

**Minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee of the Municipal Association held at Braddan Commissioners' Office on Thursday 30 June 2011 at 7.30pm**

**Present**

Robert Moughtin	Maughold Commissioners (Chairman)
Kate Beecroft	Braddan Commissioners
Carol Malarkey	Douglas Borough Council
Paul Craine	Marown Commissioners
Steve Hamer	Michael Commissioners
David Talbot	Patrick Commissioners
Rodger Gimbert	Peel Town Commissioners
Helen Kinvig	Port St Mary Commissioners
Peter Gunn	Rushen Commissioners
Barbara Dunworth	Secretary

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Kathryn Edds of Arbory Commissioners, John Faragher of Douglas Borough Council, Bob Pilling of Malew Commissioners, Bernadette McCabe of Port St Mary Commissioners, Alan Jones of Peel Town Commissioners and Roy Kennaugh of Michael Commissioners.

**Presentation by Mr Roger Tomlinson of the Positive Action Group**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tomlinson who proceeded to give an in-depth briefing on the pitfalls of the present Freedom of Information Act. He gave examples of how difficult it is to obtain even the most basic information from Government Departments, based on his own attempts to do so.

Mr Tomlinson felt that the stalling of the new Freedom of Information Act until the new House meets in September could mean that the whole procedure will probably be started again from scratch at the will of the newly elected Members. He then invited and answered questions put to him by Members.

The Chairman and Members thanked Mr Tomlinson for his informed and interesting talk. Mr Tomlinson left and the general business of the meeting proceeded.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of meeting held 28 April 2011, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **Matters Arising from Minutes**

- (a) **Annual General Meeting:** The Chairman, having been unable to attend, asked the Secretary to report on the meeting. The Secretary advised that 43 Members and guests had attended the very attractive venue and enjoyed an excellent meal. Mr Dessie Robinson's talk was greatly enjoyed and he expressed a wish to come again to talk about the flora and fauna of the Calf of Man. The raffle raised £126.00. It was considered a successful evening.
- (b) **Subscriptions:** The Chairman, in his absence had been concerned to hear about the additional increase in the subscription for 2011-2012. However, in view of the fact that Lezayre Commissioners subsequently confirmed that they will not be renewing their subscription, the Treasurer's revised recommendation had proved to be necessary.
- (c) **Rotation of Presidency:** Michael Commissioners missed their turn in the alphabetical rotation so an opportunity has been given for them to take the presidency next year or wait until it comes around again. Mr Hamer reported that a decision will be reached at their next meeting when more of their Commissioners should be present.
- (d) **Future Meetings with Mr Graham Cregeen MHK:** Mr Cregeen had advised the Secretary of his desire to meet with the Municipal Association on a quarterly basis, and had requested to do so in July, accompanied by Mrs Amanda Craig and Mr David Willoughby. In the meantime, the Secretary had been advised that the delegate from KPMG who was to have attended our July meeting is now unavailable on that date; therefore that meeting has been rescheduled to August and the July meeting with Mr Cregeen and his Officials confirmed.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The report had been circulated and was duly noted.

## **Secretary's Report**

The report had been circulated and was duly noted

## **Press/Media/Website**

Mrs Kate Beecroft had kindly prepared an excellent report on the AGM which appeared in the press very promptly. The Chairman expressed his appreciation.

Mr David Talbot of Patrick Commissioners referred to his request for a page on the website. Members present had no problem with acceding to this request. Mrs Beecroft pointed out that her husband was happy to place information on a website page for Commissions that do not have a website, but they must be responsible for preparation and

accuracy. Members wishing to take advantage of this service are requested to exercise moderation in volume and frequency as Tony Beecroft is a busy man who is kindly running our website free of charge.

### **Whitley Council**

Mr Robert Moughtin gave a quick resume of the Whitley Council meeting. Items on the agenda included: Restructuring of Government; noting updates; grading reviews and agreeing a letter to all employing authorities requesting clarification of what constitutes an appropriate management structure in respect of grade reviews; airport operational maintenance operatives local agreement; Douglas Borough Council's staff development scheme; consultation on a health and safety authority in the Isle of Man; meal allowance increases and disturbance and travel allowances.

### **Waste Management Consultative Group**

In Mr Bob Pilling's absence there was no report this month.

### **Richmond Hill Consultative Committee**

Mr Paul Craine advised there was no report due to a change of date; he will report fully next month.

### **Physical Activity Strategy Implementation Group**

Mr David Talbot reported that the Group is now disbanded because it has produced an implementation strategy which is going before Tynwald, although it may be sent back to them at a later date. The actual plan has been completed by the department and they are waiting to see if Tynwald approve and produce the leaflets. People had attended from different departments giving a wide encompassing category of all the physical activities in the Isle of Man for publication in leaflets, websites etc. Mr Talbot had recommended a separate leaflet for employers to assist employees in getting and staying fit. They appreciated having a representative from the Municipal Association. This item can now be removed from future agendas.

### **Any Other Business**

**Private Debt Collection:** Robert Moughtin raised this issue after becoming concerned about the licensing of private debt collectors on the Island and a programme on Manx Radio; he wondered if we really want this on the Island. Rodger Gimbert was concerned about people who leave properties while still owing money; he felt it would be good to have properly regulated debt collectors and payment agreements. David Talbot was concerned that a loan shark could spoil the system for the vast majority. Kate Beecroft felt proper legislation could prevent this. The feeling of the meeting was that private legislation would protect people from unscrupulous, unlicensed debt collectors.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 2150**

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 28 July 2011**

**Signed..... Chairman**