

**MINUTES OF ISLE OF MAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING
HELD AT BRADDAN COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES AT 7PM ON THURSDAY
28TH FEBRUARY 2019**

PRESENT

Vivien Quane	Lezayre Commissioners	President & Chairman
Alison Lynch	Marown Commissioners	Vice Chairman
Adrian Cowin	Arbory Commissioners	
Neal Mellon	Braddan Commissioners	
Betty Quirk	Douglas Borough Council	
Tim Kenyon	Garff Commissioners	
Margaret Kennaugh	German Commissioners	
James Cherry	Onchan Commissioners	
Geoff Gelling	Patrick Commissioners	
Eddie Convery	Peel Commissioners	
Alan Jones	Peel Commissioners	
Michelle Heywood	Port St Mary Commissioners	
Graham Connor	Secretary	

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was no speaker tonight which would provide an opportunity for more detailed discussion on salient points and issues.

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Carol Quine (Castletown), Raina Chatel (Douglas), Jamie Smith (Garff), Bob Pilling (Malew), Chris Quirk (Onchan), and Lindsay Ridley (Patrick)

Minutes of January 2019 meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. These included amendments provided by Andrew Jessopp.

Matters arising from minutes

Members were pleased to note that there were several problems raised with Ray Harmer MHK and Jeff Robinson that had now been resolved, which demonstrated the benefits of regular face-to-face meetings with the DOI Minister and his team.

The Secretary advised that he had received an approach from TT administrators regarding a problem notified following the last meeting. Although initially nobody could recall such an issue being raised it was thought that this may have been related to a failure to remove signage. The Secretary would respond. **AP Secretary.**

Treasurer's Report

The report had been circulated and was noted. The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 had been audited and there were no issues arising. Members considered these and it was proposed (Vivien Quane) and seconded (Alison Lynch) that these be approved. This resolution was passed unanimously, and the accounts would be presented for ratification at the AGM in May. **AP Secretary**

Prior to the meeting the Treasurer had advised that he had undertaken a full review of the Municipal Association's financial status and concluded that the subscription to be sought for 2019/20 should remain at £270. This would be put forward for approval at the AGM. **AP Secretary**

There was clear recognition of the excellent work done by the Treasurer and a discussion regarding the honorarium received by him. It was proposed (Eddie Convery) and seconded (Betty Quirk) that the honorarium payable to him should be increased to £900 per annum with the next payment due in December 2019 to be made in the full amount. This resolution was passed unanimously, and it was agreed that this increase should be presented for approval at the AGM. **AP Secretary**

Secretary's Report

The report had been circulated and was noted. A copy of the receipt for records deposited with the MNH archives was produced.

The Secretary distributed copies of correspondence in respect of progress made with the organisation of the AGM and there was a discussion regarding options. It was agreed that the tender provided by Café Bar 26 at Derbyhaven should be accepted and progressed. The Secretary would follow up with invitations due to be issued by no later than the first week in April. Details of the proposed speaker were awaited. **AP Secretary**

The Chairman prompted a discussion regarding the honorarium payable to the Secretary (at which point the latter left the room). Upon his return the Secretary was notified that it had been proposed (Alan Jones) and seconded (Alison Lynch) that this should be increased by 5% from the 1 April 2019 with future increases linked annually to Civil Service pay awards. This resolution was passed unanimously, and it was agreed that this increase should be presented for approval at the AGM. **AP Secretary**

S.A.V.E. and joined up service suggestions

There were no items to be passed on to the DOI this month

Planning, interested parties and guidelines

There was a lengthy discussion regarding current issues arising. Concern was also expressed regarding discrepancies in Sheltered Housing provision. Members noted that Geoffrey Boot MHK was to be the speaker in March and whilst he might wish to discuss a range of issues, it was certain that planning matters would be central to the discussion. Members were asked to prepare two questions each to be put to the Minister. Further questions would be subject to time constraints.

Rates reform

Members briefly discussed this topic and noted that a consultation had been issued today (28 February 2019). It was agreed that submissions fell to be made by individual local authorities. It was reported that there was some concern in Government that any changes might not produce a better outcome than that currently in place and that there could be a significant cost in producing no additional revenue (which was not the aim of the exercise) and little in the way of full resolution. Nevertheless, the government view (and wider feeling in some areas) was that "rural v urban discrepancies needed tackling".

Bus services

The Chairman expressed concerns that, certainly in the North of the Island, there were many buses running with very few passengers and that this situation seemed to have been exacerbated by the “Ring and Ride” scheme. Following discussion Members felt that a way forward might be for a Freedom of Information request to be made for the disclosure of running costs in order to better inform the position. Such a request did not however fall within the remit of the Municipal Association. It was also reported that a request for rerouting of buses within the Foxdale area had been rejected despite the fact there seemed to be no timing issues to prevent this.

Any other business

1. Future speakers

March – Geoffrey Boot MHK

April – Lawrence Skelly MHK (James Cherry asked if the Minister could be prompted to give an update on the Telecommunications Strategy which would contain real benefits for rural communities).

May – AGM

June – Ray Harmer MHK

July – possibly Anna Marie Goldsmith (library provision) or Chris Thomas MHK

August – no meeting

Potential Autumn speakers: Chris Thomas MHK, National Rivers Authority, Adrian Cowin (climate change)

2. Jurisdictional issues

It was reported that Port St Mary Commissioners had received notification from the DOI that they did not have appropriate licensing measures in place for the regulation of chairs, tables, signage etc in public areas. Enquiries made had revealed that this regulation was not within the remit of local authorities and following correspondence this matter was dropped. Members advised that jurisdictional issues were not uncommon, and it was recommended that details of statutory authority, legislation and guidance should be sought from Government departments where there was any doubt.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday 28 March 2019 at 7pm.**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....