

**Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Commissioners**

**Date:** 01 September 2025

**Time:** 19:00

**Location:** Castletown Town Hall

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**Present:** Full Board except Alan Leonard

**Also in Attendance:** Colin Meakin - Temporary Deputy Clerk.

**Apologies:** Hugo Mackenzie – Town Clerk, Mr Leonard

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**PS/026 – Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was opened by **Mr Brown, Chairman.**

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**PS/027**

The Chairman paid tribute to Mr Paul Kennaugh.

Mr Paul Kennaugh was a successful businessman and was first elected to serve as a Castletown Town Commissioner in 2004 when he was elected at a Bye-election on 9 August.

In 2006, Mr Kennaugh was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board and was elected its Chairman in 2007.

At the 2008 Commissioners election, Mr Kennaugh was re-elected by the people of Castletown to serve a further four-year term as a Commissioner, after which he stepped down.

Paul, who served the Town with integrity and dedication, was a pleasant and friendly person who made a valuable contribution to our Town and its future.

Paul was also famous for his drum playing with the group 'Green Ginger'. This was especially so for his fantastic drum solo playing which was legendary at the dances he performed at.

Paul will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He was a great guy.

On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere condolences to his son Sam and to all his family and friends.

Paul's funeral will take place at 10.45am on 12 September 2025 at the Crematorium in Douglas.

May I now ask those who can, to please stand for a moment, as we remember our friend, Mr Paul Kennaugh, former member of the Castletown Town Commissioners.

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**PS/028**

All members in attendance declared that they had no interests in any matter to be raised on the agenda.

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## **PS/029 – Approval of Minutes held on 4 August 2025 as a correct record**

Proposed **CQ**  
Seconded **WFG** and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of a Meeting held on 4 August 2025 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

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## **PS/030 – Business out of the same**

None

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## **PS/031 – Business required by statute**

None

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## **PS/032 – Reports**

Reports and recommendations presented by the Chairman of each Committee of the Board were read and noted.

### **1. Business, Development and Finance Committee**

JJC reported that there was nothing to report this month.

### **2. Infrastructure Committee**

- A. MPP reported that plans for the former Barclays Bank premises owned by the Manx National Heritage would be considered later in the meeting.
- B. Regarding the School Hill project, snagging needed to be rectified by the Developers. The Architects were to be chased to get Phase 2 commenced.
- C. The Board had discussed the Works Depot to be sited at School Hill with the appointed Architects.
- D. The Committee had commenced on compiling an index of all car parks and parking spaces and would come up with an overall plan for parking.

### **3. Leisure Committee**

- A. The films at 2pm have proved popular in the square. It is unfortunate that the wind interrupted the programme this last week.
  - B. The 2-day music festival was a huge success and we hope to make this an annual event.
  - C. Castletown band concerts have been very popular in the square and especially with the visiting Friesland Brass Band from Saddleworth near Oldham. It was a lovely afternoon and a joy to hear their performance of Manx tunes they had learnt especially for their visit to the Island.
  - D. Yesterday saw Ellan Vannin Pipes and Drums perform in the square. They drew a decent crowd on a dry but windy day. They will be back next Sunday along with Skeddán Jiarg Manx Dancers.
  - E. The Leisure Committee would like to place on record our grateful thanks to the Domestic Event Fund and Bushyvision without whose support we could not do what we do.
  - F. Work is in progress for the Christmas lights switch on which is 29 November 2025 and we are awaiting the final plans for the bowling green play park and will update the public accordingly.
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## S/033 – Chairman’s Report

1. As I have reported previously, one of the first actions the new Board of Commissioners undertook was to initiate a meeting with the Chairman and the Chief Officer of Manx National Heritage. The meeting was held on 27 May 2025 and, as I reported, it was a very positive meeting. At that meeting, MNH provided the Commissioners with a confidential briefing relating to their proposal to invest MNH funds to open a facility for MNH within the former Barclays Bank building located in the Market Square. The Commissioners welcomed this commitment and looked forward to it being progressed.

Last week, MNH announced they were now progressing their proposals which the Commissioners are delighted to support as it will provide a much needed and valuable public facility with Castletown in an important and historic building.

This project by MNH is great news for our town and shows a clear commitment by MNH to use their charitable resources to provide a new and exciting MNH facility with the heart of our historic town which will enhance our Manx culture.

Now we need a **real**, long overdue and clear commitment and financial investment from Tynwald Court and from Government to invest in our Manx heritage located within Castletown, the former historic Capital of Mann.

The world-famous and unique yacht, the Peggy, was removed over **10 years ago** from its historic home in Castletown **being** within the Nautical Museum. It now lies in a warehouse in Braddan.

Whilst MNH have now developed plans to enable Peggy’s return and for the much-needed refurbishment of the Nautical Museum to depict the Islands unique nautical heritage, Government continues to refuse to support and invest in this important heritage project. As the Commissioners understand it, MNH have secured, subject to Government investment being forthcoming, some £3m from the private sector. Government continues to refuse to support such a proposal.

It is considerable disappointment to the town that over the last ten years the MHK’s who represent our town have achieved nothing meaningful to secure Government and Tynwald Court financial support for the return of the Peggy to Castletown, nor for the refurbishment and upgrading of the Island’s only Nautical Museum, despite local representation and being aware of Governments refusal to invest and support our Island’s heritage.

2. The Commissioners Public Consultation document on the Commissioners proposals for utilising the Market Square and the pedestrianised streets to benefit the Town has now concluded.

The Commissioners are very pleased to have received the amount of public interest in this important issue for our Town. The **35** written comments received from the public will now all be considered by the Board of Commissioners who will subsequently report on their final decisions relating to the proposals that were set out in our Public Consultation Document which we issued on 14 July 2025 and ran for six weeks.



May I thank all who contributed for taking the time to write to the Commissioners setting out their views which they hope to have operational from early 2026.

Finally, I would **remind** the public that under the terms of the current Road Closure Order affecting the Market Square as was agreed by the previous Board of Commissioners, the Market Square **will re-open to vehicles** for parking as from the last day of September 2025, **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>**.

3. I would congratulate all involved in the Music Festival held in the Market Square on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025 which was a resounding success bringing pleasure to many within our Island community. I would specifically congratulate the Chair and members of the Commissioners Leisure Committee who organised and managed the event and also to our staff. Many thanks go to the DOE /Business IOM – 'Local Economy Fund' – for assisting the Commissioners with financial support and the team who put together the acts.

Thanks also to the Police and Stewards and everyone else who did their bit to ensure a successful and pleasurable weekend in Castletown.

4. The Commissioners have initiated works to improve the appearance of many items of street furniture around the Town by having such repainted. Thanks also to Bus Vannin for securing the repainting of the South Bound bus shelter located in the Parade. All this work has enhanced the appearance of our Town.
5. The Commissioners initiated at the beginning of the summer a programme of maintenance of the children's play equipment including repainting, replacement and, where necessary, the removal of deficient equipment. The work to refurbish the Bowling Green play area is ongoing.

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**PS/034 – Written Questions (Standing Order 5(i)) put by a member to be answered by the Chairman of the Board or the Chairman of Committee.**

None

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**PS/035 Financial Report**

None this month

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**PS/036 – Consideration given to an email** from Mr R H Bedford requesting that the Board consider his suggestion to erect the statue of King Orry on the top of the Smelt Monument.

Mr Bedford stated that for 188 years Castletown had been embarrassed by not having had a statue on top of the Smelt Column which dominates the Market Square/Parade area.

Manx National Heritage objected to the erection of a new statue where it would degrade the green surroundings of Tynwald Hill.



**Proposal: JAB**

**Seconded: JJC** and unanimously agreed that the matter be referred to the Leisure Committee to investigate and come back with recommendations at the next Board Meeting.

### **PS/037**

Consideration given to a matter which had been discussed and approved at a Board in Committee Meeting regarding parking on Victoria Road. This approval was to inform the residents that DOI (Highways) had been written to and requested that the following parking restrictions be implemented as soon as possible due to the congestion being experienced daily on what was a major thoroughfare in and out of the Town.

**It is proposed** that a single yellow line, or a single broken yellow line, be set down running from the double yellow lines near the the Apostles Bridge to the Douglas bound bus stop and that provision be made to permit parking to take place during school term periods in this as follows:

Monday to Friday inclusive from 8.30am to 9.30am and from 3.00pm to 4.00pm.

That outside of the above times **No Parking** be permitted at any time.

This will make the area safer and enable parents to drop off and collect their children from the Primary School during school term time.

It is proposed that in the interim, provision be made to set out 'No Parking' cones along this section of highway.

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### **PS/038 – Notices of Motion (Standing Order 5(1)(L))**

None

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### **PS/039**

Consideration given to a planning application submitted by Manx National Heritage to carry out alterations and change of use for 1 Market Square (former Barclays Bank).

**Proposed: JJC**

**Seconded: CQ** and unanimously agreed that no objections be raised to the proposals and that the Board fully supported the application.

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### **PS/040**

The Chairman invited questions from the members of the public attending the meeting.

1. Mr Ludford-Brookes pointed out that parking on Farrants Way was also becoming an issue.



The Chairman pointed out that he had written three times to the DOI regarding the matter and pointed out that at times it was difficult to get off the Kissack Road junction.

It was time a DOI official be requested to meet the Board or its representatives.

2. Caroline McLaughlin enquired whether it was true that Smetana Close was to be demolished.

The Chairman stated that Smetana Close was not to be demolished. There were a number of problems with the flats and some were vacant at present. However, these had not been discussed in detail.

Caroline also enquired whether the Town Clock would be repainted.

The Chairman pointed out that it would be repainted in the near future.

3. Mr Hill-Heaton stated that the repainted bus shelter on the Parade looked good. Something needed to be done with the other shelter now.

The Chairman stated that the style of the shelter needs to be re-visited.

The original was removed due to lack of maintenance. The matter would be taken up with Bus Vannin.

Mr Hill-Heaton requested that the lift be made available for him to attend meetings as he was experiencing great difficulty in climbing the stairs. Agreed arrangements to be made.

4. Caroline McLaughlin enquired as to what was happening at School Hill as the road had been dug up.

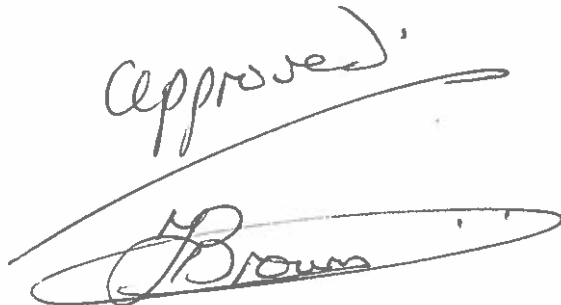
The Chairman assumed that it could possibly be to do with drainage.

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### **PS/041 – Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Board would be held at 7pm on Monday, 6 October 2025.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.45pm.

Approved,  


6<sup>th</sup> October 2025