



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

14th August, 2019

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 14th day of AUGUST, 2019, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

MR COUNCILLOR JONATHAN JOUGHIN, JP

Councillors

Miss N.A. Byron

Mrs H. Callow

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mrs R. Chatel

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Mr D.W. Christian, MBE, JP

Mrs C.E. Malarkey

Mr C.L.H. Cain

Miss D.A.M. Pitts

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr F. Horning

Mr R.H. McNicholl

Mr J.E. Skinner

Ms K. Angela

Mrs E.C. Quirk

Ms J. Thommeny

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, the Chief Executive and Monsignor J. Devine.

The Assistant Town Clerk, Director of Environment and Regeneration, Director of Finance and Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) were in attendance.

1. **Minutes – 10th July, 2019**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 10th July, 2019, were approved and signed.

2. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Housing Committee:

1.1 *Has demolition of the old unoccupied flats in Willaston commenced, to make way for the new housing complex?*

1.2 *To date, is the Willaston Police Station in the ownership of Douglas Borough Council and can it now be demolished?*

1.3 *Will the demolition of the Willaston Police Station be carried out within the same contract as the existing unoccupied flats together with the old Methodist church?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing Committee:

1.1 *Yes, demolition work has commenced, with completion due mid-September, 2019;*

1.2 *The Police property is not currently in the Council's ownership, however the Department of Home Affairs, which does own it, has granted a licence to demolish it at the same time as the flats and church buildings;*

1.3 *Yes, one contract will cover all the demolition work in the area.*

3. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

What is the current Council Policy with respect to social media?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

I refer the questioner to Part 5(M) of the Council's Constitution, which deals with media contact including social media.

4. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr J.E. Skinner**

Mr J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

Has the Leader or any officer met with any Member of Tynwald or officer of Government to discuss recent comments made in respect of rates reductions and compensation as a result of the Promenade modernisation scheme currently being carried out, and if so were any such discussions successful?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

On 16th April 2019 Officers of the Council met with officers from the Department of Infrastructure MyProm team, the Department of Enterprise, The Treasury and Manx Utilities. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss mechanisms for support to businesses, including rates rebates, as a result of the works on Douglas Promenade Refurbishment scheme.

At the meeting, it was established that there was no reduction in the essential services provided by the Council as a result of the promenade works, which is a Government capital scheme. In addition, whilst any rates allowances would give a only a minimal advantage to individual businesses, the impact to the Council in terms of lost income, which was required to fund those essential and statutory services which the Council's workforce is making every effort to maintain at this difficult time, was potentially significant.

However, as it was acknowledged that the Promenade works did have an impact on businesses, after that meeting, Council officers worked to supply key information requested by the relevant Government officers as it sought ways to support the business community along the Promenade at this time, through some form of financial assistance from the Government. It is understood that Government's attempts to identify suitable means of support have been ongoing, as has the dialogue and meetings between the Council officers and the relevant officers in Government.

A joint letter from the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Enterprise was delivered on 8th August 2019 to those businesses that had potentially been affected, with reference to a new grant scheme offering a one-off grant support of £6,000, subject to various criteria being met. The letter contained the details of other existing support packages available for businesses, and also makes reference to the pending “development of a more comprehensive support scheme”.

5. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

Further to the proposals to charge for car parking in Noble’s Park;

- 1.4 What the likely total costs would be incurred in setting up charging machines etc and monitoring of parking?*
- 1.5 What is the anticipated daily revenue from charging?*
- 1.6 Do you believe a £1 charge will deter the all-day parkers which appear to be the root cause for the charge being imposed?*
- 1.7 Will there be any concessions for Douglas residents using the “Splash Zone” and “Tot Lot” within the park and short stay parkers?*
- 1.8 When does the Consultation Period end?*

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

- 4.1 The cost of installing the two reconditioned pay and display machines proposed for the park have been estimated at £9,000 to be funded from SL080 Noble’s Park revenue budget. There will also be some minimal cost for installing signage to advise motorists of the new parking regime which can be met from existing budgets. The traffic management strategy for the park proposes extending enforcement powers to certain Park Service staff in order for them to be able to respond immediately and efficiently to any enforcement requirements. It is anticipated that any increased costs could be funded from the revenue generated from the Pay & Display parking and motorhome parking. The time required to undertake two inspections per week is estimated at approximately one hour per week and it is considered that this can be accommodated within current workload.*
- 4.2 At present it is estimated that approximately 30 cars park during the day in the park for longer than the six hours that would be permitted under the free disc parking regime proposed. The introduction of the £1 charge for 24 hours is likely to reduce the number of vehicles using this area slightly. Revenue from the motorhome parking is likely to be seasonal so a daily revenue is difficult to estimate. Annual revenue from the car park is estimated to be approximately £10,000. The aim of the proposed tariff is not as a revenue generator but as a means to better manage the use of the park by vehicles and to prevent use that compromises the amenity of the park.*
- 4.3 The £1 charge may deter some all-day parkers but the root cause for the proposed introduction of the charge is not to deter parkers but to better manage the use of the park by vehicles. It is proposed to introduce disc parking in the areas of the park used by park users but this would not work for the all-day parkers and motorhomes who are likely to stay for periods in excess of 12 hours.*
- 4.4 Yes, anybody using the park for up to six hours will be able to park for free in the disc parking areas.*
- 4.5 There are several issues to be determined before formal consultation commences including discussion with the planning authority and highway authority. Formal consultation will take place prior to the making of the Off-Street Parking Places Order (for a minimum of 21 days) and any Highway Restrictions proposed. If planning consent is required there will also be a 21 day consultation period in relation to the planning aspects of the proposal.*

6. Executive Committee – 26th July, 2019 – Clauses A1 to A16

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Friday, 26th July, 2019, 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, Mrs H. Callow, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.W. Christian, Mrs C.E.

Malarkey, Mr C.L.H. Cain, Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Mr F. Horning, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Ms K. Angela, the Mayor – **13**

Against, Councillors; Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mrs E.C. Quirk, Ms J. Thommeny – **4**

Motion carried.

7. Housing Committee – 17th July, 2019 – Clauses A1 to A10

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A10 inclusive of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17th July, 2019, be received by the Council.”

During discussion Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey agreed, with consent of the Council to withdraw Clause A7 and refer it back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

8. Housing Committee – 17th July, 2019 – Clause C11

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clause C11 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17th July, 2019, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

9. Housing Committee – 17th July, 2019 – Clause C12

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clause C12 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17th July, 2019, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

10. Regeneration and Community Committee – 16th July, 2019

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 16th July, 2019, be received by the Council.”

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

11. Joint Regeneration and Community Committee and Environmental Services Committee – 16th July, 2019

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the joint Regeneration and Community Committee and Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of special meeting held on Tuesday, 16th July, 2019, be received by the Council.”

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

12. Environmental Services Committee – 15th July, 2019

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 15th July, 2019, be received by the Council.”

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

13. Appointment of a Member to the Pensions Committee

The Mayor advised the Council that Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain had resigned from the Pensions Committee and invited nominations to fill the vacancy created by the resignation.

Councillor Ms J. Thommeny was nominated by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts. The nomination was seconded by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian.

There being no further nominations, a vote was taken electronically, and Councillor Ms J. Thommeny was unanimously elected to serve on the Pensions Committee for the remainder of municipal year 2019/20.

14. Adjournment and Resumption of meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4.50pm and resumed at 4.55pm with the same Members and officers present.

15. Appointment of a Member to the Housing Committee

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that during the adjournment the Executive Committee had met and appointed Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts to serve as a Member of the Housing Committee for the remainder of municipal year 2019/20. This was to fill the vacancy created by Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain's resignation.

16. Adjournment and Resumption and Attendance

The meeting adjourned at 5.00pm and resumed at 5.15pm with the same Members and officers in attendance.

IN PRIVATE

17. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner submitted a written question to the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee, and the Chair's reply was circulated accordingly.

18. Executive Committee – 26th July, 2019

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Friday, 26th July, 2019, be received by the Council."

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

19. Housing Committee – 17th July, 2019

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17th July, 2019, be received by the Council."

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

20. Regeneration and Community Committee – 16th July, 2019

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 16th July, 2019, be received by the Council."

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

The Council rose at 5.40pm.


Town Clerk & Chief Executive