

**MINUTES OF ISLE OF MAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING
HELD AT BRADDAN COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES AT 7PM ON THURSDAY
25TH APRIL 2019**

PRESENT

Vivien Quane	Lezayre Commissioners	President & Chairman
Helen Callow	Douglas Borough Council	
Betty Quirk	Douglas Borough Council	
Jamie Smith	Garff Commissioners	
Tim Kenyon	Garff Commissioners	
Bob Pilling	Malew Commissioners	
James Cherry	Onchan Commissioners	
Geoff Gelling	Patrick Commissioners	
Lindsay Ridley	Patrick Commissioners	
Alan Jones	Peel Commissioners	
Andy Cowie	Ramsey Commissioners	
Ffinlo Williams	Ramsey Commissioners	
Peter Gunn	Rushen Commissioners	
Graham Connor	Secretary	

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Laurence Skelly MHK Minister at the Department for Enterprise would provide a brief update on structure and topics within his area and there would then be a round-the-table question and answer session.

Guest – Laurence Skelly MHK

Mr Skelly said that he was pleased to have been given the opportunity to speak at the Municipal Association. The Minister gave an interesting presentation on the structure of work within his Department and the progress which had been made against the requirements of the Programme for Government and more widely. The slides from the presentation are available using this link <https://www.iom-municipal.im/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Skelly.pdf>

The Chairman asked for questions for the Minister. Topics covered included:

- Isle of Man Steam Packet – security of gateway, future prospects and improvements, fare structure and timings of sailings.
- Telecommunications strategy – 5G, new cable, June Tynwald statement expected.
- Securing future generations – the 10p bus fare rise was seen as petty.
- Extent of consultation with current and potential University students regarding factors which would influence them remaining on or returning to
- the Island.
- Business agency – positive comments, current status of the Regeneration Fund.
- Growth of business opportunities in the north of the Island, infrastructure, scaling of grants outside Douglas.
- Visit Laxey Valley project and local development partnerships.
- Blockchain and sandbox technology and Brexit opportunities.

- Need for family-based leisure facilities in Douglas – capital grants available for suitable project which demonstrate viability in terms of operating costs.

Members thanked the Minister for coming along and being willing to engage. It was further evidence that dialogue with government had widened under the current administration.

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Adrian Cowin (Arbory), Carol Quine (Castletown), Raina Chatel (Douglas), Margaret Kennaugh (German), Alison Lynch (Marown), Alex Toohey (Marown), Eddie Convery (Peel) and Michelle Haywood (PSM).

Minutes of March 2019 meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report

The report had been circulated and was noted.

Secretary's Report

The report had been circulated and was noted. The new speaker at the AGM was to be Marc Tyley from Manx Radio.

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

There were no items to be passed on to the DOI this month. It was agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda going forward.

Energy from Waste/RHCC

Carried forward to the July Municipal Association meeting given the absence of Andrew Jessopp and the understanding that political meetings were not scheduled until late June or early July.

Any other business

a) Rate reform issues

Concern had been expressed to Alison Lynch (in her role as Vice-Chairman) by German Commissioners that Chris Thomas MHK had been less than complimentary on social media in his portrayal of the attitude of Commissioners in their approach to his reform agenda. The secretary read out the posts to which he had been directed. Members discussed the issue and concluded that whilst the

Municipal Association maintained a Facebook presence for the dissemination of information it was not policy to comment on or reply to posts on other sites. If Local Authorities had concerns, they should take these up with the appropriate MHK or Department on an individual basis. Members were reminded that Minister Thomas was on the list of potential guest speakers to be invited in the autumn.

b) Climate change

It was requested that this topic be added to the agenda for the June 2019 meeting.

c) Malew and Santon Spring Fair

Details were provided to Members.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.
Date of next meeting: **Thursday 23 May 2019 at 7pm (AGM).**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....