

As the commissioners were unable to hold a meeting in April (02.04.20), the clerk prepared a list of all correspondence received and circulated this to the Commissioners. Comments (if given) are shown below each item

Public

Isle of Man Government

Treasury/Local Government Unit – Last week I was contacted by Treasury via Douglas Borough Council, asking me to prepare a cash flow statement to see how our money would last in 3 scenarios. No further money – reduce money received – money received as normal. I did undertake this exercise and submit the information. We have since been advised by Treasury via LGU that we will receive our rates as normal and will have 80% of our rates by July. The only issue I can see round this is the point that NPRCB require us to pay in full their Refuse Rates by 31st July. Under the circumstances maybe this can be delayed in 20-21 financial year.

Mr Radcliffe – consider what amount to pay nearer the time (July 31st 2020)

Mr Teare – Pay pro rata. If we have received 80% of refuse rates from Treasury, pay this over to NPRCB

Local Government Unit –

answer to election query in relation to Certifying persons.

Confirmation (copy of Emergency Powers (Local Elections) Regulations 2020) elections are cancelled until 22nd April 2021. Every person who is currently a member of a local authority remains in office until 1 May 2021, unless he or she earlier vacates office.

**No action required as election cancelled, but are you all happy to continue for now?
All members have advised they are happy to continue.**

Mr Teare enquired what might happen in the event that someone did stand down, would the LA continue to function with a reduced number?

Treasury confirmation of properties added to our rates list. (advised previously)

DOI

Letter from Ray Harmer – MHK – outlining what LA's are doing during the Covid 19 outbreak. Local elections cancelled – support offered by LA's to communities – waste collection appreciated

Waste Management advising closure of CA sites and that Bring Banks no longer being serviced. I have put a notice on the board to this effect and also put information on our website news page.
Mr Teare suggested we advise people not to put more unnecessary waste into their bins.

Highways

Copy of confirmation for road closure to enable us to carry out work through the narrow section of the Tholt y Wil road. Clear debris from edge of roadside (we did not have this road swept last year due to the volume of water gathered) I thought this would be a good time to undertake the work, but I am waiting for confirmation from the Cabinet office that it is alright for our contractor to undertake this work due to restrictions on who can and cannot work. I wanted to check to make sure that any insurance would not be null and void under these circumstances. Road closure

would take effect on 6,7,8 April 9.30am to 4.30pm – signs are out to advise motorists and letters sent to advise residents.

NTLGM all cancelled until further notice – any ideas we may have can be submitted to Andrea Hawley, but all other road defects etc still need to be reported via “report a problem”

DEFA reminder of hedge cutting period

Manx Utilities

Further information regarding clocks on our street lights.

Street lighting Covid 19 update – outlining that MUA will only be undertaking repairs that are reported. MUA have suspended street light inspections and maintenance activities until further notice.

Ramsey Town Commissioners – VE Day 75 – You asked me to find out what Ramsey are doing for this event. They have advised they intend to hold a street party. This was advised prior to the current situation regarding Covid 19, so I guess this will not go ahead.

Chris Morton – seeking street vendor licence to operate mobile deli and pizza. - consider after covid 19 sorted.

Paul Quayle – his comments in relation to the planning application at Cronk Aalin (two new agricultural buildings) He has sent a similar email to planning outlining his concerns. **Mr Teare commented that he had spoken to Paul Quayle who is very much concerned about this road.**

Future Meetings

The date for our next meeting (AGM) needs to be agreed and must be held during May 2020. This may be held remotely. We still need to decide how this will happen.

Mr Radcliffe suggests we wait until the end of April and visit this situation again before deciding how we will proceed with our meetings. Mr Teare is happy to hold a distanced meeting in the hall as is Mr Brew, Mrs Radcliffe and Mrs Quane. If we decide to hold a meeting remotely, Mrs Quane would like us to have a practice run. Further meetings would need to be quarterly.

Further information has since been received from LGU, advising that legislation may be changed which would allow all meetings to be postponed, this would include our AGM.

As the commissioners were unable to hold a meeting in May (07.05.20), the clerk prepared a list of all correspondence received and circulated this to the Commissioners. Comments (if given) are shown below each item

Public

Isle of Man Government

Leaflets from Government regarding Covid 19 etc (you may have received these at home too)

Local Government Unit

Future meetings - Email received outlining 3 options (already shared with you all)

1. Carry on with meetings happening in person
2. Hold meetings over other formats (such as video or teleconferencing) so that you don't have to physically meet
3. Postpone meetings until the current restrictions are lifted

I have chased up the department to see how they are progressing changes to legislation, allowing meetings to be postponed.

If meetings are not postponed, we will need to figure out how we will hold a meeting.

I have now received further feedback from Steve Willoughby of the Local Government Unit.

In terms of local authority meetings the Regulations are not likely to differ in any way to the information provided by email below.

The Regulations are intended to give the legal backing to Local Authorities (giving more options) to allow your authority to determine what they feel is the best way to proceed in relation to meetings over the next few weeks or so. You will be able to postpone the AGM meeting and leave the current appointments, chairman, vice chairman, memberships of boards, and committees in place until a later date or hold the meeting by video conferencing or some like manner or even where its determined to do so hold physical meetings (as long as of course that the Authority satisfies itself that they are in compliance with any broader regulations re gatherings and social distancing). These new emergency regulations should give you the flexibility to make those decisions. The finer details will be included in the Regulations.

As soon as we can I will make sure the Regulations are sent to all the Authorities. In the meantime you may wish to think about what is the best course of action for your authority based on the proposed regulations.

I have now received further feedback (Friday 1st May 20)

As you are aware the Department has been seeking to introduce Emergency Powers (Regulations) to assist Local Authorities during this Coronavirus Proclamation Period which would cover issues such as what happens if Annual Meetings cannot take place in May and also at issues such as appointments to Boards and Committees, virtual meetings and how to deal with any casual vacancies which may occur over the coming weeks.

Unfortunately there have been unavoidable delays in finalising these by the end of April as we had planned.

Therefore as today is the 1st May and LAs will be planning their Annual meetings (as set out in Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 1985) the Department wish to advise that all Local Authorities consider very carefully whether they feel that they can undertake these meetings safely and in line with Government regulations and guidance. If there is any doubt that this cannot at this time be achieved we advise that your authorities look to postpone any AGM until at the earliest the latter part of May by which point we hope to have the regulations in place.

If you have any initial concerns following this email can I ask that you respond to this email ASAP so we can look to assist further?

I THINK WE SHOULD FIX A DATE WHEN WE MAKE A DECISION OF HOW TO HOLD OUR MEETING IN THE EVENT THAT THIS LEGISLATION DOES NOT GO THROUGH.

At this time the matter of holding an AGM before the end of May was considered (as per the rules) which we would arrange if the regulations were not in place as mentioned above.

Covid 19 – Waste Management – advice and contingency plans

March 24th, DOI bring banks and CA sites all closed. - *These have since re-opened on a limited basis with types of materials being accepted reduced. (This varies from site to site)*

Personal waste – *already advised on our website (this is mainly in relation to people recovering from Covid 19 and how to safely dispose of their waste, also information of the safe collection of refuse for those providing that service.*

Maintenance of Green Spaces – Government advise they are only undertaking urgent maintenance on priority and key sites. They also suggest visibility splays (hedge cutting) could be undertaken.

As part of the lock down has now been lifted, we could undertake some of our local services as and when required.

Vikki Vikki emailed me and asked me to post information re CA sites and Bring Banks that she had seen on Garff's facebook page. *I had already put this information onto our website and also the Sulby Community Facebook page.*

Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance They are offering further training in relation to GDPR. *I would really like to attend this to expand my very limited knowledge. The course has been postponed for the time being. A future date will be advised as some point.*

Manx Utilities

Previously advised that our street lighting up times may not be updated where they required manual adjustment. We have since been advised that following a review of the work practises and additional precautions of Covid 19, MUA were able to update street lighting clocks across the network to align with current BST on Friday 3rd April 2020.

Email received from Hilary Peterson – Visit Agency for Non-Serviced Accommodation Sector Representative – seeking information from the sector to support any business case. They are gathering evidence to present to the appropriate business case seeking a scheme to change or additional funds where appropriate in respect of our sectors.

I explained that we are a local authority, but offer our hall as a hostel (registered with Tourism). We will be effected by the lock down as our hall will not be in use and that the income lost equates to a 5p in the pound on the rates. I provided information of our lost hostel booking for this financial year and also explained the lost bookings from the community not using our hall for events, clubs, parties etc. I got the impression that what we offer was not part of any support package offered by the government, but by gathering information from this area (Non-Serviced Accommodation) a case could be made.

Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board

Advising swimming pools closed and after discussions with the OHR and Industrial Relations they are in a position to have staff available for redeployment to Local Commissioning bodies as well as Government Departments, working together for the IOM. Staff being redeployed will continue to be paid by the Board, but would need to be covered by our own Employers Liability Insurance. If we require any additional staff we have to contact the pool manager.

We do not require this help, but the offer will I'm sure be a great help to others.

Tim Baker update on various highway issues -

Claddagh Road Drainage ditch outside and between Allandale Farm and Allandale House (new bungalow) Apparently Alan Hardinge is waiting for an update from his team and will advise further information to us. (this goes back to 2017 and if you all recall we discussed it further at the meeting Alan attended here with us, November 18) Just to update you further I had a call from Linda Thompson of Allandale Farm last Friday. She had called and left a message to advise that as no one had carried out maintenance to the ditch she had cleared it out herself but was unable to take the debris away. I immediately called Alan Hardinge and explained that he had advised at our meeting that the ditch was to be maintained by DOI and that Linda had cleaned it herself. I was not prepared to use our contractor to sweep up the debris and it was their responsibility. He promised to send a sweeper and I would call him again in a week to see what plans he had in place for the ongoing maintenance of the ditch. The road was swept on Friday afternoon.

Dhoor Lane Logged for patching, but Tim has expressed the view that a more fundamental piece of work is required.

He further advised about **Glen Auldyn Road** (not raised by us) Finally, MUA and Highways are discussing a co-ordinated approach to the Glen Auldyn road, which is in a poor state but also needs water mains replacement in due course (no date for this yet). This work needs co-ordinating as there is no point resurfacing the road only for it to be dug up subsequently!

Henry Bloom Noble Library

Offering for residents to join the library for free. *I have put this information onto our website and also posted it on the Sulby Community facebook page.*

Isle of Man Bank

Offering financial assistance – capital repayment holidays (*we have no loans with IOM bank*)
Temporary emergency loans – *we have been advised by Treasury that we will receive 80% of our rates as normal. We may at some point in the future need a small amount of borrowing, but this will depend on what further rates are received from treasury (rate payers in the community) We may have to undertake cash flow forecasts to see how we are performing.*

Manx Radio

Advising that Ewan Gawn is stepping down from his role of Local Democracy Reported to become Manx Radio's Deputy Editor. His role is being taken over by Aaron Ibenez for the time being.

As the commissioners were unable to hold a meeting in June (04.06.20), the clerk prepared a list of all correspondence received and circulated this to the Commissioners. Comments (if given) are shown below each item

Public

Tynwald Day 2020 – Tynwald Admin Officer – advising Tynwald Ceremony will not take place at St John's on 6th July. Essential elements will be maintained – promulgation and captioning of acts, swearing of Coroners and presentation of petitions. To comply with social distancing no church service before the procession, with much of the pageantry not possible, Reduction in the numbers taking part in the ceremony with no grandstand. Further advises no Tynwald Garden Party either.

Isle of Man Government

Department of Infrastructure

Local Government Unit (LGU)

Various emails received from the LGU giving advice under Emergency Powers and how this has impacted Local Authorities holding meetings etc. Eventual outcome was that meetings are not necessary and can be postponed during the Coronavirus Proclamation Period. **The members agreed to postpone meetings which would be resumed once the Proclamation Period ceases.**

Public Estates and Housing

Housing Strategy – advising next steps for the strategy asking for responses on 6 principles. - Circulated to all – Comments required by noon 12th June. Circulated by email and hard copy. *If you have any comments could I please have them by Thursday 11th June, so that I can collate them and send in.*

Highways

Road Traffic Regulation (weight restriction) Order 2020 – vehicles over 3.5 tonnes various roads but including A14 Tholt y Wil Road (Creggans Hill) between its junction with the Sulby Dam access road and a point 33 metres west of the Tholt y Wil Bridge.

Narrow section of Tholt y Wil Road – by waterwork building as advised in last months list I reported issues raised by our contractor. Photographs were sent to DOI. Receipt acknowledged by DOI and subsequently a visit has taken place by their engineer. No feedback received yet as to what work has been carried out. (I will chase this up.)

Refuse Vehicle issue Glen Auldyn turning area (top of lane after turning right over the bridge at Glen Auldyn Chapel). Advised to you all on 13th May. Have since received information from DOI of a new sign (possibly 2) to be erected in the area. It was also suggested that we tidy up the area, but I have not received feedback from everyone. Arthur suggested we allow 1 hour to tidy the area.

Department of Home Affairs

Withdrawal of all island early warning sirens. *Minister Cregeen has spoken about this on the news.*

Department of Environment Food and Agriculture

Bathing Water Consultation – (Circulated earlier this week) comments required by 14th July.

Road Traffic Licensing Committee No 16 - 5th May 20 I raised and shared with you all 1 item on this in connection with Crossags Farm. I did submit our concerns (rather than an objection). This has now been approved. *(I am making some enquiries regarding this approval as the applicant needs to provide proof that parking the vehicle on this site is compliant with the Town and Country Planning Act. Feedback received from RTLC has advised that the applicant has until January 2024 to provide this, which seems ridiculous.)*

Department for Enterprise – Tourism – 08.05.20 clarifying resident stays – all tourist accommodation currently closed.

Manx Utilities

Public Lighting mainenance contract 20-21 to be signed (Arthur I have left this with you to sign please) Mr Radcliffe signed this and the clerk returned to MUA.

Customer Support Covid-19 - Leaflet advising online services available

Confirmation received advising that our street lights have been inspected as per our contract. (*I had queried this when the maintenance invoice received*)

Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board – Information provided showing attendance by our member.

Manx Radio – advising new Local Democracy Reporter – Aaron Ibanez – seeking inclusion in our mailing list for agendas, minutes and any other items we deem relevant.

Gaynor Evans – Tree and high hedges complaint received – as we do not deal with this matter I have passed this onto Peter Whiteway of Ramsey Town Commissioners. I did acknowledge receipt of this and advised it would be passed to RTC.

Enquiry from Mrs McNally re keeping Chickens – This was circulated on 13th May. Feedback please.

Rosie Christian – advising her intention to add retail to her approved planning at the Sulby Glen Hotel to allow her to continue the shop on the premises.