



Borough of Douglas

**COUNCILLOR MRS SARA DAWN ANDREA HACKMAN, JP
MAYOR**

Town Hall,

Douglas,

5th February, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL to be held on WEDNESDAY, the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2016, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER within the TOWN HALL, DOUGLAS for the transaction of the hereinafter mentioned business.

I am,

Yours faithfully

Town Clerk & Chief Executive

Order of Agenda

I - Election of a person to preside (if the Mayor is absent).

II - Any statutory business.

III - Approval as a correct record of the minutes of the last regular and any intermediate Meetings of the Council.

IV - Questions of which Notice has been given by Members of the Council, pursuant to Standing Order No. 39.

V - Consideration of the minutes of proceedings of the Council in Committee.

VI - Consideration of the minutes of proceedings of Committees of the Council in the following order:

- (i) The Executive Committee;
- (ii) The Pensions Committee;
- (iii) The Standards Committee;
- (iv) The Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee;
- (v) Any other Joint Committee;
- (vi) The Housing Committee;
- (vii) The Regeneration and Community Committee;
- (viii) The Environmental Services Committee;

VIII - Consideration of such communications or petitions and memorials as the Mayor or Chief Executive may desire to lay before Council.

IX - Notices of Motion submitted by Members of the Council in order of their receipt by the Chief Executive.

X - Any Miscellaneous Business of which Notice has been given pursuant to Standing Orders.

The above Order of Agenda is in accordance with Standing Order No. 16(1); under Standing Order No. 16(2) it may be varied by the Council to give precedence to any business of a special urgency, but such variation shall not displace business under I and II.

AGENDA

III – Chief Executive to read minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th January, Special Private Council Meeting held on Thursday, 21st January and Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th January, 2016.

VI(i) - The proceedings of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Friday, 29th January, 2016.

Members Present: Mr Councillor D.W. Christian (Chairman), the Mayor, Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner.

Officers in Attendance: Chief Executive (Miss K.J. Rice), Director of Finance (Mr G.M. Bolt), Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) (Mr A.J. Donnelly), Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P.E. Cowin) (for Clauses A1 to A12), Transport & Plant Manager (Mr S. Dugdale) (for Clause A6), Executive Officer (Mrs J.M. Keig) (taking minutes).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the scope of the Executive Committee's delegated authority

A1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were submitted.

A2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were submitted.

A3. Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were approved and signed:

- The Special Joint Executive Committee and Regeneration & Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15th December 2015;
- The scheduled Executive Committee meeting held on Friday 18th December 2015;
- The Special Executive Committee (Budget) meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2016 (in relation to the Horse Tram Service); and
- The Special Executive Committee (Budget) meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2016 (and reconvened on Friday 15th January 2016).

A4. Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

A5. Vacancy on the Regeneration and Community Committee

Resolved unanimously, "That Councillor Ms K. Angela be elected to fill the vacancy on the Regeneration and Community Committee."

A6. "Foretrack" Vehicle Tracking and Fleet Management System

The Council's Transport & Plant Manager, Mr S. Dugdale, joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the vehicle tracking and fleet management system.

Members were reminded that the decision had been taken in February 2008 to install vehicle tracking in all of the Council's fleet following a successful trial, and, since that time, the introduction and development of the system had ensured the protection of employees' health and safety while at work, and had assisted in achieving a number of efficiency savings, including reducing fuel usage and contributing to a reduction in false or incorrect claims for damage against the Council. The system also provided other benefits, including assisting with route planning; ensuring the most appropriate vehicle was allocated to each job (thus increasing the number of jobs which could be completed each day); and enabling the accurate validation of overtime and timesheets.

In summary, the vehicle tracking system not only provided for the health and safety of employees and was a management tool for Line Managers, the Finance Department, and staff; it also provided

reassurance to Members and ratepayers that the Council's fleet of vehicles was being fully optimised, and therefore providing a cost-effective and efficient service across all Council Services.

Resolved, "That particulars of the presentation be noted on the minutes."

A7. Minutes and Referrals of the Environmental Services Committee

There were no referrals from the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on Monday 18th January 2016.

Resolved, "That particulars be noted on the minutes."

A8. Minutes and Referrals from the Regeneration and Community Committee

There were no referrals from the public minutes of the Regeneration and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2016.

Resolved, "That particulars be noted on the minutes."

A9. Consultation Document – Communications Bill 2015

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to a consultation document issued by the Communications Commission.

The proposed Bill addressed the constitution and role of the Communications Commission. The current constitution comprised the Chair (the Minister for Home Affairs) and up to five members, and no significant change was proposed. It was noted that reference was made to the political nature of the Chair's appointment, but that it was considered unnecessary to change it, given the safeguards contained in the draft legislation to prevent political influence.

The Bill defined the activities that were regulated by licence - principally the operation of mobile telephone networks and radio broadcasting – and there were revised provisions for the licensing of broadcasting, electronic communications networks, and internet service providers.

In relation to broadcasting, only radio and satellite broadcasts originating in the Island were to be licensed. There were currently three such licences, one of which was Manx Radio, which had a particular position as a Public Service Broadcaster. With respect to mobile telephone networks, the proposals were to continue the current status of Manx Telecom as universal service provider, whilst also creating a climate of competition.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

(ii) That the following comments be submitted to the Communications Commission -

- That the principles behind the modernisation of the legislation be supported;
- That the promotion of fair competition through the licensing regime be supported;
- That in respect of the appointment of the Chair of the Communications Commission, this should be on the recommendation of the Appointments Commission, with Tynwald approval;
- That applications for designation under the Electronic Communications Code should remain with the Commission and not be passed to the Council of Ministers;
- That the powers of the Council of Ministers should to be clarified, to specify precisely the circumstances in which it may make a direction in relation to the inclusion or exclusion of broadcast material; and
- That there was no need for Manx Radio to be enshrined in legislation as the Public Service Broadcaster for the Island, as the service agreement and subvention arrangements gave sufficient protection."

A10. Consultation Document – Road Traffic Legislation (Amendment Bill) 2015

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to a consultation document issued by the Department of Infrastructure.

The Department was seeking views on a variety of proposed amendments to road traffic legislation, many of which were to correct anomalies or to align separate pieces of legislation more closely.

Members expressed particular concern in respect of Section 33(A) relating to the appointment of parking controllers. Within the proposed legislation, the Department was empowered to delegate to a local authority its power to appoint parking controllers to exercise the functions of the Department in relation to certain offences. It was noted that there was no reference to the consent of the local authority being required and, therefore, in effect, this function could be transferred to local authorities, without consultation, leaving them to incur substantial costs. There was also no provision for a local authority to retain any fines collected.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;

(ii) That the principle of the amending legislation be supported; and

(iii) That the following comments be submitted to the Department of Infrastructure -

- that the current blood / alcohol limit of 80 mg per 100 ml be maintained and applied to all drivers, rather than the proposed reduction to 50 mg per 100 ml for newly-qualified and provisional drivers, as enforcement was not considered practicable;
- that the control of riding bicycles, etc, on footpaths was welcomed;
- that the introduction of the provision which required drivers to stop after an incident with a cat (in similar manner to striking a dog) was not considered practicable, given that cats were not licensed and, in many cases, were feral, whereas a dog at least normally carried some identification so that the owner could be informed;
- that the seizure of motor vehicles after thirty-five days in the case of non-payment of a fine (or after a month, in the case of failure to display a tax disc) should be extended to include cases of non-payment of an Excess Parking Charge or Fixed Penalty Notice issued under any byelaw, order, or regulation made by a local authority;
- that the introduction of regulations, requiring the regular training and testing of professional drivers of large vehicles, might have an impact on the Council’s workforce, which included a small number of such operatives (although it was recognised that this was only an enabling power and would have no immediate effect);
- that, in making it an offence to misuse a disabled person’s badge, there should be power for an officer of the Department or a local authority to require the production of the badge in order to view the photographic identity;
- that the power to remove vehicles that contravened statutory or regulatory provisions should be clarified, so that (i) the provision included byelaws, regulations, or orders made by the Department or a local authority; and (ii) the provision applied to both adopted and un-adopted roads; and
- that it should be included in the legislation that the consent of a local authority would be obtained prior to any delegation of power in respect of the appointment of parking controllers, and that, in the event of a local authority undertaking this function, any fines collected be retained by the local authority.”

A11. Monthly Financial Review

The Committee considered a written report by the Borough Treasurer setting out details of progress made compared to key performance indicators in relation to:- strategic governance objectives; the percentage of rates collected; the increase in the number of non-cash / non-cheque payments; and the percentage of sundry debtors collected within three months.

It was noted that the card payment facility at the Drumgold Street Car Park was operational, with all six pay machines having now been activated accordingly.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes.”

A12. Consultation Document – Greater Identification and Verification Measures at Harbours

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to a consultation document issued by the Department of Home Affairs.

The Department proposed to introduce a requirement for photographic identity checks to be carried out on all individuals arriving in, or departing from, the Island by sea, which it was intended would deter crime and promote greater safety. Although the imposition of this requirement may cause delays, it was perceived that the benefits of having the checks would outweigh any such disadvantage, and that it was unlikely to have a significant effect on deterring visitors travelling to the Island for business or pleasure.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

(ii) That the introduction of identity checks for all passengers passing through harbours be supported, as contributing to safety and security, and the prevention of crime.”

A13. Urgent Business Procedure – Planning Application 15/01172/A, “Rotherwood”, Belmont Road, Douglas

The Committee noted an Urgent Business Procedure undertaken on 23rd December 2015 by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee and the Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee, in relation to a planning application in principle to construct a dwelling in the grounds of the property known as “Rotherwood”, on Belmont Road, Douglas.

The planning application had been approved on 7th December 2015, however, it had been recommended that the Council should appeal the approval of the application on the grounds that local residents had been hindered in their ability to comment on the application as a result of the site notice not being correctly displayed.

Planning procedures dictated that an appeal request must be made within twenty-one days of the original decision, meaning that an appeal against the decision in this case would have to have been submitted by 28th December 2015. Because of the Christmas break, the appeal needed to be submitted by the close of business on 24th December 2015.

Resolved, "That particulars of the Urgent Business Procedure be noted on the minutes and endorsed."

A14. Isle of Man Municipal Association

The Committee had been circulated with a number of documents received from the Isle of Man Municipal Association.

Resolved, "That particulars of the documents be noted on the minutes."

A15. Items for Future Report

The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive identifying those issues on which further reports had been requested or which were outstanding, so that Members and officers were aware of them and could monitor progress.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and that it be considered and monitored at each meeting of the Executive Committee."

PART B –

Matters subject to Council approval

No matters subject to Council approval were considered.

The Committee rose at 4.15pm.

VI(vi) – The proceedings of the HOUSING COMMITTEE as follows:

HOUSING COMMITTEE

HOUSING COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 20th January, 2016.

Members Present: Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford (Chairman), the Mayor, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Councillor Ms K. Angela, Mr Councillor S.C. Cain, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk.

In Attendance: Director of Housing and Property (Mrs S. Harrison), Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P. Cowin), Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) (Mr G. Atkin), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters decided by the Committee

A1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

A2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. Minutes - 16th December, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the Housing Committee held Wednesday, 16th December, 2015 were approved and signed.

A4. Showers in Waverley Court

The Committee considered a report produced by the by the Assistant Property Manager (Capital), following receipt of a letter from a Council Member, to consider funding the removal of baths and installation of showers at Waverley Court through the Housing Maintenance Budget.

A letter was received from Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts addressed to the Town Clerk and Chief Executive asking for the Housing Committee to consider funding tenants requests to have their baths removed and replaced with showers at Waverley Court through the Housing Maintenance Budget. Recently, Social Services have declined to assist with funding this work for a particular tenant as they had sufficient funds in place to pay for the work themselves.

The report listed the significant work associated with the removal of baths and installation of showers. Members were advised that the Housing Maintenance Budget cannot afford to undertake this work.

Members noted that a capital scheme is programmed to commence in 2018 to refurbish bathrooms throughout the Council's housing stock which would be carried out under a framework agreement similar to the on-going kitchen refurbishments. Shower installations at Waverley Court could be carried out under that capital scheme. The Chair reminded that the scheme will be subject to Government approval.

In answer to question, the Chairman confirmed the current position for removing baths and installing showers on a needs basis. Occupational Health consider individual requests and approve and fund required modifications.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the Committee do not approve expenditure from the Housing Maintenance Budget to fund the removal of baths and installation of showers at Waverley Court."

A5. Appointment of Independent Member 2016-2018

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) on the post of Independent Member of the Housing Committee.

Members noted that the Council's Constitution, at Article 2, provides for the appointment of an Independent Member to the Housing Committee. The term of office of such Independent Member to be two years, with a provision for extension for a further two years.

It is a requirement that the appointment be advertised at least once every four years and therefore it is recommended that an advertisement be placed in the local press inviting people who may be interested in the appointment to submit their names and details. Members noted it is essential for candidates to be a current social housing tenant from Douglas and a person should not be appointed an Independent Member if they are, or have been in the last five years, an elected Member or an employee of the Council or a current elected Member or an employee for any other local authority.

The report recommended advertising the post by newspaper advert, during the discussion it was suggested a mail shot to Council tenants could be more appropriate. The Committee asked officers to consider the most appropriate form of advertising.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the post of Independent Member of the Housing Committee be advertised and that applicants be interviewed in due course with a recommendation being made on the appointment."

A6. Items For Future Report

The Committee considered a report by the Democratic Services Officer regarding reports for future consideration by the Committee.

Resolved, "That particulars of the matters for future consideration be noted on the minutes."

PART B –

Matters requiring Executive Committee approval

There were no matters requiring Executive Committee approval.

PART C –

Matters requiring Council approval

C7. Willaston External Refurbishments – Phase 3

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Property Manager (Capital) to progress phase 3 of the Willaston External Refurbishment capital scheme.

It was noted that this phase of work includes the demolition of 60 and 62 Snaefell Road as recommended by the Structural Engineer due to their poor structural condition. The demolition of these two properties will provide a useful storage compound for the contractor towards the top part of the estate and eventually two new properties will be constructed as part of a later phase of the external refurbishments. It was confirmed both properties have no current tenants.

In answer to question, the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) anticipated that phase 3 will commence on site during March 2016 subject to all approvals being in place.

A Member was advised that the Manor Court phase has been accelerated to phase 5 or 6 and will commence in 2017.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and;

- (i) The negotiated tender for phase 3 submitted by N K Construction Limited which is in accordance with the previously approved tendered framework rates and includes for the demolition of 60 and 62 Snaefell Road, be approved;
- (ii) The Committee authorises the Chief Executive to petition the Department of Infrastructure for borrowing powers in the amount of £1,540,450.28 being the sum required to defray the cost of these works;
- (iii) That the Department of Infrastructure be advised that an assessment of the Council's Housing Reserve Fund has been undertaken to establish if sufficient monies are available to fund the proposed scheme via that source."

C8. Willaston Sheltered Housing Complex

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Property Manager (Capital) to progress the Willaston sheltered housing capital scheme.

The Committee previously approved the Willaston Estate Redevelopment Strategy and business case. The first year of the strategy included the appointment of a design team to commence the design of a new sheltered housing complex on the Willaston Police Station site, opposite the Willaston shops.

The report listed the recommended professional consultants to be appointed to design and administer the project up to completion.

Members noted it is anticipated that construction work on a new sheltered housing complex could take twenty months with an anticipated commencement on site in July 2017 and completion during March 2019.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) circulated an updated list of the professional fees petition build up demonstrating a reduction in costs.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and;

- (i) The following professional consultants be appointed as the scheme design team:-

- Savage and Chadwick – Architects
 - MacOwan Collett – Consulting Engineers
 - Bell Burton Associates – Quantity Surveyors
 - March Consulting – Mechanical and Electrical Engineers
 - Pegasus Safety Consulting – Planning Supervisors;
- (ii) The Chief Executive be authorised to petition the Department of Infrastructure for borrowing powers in the amount of up to £539,000.00 being the maximum sum required to defray the cost of the professional fees which is subject to the Department of Infrastructure concurrence;
- (iii) The Department of Infrastructure be advised that an assessment of the Council’s Housing Reserve Fund has been undertaken to establish if sufficient monies are available to fund the proposed scheme via that source.”

The meeting ended at 11.13am.

VI(vii) – The proceedings of the REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE as follows:

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th January, 2016.

Members Present: Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner (Chairman), Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts.

In Attendance: Director of Housing and Property (Mrs S. Harrison), Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P. Cowin), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) (Mr A. Donnelly), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Head of Parks (Mr D. Hewes), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the scope of the Committee's delegated authority

A1. Apologies

The Mayor submitted apologies for absence.

A2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

A3. Minutes – 15th December, 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 15th December, 2015, were approved and signed.

A4. Public Events 2016

The Committee considered a report by the Democratic Services Officer to schedule the 2016 public events' dates.

It was noted that the Fireworks Display date had previously been scheduled for Saturday, 5th November, 2016.

It was proposed to change the day of the Fun Day to a Sunday; this had been suggested by event attendees who opined that a Saturday event clashed with children's sport and activity clubs.

It was noted that Noble's Park, to the rear of the Grandstand, is provisionally booked for an Enduro event on the same weekend as the proposed date for the Fun Day. Members agreed the events would complement each other and potentially increase the number of attendees at both events.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and;

- (i) The 2016 Christmas Lights Ceremony take place on Thursday, 24th November, 2016, and a further report on the logistics of the event be considered at the February Committee meeting;
- (ii) The 2016 Noble's Park Fun Day take place on Sunday, 7th August, 2016 and the Democratic Services Officer be authorised to commence arrangements for the event;
- (iii) The Committee noted that the Southern Motorcycle Club are organising an Enduro event on Saturday, 6th and Sunday 7th August, 2016 utilising areas of Noble's Park (rear of Grandstand only)."

A5. Items For Future Report

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Democratic Services Officer regarding reports for future consideration by the Committee.

Members provided further guidance on the Twinning and Affiliations report requested by the Committee.

Resolved, "That particulars of the matters for future consideration be noted on the minutes."

PART B –

Matters requiring Executive Committee approval

There were no public items requiring Executive Committee approval.

PART C –

Matters requiring Council approval

There were no items requiring Council approval.

The meeting ended at 11.46am.

VI(viii) – The proceedings of the ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 18th January, 2016.

Members Present: Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl (Chairman), Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett (from 10.05am), Councillor Ms C.R. Turner, Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain, Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells.

In Attendance: Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P. Cowin), Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) (Mr A. Donnelly), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Accountancy Manager (Mr R. Davies), Building Control Manager (Mr N. Kaighin), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters delegated to the Committee

A1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted by the Mayor and Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett (for lateness).

A2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were submitted.

A3. Minutes – 14th December, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held Monday, 14th December, 2015 were approved and signed.

A4. Minutes – 16th December, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the resumed Environmental Services Committee held Wednesday, 16th December, 2015 were approved and signed.

A5. Attendance

Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett joined the meeting.

A6. Planning Application 15/01375/B

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Building Control Manager seeking approval for the demolition of existing units and erection of a two storey single retail unit at 62-66 Strand Street, Douglas.

Members raised a series of issues surrounding the proposed demolition, including concerns for the newly laid paving stones, issues raised from a neighbouring retail unit, the modern style shop front, potential disadvantage to independent retailers and the potential disturbance to shoppers during the demolition. Officers agreed to advise the planning section of the Committee's concerns.

The report advised that there is currently a shortage of large modern, more easily serviced units within the principle retail area. The development of the site would provide an opportunity for a new multiple retailer to be attracted to Douglas.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the demolition of existing units and erection of a two storey single retail unit 62-66 Strand Street, Douglas be supported."

A7. 7 Mona Street

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Building Control Manager seeking approval to serve a notice under Section 24 of the Building Control Act 1991 on the owner of 7 Mona Street.

Members were advised that the appearance of the property is considered to be detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood. Attempts are continuing to improve the condition of the property using non-statutory means. If these actions prove unsuccessful the service of a statutory notice may be required in order to improve the building's appearance.

A Member raised a concern that there is loose masonry to the front elevation of the building; the Building Control Manager agreed to investigate the report.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and;

- (i) Approval be given for the service of a notice, if required, under Section 24 of the Building Control Act 1991, on the owners of 7 Mona Street. The notice would require the repainting of the masonry to the front elevation, including the garden walls. Repainting or replacement of the window frames, front door and frame, re-glazing a broken pane of glass, and removing vegetation from gutter;
- (ii) The Building Control Manager investigate the report of loose masonry to the front elevation of the building.”

A8. Schedule of Neglected, Dilapidated, Ruinous and Dangerous Properties

The Committee considered the Schedule of unsightly properties being dealt with on behalf of the Council. Members reviewed the schedule and raised some questions on particular properties. A Member asked for the building inspection dates to be included in the report in future months.

Resolved, “That the Schedule and discussion be noted on the minutes.”

The Building Control Manager was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 11.45am.

A9. Douglas Head Road Heritage Columns

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Electrical Services Manager, as a result of a Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, to reconsider the style of public lighting installed on Douglas Head Road.

Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford submitted the following Motion that was referred to the Committee for consideration;

“That the Environmental Services Committee re-examines the lighting scheme at Fort William, Head Road with a view to replacing the current lamp heads with Victorian style ones more sympathetic to the area.”

Members were advised that the works required to replace the current lamp heads involves removing the existing lantern, installing a Heritage lantern, bracket arm, Heritage embellishment kit and repainting the installation black. The estimated cost to purchase the materials together with the works required is £29,613.96. Members had in front of them the breakdown of costs.

In answer to question, the Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) advised that the new public lighting had been installed approximately three months ago.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the Douglas Head Road be not upgraded to a Heritage style public lighting installation.”

A10. Pavement Stencils

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager providing an explanation of the current status and methodology regarding the pavement stencil trial which was approved at a meeting of the Committee in October 2015.

“Bag it, Bin it” stencils were installed the week commencing 11th January, 2016 in the selected areas and will be monitored for a period of one month in order to measure their effectiveness compared with the condition prior to installation. A further report will be considered at the March Committee meeting advising of the results of the trial with recommendations going forward.

Members were presented with a photograph of the pavement stencils in use in Douglas. Members queried why the stencil colour was white rather than the fluorescent colour requested by the Committee. The Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) agreed to report back to the Committee with an answer.

Members agreed to the use of the anti-fouling stencil in additional areas and listed various streets in Douglas for their use.

A Member asked for a report on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling in the last month and a breakdown of the time of day that the fines were issued.

During the discussion, Members requested a briefing note on the “We’re Watching You” campaign and suggested an additional area to erect the posters. Members also discussed the use of CCTV in hot spots.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and;

- (i) A further report be produced for the March 2016 meeting of the Environmental Services Committee with the findings and recommendations arising from the trial;
- (ii) The use of the anti-fouling stencil in additional areas where persistent fouling is experienced be authorised.”

A11. Items for Future Consideration

The Committee considered a report setting out items which will be considered at future meetings.

Resolved, "That the report and discussion be noted on the minutes."

PART B –

Matters requiring Executive Committee approval

There were no matters requiring Executive Committee approval.

PART C –

Matters requiring Council approval

There were no matters requiring Council approval.

The meeting adjourned at 12.25pm.