

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF MANCHESTER HELD ON APRIL 10, 2014**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council of Manchester was held in the Council's Chamber, 32 Hargreaves Avenue, Mandeville on Thursday, April 10, 2014, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Her Worship the Mayor  
Councillor Brenda Ramsay

Councillors: - Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor  
McArthur Collins  
Cleon Francis  
Faith Sampson-Nickle  
Fairbourne Maxwell  
Muriel Swaby  
Desmond Harrison  
Donovan Mitchell  
Iceval Brown

**ELECTORAL DIVISION**

Bellefield

Spur Tree  
New Green  
Knockpatrick  
Johns Hall  
Mile Gully  
Porus  
Christiana  
Royal Flat  
Grove Town

**ENTERED DURING THE MEETING**

Councillor Anthony Bryce  
Darlton Brown  
Omar Miller

Mr. Dewaine Larmond -  
Ms. Janice Mundle -

Newport  
Alligator Pond  
Craighead  
Director of Planning  
Municipal & Commercial Services  
Manager

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Messrs. David Parkes	-	Secretary/Manager – Clerk to the Committee
Doyen Johnson	-	Superintendent, Roads & Works
Densil Mundy	-	Inspector of Poor
Dewaine Larmond	-	Director of Planning
Misses Sharon Walker	-	Internal Auditor
Mrs. LaJean Powell-Richards	-	Parish Disaster Preparedness Coordinator
Mrs. Darcia Roache	-	Director of Administration
Mrs. Cardel Baker-Grant	-	Community Programmes Coordinator
Mrs. Vivinne Grant	-	Matron, Infirmary
Miss Charmine Hepburn	-	Recording Secretary

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Messrs. Emrick Needham	-	Acting Superintendent, Jamaica Fire Brigade
Courtney James	-	Zone Team Leader – National Water Commission
Oren Osbourne	-	Field Superintendent, Social Development Commission
Miss Ava Tomlin	-	Parish Manager, Jamaica Public Service Company

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Her Worship the Mayor, Councillor Brenda Ramsay.

**NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING** – was taken as read.

**PRAYER** – Devotion was conducted by Rev. Dr. Adlyn White, Chaplain.

Mayor Ramsay thanked Rev. Dr. White for conducting devotions and for bringing such a timely message and wished for happy her and her family a happy and Holy Easter.





three round-a-bouts within the parish.

## **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

### **The Jamaica Fire Brigade**

The Chairman invited Mr. Emrick Needham, Acting Deputy Superintendent, Jamaica Fire Brigade to update the meeting accordingly.

Mr. Needham reported that the month of March was very active; however good coverage was carried out as all units were up and running; two pumpers and one rescue tender. The officer further advised that a research was carried out in the Fire Department's Station Diary and there was no report from any external agency regarding the fire that took place at Heavy Tree.

The Acting Deputy Superintendent mentioned that at the last meeting a question was asked as to the amount of hydrants that were working in the parish, and advised the meeting that the mapping of hydrants is an ongoing process. The officer stated that a mapping was done in 2012 which stated that there were 628 hydrants within the parish, approximately 337 were working, approximately 213 were not and approximately 51 were unknown.

Mr. Needham made mentioned of a section of the minutes which stated that the tank at the Christiana Fire Station was always full; however the tank which the officer was reporting on was the one on the roof of the station which had the returning valve and fills when the tank is empty. He said the tank which is used for fire fighting purposes had no connection whatsoever; however the tank was filled from the connection to the roof and the fire truck.

Mr. Needham reported that during the month of March, 2014 the Department responded to 136 fire calls broken down as follows:

113 were genuine, 10 malicious false alarms, 5 false alarm with good intent (F.A.G.I) and 10 special services.

Summary – Mandeville 74 and Christiana 62 a total of 136

Estimated value of property at risk was \$517,670,000.00

Estimated loss was \$13,820,000.00

Estimated value saved \$503,850,000.00

### **Major Fires**

3 <sup>rd</sup> March	bus shelter at Nashville, Mandeville-Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium jet. Loss \$70,000; Risk \$50,000,000.00. Homeless: N/A Origin: suspected arson.
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Kitchen at Heartease-Manchester. Number of jets used: One medium. Loss \$50,000.00 Risk-\$250,000, Homeless-0 Origin sparks in contact with combustible material
6 <sup>th</sup> March	dwelling house at Housen Close-May Day, Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium. Loss \$1,500,000; Risk \$12,000,000 Homeless: 0 Origin: suspected arson.
13 <sup>th</sup> March	2 apartment dwelling house at Silent Hill, Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium. Loss \$500,000; Risk: \$6.5M; Homeless: 1 Origin: unknown
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Green's Plaza, Main Street –Christiana, Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium. Loss \$350,000, Risk: \$1M; Homeless: N/A Origin: electrical short circuit
17 <sup>th</sup> March	dwelling house at Succeed-Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium. Loss \$1M, Risk: \$250M; Homeless: N/A Origin: fire left unattended
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	dwelling house at New Hall-Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium. Loss \$7M; Risk: \$7M. Homeless 2. Origin: burning bushes.



- 23<sup>rd</sup> March dwelling house at Craighead-Manchester. Number of jets used: none- by residents using buckets of water. Loss \$200,000; Risk: \$4M. Homeless: 0, Origin: child playing with matches.
- 27<sup>th</sup> March 2 apartment dwelling house at Belritiro – Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium. Loss \$250,000; Risk \$250,000. Homeless: 3. Origin: suspected arson.
- 30<sup>th</sup> March one apartment dwelling house at Brockery, Christiana-Manchester. Number of jets used: One medium. Loss \$100,000; Risk \$800,000. Homeless: 1. Origin: unknown.

Homeless: 3 adults and 3 children

#### Major Special Service

There was no major special service.

#### Other Issues

*Councillor Desmond Harrison* commented that he was very happy to hear that the unit in Christiana was operational. The member further stated that his concern was the tank without water and questioned how long was the tank installed, what proposal was put in place to have water to the tank and how long had the Fire Department knew that there was no connection from the main to the tank. He said that now that they were aware remedial work will be put in place to have water available in the tank and when the tank had no water what did the Department do.

Regarding the installation of the water drum at the Christiana Fire Station, Mr. Needham advised the meeting that upon entering the service which was approximately 25 years ago the drum was in place and connected to the main; however this was no longer so and could not say why the connection was removed. The officer stated that after finding that the drum was no longer connected to the main he wrote a letter to the National Water Commission and sent a copy to the Council and asked that reconnections to the tank in Christiana be made. He said investigations were carried out by the National Water Commission along with representative from the Fire Department advising that the connection can be made; however the amount stated the Brigade could not afford same.

Continuing, the Acting Deputy Superintendent stated that the Brigade saw the need for the tank to have water in the event there was a fire in the Christiana and adjoining districts and instructions and this was put out the unit would be taken to the nearest hydrant which would be WINDALCO while returning to the station. He said a suggestion was made that a request be made through the Council to ask Rapid Response Unit to periodically full the tank.

*Mayor Ramsay* opined that she did not think WINDALCO would have no objection to give some water to top up the tank in question. She said she would make contact with the office to ascertain whether water could be had, by using the fire unit to fill the tank as this was an essential service as the tank must have water at all times.

*Councillor Desmond Harrison* stated that having heard the response from the officer the only tangible answer that would satisfy him would to have tank reconnected to the main and suggested that the Fire Department continues to lobby with the National Water Commission to see how best the solution could be worked out.

The Councillor pointed out that there was a fire hydrant in the town of Christiana next to the Moravian Church and the Department should investigate to ascertain whether same was working and if so it would be more cost effective than to go to WINDALCO.

*Councillor Omar Miller* mentioned that he had made a request for a hydrant to be installed in the Craighead area; however to date that has not been done. The member stated that the fire that occurred within that area as was stated in the report was approximately 100 metres from where he had made the request for the hydrant to be installed. He asked that the matter be looked into with a matter of urgency.



*Mayor Ramsay on behalf of Councillor Burton Wright* enquired as to the status of the hydrant that was removed from the Glencoe Subdivision and the other which is to be reinstalled.

Responding, Mr. Needham stated that he could not give an update on the matter.

*Mayor Ramsay* further questioned whether the officer knew who had installed the hydrants and which agency were responsible to ascertain whether they were properly installed.

Mr. Needham explained that when a development is being done the subdivision plans are sent to the Fire Department as well as other agencies for their recommendation/comments. He said where hydrants were required the developers would go ahead and installed same; however upon inspection it was observed that many of the hydrants were not connected to the main.

*Councillor Donovan Mitchell* enquired as to whether there were specifications for the installation of hydrants and if this was so what were the functions of the Fire Department to ensure that those hydrants that are installed had met the standards. The member further questioned whether verifications were made to ascertain whether those that had been installed within subdivisions had met the required standards before Certificate of Completions were signed off on.

Responding, the Superintendent, Roads & Works explained that the legal requirement was for subdivisions ten lots and over should install fire hydrants. He went on further to state that they should receive a certificate from the National Water Commission for the pressure test consultation of the system accompanying by the approved subdivision application. The Officer pointed out that there was a critical water challenge within the parish, hence that aspect had not been fully realized. He said what the Council was faced with, upon inspection all the infrastructure works are in place such as the road, water lines, etc.; however the officers who visit could not test the hydrants as the National Water Commission facility was not in place and based on those findings that the Certificate of Completion/s is granted.

Mr. Needham who was in agreement with the Superintendent, advised the meeting that it was the similar situation the Fire Department was facing. He made mentioned of two hydrants that were recently installed; one along the Old Greenvale Road and the other at Mega Mart – Mandeville.

Mayor Ramsay questioned whether checks had been made to ascertain whether those hydrants were properly connected to the National Water Commission main. Mr. Needham answered in the negative.

Mr. Needham advised that he was aware of the hydrant that was next to the Moravian Church in Christiana which was readily accessible whenever water was in the area.

Mr. James commented that although some of the subdivisions may not have water; however there were instances where the hydrants could be pressure tested. He said that arrangements should be made with the National Water Commission for water to be in the line for the testing to take place and this should be done before the road ways within the subdivisions are completed.

Regarding the hydrant at Mega Mart, Mr. James advised the meeting that same was connected as this was done by the National Water Commission.

Mayor Ramsay enquired whether the hydrants that were removed from Glencoe Subdivision were in the possession of the Fire Brigade. Mr. Needham answered in positive.

Councillor Jones Oliphant asked whether the Council could be furnished with a list of all working hydrants and non-working hydrants within the parish.

The Deputy Superintendent, Fire Department advised the meeting that the list that the Department had is a comprehensive one for the island and did not state the exact locations of the hydrants.

Mayor Ramsay stated she was going to have some discussions with the Geographic Information System (GIS) Department within the Council to do the mapping of the hydrants along with the Fire Department as what had been said was unacceptable.

Councillor McArthur Collins who was in agreement with the Chairman asked that same be done as quickly as possible.



Mr. Needham in clarifying his statement advised the meeting that the Fire Department did hydrant testing on every occasion that the found necessary and it was a standard operation/ procedure that while returning from the scene of a fire that hydrants were tested. He also stated that within the vicinity of the towns and adjoining areas the Department knows some hydrants that were functioning. He said the listing could be had from the head office as a mapping had been done with the National Water Commission and the Fire Department.

The Chairman insisted that a mapping should be done for the parish. She thanked the officer for presenting the report and advised him that he was free to leave.

LEFT THE MEETING – Mr. Emrick Needham-Acting Deputy Superintendent –Jamaica Fire Brigade

### **Re: Street Lights etc.**

The Chairman welcomed Miss Ava Tomlin, Parish Manager, JPSCO. Ltd. and asked her to update the meeting accordingly.

Ms. Tomlin reported on the following:

- Poles replacement – Greenvale and Top Coley Mountain – as requested by Councillors Collins and Sampson respectively – Patrols have been done on a section of Greenvale; however the Coley Mountain section would be done during the month of April.
- Request for throw up removal and comprehensive anti-theft response in Grove Town and as well the Johns Hall Division - Johns Hall Division was visited on Wednesday April 2,2014 and a total of 147 throw ups removed from Coley Mountain, Johns Hall and Grove Town and Marlie Hill areas were visited on Thursday April 3, and 67 throw ups removed.
- Vegetation on the side of the road along Melrose By-pass had been addressed and measures put in place to ensure that same did not happen in other areas.
- Replacement of street light in the Williamsfield area had been reinstalled

### **Vegetation**

- Miles of vegetation cleared in the last reporting period - 16
- Areas impacted: Blue Mountain, Melrose, Coley Mountain, Hanbury, Mile Gully, Somerset.

### **Pole changes**

- Number of poles changed \_\_51\_\_
- Areas in which poles changed
  - Belfield, Blue Mountain (50), Battersea Avenue (1).

### **Major outages in reporting period**

- Bellfield – Blue Mountain - 20.3.14 - 8 HRS - planned structural integrity maintenance
- WILLIAMSFIELD – 15.3.14 - 1hr 40mins – UNKNOWN
- CHRISTIANA - 24.3.14 – BROKEN CONDUCTOR
- SOUTH MANCHESTER – 24.3.14 - 4 HRS – DEFECTIVE SWITCH
- Tuesday & Wednesday saw outages across the parish due to high winds. Most have been corrected

### **Planned outages**

- None for the month of April.
- **Theft Control and fight against losses**
  - Our investigations with fight against losses was concentrated in the areas of Mandeville and below with findings as follows
  - Throw –ups removed – 525 Comfort, Broadleaf, Marlie Hill, Resource, Huntley, Maidstone, Johns Hall, Coley Mountain
  - Arrests- 8 – Mandeville, Kendal
    - Audits – 215



### **Street lights repaired**

- 63 streetlights were repaired – 21 Newport, 14 Grove Town, 25 Knockpatrick & 3 Mandeville

The amount of \$2.9B is owed for streetlights by the Ministry of Local Government & Community Development which restricts the company's ability to respond and repair streetlights effectively.

Next phase to effect repairs are: Craighead Walderston, Newport, Grove Town, Mile Gully and Christiana.

The following were recommendations/request/s from the under mentioned Councillors:

**Councillor Muriel Swaby** - mentioned that she was not pleased in the way the stealing of electricity was being monitored in the Porus Division, especially where she lives. She said there were throw ups all around her and this was impacting heavily on her light bills.

**Councillor McArthur Collins** - pointed out that the area with the defective poles was New Green and not Greenvale as stated in the report. The member stated that he had made the offer to volunteer to show a representative from the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. street lights that were not working within the New Green Division and his offer still stands.

The Councillor commented that all though it had been stated in the report the amount of money owing by the Government for street lights, he opined that the Jamaica Public Service Company should fast track the repairing of the lights. He went on to state that there were streetlights that were working; however they were not shining bright as they ought to and asked that those be investigated as well.

**Councillor Jones Oliphant** - thanked the JPSCo. for effecting repairs to defective street lights in some sections of the Mandeville Division. The member then asked JPS to indicate how they would treat those persons who were not billed.

**Councillor Donovan Mitchell** - recalled that in 2012 the Jamaica Public Service Company did some planting of new poles in the Royal Flat area; however to date they have not transferred the wires from the old poles to the new ones. The member made a request for special attention to be given to street lights along the Comfort, Broadleaf, Hampton to Porus roads as there were increases in criminal activities within those areas.

Continuing, Councillor Mitchell asked whether the officer could specify the damages caused during the period when the parish was experiencing the high winds.

**Councillor Iceval Brown** - expressed appreciation for the street lights that were repaired in some sections of the Grove Town Division and was in agreement with Councillor Swaby regarding the high price she too was paying for electricity. The member stated that the officer had spoken about a decrease; however she was yet to see same.

Councillor Iceval Brown commented that the report had stated that the outages that were being carried out were planned to replace defective poles, this was not so in the Grove Town Division as almost every day there was power outages. In regards to throw ups, the member mentioned that this was very high in her area as lights and music could be seen and heard throughout the entire day and night. She said if the company did not do something to get rid of those who were stealing the electricity then persons who were legitimate would soon resort in doing same as they were complaining.

**Councillor Darlton Brown** - mentioned that he had asked for investigations to be carried out on the installation of street lights within the Alligator Pond area without his knowledge; however he had not received a response to same. He said if the answer was not readily available he still want the matter to be addressed.

The member mentioned that due to the theft of electricity he had learnt that it had caused domestic dispute in his Division and caused the police to be involved as threat were being issued. He said that the Jamaica Public Service Company should consider incorporating the Councillors



and give them some incentives to assist them to identify where the throw ups were as they were on the ground and were more acquainted with the areas to see how best the situation could be alleviated.

Mayor Ramsay mentioned that Councillor Burton Wright had also asked that investigations be carried out in his Division where street lights were installed without his knowledge. The Chairman stated that at the last meeting she had asked whether or not easement was paid to property owners where the Jamaica Public Service Company facilities were on their properties.

Mayor Ramsay asked for the repairs of street lights to be carried out in the Banana Ground area.

Responding, Ms. Tomlin reiterated that the amount owing to JPSCo. for street lights was approximately \$2.9B and the average monthly bill across the island was \$250M. She said that she understood and empathized with the members; however the company cannot repair the lights without money and that was the challenge the company was facing.

Regarding the stealing of electricity, Ms. Tomlin advised the meeting that it was something the Jamaica Public Service Company was struggling with and talked about very often at meetings. The officer reported that approximately 30% of persons in Jamaica who received electricity did not pay for same. The officer said in terms of consumption losses, same rank in approximately 20% and that was both technical and non-technical losses. She said over 20% of the products that the Jamaica Public Service Company supply payment was not received for same.

Continuing, Ms. Tomlin stated that she thanked Councillor Darlton Brown for his offer of partnership and advised that this was being done and continues to do so. She went on to state that theft and illegal connections of electricity the safety issue was caused for concern as the product that people were dealing with was dangerous. She said she found it disheartening to hear that members think the Jamaica Public Service Company was not doing enough to regarding the stealing of electricity.

Ms. Tomlin reiterated that the company had a comprehensive programme to deal with theft, a programme for audits, antitheft measures had been put in as well as strong support had been received from the police in that persons being arrested .

Ms. Tomlin reminded the members that the theft of electricity was not just a Jamaica Public Service Company problem but an entire socio economic problem. She said that in other countries in the world where people could not afford electricity there was a programme by the Government or other organizations that offer to help them pay for their electricity; however this was not done in Jamaica.

Ms. Tomlin advised the meeting that the Jamaica Public Service Company continues to lobby with Rural Electrification Programme to have extensions and had received some, lobbied for and assisted with house wiring and people were visiting her office and had their houses wired and coming on the system legally. She said that everyone would love an overnight fix; however it was a process and they were making progress.

Regarding the high wind that the parish had experienced a few days before, Ms. Tomlin pointed out that Jamaica had an overhead system especially in Manchester and during that time wires touched, poles turned over etc. and anything that impacted the infrastructure had caused the outages.

Ms. Tomlin promised to investigate the matter of the installation of the new street lights within the Alligator Pond and Walderston Division.

Ms. Tomlin pointed out that the Jamaica Public Service Company had a system of patrolling that goes out all year round to identify the state of the company's infrastructure; however facilitation can be made to have members meet with the team to identify some of the defective poles within their Divisions. She further advised that Mr. Shelton Thomas will meet with Councillor Collins to visit his Division as he had requested.

Ms. Tomlin advised that where easement was required by the company, property owners would be paid for same to be done; however if the facility was to be removed same would be at the owner's expense. She said that for those who had no payment plan that would be a different matter.



Mayor Ramsay enquired and was advised that the implementation of the LED lights had started in all parishes. Ms. Tomlin explained that where lights were defective and needed minor changes such as a bulb, or a power door or just a part of the fixture then same would continue to use the high power sodium. However, if new lights were being installed the LED would be used and this had started in Mandeville.

Councillor McArthur Collins advised the meeting that he had written to the Jamaica Public Service Company and had received a response and this he was very grateful for. The member further stated that when the former Parish Manager was at the company he had visited some areas with him in his Division and was shown some defective lights; however to date same has not been addressed.

Regarding the statement on socio-economic, Mayor Ramsay commented that maybe at times they were comparing 'apples and apples' as when one compared Jamaica to other countries where the stealing of electricity exists, if investigations were carried out in Jamaica approximately 80% of the persons who were doing so were not doing it for domestic reasons and this is a huge abuse of the system.

The Chairman opined that Government would not want to pay for someone else's entertainment and the efforts being made were for those who genuinely could not afford to do so.

Mayor Ramsay thanked Ms. Tomlin for her comprehensive report and advised the officer that she could leave the meeting if she so want to.

Re: Water Report

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Courtney James, Zone Team Leader-National Water Commission and invited him to update the meeting accordingly.

Mr. Courtney James of National Water Commission commented that there were a number of matters that were on the minutes that were already being addressed at the Infrastructure Committee. Mr. James went on to state that there is an arrangement for a site visit to be carried out in the Cedar Grove area of the Mandeville Division between a representative from the National Water Commission and Councillor Oliphant. The officer asked that when requests are being made specific information should be given in order that the matter can be addressed in a timely manner.

Mr. James reported that he had met the day before with a representative from the National Works Agency regarding the reinstatement of some of the roads; such as Knockpatrick under the bridge, on Manchester Road up to Northern Caribbean University, at Wagon Wheel on the Kingsland road and the other Perth Road. He said that he was given the assurance that same would be done by the end of the week.

Continuing, the officer advised the meeting that the arrangement between the National Works Agency and the National Water Commission was that when the road ways were being dug up by the National Water Commission the National Works Agency would be the ones to do the reinstatement.

Mayor Ramsay stated that she hoped that the roadways would be done properly as there were times when they were not satisfactorily done.

Mr. James advised the meeting that the National Works Agency would be the ones responsible as they were charging the National Water Commission for the reinstatement.

Mayor Ramsay asked and was advised that the National Water Commission was satisfied with the works being done.

Mr. James reported that the National Water Commission was still having challenges with the system at Porus as one of the pumps had been taken out for repairs, hence some areas such as Ingleside and New Green were experiencing water challenges. He said some regulations were done to see whether water could be had in those areas to try to alleviate the shortfall.



Mr. James reported that the agency was facing challenges with the system at Moravia as well due to the drought that the parish was experiencing, which caused low water supply or none in Christiana and its environs.

Regarding the sterilization of private trucks that were contracted to carry water, Mr. James explained that the reason for such requirement was that should water be purchased from the National Water Commission facility and deliver to a customer and that customer happens to get sick the blame would fall on the National Water Commission. He said the agency had to maintain the standard that all trucks carrying potable water be properly sanitized on a regular basis.

Mr. James emphasized that problems such as leaks, road reinstatement etc those can be addressed at the parish level; however the matter concerning the #4 well in Pepper that matter had to be addressed at a higher level and asked that the Council write to the President of the National Water Commission for answers.

Mayor Ramsay asked that a listing of the trucks that are certified to carry water be made available to the Council for future reference.

**Councillor Muriel Swaby** - mentioned that some river shingles were placed on the Hampton Road; however the stones that were placed there were too large for small vehicles to go through and this was causing a problem. She asked that the matter be addressed as early as possible as citizens are planning to take action.

**Councillor Desmond Harrison** - mentioned that he had made a request for the pipelines on the Brockery Road leading to the new housing scheme to be fixed; however to date nothing has been done. The member stated that there has been a continuous leak on that road for approximately one year or more and a request had been made for the Council to continue a concrete drain within the area, as the water was now seeping onto some's property, to pass the property being affected and place it into the drain due to the leak. The Councillor asked that a site visit be carried out by the National Water Commission and he is included in the visit as well.

**Councillor Fairbourne Maxwell** - reported that for the past two months the areas of Comfort Hall, Evergreen and Sanchez Town water problems and asked what could be done to help the citizens of those areas get water through the main.

**Councillor Iceval Brown** - once more made mentioned of the three tanks in the Grove Town Division that were taken out of commission by the National Water Commission and pleaded for same to be reinstated. The member asked whether a letter could be written to the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change to see whether he could lobby with the National Water Commission for the tanks to be reopened.

**Councillor Omar Miller** - added that he was aware of the leaking pipes in Brockery as he resides in the area. The member stated that he was made aware that the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) pump at Moravia was now working and was advised that when the pump was installed the areas of Silent Hill, Coleyville and Ticky-Ticky would be restored to normality where water is concern; however he was not seeing this happening.

The Councillor stated that he would soon be coming under pressure from the citizens as he had exhausted all his resources where the trucking of water is concerned and asked that the matter be addressed as early as possible and also the pumping of water to those areas be revisited. He also mentioned that there was a leak next to the old Lyn's Funeral Home in the Moravia area and stated that maybe that was the reason the area was not getting any water.

In expressing gratitude, Councillor Miller stated that when he called Mr. Grindley of the National Water Commission he had responded and he had received water and hoped this service would continue until the system is back to normal.

**Councillor McArthur Collins** - enquired whether the Rapid Response Unit had to be certified before they were able to receive water from the National Water Commission facility. The member also asked that thorough investigations be carried out on the #4 well whether same would be a reality or not as the citizens would like to know.



**Councillor Darlton Brown** - stated that at the last meeting he had made a request for a letter to be written to the National Water Commission regarding work being undertaken on the roads in Alligator Pond and asked whether same had been done. The Secretary/Manager advised that same had been done.

**Councillor Donovan Mitchell** - enquired as to how soon would the reinstatement of roads leading from Royal Flat through to Comfort down to Broadleaf would be done.

Responding, Mr. James reported that he was in dialogue with members from the agency regarding the Hampton Road and work should be going on at present. He said that what added to the situation was that the same day the shingle was placed on the road it rained. The officer stated that the reinstatement of the roads was not the responsibility of the National Water Commission and what was being done was temporary.

Regarding the leaking of the pipes in Brockery, Mr. James advised the meeting that dialogue was being had on the matter and promised to investigate further. He went on to state that Comfort Hall although under the peruse of the Manchester Parish Council the matter pertaining to water was that of the St. Elizabeth Water Commission; however he promised to investigate the matter.

In relation to the parish tanks in Grove Town Division, the officer advised that thorough investigations would have to be carried out to ascertain whether the National Works Agency would be incorporating them back into their system. He said that due to the drought that the parish was experiencing that was the reason areas were experiencing low or no water such as the areas in the Craighead Division. He also advised that the National Water Commission was aware of the leak in the Moravia area and same was being addressed.

Mr. James advised the meeting that the Rapid Response Unit goes through the same process to get their trucks certified before they were given water. He also stated that he would try once more to seek some answers on the number four well. The officer also promised to investigate the matter of the work that was being undertaken in the Alligator Pond area by the National Water Commission.

The Officer advised that where road reinstatements are to take place, arrangements are being made with the National Works Agency to sign off on those areas and same should be done in short order.

Councillor Donovan Mitchell pointed out that the road way from Royal Flat through Comfort to Hampton Road on to the Porus Road was that of the Parish Council and asked that the Superintendent, Roads & Works be contacted in that regard.

Mr. James reiterated that the same arrangement that the National Water Commission had with the National Works Agency it would be the same for the Council.

Mayor Ramsay directed that before reinstatements of the Council's roadways begin dialogue should be had with the Superintendent, Roads & Works. Mr. James was in agreement. She also asked that the ownership of the water wells in Porus should be done for the way forward.

She thanked the officer for his report and advise him that he was free to leave the meeting if he so wished.

LEFT THE MEETING – Mr. Courtney James, Zone Team Leader, National Water Commission

### **The Social Development Commission**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Oren Osbourne, Social Development Commission and invited her to update the meeting accordingly.

Mr. Osbourne reported on the following:

Five DAC meetings were held in Asia, Williamsfield, Cross Keys, Newport and Porus and one DAC Executive meeting was held in Mandeville:

Asia DAC meeting was used to validate the DA Profile. Amendments were made to sections of the profile that had inaccurate information.



Williamsfield DAC had a low turnout of members but an informal discussion took place which included personnel from Williamsfield Police station and a JBDC representative. As a next step, the DAC will strive to ensure that outreach meetings are hosted to broaden representation and sensitize the communities in the DA about the Cultural Expo planned for the DA in commemoration of Manchester's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations.

Cross Keys DAC focused on the continuation of plans for the Sweet Potato Festival scheduled for May 15, 2014. In addition, letters re: the Call to Duty Housing Project in the DA has been sent to business entities in and around Mandeville to assist with the donation of material for the infrastructural construction.

At Newport DAC a Capacity Training was completed in Project Management and Financial Management.

Porus DAC, discussion centred around an evaluation of the Governance Capacity Grant Fund Training in Human Rights and plans for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the existence of the Porus community centre.

At the Mandeville DAC executive meeting the focus was on the compilation of a DA Action Plan which is to be completed. A social then followed as an appreciation for the work of the executive during the ensuing year.

MPDC AGM was held. A new Chairperson, Miss. Sally Ann Corrodus was elected. The two (2) Vice Chairmen, Mr. Desmond Wilson and Mr. Smeadly Reid were re-elected unopposed. Treasurer Ms. Beverly Henry was also re-elected unopposed. The remaining executive members will be identified at a later date. Keynote Speaker was Dr. Kadamawe Knife, Director, Office of Social Entrepreneurship, Mona School of Business (UWI). In attendance were Mayor of Mandeville, Councillor Brenda Ramsay who brought greetings along with Parish Manager Ms. B. Boothe. Six of the nine DACs were present.

The first Management Committee Meeting of the new MPDC executive was held. Discussion focused on the water harvesting and green house projects in South and Central Manchester. Partners in attendance were; JBI, SDC, four (4) DAC Chairmen and community leaders from Content, Williamsfield and Blue Mountain. As a next step, JSIF will conduct the requisite training with the participants in order to empower them on proper management of the projects.

May Day CDC Action Planning workshop was conducted and the information gathered was inputted in the CPP which is now completed.

The Parish Manager along with Mayor Brenda Ramsay and Sgt. Verona Johnson of the Community Safety & Security Branch –Manchester attended an evaluation exercise of the Parish Council Safety Committees held in Kingston at the Ministry of Local Government & Community Development. Here reports were given by the eight (8) pilot parishes along with the Consultant for the project. Each committee received a camera and a multi-media projector. In the afternoon the Parish Manager and Field Supervisor attended a Manchester Safety and Security Committee meeting at the Parish Council Chamber to review the collaborative approach and to re-strategize for upcoming community meetings. Partners present were; the Custos, Mayor, Police, JPS, SDC and Parish Council (Political and Administrative Arms).

The final safety & security meeting for this financial year was held in the May Day community. A presentation on the role of SDC in this initiative was done. Other partners in attendance were; The Mayor, CDA, Jamaica Fire Brigade, Police (Safety & Security Branch) and Councillors Cleon Francis and Jones Oliphant. Forty-eight (48) persons attended the forum.

The quarterly MIAN meeting was held. Discussion focused on the upcoming Appreciation Ceremony for the NSWMA Garbage Collectors which is now scheduled for June 12, 2014 and community enhancement projects for Cottage Police Station (Mile Gully) and Asia Health Centre. Prospective sponsors for the events were identified. For the next step, letters will be written to these entities for their assistance. The partners present were; HEART/NTA, JCF, Jamaica Fire Brigade, MIND, MLSS, NSWMA and SDC.

Poverty Assessment exercise was completed for the community of Chudleigh.

Asset Mapping was conducted in the communities of Knockpatrick, Newport & Asia.



SDC booth was displayed at NCU's Career Expo at NCU where handouts on the SDC were distributed. Over forty entities participated in the activity.

The Porus D.A. Governance Capacity Grant Fund Training in Human Rights was held. Twenty-six (26) persons from the communities of Harmons, Scott's Pass and Porus attended. Training was conducted by Mrs. Latoya Arthur-Tucker (NCU). For the next step, participants will be awarded Certificates of Participation.

Two members of staff assisted SDC Clarendon in Milk River DA with their Local Sustainable Development Planning Workshop as Facilitators. This activity was to enable the compilation of a Local Sustainable development plan for the parish of Clarendon.

Parish Manager & CDO Gilbert-Richards attended the closing exercise and equipment handing over function for the community of Comfort Hall by the Red Cross. Disaster equipment such as Power saw, gloves, rain coats, water boots etc. Twelve community persons were trained. A copy of the completed Comfort Hall disaster plan and Variability study along with an appreciation certificate was given to the SDC. Representatives from the Parish council were also in attendance namely Mrs. La Jean Richards and Councillor Fairbourne Maxwell.

Forty four application forms were distributed for the upcoming SDC 20/20 cricket competition, at the closing date we have received twenty two. The preliminary rounds will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Comfort Hanbury and Community Centers. An open invitation is extended to all.

*It is with profound sadness that I share with you all, the death of the President of the Craighead Golden Arrow Community Club, who was killed in a motor Vehicle accident. The group, the community and the Manchester SDC has lost a very dedicated, committed and outstanding community leader.*

In thanking Mr. Osbourne for his comprehensive report, the Chairman noted the collaboration between the Parish Council, the Social Development Commission and the Parish Development Commission. She said implementation of many of the projects were those that were contained out of the Local Sustainable Development Plan, which goes to the heart of getting communities engaged and when those initiatives were being planned out of what they wanted and not what the agencies think that they should have. The Chairman stated that she was happy that the plans were working and commended the Social Development Commission for the job they were doing.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Secretary/Manager announced the following:

- The Office of Utility Regulation would be having a planned consultation session on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at the Mandeville Parish Church Hall, regarding the proposed rate increase by the Jamaica Public Service Company. He said they were asking for Councillors to assist with the distribution of fliers in order that same could be a fruitful meeting.
- The Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change would be having a Water Sector Policy and Implementation Plan meeting at the Manchester High School on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Ramsay announced that all programmes for the Easter period that are to be implemented should be in by the following day as the next week would be short.

Councillor Omar Miller announced the passing of Mr. Smith's mother. Mr. Smith died in the motor vehicle accident on the highway while returning from visiting his mother in the hospital. The member expressed condolence to the family.



## ACCOUNTS

### Property Tax

Mr David Harris, Director of Finance advised the meeting that property tax collection for the month of March 2014 totalled \$61,808,860.00 which brought the collections at the end of the financial year to the amount of \$680,792,387 .00 which was 75% of the estimated \$903M. The officer stated that in dialogue with the Inland Revenue Department it was observed the sensitization programme that had taken place many persons came out early to beat the April 2014 rush. The Director of Finance also advised that the compliance efforts in the field had been yielding fruit. He added that the staff compliment had been boosted and that had impacted greatly in assisting with persons getting out of the Tax Office much faster.

The officer mentioned that upon a request that was made at the last meeting for arrangements to be put in place to assist senior citizens who attended the Tax Office, he said this was done both for the senior citizens as well as the disabled. He said the appeal was out for persons who cannot pay their taxes in full to do so quarterly or monthly.

### Financial Report

The Director of Finance reported that Revenue collected for the period April 1, 2013 – February 31, 2014 was \$576,754,506.00 and Expenditure incurred was \$584,908,511.00 with a shortfall of \$8.1M.

Mayor Ramsay thanked the Director of Finance for the report. She added that if more persons had made the effort to pay their property taxes more would have been collected. She said she knew persons were facing financial challenges; however she was appealing to those who had not done so to go to the Inland Revenue to work out a payment plan.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### From Government Ministries and Departments

#### Ministry of Local Government & Community Development

There was no correspondence.

#### Office of the Services Commission

There was no correspondence.

### Other Parish Councils

#### Resolution from St. Catherine Parish Council

The Secretary/Manager presented and read letter dated March 26, 2014 from Mr. Michael Morris, J.P., Secretary/Manager forwarding Resolution seeking the Council's support that the annual membership fee for ALGAJ's of 2,190 pounds be taken from the Equalization Fund.

The Council supported the Resolution in principle.

Moved by : Councillor Donovan Mitchell  
Seconded by : Councillor Anthony Bryce and Agreed

“That the above Resolution be supported.

#### Resolution from St. James Parish Council

The Secretary/Manager presented and read letter dated March 11, 2014 from Mr. Gerald Lee, Secretary/Manager forwarding Resolution regarding the Residential Automated Metering System (RAMI System) being implemented in Flanker, Providence Heights Housing Scheme and Providence - Granville for electricity distribution by the Jamaica Public Service Company.

This was noted by members of the Committee.



## From Other sources

### ALGAJ's Report

Mayor Ramsay reminded members to submit the activities that will be taking place in their Divisions in order that same can be published in the monthly News Letter.

Councillor Donovan Mitchell asked members to take special note of pages 2 and 3 of the report regarding the summary of the Financial Work Shop.

## DEPARTMENTAL

There was no correspondence.

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Moved by : Councillor Omar Miller  
Seconded by : Councillor Jones Oliphant and Agreed -

“that the following reports of Committees as laid on the Table  
“be and are hereby accepted:-

1. Finance & Planning Committee held 4/03/14
2. Human Resource Committee held 11/03/14
3. Civic Affairs & Brooks Park held 11/03/14
4. Municipal & Commercial Services held 18/03/14
5. Physical Planning & Environment held 20/03/14
6. Poor Relief held 26/03/14
7. Agriculture held 26/03/14
8. Local Board of Health and Environmental Sanitation 27/03/14

### Human Resource Committee

The Chairman, Councillor Donovan Mitchell advised the meeting that the Minutes of the Human Resource Committee was circulated to all Councillors.

### Community, Civic & External Affairs & Brooks Park

The above report was presented by Councillor Darlton Brown, Chairman of the Committee as under:

- *The current phase of the Cecil Charlton Park has been completed and the next phase will be the CARILED funded improvement of the other side of the park.*
- *Regarding the illegal farming on section of the Brooks Park property; the Council is in the process of drafting a lease agreement for the persons occupying the property.*
- *Four bamboo benches have been erected, trees planted and the maintenance of the ground continues at Brooks Park. Also five (5) schools have applied for the use of the ground as well for sports day.*

Mayor Ramsay added that when the park is closed the taxis would be transferred to the Central Car Park (otherwise called the Bronx), the shops would be refurbished, the walk way redone and the sanitary convenience would be put in shortly and the greens before the police station would be upgraded.

Mayor Ramsay thanked Councillor Darlton Brown for the report.

### Municipal & Commercial Services

The above report was presented by Councillor Ervin Facey, Chairman of the Committee as under:



- *Registration of vendors has been completed and the necessary operations will be carried out to ensure that only registered vendors are in the market.*
- *In regard to vacant shops at Christiana Market, the items that are allowed to be sold in the shops are being reviewed with a view of having the shops rented.*
- *The Committee requested that a listing along with the recommendations should be prepared for all Rainwater Catchment tanks that have vacant parcels of land.*
- *Plans are in place to have new vaults constructed in the Melrose Cemetery.*

Mayor Ramsay thanked Councillor Ervin Facey-Deputy Mayor for the report.

#### Physical Planning & Environment

The above report was presented by Councillor Darlton Brown, Chairman of the Committee as under:

- *The 'No Entry/Exit' to be erected within the vicinity of Greenvale Round a-bout, the Committee took the decision to communicate directly with the Chief Executive Officer of the National Works Agency to have some measures of urgency placed on the matter .*
- *Three applications for the release of lots for the processing of titles were presented; however two were approved.*
- *The CEO of NWA will be contacted with regards to the widening of the Perth Road to accommodate the influx of traffic as a result of Mega Mart and National Housing Trust Perth housing development.*

*25 Residential building plans were approved  
1 Residential multifamily was approved  
13 subdivision plans were approved  
2 applications for billboards were approved.*

Mayor Ramsay added that the traffic lights and that there was no signalized areas was not for lack of representation to the National Works Agency whose responsibility it was, as many persons think the that the installation of those lights falls under the jurisdiction of the Council which h was not, and the Council will continue to lobby for those lights until they are installed.

Mayor Ramsay thanked Councillor Darlton Brown for presenting the report.

#### Poor Relief

The above report was presented by Councillor Faith Sampson, Chairman of the Committee as under:

- *The month starts with 90 residents at the Infirmary 48 males and 42 females; one (1) male was added, ending the month with 91 as against 88 for the corresponding period last year.*
- *The Medical Officer visited and treated twenty-five (25) patients.*
- *The Mental Health Officer also visited and treated sixteen (16) patients, some of whom received monthly modulate injection.*
- *The general health of the residents remains stable.*
- *Residents with clinic appointments and emergencies are sent to the Mandeville Regional Hospital.*
- *The month started with 491persons registered on the outdoor roll, six were added and one died, ending the month with 496 – 266 males and 230 female; as against 481 for the corresponding period last year. Of this number 47 were children one of whom is registered in his own name.*
- *77 home visits were done by the officers in the Mandeville, Christiana, Mile Gully, and Newport districts.*



- *Three temporary poor were assisted.*
- *The Committee approved 6 new cases from the Mile Gully and Mandeville Districts.*
- *The Revision of the roll has started; the turnout had been very good so far. We hope this will continue and reminded Councillors that the Committee and their Constituents would really appreciate their presence when we are in your Divisions.*

Mayor Ramsay directed that the new schedule for the Revision of Roll be circulated to all Councillors.

Mayor Ramsay thanked Councillor Faith Sampson for presenting the report.

**MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMITTEES**

a) Planning & Development

Subdivisions with lots below ¼ - acre size.

There was none.

b) Recommendation for affixing the Council’s Common Seal to Approved Subdivision Applications

Moved by : Councillor Ervin Facey – Deputy Mayor  
 Seconded by : Councillor Jones Oliphant

“WHEREAS the under mentioned subdivision plan has been approved and confirmed by the Hon. Minister of Land and Environment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Seal of the Parish Council of Manchester be affixed to the subdivision plans:

1. Part of Berwick for Hyacinth Lee
2. Part of Albion known as Knight Piece and Irwin for Rose Logan
3. Part of Glenhead for Patsy Smith
4. Part of Coleyville, Goory, Sawmill & Ticky Ticky for Beresford Elliott
5. Part of New Wales for Lloyd Dawes
6. Part of Knockpatrick for Est. Norman Lamb

(c) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion –

Mayor Ramsay remarked that based on the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, Roads and Works, the under mentioned Certificates of Completion were recommended for approval:

Mayor Ramsay remarked that based on the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, Roads and Works, the under mentioned Certificates of Completion were recommended for approval:

(i) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion – Part of Port Mahone, Manchester for Vernon Maxwell

The Secretary/Manager presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads & Works dated March 21, 2014, recommending for the Council’s approval, the issuance of Certificate of Completion of development works in respect of subdivision located at Part of Port Mahone, Manchester for Vernon Maxwell as all the required conditions of approval have been complied with.

Moved by : Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor  
 Seconded by : Councillor Donovan Mitchell and Agreed –

“that a Certificate of Completion of development works be issued to  
 “the Registrar of Titles in respect of subdivision part of Port Mahone  
 “Manchester for Vernon Maxwell.



(ii) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion –  
Part of Davyton - Manchester for Percival Anderson

The Secretary/Manager presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads & Works dated February 24, 2014, recommending for the Council's approval, the issuance of Certificate of Completion of development works in respect of subdivision located at Part of Davyton, Manchester for Percival Anderson as all the required conditions of approval have been complied with.

Moved by : Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor  
Seconded by : Councillor Donovan Mitchell and Agreed –

“that a Certificate of Completion of development works be issued to  
“the Registrar of Titles in respect of subdivision part of Davyton -  
“Manchester for Percival Anderson.

(iii) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion –  
Part of Knockpatrick - Manchester for Alpart

The Secretary/Manager presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads & Works dated March 31, 2014, recommending for the Council's approval, the issuance of Certificate of Completion of development works in respect of subdivision located at Part of Knockpatrick, Manchester for Alpart as all the required conditions of approval have been complied with.

Moved by : Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor  
Seconded by : Councillor Donovan Mitchell and Agreed –

“that a Certificate of Completion of development works be issued to  
“the Registrar of Titles in respect of subdivision part of Knockpatrick  
“Manchester for Alpart.

(iv) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion –  
Part of Hopeton - Manchester for David Hall

The Secretary/Manager presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads & Works dated February 3, 2014, recommending for the Council's approval, the issuance of Certificate of Completion of development works in respect of subdivision located at Part of Hopeton, Manchester for David Hall as all the required conditions of approval have been complied with.

Moved by : Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor  
Seconded by : Councillor Donovan Mitchell and Agreed –

“that a Certificate of Completion of development works be issued to  
“the Registrar of Titles in respect of subdivision part of Hopeton  
“Manchester for David Hall.

### QUESTIONS

Councillor McArthur Collins questioned how letters coming into the Council from citizens were treated especially when other agencies were involved and whether the writer/s was informed that there request/s was forwarded to external agencies.

Responding, the Secretary/Manager advised that the Council had a process to answer all queries and complaints that came into the Council. He said they were routed through the Director of Administration as the Department to acknowledge those letters within three to four working days after it had been received. He said after the matter/s is being investigated the writer would be so advised of the findings.

Mayor Ramsay enquired and was advised that there was room for improvement in that regard.

Councillor Donovan Mitchell advised that the Council should have copies of the Citizen's Charter for the Manchester Parish Council which tells what time frame correspondences are to be answered, on what ring the phone should be picked up etc. The member asked that copies be



made available to Councillors in order that they could be handed out at their Citizen Association Meetings.

Councillor Jones Oliphant enquired and was advised by the Chairman that at the next sitting of the Local Board of Health Committee a final presentation would be made regarding the next phase of the Cecil Charlton Park.

**PETITIONS**

There was no petition.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

There was no Notice of Motion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Ramsay thanked everyone for attending and for their participation in the meeting.

There being no other matter for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m. on a motion by Councillor Anthony Bryce seconded by Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor following closing prayers by Councillor Desmond Harrison.

C O N F I R M E D

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ramsay', is written over the printed name 'CHAIRMAN'.

C H A I R M A N



