



Borough of Douglas

**COUNCILLOR MRS CAROL ELIZABETH MALARKEY, J.P.
MAYOR**

Town Hall,

Douglas,

4th October, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL to be held on WEDNESDAY, the 9th day of October, 2013, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER within the TOWN HALL, DOUGLAS for the transaction of the hereinafter mentioned business.

I am,

Yours faithfully

Town Clerk & Chief Executive

Order of Agenda

I - Election of a person to preside (if the Mayor is absent).

II - Any statutory business.

III - Approval as a correct record of the minutes of the last regular and any intermediate Meetings of the Council.

IV - Questions of which Notice has been given by Members of the Council, pursuant to Standing Order No. 39.

V - Consideration of the minutes of proceedings of the Council in Committee.

VI - Consideration of the minutes of proceedings of Committees of the Council in the following order:

- (i) The Executive Committee;
- (ii) The Pensions Committee;
- (iii) The Standards Committee;
- (iv) The Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee;
- (v) Any other Joint Committee;

VII - Consideration of the report of each Lead Member in the following order:

- (i) Housing and Property;
- (ii) Regeneration and Community;
- (iii) Environmental Services;

VIII - Consideration of such communications or petitions and memorials as the Mayor or Chief Executive may desire to lay before Council.

IX - Notices of Motion submitted by Members of the Council in order of their receipt by the Chief Executive.

X - Any Miscellaneous Business of which Notice has been given pursuant to Standing Orders.

The above Order of Agenda is in accordance with Standing Order No. 16(1); under Standing Order No. 16(2) it may be varied by the Council to give precedence to any business of a special urgency, but such variation shall not displace business under I and II.

AGENDA

III – Chief Executive to read minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 14th August, 2013.

IV – Questions of which Notice has been given by Members of the Council under Standing Order 39.

QUESTIONS

1. Question by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford to the Lead Member for Environmental Services:

“Why the Waste Management Review took two years to be presented to the Committee, when the reason given for delay during that time was the need for further information, bearing in mind that the actual reports presented to the Committee contained no further new information and all reports were dated as completed two years ago?”

Reply by the Lead Member for Environmental Services:

“The Waste Management Review Report gives clear recommendations on the restructure of the Waste Service and the consequent financial arrangements were approved and adopted by the Council in the 2013/14 budget.

The report was shared when it was first completed with the Chief Officers’ Management Team, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Public Works Committee and arising from discussion financial provision was made in this year’s budget and negotiations continued in relation to a number of staffing issues.

There were also during that period a number of uncertainties related to the Kerbside Recycling Collection Scheme and whether Onchan would join, and to the proposed bulking up facilities at Ballacottier, with its funding and licensing. With these issues all in flux there was no solid basis for consideration by the Committee. It is only comparatively recently that they and the staffing issues have been resolved so that the report can be presented to the Committee within a firm context.”

VI(i) - The proceedings of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Friday, 27th September, 2013.

Members Present: Mr Councillor D.W. Christian (Chair), the Mayor, Messrs Councillors S.R. Pitts (from 2.10pm), D.J. Ashford, E.A. Joyce.

Apologies: Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl and the Borough Treasurer.

In Attendance: Chief Executive, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Assistant Chief Officer (Finance), Assistant Democratic Services Officer (from 2.10pm to 2.20pm), Assistant Chief Executive (from 2.35pm to 2.50pm).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the scope of the Executive Committee's delegated authority

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl and the Borough Treasurer.

A2. Declarations of Interest

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, the following declarations of interest were submitted:

Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce – Clause A9, Minutes of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee relating to the Pulrose AFC Clubhouse;

Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts – Clause A10, Two-Chair Procedure relating to visit by Ballymoney netball teams.

A3. Minutes

The minutes of the Special Joint Meeting held on Friday 26th July and the minutes of the scheduled Meeting held on Friday 26th July 2013 were approved and signed.

A4. Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

No matters arising from the previous minutes were identified.

A5. Minutes and Referrals of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee

The Committee considered the minutes of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 16th September 2013. It was noted that there were no items requiring specific referral to the Executive Committee.

Resolved, "That particulars of the minutes of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee be noted."

A6. Minutes and Referrals of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee

The Committee considered the minutes of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2013. It was noted that there were no items requiring specific referral to the Executive Committee.

Resolved, "That particulars of the minutes of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee be noted."

A7. Consultation Document – Competition Policy

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to a consultation document received from the Isle of Man Office of Fair Trading.

Members noted that the consultation was focussed on creating a strategy and legislative framework which would protect consumers against the effects of unfair competition. A questionnaire sought views on a number of specific questions, and proposed responses and comments to these questions were also considered by Members. A number of amendments to the proposed responses were suggested as follows:

Question 3 – do you agree with the principle of reduced penalties for whistleblowers?: that the amended response be, "*No. Reduced penalties for whistleblowers might encourage more individuals to bring matters to light for investigation, however, a guarantee of reduced penalties provides a means for an individual who has been involved in anti-competitive practices to escape proper punishment simply by reporting it themselves. Any decision on a reduced penalty should be a matter for the Office of Fair*

Trading, rather than the criminal court (in order to retain some anonymity), and it should be made clear that there would be no automatic right to a reduced penalty for whistleblowers, with each case being considered individually.”

Question 4 – do you agree with the proposed approach in relation to investigations where there is major public or economic concern?: that the amended response be, *“Yes. The Office of Fair Trading should be proactive in identifying and investigating all markets where unfair competition is possible. Those of major public or economic concern should take precedence, but all markets should be examined. However, there should be no requirement to seek the approval of the Council of Ministers, or for that body to test whether there is proof of unfair competition in the market, as this should be the purpose of the Office of Fair Trading.”*

Question 5 – do you agree that it is desirable to have an approval system for mergers and acquisitions?: that the amended response be, *“Yes. In a small jurisdiction such as the Isle of Man, mergers and acquisitions can unbalance the market. There needs to be some form of control to prevent any entity artificially creating a monopoly, however, the exact power that can be exercised by the Isle of Man Office of Fair Trading needs to be expressed clearly as in some cases, such as international mergers, for example, these could not be prevented on the Island.”*

Question 6 – if you agree YES to Question 5, do you agree that the system should only apply to mergers and acquisitions of significant consumer or economic importance?: that the amended response be *“No. All mergers and acquisitions should be reported and examined to identify any that may be potentially prejudicial to consumers’ or economic interest so that they can be investigated, however, it would be assumed that there would be a threshold level in deciding whether or not to investigate.”*

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

(ii) That the proposed responses and comments (as amended) be approved for submission to the Isle of Man Office of Fair Trading on behalf of the Council.”

A8. Consultation Document – Biodiversity Strategy

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to a consultation document received from the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

Members noted that the consultation document set out in great detail the current position of the Isle of Man in relation to biological diversity. There was an awareness that the Island supported populations of some plants and animals, the numbers of which were dwindling on a global scale. There was also an acceptance that the landscape and the environment, supporting the diversity of those plant and animal populations, should be protected, and that, subsequently, the economy of the Island could be enhanced through ‘eco-tourism.’

Although the variety of ‘natural’ environments within Douglas was limited to the beaches and the larger green spaces, some species also thrived in the urban environment, and so the principles of biological diversity could be applied throughout. It was noted that, if there was an extension of the Convention on Biological Diversity, then the drawing up of a strategy, an action plan, and the development of a biological database and records centre, would fall on Central Government. In many cases, however, in planning works to the beaches, the green open spaces, and the Squares, the principles of biological diversity were already taken into account by the Council because of planning requirements and, as the intention was not to develop new habitats but to protect the existing, this was a principle that could be readily accepted, and the direct cost to the Council would generally be minimal.

A positive response at this stage by the Council would have no direct cost, but would enable any plans being developed on behalf of the Council to take biological diversity into account, and would also demonstrate the Council’s support for what was already recognised as a worthwhile principle.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;

(ii) That the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture be advised that the Council supported the extension of the United Kingdom’s signature to the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Isle of Man;

(iii) That the specific questions in the consultation document be responded to as set out in the appendix to the written report; and

(iv) That there be a commitment on behalf of the Council to taking biological diversity issues into account in its future decision-making.”

A9. Minutes and Referrals of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce declared an interest in the clause relating to the Pulrose AFC Clubhouse and retired whilst it was discussed.

The Committee considered the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2013, including the below items specifically referred to the Executive Committee:

Clause B11 – Pulrose AFC Clubhouse: the Advisory Committee sought ratification of its decision to approve the principle of granting a twenty-year ground lease to Pulrose AFC for the existing footprint of the clubhouse building (at a peppercorn rent), in order that the Club may build a new clubhouse. It was noted that the approval would be subject to alcohol licences not being permitted for the premises, and also conditional upon satisfactory agreement in respect of repair and maintenance, timescales, usage, standard of building works, and compliance with all statutory requirements.

Clause B12 – Santa Horse Trams 2013: the Advisory Committee sought authority for the Schedule of Fees and Charges to be amended by the introduction of the price of family tickets for £20. Discussion took place in respect of the proposed times of operation of the Santa Trams and the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee suggested that he would prefer to see later commencement / finish times, with the last tram being at 6.00pm. He advised that the Isle of Man Constabulary had previously indicated a preference for the trams to have completed their operation before darkness fell, however, it was felt that the illuminated trams looked at their best once darkness fell and that the later running time might generate more business. Additionally, being on a Saturday and Sunday, there would be no interference with early evening rush-hour traffic.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee be noted;

(ii) That the decision to approve the principle of granting a twenty-year ground lease to Pulrose AFC for the existing footprint of the clubhouse building, be supported;

(ii) That approval be given for the Schedule of Fees and Charges to be amended to introduce family tickets for the 2013 Santa Horse Trams for £20;

(iii) That the Assistant Chief Executive be requested to discuss the suggestion of later operational times for the Santa Horse Trams with the Tramways Superintendent, in respect of whether the horses could safely work in low-visibility conditions; and

(iv) That the suggestion of later operational times for the Santa Horse Trams be included for discussion at the Leader’s meeting with the Chief Officers’ Management Team on 8th October 2013, at which the Douglas liaison police officer was due to be in attendance.”

A10. Twinning with Ballymoney – Visit by Netball Teams (Two-Chair Procedure)

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts declared an interest in this item and retired whilst it was discussed.

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Democratic Services Officer on a Two-Chair Procedure agreed in respect of a recent visit by Ballymoney netball players, their coaches, and members of the Ballymoney Twinning Committee.

Members recalled that, at the meeting held on 26th July 2013, approval had been given for expenditure of up to £1,200 for the provision of accommodation on the 13th and 14th September 2013 for a party of approximately fifteen people from Ballymoney, who were visiting the Island to compete in netball matches. Accommodation had been booked accordingly and, as there was funding remaining, Members requested that this be utilised to entertain the Ballymoney guests, and a Two-Chair Procedure was accordingly approved and signed for a teenage disco on Friday 13th September, to which both the Ballymoney and Isle of Man netball teams, together with guests, were invited. Further expenditure was incurred through the hire of a netball court at the National Sports Centre, together with associated transport, on Saturday 14th September 2013.

Concern had then been raised by Her Worship the Mayor that no entertainment had been arranged for the Saturday evening (14th September), and, subsequently, a ‘laser blast’ session, including dinner, was secured, again with associated transport costs. Her Worship the Mayor very kindly agreed that the cost of the Saturday evening’s entertainment would be met through her Mayoral Budget.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;

(ii) That the Two-Chair Procedure, in respect of the provision of a teenage disco, local transport costs, and the hire of a netball court at the National Sports Centre, be noted; and

(iii) That the additional entertainment subsequently organised for the evening of Saturday 14th September 2013, in the form of a ‘laser blast’ session, including transport, and funded through the Mayoral Budget, also be noted.”

A11. Monthly Financial Review

The Committee considered a written report by the Borough Treasurer setting out details of progress made compared to key performance indicators in relation to the percentage of rates collected; the increase in the number of non-cash / non-cheque payments; and the percentage of sundry debtors collected within three months.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes.”

A12. CIPFA Conference – London

The Committee considered a written report by the Borough Treasurer following attendance at the Conference by himself and Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, MBE, JP.

It was noted that the Annual Conference of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) always featured leading figures in Public Services, and dealt with the latest developments in Public Sector Accounting and Finance. The Conference, attended on a bi-annual cycle, was the main plank of the Borough Treasurer's compulsory Continuing Professional Development (CPD), which was required to retain his qualification.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

(ii) That attendance at the CIPFA Conference continue to be approved, subject to a report to the Committee seeking approval for attendance in advance."

A13. Treasury Management Plan 2013 / 2014

The Committee considered a joint written report by the Borough Treasurer and the Assistant Chief Officer (Income) detailing the Council's plans and related Prudential Indicators.

The plan was a key aspect of delivering the Treasury Management Strategy, as approved in 2011. It summarised planned treasury management activities in respect of long-term loans; bond repayments; short-term investments; and outlined information in relation to Prudential Indicators for 2013 / 2014.

Members noted that the indicator for prudence was that net external borrowing would not exceed the capital financing requirement, and this Plan stipulated that this would be complied with. It was also noted that the indicator for treasury management was whether the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes had been adopted by the organisation, and it was confirmed that these had been adopted by the Council in 2011.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

(ii) That the Treasury Management Plan 2013 / 2014 be approved."

A14. Items for Future Report

The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive identifying those issues on which further reports had been requested or which were outstanding, so that Members and officers were aware of them and could monitor progress.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and that it be considered and monitored at each meeting of the Executive Committee."

PART B –

Matters requiring Council approval

There were no matters requiring Council approval.

The Committee rose at 3.25pm.

VI(iii) – The Proceedings of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE as follows:

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 28th August 2013.

Members Present: Councillor Mrs R. Chatel (Vice-Chairman), Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Mr D. Booth (Independent Member).

Apologies: Messrs Councillors E.A. Joyce (Chairman), G.J. Faragher.

In Attendance: Assistant Town Clerk, Democratic Services Officer.

REPORT

PART A -

Matters within the scope of the Advisory Committee's delegated authority

A1. Chair of Meeting

In the absence of the Chairman, it was unanimously agreed that the Vice-Chairman should take the Chair.

A2. Training

The Committee had a brief discussion on future training requirements. There was some discussion of the need for the Committee to be able to impose real, appropriate sanctions. There was some discussion as to what, if any, legislative changes might be needed in order to allow sanctions to be developed, and where necessary, used. In discussion it was suggested that alongside the need for a range of sanctions to be available, there is the need for an appeals process. There was a brief discussion of the need for an appeal to be considered by someone independent of the Committee and how that could be achieved. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that he is in discussions with the manager of the Local Government Unit on a range of issues affecting this Committee, including possible statutory changes.

Question was raised as to the ways that Standards Committees function in UK local authorities. It was suggested that discussions on the topic be held with the Council's Twinning partner, Ballymoney.

There was a brief discussion on training and it was agreed that all members of the Standards Committee should be present for training.

Resolved, "That the discussion be noted on the minutes."

A3. Minutes 17th April, 2013

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, 17th April, 2013 were approved.

A4. Matters Arising

Question was raised as to the need to clarify the procedure to be followed when a complaint is made against a member of the Standards Committee. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for a member of the Standards Committee to be involved in the consideration of a complaint where the complaint is about that member. It was also agreed that the Protocol needs an additional paragraph, setting out what will happen in those circumstances.

Resolved, "That the discussion be noted on the minutes."

A5. Code on Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing)

The Committee considered a report on the code for confidential reporting, commonly known as 'whistleblowing'. The Government's policy on confidential reporting was adopted by the Council in March 2012 as best practice and is embodied in the Council's Constitution. However, it was recognised that the policy was focussed on the Government's own situation and that there were elements not relevant to the Council, so the council should develop its own policy. A revised Code has been drafted based in part on U.K. local government codes and taking into account the principles in the Government document. It has been drafted principally to provide a mechanism for Council staff to raise concerns that do not fall within the scope of any other procedure. However, it could be used where others are concerned if an issue arises that cannot be addressed by any other means. As this Code applies primarily to staff, it is appropriate to consult the Chief Officers' Management Team, the Human Resources Department and the trade unions before finalising the amended Code.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

- (i) the amended Code on Confidential Reporting (whistleblowing) be approved in principle; and

- (ii) the Chief Officers' Management Team, the Human Resources Department and the appropriate trade unions be consulted for their views on the draft document; and
- (iii) the results of the consultations be reported back to the Standards Committee at the next meeting, prior to submission of the amended Code to the Council for approval."

A6. Forward Plan

The Committee reviewed the draft forward plan setting out the topics for consideration and review over the next six months. It was agreed that the forward plan should be amended to show that those reports and reviews scheduled for this meeting, but not considered herein, should be carried forward to the next quarterly meeting, with the exception of the proposed report on the composition of the Standards Committee which is to be deferred for the time being.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes and the forward plan amended as discussed."

A7. Schedule of Meetings

The Committee noted that the next meeting is scheduled for 10.00am, Wednesday, 23rd October, 2013. Councillor Mrs R Chatel gave her apologies for that meeting.

PART B -

Matters for approval by the Council

B8. Review of Protocol on Member Support

The Committee considered a report setting out a review of the protocol on Member support. This is one of a number of reviews of various elements of the Constitution programmed by the Committee. Attached to the report was a copy of the Member Support Protocol found in Part 5, Section C of the Constitution highlighting a number of minor amendments. In discussion it was suggested that the table in section 5.1 should be amended by the substitution of the relevant job titles for the names of the committee administrators who provide administration and support for each of the Council Committees; and that the table also be amended to show that the Borough Treasurer is the Lead Officer for the Pensions Committee.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and the proposed amendments to the Protocol on Member Support be accepted together with the additional amendments identified in discussion."

The meeting ended at 11.35am.

VI(iv) – The Proceedings of the EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE as follows:

EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE

EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 2nd September 2013.

Members Present: For Douglas Borough Council - Mr Councillor W.M. Malarkey (Member), Mr A.J. Donnelly (Assistant Borough Engineer). For Onchan District Commissioners - Mr D. Crellin (Member), Mr P.M. Hulme (Chief Executive/Clerk). For Braddan Parish Commissioners - Mr C. Slinn (Member), Mr J.C. Whiteway (Clerk). For Laxey Village Commissioners - Mr A. Moore (Member). For Lonan Parish Commissioners - Mr N. Dobson (Member). For Santon Parish Commissioners - Mr N. Kelly (Member).

Apologies: Douglas Borough Council - Mr I.J.G. Clague, Borough Engineer and Surveyor (represented by Mr A.J. Donnelly). Contractor's Representative - Mr P. Macken. Department of Infrastructure - Mr J. Wrigley.

In Attendance: Secretary – Mr P.E. Cowin. Contractor's Representative - Mr S.A. Crook (from 3.50pm). Department of Infrastructure Representatives - Mr J. Quayle and Mr I. Lewandowskyj.

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the Scope of the Committee's Delegated Authority

A1. Minutes – 20th May, 2013

The minutes of meeting held on Monday, 20th May, 2013, had been circulated and were approved for signature as a correct record.

A2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Chairman advised that some operational issues would be addressed later in the meeting when the Contractor's representative was in attendance.

He asked whether any progress had been made on arranging a meeting with other Civic Amenity Site authorities: Members felt it important to promote uniformity amongst the four Sites and supported the idea of the Chairman and one Officer or technical representative from each Committee or Board meeting to consider common rules and opening times. Mr Quayle had been unaware of the Committee's wish but undertook to arrange a meeting as soon as practicable.

The Chairman referred to correspondence from Mr J.R. Houghton, M.H.K. in relation to the height barrier on the site which he felt was unnecessary. He had also suggested, in telephone conversation with the Chairman, that a permits system be reintroduced.

A3. Number Plate Recognition System

The Committee was disappointed that the advice it had sought on the legality of operation of the automatic number plate recognition system had not been produced and that work had not commenced on installing the system on the Site ready for commencement of use when all data protection issues were resolved. Members recalled that at the last meeting it had been agreed to have the system installed and ready to operate pending receipt of confirmation that it was not illegal. However it appeared that there had been no movement.

Mr Lewandowskyj confirmed that the system was in place at the Northern site, operated by the Department, and in addition to identifying frequent users could provide useful management information on numbers of users, busiest times and the like.

Agreed: that the Secretary write to the Chief Executive of the Department of Infrastructure expressing concern that the promised advice had not been provided.

A4. Charities using Site

The Secretary sought clarification as to whether a meeting should be arranged with the charities that regularly use the Site, in relation to the imposition of charges.

Members reaffirmed that the costs of waste disposal by charities should be recharged to the charities. It was felt that as most were based in Douglas and used the Eastern Site, the costs were not being spread evenly across all Sites which was unfair.

Agreed: that should the charities' representatives wish a meeting, the Chairman and Secretary meet them to explain the reasoning behind the decision to recharge the costs of disposal, but that it be reaffirmed that the Committee is committed to passing on the costs to avoid them falling unfairly on the ratepayers of the contributing authorities.

A5. Operational Statistics

Copies had been circulated of operational statistics to the end of July 2013. Attention was drawn to the increase in cardboard being collected which had risen from 1.4 tonnes to 7.2 tonnes per month since April 2013. WEEE goods were now being separated for shipping at £50 per tonne and the separation of timber continued.

Alternative disposal routes for hardcore and green waste were being examined.

Noted.

Mr S.A. Crook joined the meeting at 3.50pm.

A6. Operational matters

Mr Crook advised that one Health and Safety issue had occurred on site, concerning an operative sustaining an injury while lifting a heavy object out of a vehicle. It was being dealt with as a manual handling issue. There was some discussion over whether operatives should assist users and it was confirmed that while most users were able to manage their waste themselves, operatives should assist when asked or when they see a user in difficulty. It was felt that there was inconsistency across all four Sites as to the level of assistance offered and it was suggested that it be raised as a topic at the meeting to be convened under Clause A2 above.

In response to a question about the use of contract staff on the gate, and the Committee's preference for the gate to be manned by permanent staff, Mr Crook advised that he was in dialogue with G4S who provided the contract staff, hoping to establish some continuity. The issues that had arisen had done so principally because of different staff being unaware of the Site layout and how to advise users. The Chairman felt that gate staff should be checking for commercial waste and that it might be better done by permanent staff. There was a question raised over the cost of employing contract staff as opposed to increasing the permanent staff and Mr Donnelly undertook to provide comparative figures.

Noted.

A7. Fluorescent Lamps disposal

Mr Crook advised that the disposal of fluorescent tubes was no longer being funded by the Department and that quotations had been obtained for the service. The lowest was that of City Electrical factors who had been engaged to clear the backlog that had been collected on the Site.

Agreed: to accept the quotation from City Electrical Factors and to monitor operation and cost.

A8. Disposal of Asbestos

A Member queried whether the user who had been reported as disposing of asbestos had been prosecuted or banned from the Site. Mr Crook advised that the Health and Safety Inspectorate had not pursued the case to prosecution. Mr Lewandowskj advised that if the Committee felt it appropriate, the user could be banned from the Site by letter.

Agreed: that the identified individual be banned from using the Site for a period of twelve months.

A9. Height Restriction

The Chairman suggested that due to the height restriction, some users were parking large vehicles and carrying waste into the Site on foot. Mr Crook acknowledged that it had happened on a few occasions but a ban had now been imposed on pedestrians using the vehicle ramps, so it was being controlled. Mr Lewandowskj felt the height restriction unnecessary but the Committee reaffirmed its wish to retain it, with relaxation on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons.

Mr Crook advised that gate staff were still receiving a considerable number of complaints about the height restriction and other issues. Members agreed that resolution of the ANPR system and staffing issues would help reduce the complaints.

Noted.

A10. Website

Mr Quayle suggested that there should be some publicity given to opening hours, types of waste accepted, etc., via a Website and that Douglas Borough Council could create a separate web page for the purpose, that the other Authorities' sites could link to. It could also carry information on the amount of waste passing through the Site and recycling levels.

It was agreed that it would be helpful but that the ANPR system and staffing should be resolved first.

Agreed: Secretary to arrange for creation of web page.

A11. Recycling bins

Mr Moore stated that the bring banks on the site were full over the August Bank Holiday Weekend; Mr Crook undertook to review collections so that if possible recurrences could be avoided.

Noted.

A12. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee take place on Monday 25th November, 2013, at 3.30pm at the Strathallan Suite.

There were no matters considered that required approval by the respective Authorities.

The meeting ended at 4.25pm.

VII(i) – The Proceedings of the HOUSING AND PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE as follows:

HOUSING AND PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HOUSING AND PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 18th September, 2013.

Members Present: Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford (Chairman), the Mayor, Messrs Councillors J. Joughin, J.E. Skinner, S.C. Cain.

Apologies: Councillor Ms. K. Angela.

In Attendance: Assistant Town Clerk, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate & Development), Assistant Chief Officer (Income), Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property), Housing Manager, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the scope of the Advisory Committee's delegated authority

A1. Minutes 17th July, 2013

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, 17th July, 2013 were approved and signed.

A2. Willaston Manor Lodge – Windows

The Committee considered a report on the proposed refurbishment and redecoration of the windows at Willaston Manor Lodge which was let as a commercial property. Provision of £10,000 had been made in the current estimates but tenders had been sought and the lowest was above that figure.

The estimate of £10,000 had been produced some years ago and it was also desirable to undertake redecoration of all other exterior woodwork at the same time scaffolding was in place for work on the windows, at a further additional cost.

Resolved, “That the report be noted on the minutes; and that

- (i) the tender of Kinrade Construction Ltd., being the lowest, be accepted;
- (ii) the opportunity be taken to undertake redecoration of all other external woodwork at the property;
- (iii) the Executive Committee be recommended to increase the budget provision in the commercial properties budget for the work to enable it to be completed.

A3. Pulrose – Former Police House

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) on the former Police house at Pulrose which was no longer in use and which the Department of Home Affairs had agreed to convey to the Council. Formal documentation of the conveyance was expected shortly.

A proposal had been received from Rev. D. Shirliff on behalf of the Methodist Church and Scripture Union Ministries Trust for the use of the property to accommodate children and community workers, as living accommodation and as a base for activities within the community.

The property was scheduled for demolition in the next phase of the Pulrose Refurbishment Scheme but that was not likely to proceed for some time and the Committee considered the proposal a positive use of the property in the interim.

Members agreed that in view of the community aspect of the proposal no rent should be charged, and that the Borough Rate should be waived if the property was not used for living accommodation.

Resolved, “That the report be noted on the minutes and that approval be given to the proposal, with no rental being charged and the Borough Rate payable only if the property is used for living accommodation.”

A4. Matters for Future Consideration

The Committee considered the report on matters for future consideration. The Chairman confirmed that performance monitoring reports would be produced for the next meeting of the committee.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) advised that the report on the outcome of the Willaston External Refurbishment Pilot Scheme had recently been received and that he would circulate copies, with a Briefing Note, to Members of the Committee.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes."

PART B –

Matters requiring Executive Committee approval

There were no matters requiring Executive Committee approval.

PART C –

Matters requiring Council approval

There were no matters requiring Council approval.

The meeting ended at 11.40am.

VII(ii) – The proceedings of the REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE as follows:

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 17th September, 2013.

Members Present: Mr Councillor S.R Pitts (Chairman), the Mayor, Councillors Mrs R. Chatel, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Mr Councillor W.M. Malarkey.

Apologies: Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher.

In Attendance: Assistant Chief Executive, Assistant Town Clerk, Assistant Chief Officer (Finance), Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager, Head of Parks, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the scope of the Advisory Committee's delegated authority

A1. Minutes – 16th July 2013

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 16th July, 2013, were approved and signed.

A2. Commemoration of Archibald Knox

Mr Liam O'Neill of the Archibald Knox Society joined the meeting at 10.35am to discuss the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Archibald Knox. The Committee also considered a report on the subject jointly submitted by the Assistant Chief Executive and the Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate and Development).

Mr O'Neill began by discussing the importance of Archibald Knox and how the society felt there was very little appreciation for Archibald Knox on the Island. Mr O'Neill was looking for ideas from the Council to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Archibald Knox's birth.

A Member suggested naming an area in Douglas in recognition of Archibald Knox. The areas suggested were Upper Nelson Street, to be renamed Archibald Knox Way, and the small Garden at the end of Athol Street, which was the site of the now demolished 70 Athol Street where Knox lived, to be renamed Archibald Knox Garden or Archibald Knox Place.

The report suggested various projects that could be pursued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Archibald Knox. The Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate and Development) discussed the Committee's initial idea to produce a bronze bust, it was felt a bust is unlikely to be exciting for a Knox enthusiast and a suitable alternative was suggested in the form of a reproduction of one of Knox's metalwork pieces. This would require substantial funding and Mr O'Neill had advised that the Knox Society did not have available funds meaning the cost would have to be met solely by the Council, or in partnership with other organisations.

Ideas also discussed were the inclusion of an Archibald Knox piece in the Town Centre Regeneration, the renaming of a sunken garden, projections, interpretation boards and becoming part of the Archibald Knox Trail.

Mr O'Neill suggested that rather than unveiling a piece of art the birth of Archibald Knox should be commemorated through a long term plan of five to ten years, possibly through education. Mr O'Neill was advised that education was not within the Council's remit and a long term plan would not be considered for the Council as this would have a Rateborne effect as opposed to a one off cost.

Mr O'Neill advised that the Archibald Knox plaque situated in the Garden at Athol Street requires some attention; although the plaque was not installed by the Council it was felt that the Council could update the plaque.

The Mayor informed that the Environmental Services Advisory Committee are currently exploring the idea of gateway signs and suggested that reference to Archibald Knox could be considered. Members agreed to refer the idea to the Environmental Services Advisory Committee.

Members noted that Council officers have been invited to attend a meeting with the President of Tynwald in her Island of Culture capacity, on 4th October along with the Clerk of Braddan Commissioners, Manx Heritage Foundation and the Archibald Knox Society to discuss ideas for commemorating Archibald Knox during the Island of Culture next year.

Mr O' Neill and the Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate and Development) were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting at 11.00am.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes; and that

- (i) officers explore the possibility of renaming an area in Douglas in commemoration of Archibald Knox, namely Upper Nelson Street or the Athol Street Garden;
- (ii) outline costs for potential projects suggested throughout the discussion be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee;
- (iii) the costs associated with commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Archibald Knox be considered during the 2014/15 budget process;
- (iv) the Environmental Services Advisory Committee be asked to consider including reference to Archibald Knox on the proposed gateway signs."

A3. Sound and stage equipment for public events

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Town Clerk on sound and staging for public events.

At the June 2013 meeting of the Committee Members asked for a specification to be drawn up as the basis for a new yearly contract to be tendered and to enable comparisons to be made between the costs of hiring equipment and possible purchase. The specification was attached to the report and Members were advised that an advert has been placed in the local press inviting expressions of interest from local suppliers for the events in November 2013.

The report advised that purchase costs are currently being sought but the principal issue is that the requirements for each event vary considerably so the same equipment is not necessarily suitable for all events.

A Member expressed dissatisfaction that the costs for the equipment were requested in June yet no costs have been forthcoming. He requested that the costs to purchase be brought to the next meeting of the Committee to compare against the quotes received for the November 2013 events.

The Chairman raised concern over potential overtime costs that would be incurred during the set up and removal of equipment if purchased by the Council.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes; and that

- (i) quotations be sought for the hire of stage and sound equipment for the 2013 Fireworks Display, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Lights Ceremony;
- (ii) the procurement of stage and sound equipment by the Council be further investigated and the costs, including potential staff overtime and oncosts, calculated and reported to the October meeting of the Committee;
- (iii) the costs to hire and purchase sound and stage equipment be considered for comparison at the next meeting of the Committee."

A4. Speakers Corner

Mr Peter Bradley of the Speaker's Corner Trust and the Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate and Development) joined the meeting at 12.04pm to discuss a potential Speaker's Corner in Douglas Town Centre.

Mr Bradley, with the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation, began by discussing the principle and central aims of a Speaker's Corner. Mr Bradley advised that the main function of the Speaker's Corner was to share opinions and ideas with no presumption on what people want to talk about. A Speaker's Corner focuses on face to face engagement with independence and flexibility. Members were advised that the Speaker's Corner Trust is a UK registered charity.

Mr Bradley advised that, following Council approval and consultation, the Speaker's Corner Trust would form an independent Speaker's Corner Committee to develop local initiatives. The Committee would comprise of partnerships with various sectors including the public, private, educational and voluntary sector, and the community, arts and media. Mr Bradley provided an example of a typical Committee membership.

Mr Bradley went on to discuss the Committee's role, which would be to identify a Speaker's Corner site, organise events at the site and elsewhere and provide a platform for and stimulate participation from local organisations and groups.

Mr Bradley provided an example Speaker's Corner code of conduct and provided photographs and drawings of Speaker's Corners throughout the UK. Events held in various city centres were presented to Members.

Members raised concern that a minority of the public could abuse the Speaker's Corner and it would be difficult to police. Mr Bradley advised that Manx Law applies to the Speaker's Corner and abusers of the system, for example slander or libel, would be subject to the rule of law just like anyone else. It was suggested that the Speaker's Corner would be used constructively through organised events.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate and Development) suggested that the next step could be to approach local organisations to debate if this is something that would be welcomed in Douglas. The policing of the Speaker's Corner could be discussed as part of the debate.

Mr Bradley and the Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate and Development) were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

A5. Adjournment and Resumption

The meeting adjourned at 1.10pm and resumed at 2.33pm. The same Members and Officers were in attendance.

A6. Speaker's Corner Trust (Continued)

The Committee discussed the Speaker's Corner presentation received prior to the lunch break and agreed to progress with the canvassing of local organisations.

Resolved, "That particulars of the presentation and discussion be noted on the minutes and the Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate and Development) be authorised to contact local organisations to gather opinion on a proposed Speaker's Corner in Douglas Town Centre and report the findings back to Committee."

A7. Douglas Carnival

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate and Development) on the proposed format and funding for the 2014 Douglas Carnival.

Members agreed at the May meeting of the Committee to re-launch the Douglas Carnival as part of the 2014 Island of Culture and to re-locate the annual Fun Day to the Promenade as part of the Carnival.

Following this resolution a small working group was formed and a skeleton plan for the event was established. The proposed date for the event was Sunday, 20th July, 2014, the carnival itself would commence at 2.00pm although some elements would take place from midday.

The report proposed starting the carnival parade from the Promenade at Strathallan to Harris Promenade, going around the Sefton Island and parking up on closed roads in front of the Villa Marina and Gaiety Theatre. The pedestrian elements and spectators would then carry on to the walkway at Loch Promenade where there would be leisure and food concessions and entertainment. A proposed stage would be erected adjacent to the Jubilee Clock for prize presentations and performances.

The report detailed the various categories for prizes; it was proposed that application packs for participants be prepared as soon as possible.

Historically, a "Carnival Queen" was selected, the officer group felt this was inappropriate and suggested a carnival royal family could be selected from school nominations based upon a student's commitment to the community of Douglas. In response to a Member's query it was confirmed the Mayor would be invited to select the carnival royal family.

The report set out the estimated costs of the event, with an estimated total of £15,600. This included £3,200 worth of prizes which it was hoped would be met by individual sponsors. It was proposed that a major sponsor be sought for the staged area, covering 50% of the costs at £3,500. The report suggested that Douglas Development Partnership and Douglas Borough Council meet the remaining costs of £8,900 which would be £4,450 each.

Members queried if portaloos, at an estimated cost of £900, were required for the event as there are a number of toilets available in the area. A Member also queried why no first aid cost had been estimated.

A Member expressed concern that the Council could be expected to cover additional costs if sponsorship is not successfully sought for all areas proposed in the report.

The Chairman suggested ring fencing a maximum figure to be spent on the carnival. It was suggested that a figure of £5,000 be approved. Members were advised that this would be a request for a growth bid to the Public Events Budget.

Members suggested sponsoring a prize with remaining funds, it was also suggested that the Mayor could sponsor a prize.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes; and that

- (i) the proposal set out in the report for the 2014 Douglas Carnival be approved as the basis to progress arrangements subject to amendments required for operational reasons;

- (ii) a growth bid of £5,000 in respect of the carnival be included in the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee revenue budget report in December 2013.”

A8. Centenary Gardens – Additional Spring Toy Play Equipment

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks, following a request from a Member, for additional spring toy play equipment to be installed at the Centenary Garden.

Members felt there was sufficient springer toys in this garden and requested a further report on different toddler play equipment that could be installed.

The Head of Parks advised that the type of equipment that could be installed would be restricted due to the small area and the safety surface required to meet current standards.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the item be deferred pending an additional report at the October meeting of the Committee on toddler equipment that could be installed in the Garden other than toy springers.”

A9. Items for Future Consideration

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Town Clerk detailing items for future consideration by the Committee.

In answer to question the Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager advised that the Hutchinson Square specification is near complete, Members requested that the specification be provided to Members before advertised.

During this item the Mayor read out an e-mail congratulating the Parks Department on the excellent appearance of Noble’s Park which was viewed as a credit to Douglas Borough Council.

Resolved, “That particulars of the matters for future consideration be noted on the minutes.”

PART B -

Matters requiring Executive Committee Approval

B10. Pulrose AFC Clubhouse

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Executive on the replacement clubhouse at Springfield Road. Representatives from Pulrose AFC were not in attendance at the meeting as originally hoped.

Members were aware that the changing rooms/clubhouse building at Springfield Road, Pulrose is in a poor condition and nearing the end of its useful life. The last condition survey carried out in 2009 indicated that the building is in a poor state of repair and that the basic timber construction of the building is becoming beyond economic repair.

The Council owns the freehold of the building and the clubhouse had been leased to Pulrose AFC on an annual basis at peppercorn rent.

In 2011 the Leisure Services Committee resolved to donate the clubhouse to the Club. Since this time the Club had been considering how best to progress. In May 2013 a planning application, submitted by the Club to replace the building, was approved. A written proposal was received from the Club in August; this proposal was detailed within the report. The Club is proposing to build a new clubhouse with four dressing rooms, two referee changing rooms, ladies and gents toilets along with a small clubhouse and kitchen. The Club intended to seek funding from a number of sources, it was noted that no funding had been requested from the Council.

A Member queried if an alcohol licence can be granted for the premises, although it was felt this was not the intentions of the club Members agreed to an additional clause in the lease which stated that an application for an alcohol licence would not be supported.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes; and that

- (i) the principle of a twenty year ground lease to Pulrose AFC at a peppercorn rent, for the existing footprint of the Pulrose clubhouse building, in order that Pulrose AFC may build a new clubhouse, be approved subject to alcohol licences not being permitted for the premises;
- (ii) the long term lease be referred to the Executive Committee for approval to be sought to ratify the decision;
- (iii) officers be tasked with progressing a lease, in consultation with the Council’s advocates, Pulrose AFC and the Chairs of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee and Executive Committee, such lease to be conditional upon satisfactory agreement on repair and maintenance, timescales, usage, standard of building works, and compliance with all statutory requirements.”

B11. Santa Horse Trams 2013

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Executive on the proposed format for the 2013 Santa Horse Tram service.

Members noted the service had run since Christmas 2009 with the service running in 2012 over the weekend of 15th and 16th December. Although the service had not been as popular as when first run due to a number of factors, it has been able to operate at around a break-even point making a nominal loss of £1,150. This loss was mainly due to expenditure of a battery system which has a lifespan of five years. The loss was accommodated in the overall horse tram deficit 2012/13.

The report suggested operating the service on Saturday, 14th and Sunday, 15th December, starting at a slightly later time of 10.30am. Members noted there will be an additional journey this year, an increase from eight to nine journeys daily, as the trams will operate through the lunch break.

Every year efforts are made to obtain sponsorship, there have been contributions through 3FM and Shoprite, it was hoped sponsorship would be secured for the 2013 service.

A Member opined that the price of a ticket at £7.50 for adults and children would be an expensive trip for families with multiple children. (Members noted that a child under the age of two travels free when accompanied by a paying adult.) The Member felt that the price for a family of four at £30 could discourage ticket sales.

It was suggested that a family ticket be introduced at £20 per family of four, to include two adults and two children, Members agreed children under the age of two would still be eligible to travel for free with the purchase of a family ticket.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes; and that

- (i) the 2013 Santa Horse Trams operate on Saturday, 14th and Sunday, 15th December, 2013, operational times each day from the Strathallan at 10.30am, 11.10am, 11.50am, 12.30pm, 1.10pm, 1.50pm, 2.30pm, 3.10pm, 3.50pm, arriving back at the Strathallan for 4.30pm, a total of 504 seats;
- (ii) the ticket price for the Santa Horse Tram service, as shown in the Council's fees and charges 2013/14, is £7.50 for adults and children (children under 2 travelling free if accompanied by paying adult), the price to include return journey on the illuminated horse tram, refreshments, a visit to Santa's Grotto, and a gift for children;
- (iii) a family discount ticket be introduced at a cost of £20 for two adults and two children over the age of two, (a child under 2 can accompany a family ticket);
- (iv) the £20 family ticket be referred to the Executive Committee for approval as a change to fees and charges."

PART C –

Matters requiring Council approval

There were no matters requiring Council approval.

The meeting ended at 3.14pm.

VII(iii) – The proceedings of the ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 16th September, 2013.

Members Present: Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl (Chairman), the Mayor, Councillors Mesdames C.A. Corlett, S.D.A. Hackman.

Apologies: Messrs Councillors C.L.H. Cain, A.V. Quirk.

In Attendance: Assistant Town Clerk, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager, Senior Accountancy Officer, Building Control Manager, Town Centre Manager, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

REPORT

PART A -

Matters within the scope of the Advisory Committee's delegated authority

A1. Minutes 15th July, 2013

The minutes of the meeting held Monday, 15th July, 2013 were approved and signed.

A2. Waste Management Partnerships

The Committee considered a report prepared by the Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager on partnerships with other local authorities in relation to waste management. The Borough Engineer referred to recent press comment by the Department of Infrastructure's Head of Waste and Fleet Management to the effect that the collection and management of waste within the Island was disjointed. The Borough Engineer felt that as Douglas and a number of other responsible local authorities were trying to develop methods of joint working the comments were misplaced and merited a response.

He cited the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Committee as one major area of authorities working together, as well as the collection of refuse and recycling materials by the Council in Braddan, and refuse collections by the Council in Castletown. He also mentioned that following a presentation by Council officers to the Isle of Man Municipal Association a number of other local authorities had expressed interest in working with the Council.

There was general discussion of recycling as a method to reduce the amount of waste being disposed of through incineration, and the consequent costs and benefits. While the press article referred to the fixed cost of the Energy from Waste Plant having to be covered either by the ratepayer or the taxpayer regardless of the amount of waste being processed, it did not take into account the reduction in costs that could be achieved by recyclates producing an income.

The Committee agreed that a response should be produced describing the sharing of services that have been undertaken by the Council to date.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes and that the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, together with the Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager and the Council's Public Relations Adviser, draft a press release in response to the article in the Isle of Man Examiner dated 9th September, outlining the shared waste management arrangements the Council has in place."

A3. "Big Belly" Waste Bins

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor confirmed that the "Big Belly" waste bins that had recently been installed to replace some of the litter bins were operating efficiently and had reduced the staff time spent in emptying. The savings would be monitored.

Resolved, "That the report be noted."

A4. Attendance

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor left the meeting at 10.45am.

A5. Villiers Square and Adjacent Building

The Committee considered a report by the Building Control Manager on action taken in relation to the condition of the property, formerly the Navy Club, in Regent Street, adjacent to the Villiers Square. Of particular concern were overgrown shrubs and the appearance of sheeting to the gable.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes and that in case no action is taken to remedy the appearance of the site, approval be given for the service on the owner of notice under Section 14 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1984 and under Section 24 of the building Control Act 1991."

A6. Unsightly Properties

The Advisory Committee considered the lists of unsightly properties being dealt with on behalf of the Council by the Building Control Section and by Environmental Health Officers. The Building Control Manager provided further information on specific cases on request by Members.

Resolved, "That the lists be noted on the minutes."

A7. Shaw's Brow Car Park – Car Boot Sales

The Committee considered a report by the Town Centre Manager proposing the promotion of charity Car Boot Sales in Level 3 of Shaw's Brow Car Park on one Sunday per month for a three-month trial period.

It was noted that usage of the Car Park at weekends was low, and the intention was to create a focal point on some Sundays drawing attention to the proximity of the Car Park to the shopping area, and so increase both car park use and footfall in the Town Centre at weekends.

Event Management Solutions would be funded by the Douglas Development Partnership to organise barriers and signage, etc. and to oversee the events. It was proposed that for the trial period the sales be organised by, and for the benefit of, the Mayor's Charity. If the trial was successful and the practice was to continue, applications would be invited from other charities.

Members expressed some concern that only non-commercial stallholders should be permitted, so as to avoid any conflict with retailers in the Town, and over how vehicles would be dealt with that had been parked overnight. The Town Centre Manager confirmed that these and other detail issues would be addressed in the detailed organisation if the Committee were to give its approval.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes and that approval be given, on a three-month trial basis, for the promotion of car boot sales in Level 3 of Shaw's Brow Car Park, such events to take place on the last Sunday in the month beginning in January 2014."

A8. Gateway signs

The Committee considered a report by the Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager on Gateway Signs produced by the Royal British Legion, which had been seen at the Parkex, Traffex and Street Design Exhibition in Birmingham in April.

The signs were produced on Dibond sheeting and could feature any photograph and message. Designs used in Kent and Rochester were submitted as examples.

Members questioned whether it was intended to replace the existing "Welcome to Douglas" gateway signs and the Chairman explained that the proposal was to install these new signs in addition to them rather than instead of them.

While the report recommended that the Executive Committee be asked to approve expenditure for nine signs from the General Revenue Reserves, Members felt it prudent to seek a sample before any firm decision was reached. The Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager advised that a small sample could be produced for a cost of £30.00.

Resolved, "That consideration of the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee and that in the meantime a small sample be obtained, showing a photograph of Douglas Town Hall with the legend 'Douglas; Capital of the Isle of Man'."

A9. Items for Future Consideration

The Committee noted a report listing a number of items as the subjects of reports for future consideration.

In relation to the report on the "Big Tidy-Up," Members queried whether the event was to go ahead at the end of September as usual. The Chairman advised that with other issues taking precedence within the Waste Management Section it had not been practicable to put arrangements in place. However consideration would be given to it taking place in March or April 2014, before the start of the summer season.

A10. Adjournment and Resumption of Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11.30am and resumed at 11.45am with the following Members present:

Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl (Chairman), the Mayor, Councillors Mesdames C.A. Corlett, S.D.A. Hackman.

Officers in attendance were: the Assistant Town Clerk, Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager, Senior Accountancy Officer, Building Control Manager, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

A11. Friends of the Earth and Zero Waste Mann

Mr P. Corlett of the Isle of Man Branch of Friends of the Earth and Mrs M. Garland of Zero Waste Mann, attended the meeting to discuss means of engaging public interest in recycling of waste. There was a wide discussion about the need to recycle more material to reduce waste disposal costs.

The Chairman referred to the possibility of stickers being attached to domestic wheeled bins to dissuade users from placing in them any recyclable materials. Mr Corlett was supportive of the idea and offered to produce copy for the stickers. He also suggested that drawing ratepayers' attention to the costs of waste disposal through the Energy from Waste Plant, and the consequent savings if more recycling were to take place, might make a more effective argument than relying solely on the argument of environmental benefits.

There was discussion over how the message should be styled, the design of the stickers, and how they should be attached. Mr Corlett undertook to liaise with the Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager who would report back to the next meeting with detailed proposals, a mock-up version and costs.

There was also a consensus view that the message would be more effective if backed up by an encouraging press release at the same time as they are attached to bins.

Mr Corlett advised that if Friends of the Earth or Zero Waste Mann were to make some financial contribution to the provision of stickers, then it would be expected that their logos would be attached as well as the Council's crest.

Resolved, "That Mr Corlett and Mrs Garland be thanked for their attendance and information and that the matter be further considered at the next meeting of the Committee when further detail will be available on costs and design of the proposed stickers."

PART B –

Matters requiring Executive Committee approval

There were no matters requiring Executive Committee approval.

PART C –

Matters requiring Council approval

There were no matters requiring Council approval.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm.