PORT ST MARY COMMISSIONERS

ORDINARY BOARD MEETING

4TH FEBRUARY 2026 at 6.00pm

MINUTE – PUBLIC SESSION

Present:	Mrs J Teare (Chairman), Mr D Scott (Vice Chairman), Mr W Gelling, Mr L Vaughan-Williams, Mrs C Hederson & Mrs G Brunt
Apologies:	
In Attendance:	Mr M Kemp (Acting Clerk)

1.	1.1 The Chair welcomed the Board, noted that all members were present and declared the meeting open. No interests were declared.	
2.	2.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 3rd December 2025 were circulated. **DS/WG proposed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting on the 3rd December 2025 be approved. All were in favour. Carried.** 2.2 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th December 2025 were circulated. LVW/DS proposed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting on the 17th December 2025 be approved. All were in favour. Carried.	
3.	Matters Arising: 3.1 The Matters Arising Summary and response to public correspondence by the Clerk from the 3rd December 2025 meeting were circulated, discussed and noted. 3.2 The Matters Arising Summary and response to public correspondence by the Clerk from the 17th December 2025 meeting were circulated, discussed and noted.	
4.	Motions: 4.2 Motion to support The Year of the Manx Language - 2026 Treealltys: Pohlidal Blien Ny Gaelgey – 2026	

	The Acting Clerk informed the Board that translations for public communications had been requested and that events to celebrate the Year of the Manx Language 2026 were being discussed.	
5.	Finance: 5.1 Invoices for settlement in February 2026 were noted and discussed. MK answered the members' questions. **LVW/DS proposed that the invoices for settlement in December 2025 be paid. All were in favour. Carried.**	MK
6.	Projects: 6.1 Chapel Beach DS informed the Board that he would be meeting with an architect on the 5th February 2026 regarding plans for the new changing facilities and agreed to update the Board at the next meeting. Members were in agreement that the scope of improvements for the area should cover all of Chapel Beach. 6.2 Highways The Board requested the acting clerk contact DOI Footpaths division and Department CEO to enquire about progress on remedial works and if the closed footpath would be reopened for the Spring. The acting clerk was asked to enquire about clearing vegetation that had overgrown a disused footpath with a view to assessing viability for reopening it. 20mph zones The Board noted that the rollout had been paused by the new Department of Infrastructure Minister. Parking Permits The item was moved to the private agenda. 6.3 Events The item was moved to the private agenda. LVW requested that the Royal British Legion Port St Mary Branch's deposit for hiring the Town Hall be held rather than paid at each booking. The Board agreed that this was a reasonable request. The acting clerk stated that a deposit could be held for no longer than 365 days.	DS MK MK

	6.4 Waste audit data The item was deferred. 6.5 Boat park The item was deferred.	
7.	Housing: 7.1 Housing Officers Report The reports were discussed and noted. 7.2 Tenancy Arrears Report The report was discussed and noted. The acting clerk notified the Board that a social media campaign about debt management and counselling had been successful with seasonal rent arrears being almost half of last year.	
8.	Public Correspondence: 8.1 Landslip The acting clerk informed the Board that the former Department of Infrastructure Minister and CEO had not responded to his email and requested permission to write to the new Minister. The Board agreed that this was a prudent course of action and asked that a plan brought to a meeting by the former minister be requested along with a plan for remedial works and how the Department proposes to pay for the works. **Accordingly, CH/LVW proposed that the acting clerk write to the new minister and CEO. All were in favour. Carried.** The acting clerk was asked to enquire with the Department about the slipway and Albert Wall. 8.2 Period Products (free provision) Bill Ms Faragher MHK was unable to attend an arranged meeting. The acting clerk requested permission to write to Ms Faragher to relay the Board's thoughts. The Chairman requested that members write to the acting clerk by Friday pm, following which, the acting clerk will write to Ms Faragher. 8.3 Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023	MK MK Board MK

	The Board noted the information in the agenda item and the appended Clause 5 paper with LVW and DS citing their gratitude to the acting clerk for the hard work that had been put into preparing the paper and organising local authorities in a short timeframe. The other members present also expressed their gratitude. JT informed the Board that the former minister had questioned the acting clerk's actions, which JT noted had been authorised by the Board. It was noted that the former minister's permission was not a pre-requisite to a local authority resisting a clause of a Bill that sought to penalise local authorities and rate payers. The acting clerk informed the Board that a meeting had been arranged with the new minister, Port Erin Commissioners and Arbory & Rushen Parish Commissioners to discuss Clause 5. The Board agreed that while they weren't against managed and stakeholder driven reform of local government, the Clause should be removed from the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023 entirely with this message relayed to the new minister. **DS/CH proposed that the acting clerk and chair continue to manage the Board's response on Clause 5 on behalf of the Board. All were in favour. Carried.**	JT/MK
	8.4 High Street Update The Board noted the update and **LVW/DS proposed that the acting clerk write to the Department of Infrastructure's new Minister, CEO, Director of Highways and the new Treasury Minister to obtain an update on funding for the High Street and an update timeline for road works. All were in favour. Carried.**	MK
	8.5 Park Road Street Lights The Board noted the update and LVW noted that to get the project completed within a short timeframe was an achievement. The acting clerk informed the Board that the works would have been completed sooner but for a major street lighting project in Port Erin which had been authorised before the Board's request.	
	8.6 Gelling's Avenue and Victoria Street The Board noted the update in the pack and stressed that to leave the road's in its present state wasn't acceptable. The acting clerk was asked to write to the Department of Infrastructure's CEO and Director of Highways again to request they reconsider the decision to move road works from the original schedule to after September 2026.	MK

	8.7 Parking Order Revocation The acting clerk explained that due to the change of Minister at the Department, he had paused communication until he had spoken again with the Board. Members asked the communication be resumed with the aim of gaining clarity on the proposal and any changes that had been effected or were scheduled.	MK
	8.8 Easter Festival of Running The Board noted the update.	
	8.9 Lieutenant Governor's Visit to Port St Mary The Board noted the email appended to the agenda item. Proposed dates for the visit were agreed as between the 16th and 23rd of May with the beginning of May being ruled out by members.	MK/SAM
	JT suggested that former Board member, Bernadette Williams MBE be presented with a certificate of long service to the public by the Lieutenant Governor and that Scoill Phurt le Moirrey be contacted to see if their choir would attend.	MK/SAM
	The acting clerk, while recognising the importance of the visit, suggested a budget be placed on the event and that staff time be limited when organising matters. Members agreed that the acting clerk's suggestions were appropriate and well considered.	
	Members also agreed that the visit was important for Port St Mary and was a welcome opportunity to show how special the port and village are. The acting clerk was instructed to coordinate matters with the Chair and through the office's Administrative and Events Officer.	JT/MK/ SAM
	8.10 Resignation of Board Member The Board noted the resignation of Mrs Williams and recognised her many years of public service and wished to minute their gratitude for her service to the community and Board of Port St Mary Commissioners.	
9.	Planning Matters 9.1 Planning Applications	

	25/91156/B – 4 High Street for alterations to windows and doors, replacement of windows, replacement of render to all elevations, replacement of roof tiles, replacement of rear dormer and formation of roof terrace to rear elevation. 9.2 Planning Approvals There were no planning approvals.	DG
10.	Policy & Resources: 10.1 Rates Arrears The agenda item will be revisited at the earliest opportunity in 2026. 10.2 Meeting and event dates 2025/26 The Board noted that the February 2026 meeting was scheduled for 25th February 2026 and that the Mona's Queen memorial was scheduled for 29th May 2026.	MK
11.	Public Consultations: 11.1 Public Audit Reform The Board noted the consultation response and that a draft response had been circulated to members prior to submission. 11.2 National Infrastructure Security Bill The Board noted the consultation response and that a draft response had been circulated to members prior to submission. 11.3 Responses to Other Consultations The Board noted the Keys and Local Authorities (Amendment) Regulations 2026 consultation response and that a draft response had been circulated to members prior to submission. 11.4 Responses to Other Consultations The Board noted the schedule of completed and upcoming consultations.	MK
12.	Invitations:	JT/CH

	The Board noted the invitation from Malew Parish Commissioners. JT and CH agreed to attend on behalf of Port St Mary Commissioners. The RSVP date was noted.	MK
13.	Any Other Business: None.	

There being no further business the Public Session of the meeting closed at 6.55pm.

J.M. Teare