

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Commissioners

Date: 3 November 2025

Time: 19:00

Location: Castletown Town Hall

Present: Full Board

In Attendance: Colin Meakin - Temporary Deputy Clerk

PS/057 Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting was opened by **Mr Brown OBE Chairman**

PS/058 Suspension of Standing Order 10A (1)

Proposed: JJC

Seconded: CQ and unanimously agreed that Standing Order 10A (1) regarding digital recording be suspended.

PS/059 Approval of Minutes held on 6 October 2025.

Proposed: WFG

Seconded: AL and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of a Meeting held on 6 October 2025 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

PS/060 Business out of the same

- i. With reference to Minute PS/046, the Deputy Clerk reported that the DOI Highways Division had not been back regarding the parking on Victoria Road. Agreed the Department be chased regarding the matter.
 - ii. With reference to Minute PS/055(2) it was agreed that the Leisure Committee assess whether the large deck chair was still suitable to site on the Market Square.
-

PS/061 Business required by Statute (Standing Order 5(1)d).

None.

PS/062 Reports

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



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

JJC reported that following on from last month the Commissioners' finance programmes had been stabilised.

Furthermore, it was nice to see a further retail business being extensively renovated in Malew Street.

2. **Infrastructure Committee**

MPP reported that a planning application would shortly be submitted by Hartford Homes for the development of the former Buchan School site. Hartford Homes would be holding a consultation for residents in the Foyer of the Town Hall between 3pm and 8pm on 12 November 2025.

3. **Leisure Committee**

CQ reported that:

- i. Work has been continuing regarding the Willow Lantern workshops and Christmas switch-on. All dates are on the Commissioners' website.
- ii. Various meetings have taken place between **LC** and Town organisations regarding next Summer's events in the Square.
- iii. Swings for the Bowling Green play area have been ordered and work is to hopefully start in due course.

PS/063 Chairman's Report

1. On Tuesday, 28 October 2025, myself and the Vice Chairman attended the Tynwald Chamber at 2pm, along with 16 other Local Authorities, where I gave oral evidence to the Legislative Council, on behalf of the Commissioners opposing the new Clause 5 that was approved as an amendment by the House of Keys and became part of the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023. This new Clause 5 if approved by the Legislative Council gives extensive legislative authority to the Government, which means they can, with Tynwald approval, amend ANY local government legislation by Regulation, thus avoiding the Primary Legislative process that is there to protect the public interest. It is hoped that the Legislative Council will reject the new Clause 5 or at the very least add financial safeguards into the process when a Regulation is being progressed by Government.



2. On Saturday afternoon, 1 November 2025, I had pleasure in attending The Buchan School Church Service in The Chapel of St Thomas in the grounds of King Williams's College to commemorate and celebrate 150 years of the life of the school, which was attended by His Excellency and Lady Lorimer, Lord Bishop, The Principal, Governors, staff, parents, pupils along with former pupils of the Buchan, where a new Buchan School Banner was also dedicated. The Buchan School today started a new era in its existence being totally located and being part of within King William's College. We wish the school every success as it moves forward into a new and exciting future within our Town.

3. Along with other dignitaries I also had pleasure in joining the Chairman and Trustees of the Manx Aviation and Military Museum which is located along Douglas Road which I had the pleasure as Minister of Transport in officially opening 25 years ago. This is a wonderful success story with the Museum going from strength to strength, thanks to the total dedication of the volunteers. It is a great private Museum facility reflecting the Island's involvement in World Wars. I extend our thanks to the Chairman, Trustees and volunteers for all their hard work over the last twenty-five plus years in developing a fantastic Museum we can all be proud of.

4. Representing the Town in my place, as I was officiating at the event, the Vice Chairman and Mrs Cringle joined the community as a guest at the Royal British Legion Castletown Branch annual Poppy Fund Afternoon Tea event which was held in Morton Hall, Castletown. The event was very well attended and all funds raised go towards the Poppy Appeal Fund.

I would thank the Vice Chairman and Mrs Cringle for attending in my place.

5. As we now move into the period of Remembrance, where we remember the sacrifice of so many in two World Wars and subsequent armed conflicts, especially those from our Town, I would take this opportunity to remind our community about a number of Town Community Commemorative events.

On **Friday, 7 November 2025**, there will be the annual Community Poppy Concert organised by the Royal British Legion, Castletown Branch and the Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band. The children of our Towns Primary School, Victoria Road, will be participating in the Concert which starts at 7.30pm in the Victoria Road School Hall. All funds raised go to the 2025 Poppy Fund Appeal.

As I am officiating in the event the Vice Chairman will be officially representing the Town.



Sunday, 9 November 2025 is Remembrance Sunday with a Community Church Service taking place in Arbory Street Methodist Church. The Church Service will commence at 10am. Anyone wishing to process with the Commissioners will need to be at the Town Hall before 9.40am when the official procession will depart from the Town Hall on Farrant's Way. The community are welcome to join the procession which will be led by the Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band and the Royal British Legion Standards.

I am pleased to advise that His Excellency Sir John Lorimer accompanied by Lady Lorimer will be attending the Church Service and His Excellency will lay a Wreath at the Town's War Memorial after the Service.

On **Tuesday, 11 November 2025 at 11am** an act of Remembrance will take place at the Castletown War Memorial where I will attend with the Royal British Legion, Castletown Branch, as we honour our Town's people who lost their lives in the two World Wars and the millions of people across the world who lost their lives in these two armed conflicts and subsequent armed conflicts. We will assemble at 10.50am. The community are invited to join the Commissioners and the Royal British Legion on 11 November 2025 in the Market Square.

PS/064 **Written Questions (Standing Order 5(1) put by a Member to be answered by the Chairman of the Board or the Chairman of a Committee.**

None

PS/065 Consideration given to a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Castletown Town Commissioners and Mr Tim Earl regarding 'Castletown the Bird Capital of the Isle of Man'.

Proposed: **JJC**

Seconded: **CQ** and unanimously agreed the Memorandum be approved.

Press coverage would be given at a later date.

PS/066 Consideration and approval given to the sketch design from Metalco Engineering Limited for the new gates to the middle entrance at the Bowling Green.

Metalco Limited were to be requested to commence fabrication as soon as possible.



PS/067 Letter read and noted from the Department of Infrastructure advising that under Section 51 of the Local Government Act 1985 it had approved the application of the Commissioners to borrow a sum not exceeding £13,474,568.80 over a period of 30 years to fund construction fees associated with Phase 2 of the School Hill/Westhill redevelopment scheme.

PS/068 A further letter was read and noted from the Department of Infrastructure advising that a sum not exceeding £215,000 supplementary funding had also been approved to complete Stage I3 for Phase 2 of the School Hill/Westhill redevelopment project.

PS/069 Consideration given to an email from the Cabinet Office regarding the 2026 electoral registration canvass was due to commence in January 2026.

Every Local Authority had to assist the Office in the preparation of the Register of Elections.

The proposed process would be for the Commissioners Office to accept completed paper responses or undelivered canvass packs from any person who had delivered them to the Town Hall.

Agreed no objections be raised to the proposals.

PS/070 Consideration given to an email from Manx Telecom Limited requesting to site their retail van on the Market Square one day a week to promote the introduction of fibre.

Proposed: CQ

Seconded: JJC and unanimously agreed that permission be granted one day a week (1pm to 4pm) for a month.

PS/071 Consideration given to the following planning applications:

- i. 25/90868/B Lydia Mabbot
Relocation of existing shed, replacement of two other sheds with summerhouse
Sekondi, 12 Victoria Road, Castletown.
- ii. 25/90900/B Mr and Mrs E & D Dennis
Replacement integrated kitchen and conservatory to rear elevation
Croft House, The Crofts, Castletown.



- iii. 25/90904/B Mr and Mrs A Paterson
Installation of four roof lights to rear elevation and installation of new roof
77 Malew Street, Castletown
- iv. 25/90876/B Mr and Mrs R Ranscombe
Removal of existing lean-to store, replacement of conservatory with part single story and part double story extension to rear elevation
3 Westham Lea, Castletown


Proposed: LRDW

Seconded: JJC and unanimously agreed that the Board have no objections to the proposed planning applications.

PS/072 Notice of Motion [Standing Orders 5(i) and 6]

None

PS/073 The Chairman invited questions from any resident of Castletown attending the Meeting [Standing Orders 9 and 5(i)(j)].

1.  Carol Collister reported that her daughter had been advised that if she was not in when the boiler was to be serviced, she would be charged £50. The daughter had been in touch but no date had been confirmed.

The Chairman advised that any problems should be directed to the Commissioners Office who can contact Architects regarding any latent defects.

2. Mr Alan McCulloch enquired whether the Commissioners retained a % of the contract sum to cover latent defects which needed to be resolved.

The Chairman reported that a 10% sum was withheld.

3. Helen Leigh enquired as to who was responsible for the amenity areas on the School Hill/Westhill redevelopment scheme.

The Chairman reported that after 12 months these areas transferred to the Local Authority.

Ms Leigh also stated that she was of the opinion that the proposed Works Depot at School Hill was not the ideal location near to a housing estate. She was of the opinion the Commissioners would be better acquiring a building on Balthane Estate, Ballasalla, for the purpose.

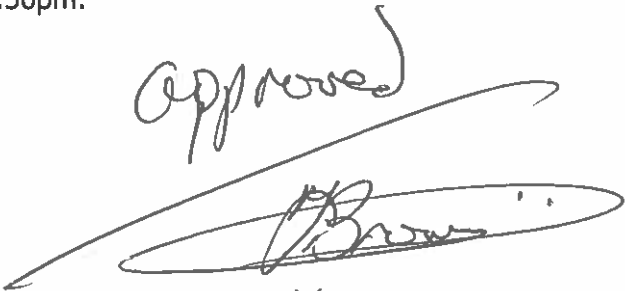
The Chairman pointed out that the Board had made a decision that the Works Depot had to be sited in Castletown and the site chosen was the best available.



4. Mr Tony Quayle reported that Manx Telecom could possibly be proposing to erect nine metre poles in Reayrt Lhean and Maynrys to provide for the fibre roll out. He requested that the Commissioners vehemently oppose any such application if submitted.

PS/073 **Date of next Meeting:** 7pm on Monday, 1 December 2025

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.50pm.

Approved

1st December 2025