

General Services Committee Meeting
Tuesday 9th November 2021
Anne French Room
0930 hours

Present:

Mr B Kelly, Chairman
Ms A Burgess
Mr G McKinley
Mr R Jenkins
Mr S Roberts

In Attendance:

Mrs S Pengilly Price, Head of Government Support (HoGS)
Mrs E Maurice, Head of Finance (TREASURY)
Mrs K Hatcher-Gaudion, Capital Projects Co-ordinator (CPC) (left after 5.2)
Mr J Taylor, Harbour Master (HM) (for item 04/2021 only)
Ms S Ireland, Programme Manager (PM)
Mr R Phelan, Estates, Environment & Infrastructure Manager (EEIM)

Apologies: Ms K Jones, Chief Executive (CE) Mrs L Baines, Committee Secretary

01/2021 Minutes from previous meeting for approval – Draft minutes from 12th October GSC meeting, and special Waterboard meetings of 26th May and 20th September tabled and **approved**.

CE OFFICE

02/2021 Matters Arising

2.1 Old Vicarage Lease Update – The Committee were advised that further clarification was needed by the Law Officers which had now been received from the applicants. A report will be tabled at the December meeting at the request of the Chairman.

AGENDA ITEM/CE OFFICE

2.2 Airport Wildlife Hazard Management Audit Update – Mr Roberts advised that he needed to talk with the Airport Manager on this matter after which he would email all members with an update. Mr Roberts informed Committee that the pigeon issue at the Harbour may not be as first understood and that he would investigate further and report back to Committee.

AGENDA ITEM/SR

03/2021 GSC Meetings – Open to Public Further to this item being raised in Policy and Finance, the Chairman requested the views of the Members of General Services as to whether Committee meetings should be open to the public.

Mr McKinley : approve for GSC to be open to public especially if other Committees are doing so.

Mr Jenkins: would support a move to opening meetings.

Mr Roberts: Against

Ms Burgess: Concerns raised re Capital projects and other such commercially/ confidential matters, would approve but not sure how this would work in practice.

Chairman: Supportive as wouldn't want disparity between Committees suggested a trial period from February 2022 which was supported by a majority of members (Mr Roberts against)

It was raised and noted that training for Members and officers would be beneficial on how to conduct business etc. in a public forum, prior to the trial period. Officers to investigate further.

CE Office

04/2021 Harbour & Fisheries

4.1 Harbour Report – report from Harbour Master tabled and **noted**.

- **Crane Storage** Reported that this work had yet to be completed – work ongoing as waiting for JT engineer to remove cabling to assist access. (PM advised this work was to be carried out tomorrow.) Noted that until the access issue had been resolved the Committee approved that the Crane could be stored landside with the gib down. HM requested to advise staff of the Committee directive.
- **Harbour Review** Noted that this was ongoing and was due to be finalised shortly. Chairman advised that the author of the report had offered to present the final report to the Committee, which was accepted by all Members.
- **Covid** HM reported that the Harbour had recently been two operatives down due to covid infection but had put in place its pandemic plan to protect the lifeline service. Noted service was now stretched further as one operative had also left to join another department. Query was raised as to established staff numbers. HM advised that this would be covered by the Harbour Review report.
- **Expression of Interest – Diving Contract and Water Taxi** Advised two expressions received so far for the Diving contract but noted that there was still another month remaining on the deadline for expressions.
- **New Pontoon** HM advised that the engineers visit was still outstanding, Assistant HM to update Members by email **Noted.**
- **Old Pontoon** Concern raised over possible damage to this current facility in bad weather. It was advised that the pontoon would be removed as soon as there was a weather window and staff available to do so and that the small section had already been removed. **Noted.**
- **MV Trinity** HM reported on the situation to date with regards an engine defect. It was noted that parts were on board to fix the fault and that this should be finalised within the next 2 hours.
- **Access to Commercial Quay** Chairman advised that this matter related to the Security of Ship and Port Facilities (Alderney) Ordinance, 2004 which has been forwarded to the Law Officers for advice. A full discussion on this subject will be undertaken once this advice and the report from the Harbour review/Security audit is received. **Noted.**
- **Audit (ISPS security plan)** this is scheduled for next week. Noted.

Harbour Master left the meeting.

4.2 Harbour Capital Projects Report – Report dated November 2021 tabled and considered.

The General Services Committee resolved to note the November 2021 Harbour Capital Projects Report.

05/2021 Estates Environment & Infrastructure including Water Board

5.1 SWD Capital Projects Report – Report dated November 2021 tabled and considered.

- **Connaught Extension** Noted that Phase 3 commenced with planned completion in Q4/2022.
- **Mouriaux to Platte Saline project** Noted that Expressions of interest (EOI) and Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) for a Project Manager had been issued and the closing date was on Friday. Committee to be updated next month.
- **Roads Resurfacing Contract** Inspection and assessment of roads by SoG Engineer is expected on 19th November Noted.
- **Fire Brigade – Breathing Apparatus (BA) Replacements** It was noted that the Guernsey Airport and Town Fire Services had extended an offer to Alderney (Fire Service and Airport Fire Service) to join in a group purchasing scheme which would offer considerable savings to the purchase of new breathing equipment replacements. This would require that the budget provision for this equipment is brought forward from 2023 to 2022. It was noted that although the actual order is required in 2021 it will still take several months until delivery, expected mid-2022, due to the current delay in supplies, and payment will not be required until next year.

The General Services Committee resolved to:-

- 1. Note the November SWD Capital Projects & General Works Report,**

2. **Approve £35k capital expenditure for the Fire Brigade replacement BA equipment in 2022, and approve bringing forward the budget provision from 2023 to 2022 in order to reflect this.**

EEIM/CPC

5.2 Water Board Capital Projects Report – Report dated November 2021 tabled and considered.

- **Venelle du Val du Sud - Phase 16** – The road reinstatement has now been finalised, project completed.
- **Quality Control System – Phase 17** - In November 2020 GSC approved £45k for the new automatic dosing system pending full costings and further investigation. Following this investigation it is recommended that the Water Board move away from the OSEC system, provided by Evoqua and that it changes to the DE NORA ClorTec system supported by Guernsey Water who will be able to provide back up, critical spares and the system will be more energy efficient to run. Guernsey Water endorse this system as it has a good track record. Although the capital outlay is higher than originally anticipated in 2020, significant savings will be made on associated annual revenue costs (electricity, materials and expensive contract costs).
- **Stoney Lane – Phase 20** – Initially this was expected as a 2021 project, but subsequently moved into 2022 as Simons Place (Phase 21) became more urgent due to leaks. However as Phase 21 reaches completion the Water Board is in a position to proceed with these works during the quieter winter season.
- **Simons Place – Phase 21** – Works progressing well and completion expected by early November.

The General Services Committee resolved to:-

1. **Note the November Water Board Capital Projects & General Works Report,**
2. **Approve capital grant funding of £60k for Phase 17 Quality Control System,**
3. **Approve capital grant funding of £27k for Phase 20 at Stoney Lane and bring forward this project from 2022 budget into 2021.**

EEIM/CPC

5.3 Christmas Late Night Shopping – Road Closures – FOR RATIFICATION – Report from CE Office dated 13th October 2021 tabled and considered.

The General Services Committee resolved to ratify the following road closures for the late-night shopping events in Victoria Street from 5pm – 8pm:

- **Wednesday 3rd November**
- **Friday 26th November**
- **Friday 3rd December**
- **Friday 17th December**

5.4 Scout Hut – Planning Application – Funding – FOR RATIFICATION – Report from CE Office dated 29th October 2021 tabled and considered.

The General Services Committee resolved to ratify the approval, as landlords, for a planning application to be submitted to BDCC for consideration regarding replacing the hut which has been damaged in storms.

BDCC

5.5 Crusher Site Update – CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – See Confidential Annexure

5.6 Dairy Farm Management Contract – Report from Head of Finance dated 26th October 2021 tabled and considered.

At their December 2000 States Meeting, the States of Alderney considered Land Management in Alderney. This was as a result of the States of Guernsey, in recognition of the importance of farmers in managing the land, agreeing a package of proposals, which included payment to qualifying farmers for every pint of milk sold. Qualification for subsidy was conditional upon the farmer entering into a Farm Management Contract, which obliged the farmer to continue with, or adopt, environmentally acceptable farming practices.

In order for this to be extended to the Alderney farmer, a contract, modelled on that in place for Guernsey farmers (but modified for local circumstance), was agreed and put in place. The Advisory and Finance Committee in Guernsey, subsequently agreed to increase Alderney's cash allocation to include provision for this subsidy.

The General Services Committee resolved to:

- a) **Agree that the payments under the terms of the current Dairy Farm Management Contract continue for the duration of the contract (up until 31st March 2023 unless terminated earlier), with such payments being met by the States of Alderney,**
- b) **In light of the possible change in Farmers, request the Alderney Wildlife Trust to review the terms and conditions of the current contract, to include consideration of any ongoing subsidies available to Guernsey Farmers,**
- c) **Consider the findings of the review as soon as practicable and submit any recommendations to the Policy and Finance Committee.**

HoF

5.7 Annual Sprint & Hill Climb 2022 – Report from CE Office dated 25th October 2021 tabled and considered.

The GKMC is proposing to organise its annual sprint and hill climbs during September 2022 and will be looking to hold the events on the following dates:-

15 September – Fort Corblets Sprint

16 September – Grand Val Speed Event

17 September – Fort Tourgis Hill Climb

This approval process is managed at an operational level, where the relevant legislation is placed on the Billet for full States approval.

The dates are tabled at the relevant GSC meeting for noting, before being placed on the Billet.

The General Services Committee resolved to approve the current process of confirmation and approval for the annual event. The GKMC to be advised that they are required to liaise with emergency services well in advance of the event to ensure the necessary emergency cover is available to support the event.

CE OFFICE

5.8 Slaughterman Update

The Committee noted a verbal update from the Chairman and Ms Burgess.

The General Services Committee resolved for further investigation to be carried out as to the cost of the necessary courses to train a part time on island assistant including any fees and charges for such a post and to bring this matter back to Committee.

PM

5.9 Boxing Club Lease Renewal – Report from CE Office dated 27th October 2021 tabled and considered. The Alderney Boxing Club are coming to the end of their 21-year lease and would like to renew the lease with some amendments to the land which they currently lease around Fort Doyle and surrounding area.

The General Services Committee resolved to approve a new 21-year lease for Alderney Boxing Club with the new amended map and recommend that the Finance Committee agree to fix an appropriate rent.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.10 Golf Club Lease Renewal – Report from CE Office dated 27th October 2021 tabled and considered. The Alderney Golf Club are coming to the end of their 21-year lease and would like to renew with some amendments to the land of which they currently lease.

The General Services Committee resolved to approve a new 21-year lease for Alderney Golf Club with the new amended map of the leased area and recommend that the Finance Committee agree to fix an appropriate rent.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.11 Ambulance Report It was noted that the report should be available later this week for the General Services Committee to view and that a separate meeting is to be held with the Ambulance team and Chairman, prior to the report being discussed by Committee. **Agreed.**

06/2021 Any Other Business

Weekly drop in Sessions: Items raised:-

- Over Hanging vegetation causing obstruction/injury to pedestrians etc. Noted that this has been subject to recent media release.
- Parking in the town area causing concern for elderly pedestrians and mothers with young children footpaths being obstructed.
- Tipping at Little Crabby area – noted that this had recently increased.

Island Hall Kitchen Noted that there was to be a Press release regarding the availability of this facility for external bookings. A vote of thanks was raised by the Chairman to the small Committee (Chef Jamie Chapman; Ronnie Cairnduff; Barbara Benfield and Richard Phelan) formed to assist to resolve this issue.

07/2021 For Information & Noting

7.1 GSC Committee Meeting Dates 2022 - tabled and noted.

Meeting Closed:

Signed: Boyd Kelly

Date: 9th November 2021