

**Minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee of the Municipal Association held at Braddan Commissioners' Office on Thursday 31 March 2011 at 7.30pm**

**Present**

Bernadette McCabe	President (Chairing)
Kathryn Edds	Arbory Commissioners
Margaret Hodge	Braddan Commissioners
John Faragher	Douglas Borough Council
Bob Pilling	Malew Commissioners
Steve Hamer	Michael Commissioners
Paul Craine	Marown Commissioners
David Talbot	Patrick Commissioners
Alan Jones	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 Robert Moughtin of Maughold Commissioners (Chairman), Rodger Gimbert of Peel Town Commissioners, Roy Kennaugh of Michael Commissioners, Carol Malarkey of Douglas Borough Council and Brian Byers of Lonan Commissioners

**Chairman**

The Executive Committee had been saddened to learn of the heart attack suffered by our Chairman. The Secretary reported that she had spoken to Mr Moughtin yesterday when he said he was hoping to return home today; further treatment is to be scheduled in the near future. In his absence our President kindly took the chair as we currently have no Vice-Chairperson. Members present signed a get-well card to send to the Chairman and the Secretary will arrange for a basket of fruit to be sent with our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

**ACTION: Secretary**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of meeting held 24 February 2011, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and duly signed.

**Matters Arising from Minutes**

**(a) Annual General Meeting:**

Mr Peter Gunn and the Clerk to Rushen Commissioners had been liaising with the Secretary over the arrangements for the AGM. Mr Gunn had booked The Sound

Restaurant for the event and presented menus for Members to choose from. The first option was chosen, being a hot buffet at a cost of £17.50 per head.

Invitations with full details will be sent out by the Secretary at an early date. The issue of payment up front had been raised by our Treasurer and it was agreed that this should be firmly adhered to with payment for those attending the AGM being sent directly to the Treasurer as usual, since payment in full must be made to the venue on the evening of the meeting.

Members briefly discussed whether a subscription increase may be required. The Secretary advised that the Treasurer will be presenting his recommendations at the April meeting.

**ACTION: Secretary/Members/Treasurer**

**(b) Human Resources:**

Members were reminded of the need to submit points they wish to be covered to the Secretary as soon as possible, so that Mrs Ashton, Human Resources Officer for Douglas Borough Council has an opportunity to prepare for her attendance at a meeting in the near future, possibly in April.

**ACTION: Members/Secretary**

**(c) Recycling/ Affordability/Government Guidance:**

Mr Bob Pilling advised that further information and guidance is being formulated which will be put forward for consultation in April.

**(d) Parish and Electoral Boundaries:**

Members discussed this issue. Mr Paul Craine put forward the view of Marown Commissioners, stating that they do not want to see parishes split and detailing some of the difficulties involved in any merging of parishes. Mr Craine felt it would be good for the Municipal Association to work on gathering the views of Member Authorities, which could offer approved models showing that they do not want local authorities to be sub-divided. Mr Bob Pilling of Malew Commissioners felt that if every Member Authority made a submission, and the Association could have a copy of these submissions, this would provide a starting point to work from. It was therefore **agreed** that Members would take this issue back to their Boards again.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Minister Quayle to enquire how this issue is being looked at from a Central Government point of view.

**ACTION: Members/Secretary**

**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 of Braddan Commissioners had kindly prepared another press release covering both January and February, as the previous report was not published; this appeared in the Courier newspaper last week.

### **Whitley Council**

Due to his illness Mr Robert Moughtin was unable to report.

### **Waste Management Consultative Group**

Mr Bob Pilling had nothing further to report.

### **Richmond Hill Consultative Committee**

No meeting had been held but Mr Paul Craine reported that an event had occurred in November where emissions exceeded the recommendations when viewed on a daily basis, rather than the half-hourly check. This was due to the cold weather affecting the inside of the chimney. Mr Crain and also Mr Andrew Jessopp of Braddan Commissioners had requested that this issue be discussed at the next meeting of the RHCC.

### **Positive Action Group**

Mr David Talbot reported on his attendance at the second meeting of this new Group and had spoken to Mr Roger Tomlinson who is willing to attend our June meeting. Members agreed that the Secretary should invite him.

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

Mr David Talbot advised that there is already in place a physical activity strategy under the Department of Health which sets out the reasons why everyone should be more physically active, including children, specially the over 16's - who may no longer be involved in sports - and the elderly. Mr Paul Craine of Marown Commissioners commented that it would be helpful to see data on the number of obese children. Mr Steve Hamer of Michael Commissioners said it is pleasing to see that the Department of Education continues to allow access to school grounds out of hours.

Mr Talbot advised that the Group has a good cross-section attendance which will assist with the implementation of the strategy which is being formulated to be placed before Tynwald in June. A leaflet is being prepared for businesses. Responsible employers need to encourage their staff to raise levels of fitness and stress the importance of

exercise which even could take place at work, sitting down, or through group bookings at gymnasiums. Tourist Board literature giving details of activities for visitors could be made available to residents, although, strangely, dance and walking are not included on the list. Mr Talbot answered questions and said the Group are very pleased to have a member of the Municipal Association involved.

**ACTION: Secretary**

**Any Other Business**

1. Mr John Faragher advised that Douglas Borough Council is a member of the Manx Association for the Preservation of the Countryside and Environment and is taking an interest in plans being submitted, such as a scrambling course operating without permission. This raised issues of concern to the MSPCA. They are endeavouring to build up a good relationship with the National Trust. Any Members with concerns should e-mail Councillor Faragher at Douglas Borough Council.

**ACTION: Members**

2. Mr Bob Pilling of Malew Commissioners spoke about “interested party status” and recognised organisations being accepted as an interested party. He said it would be helpful to Members to attend the Local Area Planning meeting on 29 April and hear the various applications. Members discussed this issue and Mr David Talbot of Patrick Commissioners offered to provide further information for the next meeting. Mr John Faragher said he would raise it with Douglas Borough Council’s Works Department.

**ACTION: Members/Mr Talbot/Councillor Faragher**

3. Mr Steve Hamer of Michael Commissioners commented that there appears to be a conflict of interest in the DoI as the Planning Department and Highways Department are under the same department of government, and thus the same Minister; the Planners are having the final say in proposals from highway engineers and are not always recognising interested party status, even with next door premises. There is a Government Consultation document which reviews the communication structure involved.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm**

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