

**MINUTES OF ISLE OF MAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING
HELD AT BRADDAN COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 26
OCTOBER 2017**

Vivien Quane	Lezayre Commissioners	Chairman
Alison Lynch	Marown Commissioners	Vice Chairman
Robert Moughtin	Garff Commissioners	President
Adrian Cowin	Arbory Commissioners	
Raina Chatel	Douglas Borough Council	
Carol Malarkey	Douglas Borough Council	
Betty Quirk	Douglas Borough Council	
James Cherry	Onchan Commissioners	
Geoff Gelling	Patrick Commissioners	
Lindsay Ridley	Patrick Commissioners	
Eddie Convery	Peel Commissioners	
Alan Jones	Peel Commissioners	
Juan McGuinness	Ramsey 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 MHK

Mr Harmer said that he did not intend to speak for too long at this meeting. He would give an update on various matters but preferred to engage in a round table dialogue on issues of interest and concern. This approach was welcomed. Emily Curphey then gave a brief update on matters raised at the July meeting. Emily also spoke about the proposed enhancement of the feedback app to help with focussed consultation.

The Minister went on to talk about various current consultations and those in the pipeline. He also wanted to find out how people felt about the Local Authority transition and would be writing to Clerks and Commissioners/ Councillors individually to seek feedback via an anonymous questionnaire in the near future. This exercise would have a very tight turnaround time of maybe two weeks, so this may mean the Local Authorities did not have time to meet and respond as entities.

Mr Harmer advised that arrangements were being put in place to trial responsive public transport in the north of the Island and also promised to look at a concern raised by Alison Lynch regarding traffic calming measures in Glen Vine Road which needed to be in place before a much-needed refurbishment to the children's play area could be completed.

Concern was expressed by Douglas Councillors regarding the need for yellow lines, parking deterrents and improved residential parking in a number of areas of the town. Alexandra Drive was specifically mentioned. The Minister also spoke again about the proposed promenade refurbishment. A wide range of views on the time and timing of this major work were expressed.

Other topics covered included:

Robert Moughtin – abuse of upland grasslands and green lanes.

Juan McGuinness – electronic vehicle strategy and potential for the Island to be used in trials given the lack of “range” issues.

Adrian Cowin – Southern traffic management group, and budget management for minor works.

Peter Gunn – legislative drafting arising from consultation and potential timeframe.

Lindsey Ridley/Geoff Gelling – Patrick road conditions and traffic calming measures.

Geoff Gelling – bus hubs.

Eddie Convery – airport security, staff costs and impact of using larger aircraft.

To conclude Mr Harmer was asked to what his most pressing current issue was. He responded that this was finance.

The Chairman expressed her thanks to the Minster and Emily Curphey for their positive, open and engaged approach to proceedings and looked forward to the next Municipal meeting with them which was scheduled for 22 February 2018.

3. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Neal Mellon (Braddan), Bob Pilling (Malew), Fiona Moore (German) and Chris Quirk (Onchan).

4. Minutes of September 2017 meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 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 Safeguarding event had been postponed due to lack of numbers. There were a number of contributing factors; some Local Authorities had already received training whilst the date was unsuitable for others. It was agreed that a further attempt to host this would be held in the New Year. Members were asked to consider whether there were other suitable training event topics which could be identified for 2018. It was noted that the Zero Waste Mann speaker might be able to accommodate a wider audience although a definite commitment to this was awaited.

9. Richmond Hill Consultative Committee.

Despite having made some progress using Freedom of Information requests Alan Jones advised that he was still unable to prepare a full report on historical issues although this would be done and sent to the Secretary in advance of the next Municipal meeting so that it could be circulated with briefing papers. Nevertheless, it was encouraging to note the DEFA had scheduled a meeting for 27 November to which previous participants had been invited.

All Members agreed that public scrutiny remained a fundamental requirement. It was noted that some Municipal delegates would attend in their capacity as representatives of Local Authorities, but Members wondered if it might be possible for Alan Jones to be added to the list of attendees as the nominated Municipal Association representative given his knowledge and expertise. The Secretary would write to the organisers. **AP Secretary.**

10. Waste Management issues

Nothing further to report

11. Planning committee composition

No response had been received from Geoffrey Boot MHK however the suggestion to include Local Authority elected representatives would no doubt be considered as part of the feedback from the recently announced planning consultation exercise.

12. World War I Commemorations

There were no further events currently planned. Some concern was however expressed regarding the suggestion for a further war memorial mooted by Juan Watterson MHK. Members felt that parishes and towns already had their own long-established monuments to the fallen and that an additional one was unnecessary. Alan Jones said that he would provide the latest minutes from the WWI steering committee for circulation when available.

13. Any other business

a) Arbory Clerk

Adrian Cowin advised that interviews for this position would take place shortly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday 30 November 2017 at 7pm.**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....