

## Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Commissioners

Date: 04 August 2025

Location: Castletown Town Hall

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**Present:** Full Board except Mr Galley

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

**Apologies:** Hugo Mackenzie – Town Clerk

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### **PS/015 – Opening of Meeting**

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

Mr Chairman thanked Mr Meakin for stepping in on a temporary basis to assist the office in the absence of the Town Clerk.

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### **PS/016**

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

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### **PS/017 – Approval of minutes held on 30<sup>th</sup> June as a correct record**

Proposed **CQ**

Seconded **JJC**, and unanimous, agreed that the minutes of a meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025, be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

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### **PS/018 – Business out of the same**

1. With reference to minute **PS/013**, the Chairman reported that he hoped the situation regarding unkept areas at School Hill would be sorted shortly as contractors had been appointed to tidy the area.
  2. Regarding the opening of the Museums, it was reported that the Nautical Museum would be opened all of August.
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### **PS/019 – Reports**

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

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

- A. JJC reported that following the conclusion of the Market Square Consultation period and a final proposal put forward. This would as previously advised result in a development team being formed to compile a strategy for the area.
- B. It was reported that the backlog of submitting the Boards accounts had been cleared and that the financial year 24/25 accounts were on track to be submitted on time. How long Government would approve them remains to be seen.
- C. The Committee remains focused on recovering any monies owed to the Town and during the coming weeks, outstanding housing issues would be reviewed.

#### **2. Infrastructure Committee**

- A. The Infrastructure Committee is actively addressing maintenance and development concerns across Castletown. Contractors are being sought for park improvements, including repainting equipment at Poulson Park and grass cutting. A site walk was carried out to assess public amenities identifying further areas of improvement which will be pursued. Streetlight deterioration has been prioritised for corrective work.



- B. Operational reliability of street sweeping continues to be a challenge, with fleet review and DOI procurement policy discussions pending. Coach parking issues persist, prompting calls for improved signage and clearer traffic control.
- C. Efforts are underway to relocate the Remembrance Book to the Town Hall foyer and develop heritage signage. The Town Hall remains a venue for community events.
- D. A rolling capital investment plan is being formulated to upgrade play equipment and broader infrastructure. Storage and depot needs have been recognised and are being followed with vigour, and a unified property management approach is in development.
- E. Housing oversight discussions include enforcement of tenancy conditions, particularly around environmental health and property upkeep. Pending DOI approval, new housing regulations may be introduced to clarify responsibilities and improve standards.
- F. General maintenance services, including refuse collection and floral displays, have received positive feedback. Individual staff contributions were noted and appreciated.
- G. CCTV and webcam expansions are being explored, though funding remains a challenge. Improved government liaison and clearer representation were deemed essential.

Planning applications for small residential projects were approved, with emphasis on protecting Castletown's historic character and managing impacts.

The Committee reaffirms its commitment to sustainable development, heritage conservation, effective service delivery, and community well-being, forming the basis of long-term town resilience.

### 3. Leisure Committee

- A. CQ reported that plans were progressing in relation to the Pouslom Park and Bowling Green play areas.
- B. Swings – in the Ballalough play area had been repainted and new swing seats for Pouslom Park were on order.
- C. Librarian Mrs Teare was thanked for her continued efforts with regards to the library and the community events she runs which were open to all.
- D. The committee invited a speaker to advise on bird watching in Castletown area and the south in general. Further updates would follow in due course.
- E. The Christmas switch on for 2025 would take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Further details would follow. This years Carnival Queen had been invited to switch on the lights.
- F. A 2-day music festival to be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend has been planned with assistance from the Domestic Event Fund. Details were being finalised. Entertainers were also being invited to join in on the Market Square during weekends over the summer. Anyone wishing to use the Market Square over weekends in the summer were asked to get in touch. The committee were also hopefully arranging for films / cartoons to be shown in the Market Square where a gap could be filled in the scheduled sporting program on the big TV screen, if the licence covered same.

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### PS/020 – Chairmans report

1. The towns first Civic Service for some 8 years was held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July in Arbory Street Methodist Church. The theme was about Community, and we were blessed by wonderful hot weather. We were delighted to be joined by Commissioners from across the Island as well as, representatives of Castletown voluntary, charitable and club organisations, as we celebrated our community – our Town of which we are very proud. I would like to thank Revd Simon Archer for arranging and leading the Service, the Castletown Methodist Church, the Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band, the Standard bearers, Adele Parsons, Paul Costain and Anne Davis, all who made a valuable contribution to the service. I would also thank Castletown Women's Institute for undertaking and serving the refreshments after the service.
2. The commissioners Public Consultation document on the Commissioners proposals for utilising the Market Square and the pedestrianised streets to benefit the Town is available on the Commissioners website and from the Town Hall. The closing date for submissions, which we would welcome, is 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025.
3. Southern 100 – The Town, the Island and number visitors enjoyed a wonderful racing week during July. I would express our appreciation to all the volunteers whose commitment and hard work ensured it was a very successful friendly event. I would express a big thank you to all involved and to the sponsors in making is such an enjoyable Castletown event.
4. Under the present Market Square, Castletown (Prohibition of Vehicles) Order 2025 agreed by previous Board of Commissioners, The Market Square will re-open to vehicles on the last day of September 2025 – being Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>.
5. The Board has agreed to look to provide a plaque relating to the Large Heron Sculpture to provide information about it.

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### PS/021 – Monthly Financial Report

Consideration given to the Monthly Financial Report.

Proposed: **JJC**

Seconded **MPP** and unanimous, Agreed the invoices be approved for payment.

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### PS/022 - Correspondence

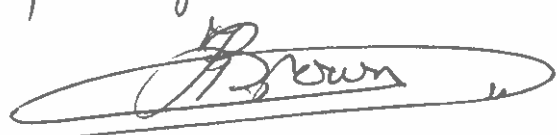
No correspondence was reviewed for consideration.

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### PS/023 – Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion were received from members.

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Approved  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  


## **PS/024 – Questions from the Public**

1. Mr Hill-Heaton enquired who owned the Millennium Clock on the Quay and whether it still plays tunes. The Chairman advised that the clock belonged to the Board and that Mr A Collister looked after it and he was aware tunes were still played. Mr Hill-Heaton also stated that the clock was looking a bit jaded and possibly in need of painting. The Chairman pointed out that a painting contractor had been arranged to re-paint the black and gold bollards in the town centre and at Smetana Close Shelter and he would be asked to look at the clock and repaint if necessary.
2. Mr Hill-Heaton stated that the shark mural in the George Lane could do with re-painting.
3. Mr Hill-Heaton stated that there could be a problem with e-bikes in the future travelling through the square and streets. The Chairman stated that it was illegal to ride bikes through these areas.
4. Caroline McLaughlin stated that people watching the Southern100 races commented on the state of School Hill, the presence of a horse and the number of vans. These vans have now been moved to Janet's Corner.

The Chairman pointed out that if the vans were left on the roads this was a highway issue. As far as he was aware, there was nothing in the legislation to prevent this and therefore a change in the law through primary legislation by Government was required. Regarding the weeds, the Chairman thought that work had been carried out / started by an appointed contractor.

School Hill Phase two housing scheme was approved two months ago but had been held up by treasury. The appointed contractor has been given permission to locate a site hut on the land.

5. Mr Ludford-Brookes enquired as to progress on the parking area survey. The Chairman reported that the Board would get on to this once the Market Square parking was sorted. He was of the opinion that this was a priority. The Chairman advised that a good response had been received with regards to parking on the Square.

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## **PS/025 – Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board would be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 at 7.00pm

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.48pm.