



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

8th February, 2023

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 8th day of FEBRUARY, 2023, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

COUNCILLOR MS JANET THOMMENY, JP

Councillors

Miss N.A. Byron

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr I.J.G. Clague. MBE

Mr D.R. Watson

Mr S.R. Crellin

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr F. Horning

Mr P.J. Washington

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Environment and Regeneration and the Director of Housing and Property were in attendance.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor F. Schuengel.

1. **Minutes – 10th January, 2023**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Tuesday, 10th January, 2023, were approved and signed.

2. **Minutes – 31st January, 2023**

The minutes of the special Council meeting held on Tuesday, 31st January, 2023, were approved and signed.

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

Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

- 3.1 *What discussions have been held with the Manx Development Corporation regarding children's play equipment on the Westmoreland Village?*
- 3.2 *How many square metres of play area will be required for the size of the proposed development?*
- 3.3 *What was the outcome of any meetings regarding play equipment?*
- 3.4 *What is council policy for play areas within new developments that have the space for equipment?*
- 3.5 *Has the policy been discussed and changed/alterd if so who made that decision?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration Committee:

- 3.1 *Officers have participated in one face to face meeting and two virtual meetings with members of the design team for Westmoreland village. The face to face meeting and one of the virtual meetings involved discussion on a range of aspects including active travel, waste storage and collection, landscaping and amenity. The second virtual meeting focussed on play provision specifically because the design team were proposing the concept of playable space and incidental play features alongside two more formal play areas. Playable space and incidental play are not approaches that the Council has had experience of providing or managing in the past but the new play policy that was being developed at the time of the first meeting in preparation for the design of the new Promenade play area does provide the policy framework required to be able to adopt this type of approach to play.*
- 3.2 *That calculation has not yet been carried out formally because the planning application has not yet been submitted.*
- 3.3 *The second virtual meeting on 18th January 2023 was specifically to discuss play aspects within the scheme and involved expert input from local charity Isle of Play. There was not much discussion about play equipment as most of the discussion was about concepts such as play streets and the sharing of space. There was discussion about the potential for playable space and play opportunities in addition to standard play equipment, which was timely because the play policy that had been agreed by the Regeneration & Community Committee on 20th December 2022 in preparation for the design of the new Promenade play area enables this approach for the first time by proposing a risk-benefit assessment approach in such circumstances.*
- 3.4 *There isn't a specific policy about this but there is the new play policy that was approved by the Regeneration & Community Committee on 20th December 2022 and the Executive Committee on 26th January 2023.*
- 3.5 *See 4. Above. The Council did not have a formal play policy prior to the one approved on 20th December 2022.*

4. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

- 4.1 *How many black bin assessments have been carried out since the implementation of the service?*
- 4.2 *How many black bin assessments have been carried out in each ward?*
- 4.3 *How many households in each ward have been given a larger bin after the assessments?*
- 4.4 *How many in each household have not been given a new bin after the assessments and what were the main reasons refusal?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

- 4.1 *164 requests have been received. Of these 164;*
 - *14 are outstanding;*
 - *7 have been emailed but have not replied;*
 - *4 did not provide any contact details;*
 - *7 no longer require an assessment as they are now coping;*

- 6 have been contacted several times but no answer;
- 3 did not attend pre-arranged appointments and officers have not been able to make contact with them since; and
- 2 are work in progress and due a revisit.

4.2 Of the 121 assessments conducted; Douglas North – 33; Douglas East – 16; Douglas South – 38; Douglas Central – 34.

4.3 107 households were given extra capacity. A briefing note will follow on how this breaks down per ward.

4.4 13 households have not been given extra capacity as they agreed to recycle ahead of any further review, one household did not wish to engage.

5. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

5.1 How many commercial properties are currently empty?

5.2 How many empty commercial properties are awaiting repairs before letting?

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

5.1 There are four Council commercial properties currently empty.

5.2 There are two Council commercial properties that are awaiting repairs before letting.

6. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

6.1 How many playgrounds does the Council currently have?

6.2 How often are these playgrounds inspected for safety or damage?

6.3 What regulations or guidance documents are used as good practice when carrying out the inspection?

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

6.1 10; this excludes the promenade (which is currently not available) and the splashzone (as this only operates seasonally).

6.2 Weekly, usually on a Friday ahead of weekend use.

6.3 The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and BS EN 1176.

7. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

How many businesses on North Quay have approached the Council to request an evening closure of the Quay?

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

There has been ongoing dialogue with three businesses regarding the pedestrianisation of the section of North Quay between Ridgeway Street and Market Hill over the last three years; the licensee and Heron & Brearley support and make use of the road closure, as does the proprietor of JCs. The manager of the former Epernay was also a big supporter of the scheme until the business had to close. It is understood that a new hospitality business will be taking the tenancy of the former Epernay building.

8. Executive Committee – 26th January, 2023 – Clauses A1 to A5 and A7 to A14

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A5 and A7 to A14 inclusive of report of meeting held on Thursday, 26th January, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

9. Housing and Property Committee – 18th January, 2023

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 18th January, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

10. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 17th January, 2023**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 17th January, 2023, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **10**

Against – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner – **1**

11. **Environmental Services Committee – 16th January, 2023**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 16th January, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

12. **Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 3.05pm and resumed at 3.25pm with the same Members and officers present.

IN PRIVATE

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

Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts submitted a written question for response by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee. The question and response were circulated and noted on the minutes.

14. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin submitted a written question for response by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee. The question and response were circulated and noted on the minutes.

15. **Executive Committee – 26th January, 2023**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Thursday, 26th January, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

16. **Housing and Property Committee – 18th January, 2023 – Clause A1 and B2**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause A1 and B2 of private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 18th January, 2023, be received by the Council.”

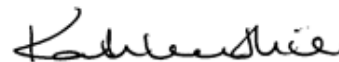
Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

17. **Housing and Property Committee – 18th January, 2023 – Clause C3**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause C3 of private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 18th January, 2023, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

The Council rose at 3.42pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive