he would arrange for them to be distributed. **AP Secretary.**

**12. World War I Commemorations**

A service to commemorate the Battle of Passchendaele was to be held at Port Erin Methodist Church on 30 July.

**13. Any other business**

**a) Regional Swimming Pool Committee**

There was nothing of substance to report.

**b) Speakers for the rest of 2017**

It was agreed that these would be as follows (subject to availability):  
September – Alfred Cannan MHK

October – Ray Harmer MHK and/or Emily Curphey  
November – Rob Callister MHK

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday 28 September 2017 at 7pm.**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....