

**PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**  
**ORDINARY BOARD MEETING**  
**14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**  
**AGENDA – OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Item Number	Item	Action Required
<b>1.</b>	<b>OPENING OF THE MEETING</b>	
1.1	Welcome, Apologies & Declarations	As required by Board members
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>	
2.1	Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 24th October 2018	For Board approval
<b>3.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
3.1	Matters arising from previous meetings	Clerk to provide necessary updates
<b>4.</b>	<b>MOTIONS</b>	
4.1	Vote on the amendment of Standing Orders	For Board discussion and approval
<b>5.</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>	
5.1	Invoices for payment early November 2018	For Board approval
<b>6.</b>	<b>PROJECTS</b>	
6.1	Mariners Shelter	For noting
6.2	Manxonia House	For noting

6.3	Remembrance Garden	N/A
6.4	Skate Park	For noting
6.5	Public Conveniences	N/A
6.6	Traffic Consultations	For noting
6.7	Happy Valley	For noting
6.8	Boat Park	For noting
6.9	Community Recognition Scheme	For noting
6.10	Farmers Market	For noting
<b>7.</b>	<b>PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
7.1	Planning Enforcement Policy	For Board discussion and response
7.2	Defibrillator at Golf Club request	For Board discussion and response
7.3	Rushen Silver Band charitable collections	For Board discussion and response
7.4	Expressions of Interests for Land at Crossag Farm, Ballasalla	For Board discussion and response

7.5	Hedge cutting and verge management information	For Board discussion and response
7.6	Notification of pension contributions from April 2019	For noting
<b>8.</b>	<b>PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS</b>	
	None	N/A
<b>9.</b>	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>	
9.1	Planning Applications	None
9.2	Planning Approvals	For noting
9.3	Planning Refusals	None
9.4	Planning Amendments	None
9.5	Planning Appeals	For noting
<b>10.</b>	<b>POLICY &amp; RESOURCES</b>	
10.1	2018 /19 Meeting Dates	For noting
<b>11.</b>	<b>INVITATIONS</b>	
11.1	Royal Artillery Association invitation for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Board response required
<b>12.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE (BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR)</b>	

Item 3.1

## **PORT ST MARY COMMISISONERS**

### **MATTERS ARISING & PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

#### **Matters Arising from the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

##### **Seagull issue at the Paddocks**

A meeting with the Wildlife Officer is awaited & residents have been notified of the current position. It has been noted that the resident of the building in question has been taking steps to improve the situation.

##### **Caravan**

The caravan has been removed.

##### **Relocation of streetlight at Seafield/Links Avenue**

No complaints were received from residents, the project is progressing.

#### **Matters Arising from the minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

##### **Albert Hotel regarding the retaining wall at the rear of the building**

A letter has been issued to advise of a Highways contact and reiterate that Port St Mary Commissioners have no responsibility for the wall.

##### **Invoice re playground equipment**

The invoice has not yet been paid, further fittings are awaited.

##### **Financial Statements**

The financial statements were countersigned and submitted to Government by the 31<sup>st</sup> October deadline. Copies are available to view over the counter and online.

##### **GDPR Consultation**

The Clerk responded on behalf of the office, as requested.

##### **Rushen Heritage Trust place names**

The Chair circulated the information as discussed.

#### **Public Correspondence from the minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

##### **Letter from ratepayer regarding traffic on Beach Road**

Highways have been contacted and the resident responded to accordingly.

Item 4.1

**PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**

**MOTIONS**

Dear Clerk

Please find attached my proposed revision of Standing Orders.

There are 3 main reasons for amendments:

1. To correct typos and spelling mistakes
2. To bring PSM SOs in line with the model standing orders (General Information for Local Authorities)
3. To tidy up some of the language and layout that may affect interpretation.

As per the Standing Order on the amendment of Standing Orders, please can these be submitted to the next ordinary meeting and then stand adjourned until the following meeting?

I have used track changes in the document so that other members can see where the amendments have been made, but I am aware that some may have difficulty reading this type of document, so maybe a clean copy could be provided too? I will leave this to your judgement.

Best wishes

Michelle

**PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**  
**INVOICES TO BE PAID IN NOVEMBER 2018 (1ST MEETING)**

<b>Housing Expenses</b>										
<b>Inv #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Inv Number</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>NL Code</b>	<b>Total Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
516	28/10/2018	10904	Heattech	Boiler repair	6SMA	Repairs	6100	£31.50	£6.30	£37.80
517	28/10/2018	10905	Heattech	Toilet repair	T/Hall	Repairs	6100	£23.50	£4.70	£28.20
518	28/10/2018	10909	Heattech	Sink repair	1SMA	Repairs	6100	£29.50	£5.90	£35.40
519	28/10/2018	10910	Heattech	Boiler repair	6 BB	Repairs	6100	£147.50	£29.50	£177.00
520	28/10/2018	10911	Heattech	Toilet repair	1 PAD	Repairs	6100	£46.40	£9.28	£55.68
521	28/10/2018	10912	Heattech	Empty house inspection	20SMA	Repairs	6100	£68.70	£13.74	£82.44
522	28/10/2018	10913	Heattech	Boiler repair	10SMA	Repairs	6100	£31.50	£6.30	£37.80
523	28/10/2018	10914	Heattech	Boiler repair	T/Hall	Repairs	6100	£31.50	£6.30	£37.80
524	28/10/2018	10915	Heattech	Boiler repair	11PR	Repairs	6100	£31.50	£6.30	£37.80
525	28/10/2018	10916	Heattech	Bathroom repair	11aSMA	Repairs	6100	£51.00	£10.20	£61.20
526	28/10/2018	10918	Heattech	Boiler change - gas	1 LA	Refurbishment	6104	£1,275.00	£255.00	£1,530.00
527	28/10/2018	10924	Heattech	Bathroom replacement	11aSMA	Refurbishment	6104	£986.00	£197.20	£1,183.20
528	17/10/2018	U1261446	Manx Utilities	Electricity - meter reading	4LA	Repairs	6100	£3.52	£0.17	£3.69
529	01/11/2018	U1268639	Manx Utilities	Electricity - meter reading	20SMA	Repairs	6100	£0.36	£0.42	£0.78
530	18/10/2018	660/21997	MC Locksmith Services	Window repairs and service	6PR	Repairs	6100	£89.12	£17.82	£106.94
531	18/10/2018	660/21998	MC Locksmith Services	Window repairs and service	11aSMA	Repairs	6100	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00
532	18/10/2018	660/21999	MC Locksmith Services	Window repairs and service	7aSMA	Repairs	6100	£67.34	£13.47	£80.81
533	18/10/2018	660/22000	MC Locksmith Services	Window repairs and service	5bSMA	Repairs	6100	£68.65	£13.73	£82.38
<b>Sub Totals - Housing</b>								<b>£3,042.59</b>	<b>£608.33</b>	<b>£3,650.92</b>

**PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**

**INVOICES TO BE PAID IN NOVEMBER 2018 (1ST MEETING)**

Rate Born Expenses										
Inv #	Date	Inv Number	Supplier	Description		Category	NL Code	Total Net	VAT	Total Cost
534	22/10/2018	510269	Argon	Photocopying 17.09 - 17.10.18		Photocopying	5060	£396.23	£79.25	£475.48
535	16/10/2018	920873502	B & Q	Woodstain		Outdoor seating	5810	£27.50	£5.50	
535			B & Q	Pumpkins - planters		Hanging baskets/plant	5261	£16.70	£3.34	£53.04
536	31/10/2018	SINV00191305	BHX Stationery	Misc stationery		Printing & stationery	5050	£176.70	£35.34	£212.04
537	02/11/2018	SCRN00006637	BHX Stationery	Name badges returned		Printing & stationery	5050	-£25.00	-£5.00	-£30.00
538	27/10/2018	021018 to 261018	Calvert Newspapers	Postage and papers		Office Expenses	5170	£109.00	£0.00	
538			Calvert Newspapers	Artist paint brushes		Civic Events Exes	5082	£3.97	£0.80	£113.77
539	30/10/2018	G18C3656	Colas	Sweatshirts		Sundry - Store	6020	£22.58	£4.51	
539			Colas	Doggy bin bags		Refuse	5270	£119.80	£23.96	
539			Colas	Spray Marker - memorials		Civic Events Exes	5085	£84.50	£16.90	£272.25
540	27/10/2018	1270271018	Cool Bros	Milk	W/Shop	Sundry - store	6020	£9.60	£0.00	£9.60
541	27/10/2018	1180271018	Cool Brothers	Office milk October		Office Expenses	5170	£7.20	£0.00	£7.20
542	12/10/2018	369435	Dept of Infrastructure	Port St Mary Foreshore Oct 2018		Chapel Beach	5850	£10.00	£2.00	£12.00
543	15/10/2018	369552	Dept of Infrastructure	Tipping - Domestic & Commercial		Refuse	5210	£4,400.34	£880.07	£5,280.41
544	19/10/2018	18980	IslandIT	Set up temp staff		Computer Expenses	5140	£106.25	£21.25	£127.50
545	24/10/2018	18997	IslandIT	Password reset re LVW		Computer Expenses	5140	£27.50	£5.50	£33.00
546	25/10/2018	19007	IslandIT	Patch in printer etc		Computer Expenses	5140	£43.00	£8.60	£51.60
547	02/11/2018	19057	IslandIT	New user		Computer Expenses	5140	£41.25	£8.25	£49.50
548	02/11/2018	19058	IslandIT	Checks to system		Computer Expenses	5140	£123.75	£24.75	£148.50
549	08/11/2018	19070	IslandIT	Email hosting		Computer Expenses	5140	£66.50	£13.30	£79.80
550	29/10/2018	14382	Grant Thornton Ltd	Professional Services - re Audit		Professional Services	5020	£7,585.92	£1,517.18	£9,103.10
551	18/10/2018	1974501	J Qualtrough	Chipboard. Etc		Town Hall	5150	£202.65	£40.53	£243.18
552	29/10/2018	1976864	J Qualtrough	Steel wool etc re benches		Outdoor seating	5810	£13.95	£2.79	£16.74
553	31/10/2018	1977539	J Qualtrough	Sand & cement	Stores	Sundry - store	6020	£49.42	£9.88	£59.30
554	04/10/2018	001/066260	JR Riley Ltd	Air Filters		Garden machinery	5267	£5.00	£1.00	£6.00
555	17/10/2018	001/067007	JR Riley Ltd	Strimmer line		Garden machinery	5267	£65.40	£13.08	£78.48
556	25/10/2018	001/067825	JR Riley Ltd	Repairs to Honda wheeldrive		Garden machinery	5267	£93.62	£18.73	£112.35
557	26/10/2018	001/088518	JR Riley Ltd	Stihl spring safety hook		Garden machinery	5267	£7.71	£1.54	£9.25
558	22/10/2018	920838	LITE	LED Bulbs		Christmas Tree	5830	£250.88	£50.18	£301.06
559	22/10/2018	U1262419	Manx Utilities	Town hall electricity		Town Hall	5151	£606.21	£121.24	£727.45
560	23/10/2018	U1263468	Manx Utilities	Manxonia House electricity		Manxonia House	5175	£17.94	£0.89	£18.83
561	23/10/2018	U1263469	Manx Utilities	Manxonia House electricity		Manxonia House	5175	£17.94	£0.89	£18.83
562	23/10/2018	U1263470	Manx Utilities	Manxonia House electricity		Manxonia House	5175	£17.94	£0.89	£18.83
563	23/10/2018	U1263473	Manx Utilities	Manxonia House electricity		Manxonia House	5175	£17.94	£0.89	£18.83

**PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**  
**INVOICES TO BE PAID IN NOVEMBER 2018 (1ST MEETING)**

<b>Rate Born Expenses continued</b>									
Inv #	Date	Inv Number	Supplier	Description	Category	NL Code	Total Net	VAT	Total Cost
564	24/10/2018	U1264236	Manx Utilities	Manxonia House electricity	Manxonia House	5175	£17.94	£0.89	£18.83
565	19/10/2018	SPI4402838	Manx Utilities	Repairs to lighting column	Public Lighting Maint	5900	£1,153.45	£230.69	£1,384.14
566	19/10/2018	SPI4402839	Manx Utilities	Repairs to lighting column	Public Lighting Maint	5900	£1,752.70	£350.54	£2,103.24
567	11/10/2018	660/21931	MC Locksmith Services	Digi lock and fitting - Green Room	Town Hall	5150	£169.56	£33.91	£203.47
568	31/10/2018	85606	Onchan District Comm	Refuse collection 01/7-30/9/18	Refuse vehicle expes	5220	£4,062.50	£812.50	£4,875.00
569	01/11/2018	9283	ORB Ltd	Payroll Admin period 7	Office Expenses	5170	£126.00	£25.20	£151.20
570	01/11/2018	9307	ORB Ltd	Payroll Admin Oct 18	Office Expenses	5170	£40.00	£8.00	£48.00
571	01/10/2018	33868	Search & Select	Services re RW	Accountancy	5030	£6,500.90	£1,300.18	£7,801.08
572	29/10/2018	31011	Signrite	Parking Signs	Car Parks	5510	£56.00	£11.20	£67.20
573	31/10/2018	106868	Southern Civic Amenity Board	Wood - recharge C/Town & Malew	C & M EPH Recharge	6108	£30.53	£6.10	£36.63
573			Southern Civic Amenity Board	Inert	Refuse expenses	5210	£23.93	£4.79	£28.72
574	31/10/2018	20180000859	Station Gargage	Diesel - Van	Vehicle Gen Exes	6056	£56.36	£11.27	£67.63
575	16/10/2018	574	TT Shirts.com	Flags	Plaques & Flags	5720	£43.45	£8.69	£52.14
576	19/10/2018	58873	Wade's Truck Services	Sweeper repairs	Street Cleaning	5500	£342.21	£68.44	£410.65
577	23/10/2018	286034	WDS Limited	Public toilets - supplies	Public Conveniences	5400	£275.39	£55.08	£330.47
578	16/10/2018	336405	Wi-Manx	Professional Services	Computer Expenses	5140	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00
579	20/10/2018	338514	Wi-Manx	VDSL, Hosted PBX Nov	Computer Expenses	5140	£235.24	£47.04	£282.28
<b>Sub Totals - Rate Born</b>							<b>£29,681.05</b>	<b>£5,897.55</b>	<b>£35,578.60</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>							<b>£32,723.64</b>	<b>£6,505.88</b>	<b>£39,229.52</b>

<b>Summary Breakdown of Expenditure (excluding VAT)</b>	
Stores, Gdns, WC's, Refuse, Public Lighting etc	£12,815.04
Office, Professional and Consultancy Expenses	£15,635.44
Town Hall Expenses	£978.42
C & M EPH Recharge	£30.53
Civic events, plaques etc	£131.92
Manxonia House	£89.70
Housing	£3,042.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>£32,723.64</b>

£0.00

**PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**

**PROJECTS UPDATE**

6.1	<b>Mariners Shelter</b> One plaque is awaiting removal by T E Cubbon.
6.2	<b>Manxonia House</b> It is hoped that the building will be available on the market imminently.
6.3	<b>Remembrance Garden</b> No update available.
6.4	<b>Skate Park</b> The planning department are not available for a site visit until the end of November, suggestions have been sent by e-mail and feedback is awaited.
6.5	<b>Public Conveniences</b> No update available.
6.6	<b>Traffic Consultations</b> A response regarding the scope of work to be carried out and the location is still awaited from Highways.
6.7	<b>Happy Valley</b> A response is awaited from the Structural Engineer requesting a meeting with the Board. The ownership of the pavement is being investigated.
6.8	<b>Boat Park</b> Plans and prices are currently being collated.
6.9	<b>Community Recognition Scheme</b> The scheme has been advertised.
6.10	<b>Farmers Market</b> A provisional date of 11 <sup>th</sup> December 6-9pm has been set, when confirmation from the Farmers Market Committee is received, local traders will be contacted to offer the chance to participate.

Item 7.1

## PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS

### PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

#### Email 26<sup>th</sup> October

There is a 16 page link on this document, can we please include printed copies with the next PSMC pack <https://www.gov.im/media/1355729/planning-enforcement-policy-sept-18.pdf>

*Hayley Fargher*

Clerk

**From:** Faragher [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 25 October 2018 09:51  
**Subject:** Operational Policy on Planning Enforcement

Dear Clerks

In March 2018, [REDACTED], Principal Planner with responsibility for planning enforcement, emailed all of the Clerks to the Local Authority's and offered to attend individual meetings to discuss Planning Enforcement.

Many of you accepted the opportunity to meet [REDACTED] and many of those meetings have been held or are scheduled.

Those of you who accepted that invitation and have had the meetings will recall that [REDACTED] advised that a Planning Enforcement Policy was to be introduced and I am pleased to be able to advise you that the [Operational Policy on Planning Enforcement](#) is now in place. I would be grateful if you would bring the contents of the Policy to the attention of your Commissioners.

If you or your Commissioners have any questions regarding the Policy or would like a paper copy of the Policy please do not hesitate to contact us.

[REDACTED] is looking forward to meeting the remaining Local Authorities who have requested a meeting and would again extend the offer to visit any of the Authorities who have not, as yet, accepted the offer for her to attend a meeting.

[REDACTED]  
**Assistant Head of Technical & Customer Support**

Planning & Building Control Directorate

Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture (DEFA)

**PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**

**PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

---

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 31 October 2018 19:55  
**To:** Hayley Fargher  
**Subject:** Defibrillator

Morning Hayley

I have spoken to [REDACTED] from Rushen Emergency Ambulance who has advised that the cost of the box to house the defibrillator and it's equipment is £680 plus the cost of providing a power supply.

We would propose to mount the box on the wall of the clubhouse that faces the area where the outside tables are located.

This is of course subject to permission being granted by the Commissioners and the Tennant.

My question is would the Commissioners grant such permission and make some financial contribution to the scheme. I think that the RA will be able to offer some help as well.

The defibrillator would of course be available to all users of the clubhouse, the general public and the sports users ie golfers, tennis players and croquet players.

It is intended that the box would be a standard one as used all over the Island with access linked to the emergency services control room.

I believe the one at the Townhall is similar

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

## PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS

### PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 04 November 2018 22:14  
**To:** Port St Mary Commissioners  
**Subject:** Charitable collections for Rushen Silver Band during December 2018

Hello Port St Mary Commissioners.

On behalf of Rushen Silver Band, I would be grateful if the Commissioners of Port St Mary would consider permission for the Band to carry out charitable collections for band funds around the streets of Port St Mary during the month of December 2018 please.

December is the main period in our Band calendar when monies can be raised to keep our organisation running, and hopefully the Commissioners would agree to this request in the hope we can raise sufficient money this year to cover the Band's general upkeep.

Being a community band, and like many other local charitable organisations, we are dependent upon the good nature and willingness of the general public to keep the Band to the level we currently attain, both playing wise and as a community organisation.

Can I thank the Commissioners in advance for their help with this request. The Band are extremely grateful for the continuing support provided by Port St Mary Commissioners.

Kind regards,  
Peter

[REDACTED]  
Secretary – Rushen Silver Band

Item 7.4

**PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**

**PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

**From:** [REDACTED] >

**Sent:** 30 October 2018 11:59

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Land at Crossag Farm, Ballasalla

Good Afternoon

I would be obliged if you would consider this expression of interest in 5 Hectares of land at Crossag Farm, Ballasalla.

Kindly declare any interest by 27 November 2018.

Thank you.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Asset Manager  
Strategic Asset Management Unit  
The Department of Infrastructure  
1st Floor  
The Sea Terminal  
Douglas  
IM1 2RF



**Isle of Man  
Government**

*Reiltyg Ellan Vannin*



**Public estates and  
housing division  
fo-rheynn steatyn as  
theiys theayagh**

Dear Colleagues

Date 30 October 2018

The Department of Infrastructure declares 5 hectares of land at Crossag Farm, Ballasalla to be surplus.

The land is highlighted in yellow on the attached drawing.

In accordance with the 2004 CoMin Directive, I am circulating this e-mail to all Local Authorities.

Should you have any interest in this property, please come back to the Strategic Asset Management Unit within 28 days of the date of this e-mail.

Kind Regards

Sean Timmer

Asset Manager  
Strategic Asset Management Unit  
The Department of Infrastructure  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
The Sea Terminal  
Douglas  
IM1 2RF

Direct Line: 01624 685942  
Mobile: 07624 452509

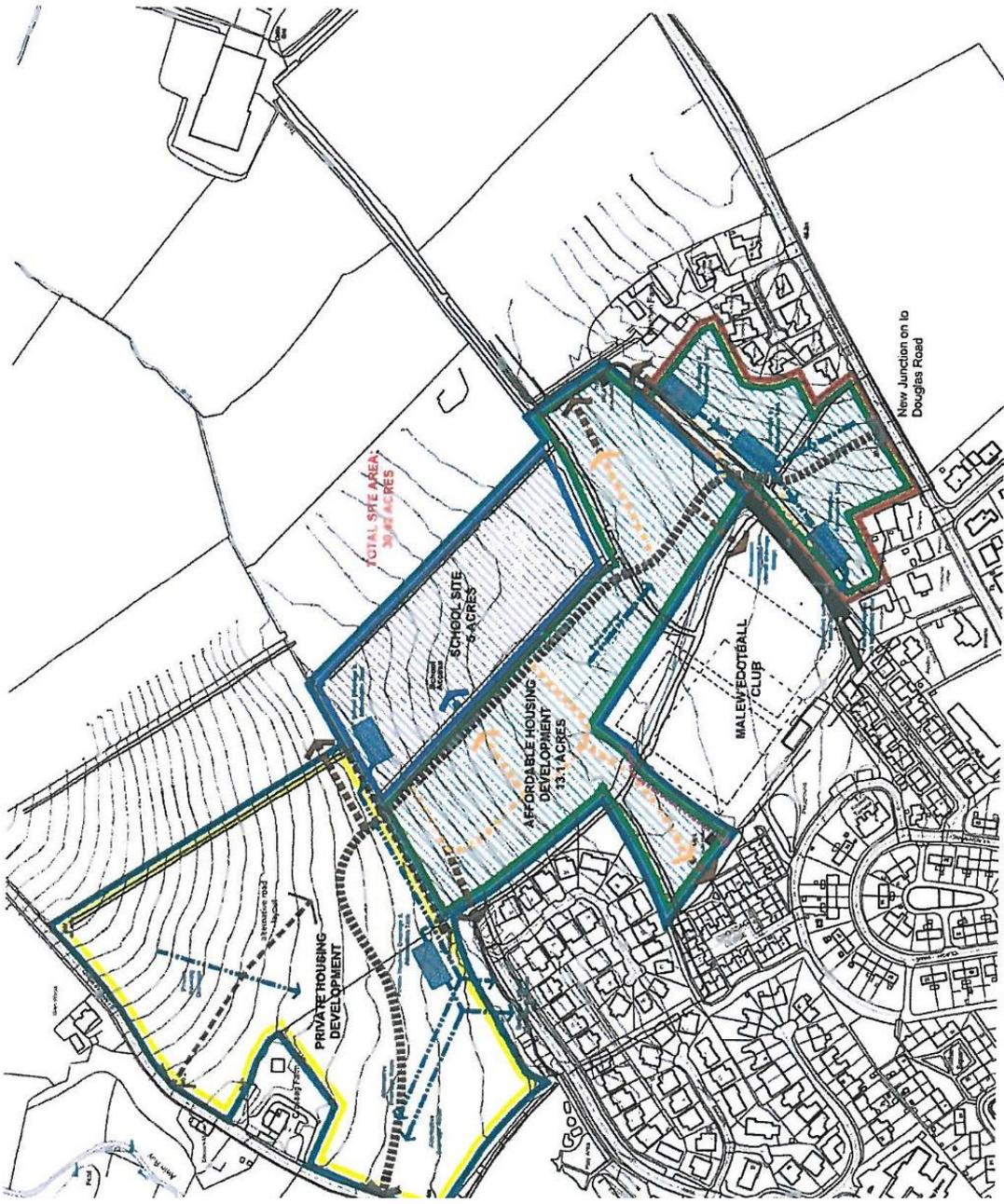


*Please consider your environmental responsibility before printing this e-mail and any document*

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sea Terminal Building, Bucks Road, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 2RF

LEGEND	
[Red line]	SITE BOUNDARY
[Green line]	APPROXIMATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
[Yellow line]	PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
[Blue line]	POTENTIAL SCHOOL SITE
[Dashed line]	DISTRIBUTION ROAD
[Orange dots]	SECONDARY SATELITE PLOTS
[Black dots]	ACCESS TO LAND
[Black dots]	STREET
[Black dots]	EXISTING ROAD
[Black dots]	PRIVATE ROAD

*Jean*  
*for discussion on*  
*Wednesday.*  
*To*  
*88.*



plan  
 ed Housing Development at Crossag Farm, Ballasalla for Department of Health & Social Care

Item 7.5

## PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS

### PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

From [REDACTED] <>

Sent: 06 November 2018 16:01

**Subject:** Hedge cutting and verge management

Dear all,

I have a lifelong interest in Manx Nature and am Chairman/Secretary of Manx Butterfly Conservation, committee member of the Manx Ornithological Society and life member of the Manx Wildlife Trust.

Please find attached a paper I drew up for discussion at the last meeting of the Manx Nature Conservation Forum, held at DEFA HQ, St John's on 18th October. I understand that DEFA are to recirculate to you their booklet "Manx Hedgerow Management, Code of Best Practice"

Since discussion at that meeting, and from feedback from others in the conservation meeting, the following have been brought to my attention:-

- 1) My paper did not really cover verge management, which is suffering the same problems as hedge cutting. Unnecessary mowing is tidying up the countryside at the expense of wildlife. A brilliant example of the exception to the rule is highlighted in the IoM Examiner of Tuesday 30th October where Braddan Commissioners have planted an area with wildflower seed and their action is to be commended.
- 2) A possible issue is payment of contractors by the hour, with the inevitable result of this leading to uncontrolled cutting.
- 3) It is alleged that at least one set of commissioners have sprayed some of their verges and hedgerows with herbicide.
- 4) Comment has been passed that severe cutting back of the hedgerows may have taken place in an attempt to obviate the need for cutting next year.
- 5) I have received feedback that the hedgerows in Jurby have been treated far more sympathetically than those in Andreas. Therefore credit should go to Jurby Commissioners and their contractor.

With increasing pressure on the countryside it is vital that Local Government, as well as National Government, plays it's part in nurturing the wildlife in our countryside. It is pertinent to note that a fundamental principle of the Island's status as a UNESCO Biosphere is to maintain it as a special place for people and nature.

Therefore I urge you to review your own hedgerow management and verge cutting in 2018 and how it can be improved in 2019 and beyond to meet both the needs of people and nature.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

## Hedge Cutting

### **Current situation**

It has become apparent to me that over the last couple of years there has been an upsurge in both the extent and severity of hedge cutting in the north of the Island. I am aware that there are also concerns in other parts of the Island.

Hedges are not just being trimmed, they're being severely cut back to an extent far greater than I've ever before. See the following pictures, all taken within a mile of my house, showing damage I've noticed over the last few weeks. They include large stone dislodged from the sod hedge outside my estate (Ballalough, Andreas), damaged road sign at Leodest Rd, Andreas and numerous concrete fire hydrant indicators. I think this is irrefutable evidence of the recent increase in severity of cutting.





## **Reasons for the change**

The bottom line is I don't know what the reasons are. However, there are two aspects which I feel are potentially contributing:-

### **1) Manx Hedgerow Management, code of best practice -** [https://www.gov.im/media/277574/manx\\_hedge\\_management.pdf](https://www.gov.im/media/277574/manx_hedge_management.pdf)

The advice given in this booklet is generally quite sound. For me though, it has a major flaw and that is it concentrates very heavily on the bird nesting period. It even states that it is geared toward that, plus the protection of flowering plants.

For me it doesn't give enough, or indeed any, attention to the value of hedgerows for insects. Given that the vast majority of hedgerow nesting birds feed their young on insects then this element has to be of at least equal importance to nesting birds as actually protecting their nest site. There is little point in protecting a nest site if there is insufficient food for the occupants to rear chicks.

I would like to make the point that hedgecutting in the recommended period doesn't mean no damage is being done to wildlife. It is, and on a big scale. For me the DEFA booklet, Manx Hedgerow Management, code of best practice gives the impression that little or no damage to wildlife will be done by cutting hedges in their stated recommended period. This is just not so.

From a wildlife point of view there is perhaps never a good time to cut a hedge. The best way to consider this is to ask where all of nest year's hedgerow insects are right now, in October. The answer is that many, many species exist through winter as eggs and caterpillars, often in crevices in the bark or tight nooks and crannies around leaf buds. Therefore any hedgecutting in the recommended period, which is January and February, destroys a huge amount of wildlife.

### **2) Tidying the countryside**

The impression I gain is that there seems to be a move towards tidying up the countryside. Hedges seem to be shaped, all "nice and square". Again, the DEFA booklet does caution against this but this recent development must be emanating from somewhere.

I am no great respecter of our "Biosphere status". As I stated in the last forum meeting, I believe it's one of the worst things to have happened for Manx Wildlife in decades. Much of the Island's wildlife is in decline. All of the comment I have read so far pretty much concentrates on the appearance of the Island rather than wildlife content. To be fair my own opinion is that a great deal of the public would like to see green fields and tidy hedgerows with or without the wildlife that should go with them.

It appears to me that the severe cutting of hedges is spreading through the countryside because of our increasing obsession with tidying it up. Cutting and shaping a hedge so it looks tidy makes the hedge next to it look "untidy", so that gets cut, and so on and so on. Topiary doesn't belong in the countryside!

## **So do hedgerows need managing?**

The very simple answer to this is yes. This article is not in any way suggesting hedges should never be cut or managed. It is however suggesting we're getting it badly wrong at the moment.

### **Recommendations**

The first action I would recommend would be to update DEFA's code of practice to reflect the value of uncut hedgerows in providing a haven for insects. Whilst there are insect pests, the vast majority of insect species are in the main beneficial and a healthy ecosystem starts with insects and the flora they eat. You quite simply can't have a healthy ecosystem without them.

Secondly it is vital to get the message out that if a hedge really doesn't need cutting for practical purposes then it should be left alone. Whilst the hedgerows do need to be managed, in any one year the majority should be ablaze with blossom in spring. Hedgerows of blackthorn, hawthorn, wild plum and wild cherry should appear almost white with blossom. Far too many don't, and if they don't then something is wrong. And you can't have berries in the autumn for birds if you don't have blossom in spring.

Thirdly, when suggesting rotational cutting there is another aspect to this which the booklet doesn't cover. That is to cut one or perhaps two sides to a field but leave the others to the following, or preferably third, year. Or maybe cut the hedgerows in one field but leave another untouched. In other words, to leave some habitat for wildlife to inhabit instead of cutting all of the hedgerows at the same time, which wipes everything out. Adopting this approach will also help stop the current spread of tidying up the countryside.

Fourthly, Government needs to take a lead here and allow some "untidiness" for wildlife on its own properties. It also needs to more fairly balance out the requirement for the Island to appear "nice and tidy" with the need to protect and preserve our wildlife.

Item 7.6

## PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS

### PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

Sent on behalf of [REDACTED], Assistant Chief Officer (Finance)

Dear Employing Members

Under Regulation 3 (3) of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2012, the ranges by which an Employing Authority determines the contribution rate payable by active members of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, are increased by applying the appropriate increase and rounding down to the nearest £100. The appropriate increase is defined under Regulation 3(4) as the increase under Pension Increase orders which would apply to pensions in payment after 6 April each year, which effectively increases the ranges in line with the UK Consumer Price Index (CPI) as at the previous September.

UK CPI was 2.4% in September 2018. The contribution bandings for assessing contribution rates for active scheme members from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 will be as follows:

Band	Whole-time Equivalent Pay Range		Employee Contribution Rate %
	April 2019 to March 2020		
	From	To	
1	£0	£14,900	5.5
2	£14,901	£17,600	5.8
3	£17,601	£22,800	5.9
4	£22,801	£38,100	6.5
5	£38,101	£51,200	6.8
6	£51,201	£96,200	7.2
7	£96,201		7.5

Assessments should be made in accordance with the Review of Contributions Rates provisions of each employer's Contribution Policy Statement.

I would also remind you that employer contribution rates will increase to 27% for the 2019/20 financial year.

Best regards.

[REDACTED]  
Assistant Chief Officer

## **PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**

### **PLANNING**

#### **9.2 Approvals**

18/00922/B 2 St Marys Glebe, Port St Mary. Tiocom Ltd. Alterations, erection of extension and expansion of driveway and access approved.

18/00764/A Waitara and Site to North, Clifton Road, Port St Mary. Approval in principle for the demolition of existing dwelling and construction of 3 detached dwellings granted.

18/01025/B Highcrest, 16 Perwick Road, Port St Mary. John and Anthea Miller. Alterations to property including stone facing of new entrance elevation, installation of canopy above new front door and movement of various existing openings approved.

#### **9.5 Appeals**

18/00790/B 2 Victoria Road, Port St Mary. Mr M Notman. Appeal against the refusal of installation of a replacement front door with sidelights and toplight will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at approximately 15.30 hrs.

Item 10.1

**PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATES 2018/19**

Below is a list of scheduled meeting dates for the coming financial year along with holiday dates booked for the Clerk.

<b>2018/19 Meeting Dates</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Public Forum from 7pm
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	██████████ attending at 7pm
11 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Internal Auditors attending 7pm
25 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Urgent business only if required
8 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	Public Forum from 7pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2018	Manx Radio Local Democracy Reporter attending 7pm - (LDR postponed )
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	
26 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	██████████ - Highways attending at 7pm
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Public Forum from 7pm
24 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Manx Radio Local Democracy Reporter attending 7pm
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	██████████ (Planning) from 7pm
28 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Public Forum from 7pm
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	██████████ Equality Adviser from 7 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2019	
13 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Public Forum from 7pm
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	
13 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	

The Clerk has the following annual leave booked:

24/12/18 – 28/12/18  
18/2/18 – 22/2/18



**ROYAL**



**ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION**

RECEIVED  
- 7 NOV 2018

**Patron: H M THE QUEEN**

**President: The Master Gunner**

**ISLE OF MAN BRANCH**

**President:** [REDACTED] **Balleira Farm, Kirk Michael**  
**Isle of Man IM6 1EE Tel: 01624 87827**

**Hon. Secretary**

**Chairman**

**Membership Secretary**

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

The Chairman and Members of the Branch wish to invite you to join us for our St Barbaras Day Service to celebrate our Regimental Day. The service will be held at St Thomas Church, Finch Road, Douglas on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 11am followed by a Buffet Reception at the Douglas Old Friends Club, Finch Road, Douglas.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Royal Artillery Association Isle of Man Branch.

Isle of Man registered Charity number 0386