

**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
17th FEBRUARY 2015
1115 hours**

Mr N Harvey, Chairman
Mr F Simonet,
Mr G McKinley
Mr M Birmingham
Mr L Jean
Mr R McDowall
Mr C Rowley
Mr I Tugby

Mr W V Brownlees, Chief Executive
Mr B Adams, Interim States Engineer
Mrs K A Hatcher-Gaudion, Treasurer
Mrs S Pengilly-Price, EA to the Chief Executive
Miss Laura Gaudion, Minute Secretary

Apologies: Mrs N Paris, Mr S Roberts

ACTION

14/2015 Minutes of the previous meeting of 27th January 2015 tabled and **approved**.
Notes from the Finance Committee meeting – Tabled and **noted**.
Notes from the Business Development, Tourism & Marketing Committee meeting – Tabled and **noted**. It was noted that BDTM has awarded an increased grant for Alderney Week at £6K for 2015. **Approved**.
Notes from Pension Trustees Meeting/ Gower Presentation 23rd January 2015 – including proposed re-investment strategy - Tabled and **noted**.

15/2015 Matters Arising
15.1 Committee feedback from Chairmen (B&DCC and GSC) and Guernsey Representatives and Alderney Liaison Group
BDCC – Legal Protections for Lager Sylt – Mr Birmingham to formulate a letter to the President. **Noted**.

GSC – The Old Connaught building - work needs to be done on the roof, to make the building water tight. Capital Projects - reallocation of budget priorities discussed. Harbour Diving Contract agreed for 2015 with Teignmouth Maritime Services Ltd.

Guernsey Reps – Mr McDowall working with Mr Jean and Mr McKinley on the Personal Taxation and Benefits issues. The issue regarding paid parking will be put to the States in the March billet.

Alderney Liaison Group – The Economic Development Action Plan received a positive response, with all plans reviewed in detail, and approval from the full Policy Council. It was suggested that the Policy Council had advised of their intention to reduce membership on ALG, that the Alderney political membership should also be reduced to reflect the focus on two main issues of the Economic Development and the financial relationship with Guernsey. The revised membership to consist of chairmen of P&F, Finance & BDTM, with a view to invite other members for specific topics as and when necessary. – **Approved**. A public workshop is to be held on the 26th February. It is to enable a one-to-one interactive process with States Members regarding any issues or questions associating with the Economic Development Plan. PAMG – Property Asset Management Group – FS (chair), GMcK, RMcD, IT, KHG, will discuss possibilities/proposals for the better management of States Property Assets, and report to P&F committee when required.

The Breakwater – Mr McKinley stated concerns regarding the structural integrity of the breakwater, and the progress of the survey. Interim Engineer to draft a letter to

Mr Falla regarding the data requested from the previous surveys. ALG Action Point is for Mr Tugby to discuss and progress with the Minister for PSD.
It was noted that Mr McDowall, Mr Brownlees and Mr Harvey are to meet with Mr St Pier to review the Terms of Reference for the Financial Relationship Review
Mr Jean expressed his concern that Mr McKinley should attend ALG meetings for keeping informed on various subjects. **Noted.**

15.2 AHA Housing Criteria – Report from Mr Weir dated February 2015, tabled and noted.

Mr Jean expressed his disagreement with the age reduction for social housing.

RESOLVED; to approve that the minimum age for social housing (rented) is reduced from 21 years to 18 years and the residency period be reduced to 5 years at any time, and not consecutively.

That the eligibility for Partial Ownership (Affordable Housing) should be to have lived in Alderney for 2 consecutive years and be aged 18 years or over.

CE OFFICE

16/2015

Budgetary and Financial Matters

16.1 Purchase of Freehold – Confidential Items –a) Email from Julia White dated 11th February 2015, relating to the Vicarage tabled and noted.

Item deferred until next meeting to allow for valuations to be obtained and clarification regarding approval process. Mr Jean against the sale of the freehold. **Noted.**

TREASURY/ CE OFFICE

b) Le Banquage freeholds – email from States Treasurer dated 13th February 2015, together with valuation from Alderney Estates dated 11th February, spread sheet showing re-stated valuations, and previous agenda item, tabled and discussed.

Mr Jean declared interest and abstained.

RESOLVED; unanimously to accept the revised valuations as tabled, to offer freeholds to all remaining leaseholders until 31st December 2015, automatically offer freehold to any potential purchaser during this period in order to resolve the bank lending issue, review further at year end with a view possibly to transferring remaining lease assignments to the AHA.

TREASURY

16.2 Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review – Guernsey Billet Item – Report from Robert McDowall dated January 2015 tabled and noted. Presentation circulated by email. **Noted.**

The Committee is in agreement with the analysis, but that Alderney's economy and community needs to be maintained which may require different solutions in terms of taxation. It was reported that a Special Meeting is being held on the 9th March at 6pm for public consultations. CE Office to organise a Press release to advertise the meeting. Update to be reported to Committee with clearer views at a later date. **Noted.**

GMcK/RMcD

16.3 Unoccupied Properties – Report from Robert McDowall dated February 2015 tabled and noted.

It was discussed that data gathering and analysis needs to be done to provide facts and figures. CE to investigate the findings of the Cambridge Report, and report back at next meeting. **Noted.**

CE OFFICE

17/2015

Business Development, Tourism & Marketing Matters - None

18/2015 **Legislation, Conventions and Policy** - None

19/2015 **Any Other Business**

19.1 Draft Year-End Accounts 2014 (subject to audit) – summaries and email from the Treasurer as circulated on 12th February 2015 tabled and noted.

Agreed to ratify the measures taken in order to balance the revenue account for 2014, as listed. Full report and final accounts to be presented at the March meeting. Noted.

19.2 Ferry Update - See Confidential Annexure.

19.3 Commercial Quay – See Confidential Annexure.

19.4 Deputies Visit

Mr McKinley advised that he is keen that Guernsey Deputies make a visit to Alderney, with which there was general agreement This was discussed at the AGL meeting; Mr Langlois suggested small groups of 4 members to visit at one time. A draft programme is to be put together. **Noted.**

CE/GMcK

19.5 Swimming Pool - Newtown Road

It was reported that the wall structure has failed where the school swimming pool is being rebuilt by ACSC. Mr Tugby is to replace the sand excavated from the site to back up the bank area for support. It has posed a danger to the safety of the road and possible housing foundations if any more damage is to happen. Interim Engineer to deal with.

INTERIM ENGINEER

20/2015 **Press Releases**

- Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review – March Special Meeting

21/2015 **For Information**

- **Employment Permit Report – February (to date)** – Tabled and noted.
- **Alderney Housing Association – Q4 Report 2014** -Tabled and noted
- **Management Accounts – December 2014** - Tabled and noted
- **Grants Issued by the Finance Committee during 2014** – Tabled and noted
- **Aged Debtors Report – Confidential Item** - Noted
- **Legislation Select Committee items** – Tabled and noted
- **Alderney Air Services – Service Level Agreement** – Tabled and noted
- **Marketing Proposals & Plan for 2015** – Withdrawn for further consideration.
- **Imports of GcMAF** – Tabled and noted
- **Alderney Price Comparison Report – July-Dec 2014** - Tabled and noted

Meeting closed: 12.05pm

Signed: Mr N Harvey, Chairman

Date: 23rd March 2015