



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

14th October, 2020

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 14th day of OCTOBER, 2020, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

MR COUNCILLOR JONATHAN JOUGHIN, JP

Councillors

Mrs H. Callow

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mrs R. Chatel

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Mr D.W. Christian, MBE, JP

Mrs C.E. Crawley

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr F. Horning

Mr R.H. McNicholl

Mr J.E. Skinner

Ms K. Angela

Mrs E.C. Quirk

Ms J. Thommeny

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron.

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Environment and Regeneration and the Director of Housing and Property were in attendance.

1. **Minutes – 12th August, 2020**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 12th August, 2020, were approved and signed.

2. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

How many members of staff employed by Douglas Borough Council are paid less than the “Isle of Man Living Wage”?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

There are currently two apprentices employed by the Council who are paid at rates less than the Manx Living Wage. These employees are paid at rates set by the Isle of Man Government according to their relevant trade.

3. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

Who engaged the entertainers that performed on North Quay during the recent evening road closures?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

They were engaged by the Town Centre Management Team from among those on the buskers register which that Section maintains.

Supplementary Question:

On what terms were the entertainers on North Quay engaged, what was the total cost of entertainment, and what was the total cost to the Council for the recent partial pedestrianisation during the North Quay road closures?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

The information is not immediately available but will be collated and circulated to all Members.

4. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

Is “Zoom” considered to be the best App (medium) currently available by which to conduct “virtual” meetings in the event of a second spike of coronavirus occurring resulting in another lockdown situation?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

Council staff participate in the use of a wide range of video conferencing applications on a regular basis. Popular market leaders include suppliers such as Skype, WebEx, Teams and Zoom. During the first Covid 19 wave Zoom performed excellently under the global pressure on such platforms as demand on their services dramatically increased and it proved itself to be extremely reliable and user friendly. Zoom is our current platform for hosting meetings, it has a cost effect payment plan, our staff are practiced in using it, and Members of the Council have also used it to good effect. Guidance by the National Cyber Security Centre on the use of video conference applications including Zoom is being monitored. Future alternatives are always under consideration balancing cost, usability and security.

5. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

When was the new promenade lighting scheme which involved the removal of the festoon lights first made public?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

The principle of replacement of the Promenade lighting was approved by the Council on 13th January, 2016, when a brief was noted and adopted and Thorn Lighting appointed as supplier. In July, 2016, the Council approved the submission of a petition for borrowing powers for the scheme which included greater detail. On both occasions, and several more since when the matter has been considered in public Council meetings, the Council was aware that the scheme entailed removal of the festoon lighting. The column style selected by the Council in 2016 and currently being installed is not designed to support the additional loading of festoon lighting.

Supplementary Question:

Does the Leader believe sufficient information has been made public as to why the festoon lighting will not be put back up on Douglas Promenade?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

I welcome this supplementary Mr Mayor because I think that more than enough information has been put into the public domain regarding the festoon lighting on Douglas Promenade. As the original answer states, it is over three years since this Council made the decision to put up the new lighting scheme and remove the festoon, it has been discussed in public and in Council on numerous occasions and has been reported on in both the radio and in written press statements.

We are all aware of the petition that has been circulating and I am well aware of the emails I have been bombarded with from the person who is behind the petition, apparently on the radio last week the individual went back on again to state that I had not responded to his emails, I have responded to all his emails except for the last one Mr Mayor because his last one followed a very comprehensive press release that I put out regarding the festoon lighting and I will quote from some of that "The festoon lighting was manufactured according to the spacing and placement of the original Promenade columns, each section of the festoon was specific to the two columns between which the festoon was suspended. The new columns which meet modern day standards are spaced differently and the existing festoon will not fit, joining sections in this environment is not recommended and will remove the warranty of the new columns. The new columns are built to purpose and have been designed in terms of loading for banners, hanging baskets and the two lanterns; the main road lantern and the back lantern." This press release had a load of specific points in it and was made public. The gentleman who is doing the petition came back the same night demanding to know where was one and a half miles of the festoon lighting which could go down one side of the Promenade, how simple can I make it that these columns are not designed for festoon lighting and the festoon lighting is not going back up again. So there has been more than adequate information in the public domain for a long period of time before some of these people suddenly woke up to the fact that the festoon wasn't going back. Some of the comments on social media have been extremely offensive, I believe, of both myself and of the professional staff that we employ who advise us as elected Members in relation to lighting.

The lighting was designed by Thorn Electrical in the UK, one of the leading suppliers in this type of lighting but still this was being questioned. When the petition comes in it will be dealt with in the normal manner but there is no more information that this Council can put out regarding the new lighting scheme. It is there, it is in the public domain and it is on our website. These new columns are not designed for festoon lighting, the festoon lighting will not be going back up. We have used elements of in on North Quay and in Summerhill Glen. There is more than adequate information out there for those that want to hear it Thank you Mr Mayor.

6. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

- (a) *Following the cancellation of this year's Fireworks Display due to ongoing works on Douglas Promenade, what arrangements have been made to ensure that the Remembrance Sunday Wreath Laying at the War Memorial can go ahead?*
- (b) *Can an assurance be given that following the conclusion of the current Promenade Walkway traffic diversion in the close proximity of the War Memorial that an inspection will be carried out to check the structural stability of both the memorial and its immediate surroundings including the Sea Wall?*

Reply the Leader of the Council:

- (a) *Arrangements are being worked on for the Remembrance Sunday event which is currently planned to go ahead without the parade from the Church to the War Memorial and with a revised layout around the Memorial area. The usual road closure has been applied for so that vehicular traffic will be stopped and the wreath laying can take place with its usual dignity.*
- (b) *The War Memorial is regularly inspected for stability and maintenance purposes. The sea wall is the responsibility of the Department of Infrastructure, which will be asked to look at the structure, particularly in the Harris Promenade area, both during and on completion of the works.*

7. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley

Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley asked the Leader of the Council:

With the election of two new members to the Council on Thursday 15th October will the new members be given positions on the three policy committees to ensure equal representation for the residents of Derby Ward?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

There are currently no vacancies in Membership of any of the Committees, and all have their allocated number of Members under the current Constitution. Whether any Member will resign from a Committee to create a vacancy is a matter for each Member to decide upon. However the filling of any vacancy so created would be through the normal process and not by automatic appointment of one of the newly-elected Members.

8. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley

Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley asked the Leader of the Council:

What is the approximate cost to the rate payer of holding a by-election in Derby Ward?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

£6,000 covers the costs of advertising, poll cards, printing, hire of the polling stations, and staffing on the day of the bye election. There will be a number of incidental, more minor, costs incurred in addition. This includes staffing resources for the election itself, and preparation.

Supplementary Question:

How many meetings will the new Members attend in return for this £6,000 expenditure?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

Six regular Council meetings, and at least one Special Council meeting. And if any Committee vacancies arise during the remainder of the term, these Members will be considered for appointment.

9. Executive Committee – 25th September, 2020 – Clauses A1 to A13

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A13 inclusive of report of meeting held on Friday, 25th September, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

10. Executive Committee – 25th September, 2020 – Clause C14

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C14 of report of meeting held on Friday, 25th September, 2020, be received, approved and adopted by the Council”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

11. Pensions Committee – 9th September, 2020

Motion moved by Councillor Ms K. Angela, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 9th September, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

12. Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 6th August, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in report of special meeting held on Thursday, 6th August, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

13. Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 18th August, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in report of special meeting held on Tuesday, 18th August, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

14. Housing Committee – 16th September, 2020

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.E. Crawley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 16th September, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

15. Regeneration and Community Committee – 13th August, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Callow, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of special meeting held on Thursday, 13th August, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Councillor Ms K. Angela was not present for the following vote.

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

16. Regeneration and Community Committee – 15th September, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Callow, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 15th September, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

17. Environmental Services Committee – 14th September, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 14th September, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

18. Appointment of Deputy Mayor

The Worshipful the Mayor appointed Councillor Ms J. Thommeny to act as Deputy Mayor and signified the appointment to the Council in the following terms:

“In pursuance of Schedule 2 of the Local Elections Act 1986, as substituted by the Douglas Corporation Act 1988, I hereby appoint Councillor Ms J. Thommeny to act as Deputy Mayor during my illness or absence.”

That the appointment as Deputy Mayor of Councillor Ms J. Thommeny be recorded on the minutes.

The Worshipful the Mayor informed the Council that Councillor Miss N.A. Byron will act as Deputy Mayoress.

19. Adjournment and Resumption

The meeting adjourned at 4.07pm and resumed at 4.25pm with the same Members and officers present.

IN PRIVATE

20. Executive Committee – 25th September, 2020 – Clauses A1 to A8

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A8 inclusive of private report of meeting held on Friday, 25th September, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

21. Executive Committee – 25th September, 2020 – Clause C9

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C9 of private report of meeting held on Friday, 25th September, 2020, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

22. Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 6th August, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in private report of special meeting held on Thursday, 6th August, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

23. Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 18th August, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in private report of special meeting held on Tuesday, 18th August, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

24. Regeneration and Community Committee – 15th September, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Callow, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 15th September, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

25. Environmental Services Committee – 14th September, 2020 – Clause A4

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985 Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clause A4 of private report of meeting held on Monday, 14th September, 2020, be received by the Council.”

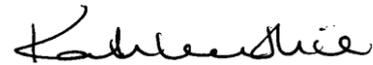
Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

26. Environmental Services Committee – 14th September, 2020 – Clauses A1 to A3, A5 and B6

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A3, A5 and B6 inclusive of private report of meeting held on Monday, 14th September, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Council rose at 5.25pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive