



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

10th June, 2015

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 10th day of JUNE, 2015, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

COUNCILLOR MRS SARA DAWN ANDREA HACKMAN, JP

Councillor

Mrs C.A. Corlett

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mr D.J. Ashford

Mrs R. Chatel

Mr J. Joughin

Mr D.W. Christian, MBE, JP

Mr E.A. Joyce

Mrs C.E. Malarkey

Mr G.J. Faragher

Miss D.A.M. Pitts

Mr R.H. McNicholl

Ms K. Angela

Mr S.C. Cain, JP

Mrs E.C. Quirk

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain and Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner.

The Chief Executive, Borough Treasurer and Borough Engineer and Surveyor were in attendance.

1. **Minutes – 13th May, 2015**

The minutes of the annual Council meeting held on Wednesday, 13th May, 2015 were approved and signed.

2. **Standing Order 39 – Question Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts**

The following question addressed by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts to the Chairman of the Housing Committee, and the Chairman's reply, were noted on the minutes:-

Question:

- (a) Between what dates has 70 Hillside Avenue been unoccupied;
- (b) What is the loss of rent and rates to date;
- (c) What works have been carried out;
- (d) Please provide a detailed breakdown of the costs;
- (e) When will the property be ready to let;
- (f) What is the reason for the property being empty so long;
- (g) How many properties have been or are unoccupied for more than 3 months since 70 Hillside Avenue became vacant.

Reply:

- (a) This property was unoccupied from 21st October, 2013 until 1st June, 2015.
- (b) Rent loss for the unoccupied period was £6,712.69 (deficiency funded). The amount lost in Borough rates was £1,169.36.
- (c) The works carried out included asbestos checks and associated works; full central heating system installation; complete electrical upgrade; removal of gas fire and associated fittings; repairs to kitchen and bathroom; repairs to doors and windows and general re-let standard works including a thorough clean and continuous garden maintenance.
- (d) The costs were:

Asbestos	£325.00
Electrical	£696.95
Central heating	£4,182.00
Other repairs and general re-let works	<u>£5,238.00</u>
	£10,441.95
- (e) The property was re-let in May this year and the tenant took occupancy on 1st June 2015.
- (f) The voids maintenance team has over the last three years been working on a large number of void properties caused by the recent capital schemes. Properties have been prioritised for those in most demand. (2 bed properties) (See also Briefing Note issued to Executive Committee Members and copied to Housing Committee Members).
- (g) 115 properties have been unoccupied for more than three months during the period of 21/10/13 to 01/06/15.

Supplementary Question:

Is the Chairman happy with the amount of time taken to turn properties, especially to Hillside Avenue, around?

Reply:

I am certainly not happy with the time taken to turn properties around. I have asked the Housing Department to put together a Capital Scheme to reduce voids.

3. **Executive Committee – 29th May, 2015 – Clauses A1 to A24 inclusive**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A24 inclusive of report of meeting held Friday, 29th May, 2015, be received by the Council."

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

4. **Executive Committee – 29th May, 2015 – Clause B25**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause B25 of report of meeting held on Friday, 29th May, 2015, be received, approved and adopted by the Council."

During the debate, Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford rose to a point of order on resolution (iv) which read that the Committee unanimously voted against the resolution. The Member was of the opinion that the Committee unanimously voted for the resolution.

The Council adjourned at 4.05pm to clarify the minute. The meeting resumed at 4.20pm. The Chairman clarified that the Committee unanimously voted for resolution (iv). In response to a request from Members, the Mayor agreed to put resolutions (ii), (iii) and (iv) individually.

Question put on (ii) *“That the Council supports the reduction in Membership from eighteen to twelve Members”*; a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion: Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian – **2**

Against: Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor J. Joughin, Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, Councillor Ms K. Angela, Mr Councillor S.C. Cain, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk, the Mayor – **13**

Motion fell.

Question put on (iii) *“That the proposed reduction be achieved by reducing the number of Councillors representing each Ward from three to two, with effect from the Council elections in April 2016”*; a vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Motion: Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian – **3**

Against: Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor J. Joughin, Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, Councillor Ms K. Angela, Mr Councillor S.C. Cain, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk, the Mayor – **12**

Motion fell.

Question put on (iv) *“That work be undertaken to balance the inequality of voter numbers within each Ward, with a view to completion in time for the Council elections in 2020”*; a vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Motion: Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett, Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor J. Joughin, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, the Mayor – **11**

Against: Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Councillor Ms K. Angela, Mr Councillor S.C. Cain, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk – **4**

Motion carried.

5. **Attendance**

Mr Councillor S.C. Cain left the meeting at 4.30pm during consideration of the following item.

6. **Pensions Committee – 27th May, 2015**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J. Joughin, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Wednesday, 27th May, 2015, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

7. **Attendance**

Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

8. **Housing Committee – 20th May, 2015 – Clauses A1 to B10 inclusive**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to B10 inclusive of report of meeting held Wednesday, 20th May, 2015, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

9. **Attendance**

Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl returned to the meeting during discussion of the following item.

10. Housing Committee – 20th May, 2015 – Clause C11

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clause C11 of report of meeting held Wednesday, 20th May, 2015, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

11. Regeneration and Community Committee – 19th May, 2015

Motion moved by Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Tuesday, 19th May, 2015, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

12. Environmental Services Committee – Monday, 18th May, 2015

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Monday, 18th May, 2015, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

13. Notice of Motion

Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts moved the following Motion, notice of which had been given:-

“That in the event that the horse trams are relocated onto the Promenade walkway, the Council offer the horse tram undertaking to the Isle of Man Government for a nominal fee as a heritage attraction, along with an agreement for long term use of any land concerned with such undertaking, but that said land remain in the ownership of the Council.”

The Motion was seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford.

Under the provisions of Standing Order 30, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and report back to Council.

14. Miscellaneous Business

The Chief Executive reported to the Council that a vacancy has arisen in Murray’s Ward as a result of Mr Councillor W.M. Malarkey taking up a seat in the House of Keys. Public notice of the vacancy had been issued and nominations closed on 8th June, 2015. No valid nominations have been received and public notice of the vacancy will be re-issued in due course.

15. Adjournment and Resumption

The meeting adjourned at 5.20pm whilst the Executive Committee met to consider the appointment of a Member to the Environmental Services Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Mr Councillor W.M. Malarkey to the House of Keys. The meeting resumed at 5.30pm with the same fourteen Members present.

16. Appointment of Member to the Environmental Service Committee

The Leader of the Council, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, reported that, during the adjournment the Executive Committee had met and appointed Councillor Mrs R. Chatel to serve on the Environmental Services Committee for the remainder of the 2015/2016 municipal year.

17. Appointment of Member to the Standards Committee

The Mayor invited nominations for a Member to serve on the Standards Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2015/2016 to fill the vacancy caused by Mr Councillor W.M. Malarkey being elected to the House of Keys.

Mr Councillor J. Joughin was nominated by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl.

Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey was nominated by Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, seconded by Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce.

A ballot took place in which the votes were cast as follows;

Mr Councillor J. Joughin 8

Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey 6

The Mayor declared Mr Councillor J. Joughin, having obtained a simple majority of the votes of the Members present, be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2015/2016.

18. Appointment of one Member to the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee

Resolved unanimously, "That Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee for the remainder of the 2015/2016 municipal year, to fill the vacancy caused by Mr Councillor W.M. Malarkey being elected to the House of Keys."

19. Appointment of one Member to the Douglas Town Band Committee

Resolved unanimously, "That Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey be appointed the Council's representative on the Douglas Town Band Committee for the remainder of the 2015/2016 municipal year to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher from the Committee."

20. Adjournment and Resumption

The meeting adjourned at 5.35pm and resumed at 5.50pm with the following Members present: Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett, Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor J. Joughin, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, Councillor Ms K. Angela, the Mayor.

The same officers were in attendance.

IN PRIVATE

21. Executive Committee – 29th May, 2015

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Friday, 29th May, 2015, be received by the Council."

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

22. Pensions Committee – 27th May, 2015

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J. Joughin, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Wednesday, 27th May, 2015, be received by the Council."

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

23. Regeneration and Community Committee – 19th May, 2015

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Tuesday, 19th May, 2015, be received by the Council."

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

24. Vote of Thanks

In light of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's retirement, the Council recorded a vote of thanks for his thirty-five years' service to the Council.

The Council rose at 6.15pm.

Town Clerk & Chief Executive