

PARISH COUNCIL OF MANCHESTER

AGENDA

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2015

1. NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING
2. PRAYER
3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2015
5. MATTERS ARISING
6. REPORTS FROM AGENCIES
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS
8. ACCOUNTS
9. CORRESPONDENCE
  - I. From Government Ministries & Departments
  - II. OTHER PARISH COUNCILS
  - III. OTHER SOURCES
    - (a) Report from the President, ALGAJ
- IV. DEPARTMENTAL
10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
  1. Finance & Planning Committee held 4/01/15
  2. Civic Affairs & Brooks Park held 13/01/15
  3. Municipal & Commercial Services held 20/01/15
  4. Physical Planning & Environment held 15/01/15
  5. Poor Relief held 28/01/15
  6. Agriculture held 28/01/15
  7. Local Board of Health and Environmental Sanitation 22/01/15

11. MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMITTEES

Physical Planning & Environment

- (a) Subdivision with lots below ¼-acre size
- (b) Recommendation for affixing the Council's Common Seal to approved subdivision applications
- (c) Recommendation for issuance of Certificate of Completion

12. QUESTIONS

13. PETITIONS

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

15. PRAYER

16. ADJOURNMENT

BY ORDER

Doyen Johnson  
Acting Secretary/Manager  
Parish Council, Manchester

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF MANCHESTER HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2015**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council of Manchester was held in the Council's Chamber, 32 Hargreaves Avenue, Mandeville on Thursday, January 8, 2015, commencing at 10:13 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Her Worship the Mayor**  
**Councillor Brenda Ramsay, Presiding**

Councillors: - Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor  
                  Jones Oliphant  
                  Cleon Francis  
                  Faith Sampson  
                  Muriel Swaby  
                  McArthur Collins  
                  Burton Wright  
                  Donovan Mitchell  
                  Anthony Bryce  
                  Donovan Mitchell

**ELECTORAL DIVISION**

**Bellefield**

Spur Tree  
Mandeville  
Knockpatrick  
Johns Hall  
Porus  
New Green  
Walderston  
Royal Flat  
Newport  
Royal Flat

**ENTERED DURING THE MEETING**

Councillors: Fairbourne Maxwell

Mile Gully

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Messrs:	David Harris	-	Director of Finance – Clerk to the Committee
	Doyen Johnson	-	Superintendent, Roads & Works
	Dewaine Larmond	-	Director of Planning
	Denzil Mundy	-	Inspector of Poor
Mesdames:	Darcia Roache	-	Director of Administration
	Vivinne Grant	-	Matron, Infirmary
	LaJean Powell-Richards	-	Disaster Preparedness Coordinator
	Cordelia Ashley	-	Acting Community Programmes Coordinator
Misses:	Sharon Walker	-	Internal Auditor
	Janice Mundle	-	Municipal & Commercial Services Manager
	Charmine Hepburn	-	Recording Secretary

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Neville Bennett	-	Deputy Superintendent, Jamaica Fire Brigade
Mr. Shelton Thomas	-	Operations Manager, Jamaica Public Service Co. Ltd.
Mr. Donovan Cunningham	-	Parish Manager, Jamaica Public Service Co. Ltd.
Miss Beverly Boothe	-	Parish Manager, Social Development Commission

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 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

Her Worship the Mayor thanked Rev. Dr. White for doing devotion and stated that in her message she was picking up faith and hope and how everyone needed it in 2015. She wished Dr. White and her family best wishes and looked forward to her continued devotions with the Council every month.

Dr. White wished for everyone a happy New Year and hoped that everything that will be done in

Manchester will be crowned by the blessing of the Lord.

## WELCOME

Her Worship the Mayor extended a warm welcome to everyone present to the first Council meeting for the New Year. She said it was good to see everyone and trust it was a good Christmas. She said that they as Councillors received a small amount of rest and some quality time to be with families. The Mayor said that she trust in this 2015 that everyone will come with renewed strength, hope, vigour, re-dedication and commitment to make this a year with a difference and that they will deliver quality service to clients and citizens of Manchester.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were tendered on behalf of the Secretary/Manager who was on sick leave, Ms. Janice Mundle, Commercial Services Manager who would be late, Councillor Darlton Brown who was attending a meeting in his Division and Councillor Iceval Brown who was on sick leave.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by : Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor  
Seconded by : Councillor Desmond Harrison and Agreed -

“that the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Council  
“held on December 11, 2014 be and are hereby confirmed.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014

### Re: No Confidence Motion

Councillor Mitchell mentioned that the No Confidence motion that was moved at the Council Meeting held on October 9, 2014 regarding the Secretary/Manager and noted that in the December 11, 2014 meeting there was no response from the Parish Councils Services Commission. He then asked whether the Council had received any update on the matter.

In responding, Her Worship the Mayor advised the meeting that in conversation with personnel from the Parish Councils Services Commission, she was being assured that the matter is being handled and they have requested some documents which she has forwarded and now await further response. She also reminded Members that there is a process and due process must be observed as in all things one has to be fair to all parties.

Councillor Mitchell remarked that he knew due process had to be followed; however he knew in some cases based on the gravity on what they are faced with at present and to make it worse the Mayor entered into the Council Chambers late due to the fact that her chain of authority was locked away in the Secretary/Manager’s office. He said that he did not know whether someone had another key in order that she could retrieve same.

Continuing, the Member went on to state that it was good that the members were present as the people’s business of the parish is essential and stated that if the Secretary/Manager was present he would be absent from the meeting. He stated that at the Finance and Planning Committee held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, the behaviour and attitude of the Secretary/Manager and the things that were happening in the Council could not continue in 2015 with this Secretary/Manager. He said that he was hoping that the Parish Councils Services Commission will understand and treat the matter with urgency.

The member said if he did not work, the people of the Royal Flat will work even though their businesses are being hampered by the Officer as he holds documents on his desk for a long period and even other Councillors were being targeted as they cannot see ‘eye to eye’. He said that the Services Commission needed to take a decision and if not he would not be sitting in another a meeting with the Secretary/Manager advising him, as on many occasions he had misled him personally as Councillor of the Royal Flat Division.

Councillor Bryce added that the only reason he was at the meeting was that Her Worship the Mayor had heard from the Parish Councils Services Commission and they had requested some

documents which was sent to them and she was awaiting word from them. He expressed the same sentiments as his colleague that he would not be sitting in another meeting with the Secretary/Manager.

The Mayor stated that she has every confidence in the Parish Councils Services Commission and they were a competent body and as she had stated that due process must be observed. She assured the members that she had documented the sentiments and the incidents which had caused them to move to this stage in not having any confidence in the leadership and guidance of the Secretary/Manager. She advised the meeting that this was not a personal matter as the Council's business was seriously affected by under performance, negligence and sometimes prejudicial behaviour of the Secretary/Manager. She asked of the members to await further communication from the Parish Councils Services Commission.

#### **Re: Development of Roxborough**

Councillor Facey, Deputy Mayor requested an update on the development of Roxborough.

The Mayor advised the meeting that the development of Roxborough was going to take some time as it was going to depend on the availability of funds being released. She said that a follow up could be done to ascertain whether some finances can be made available as soon as possible as she did not want when the July 4, 2015 approaches that is the time when people are scurrying around to do further work.

#### **Re: Council's Website**

At this juncture, the Director of Finance introduced to the meeting Mr. Dwayne Peart the new Management Information Specialist who has been employed to the Council with effect from December 22, 2014. He further advised that Mr. Peart has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Information Technology from the University of Technology and he will be overseeing the information system for the Council, the website, networking, etc.

In welcoming Mr. Peart to the Manchester Parish Council, the Mayor stated that she was going to apologize publicly that his initiations had yet to be done to date, and the quality of the service and operation of the Manchester Parish Council is being seriously eroded day by day. She then directed the Director of Finance to ensure that Mr. Peart knows what he is to do and get the proper handing over in order that he can do his job. She wished Mr. Peart best wishes and said that she expects good work attitude and service from him.

#### **Re: Property Tax Discretionary Relief Committee**

Regarding the matter at captioned, Her Worship the Mayor advised the meeting that what had been reported by the Secretary/Manager was that meetings had been held and investigations were on going. She said in the Finance Committee Meeting held on January 6, 2015 members tried to get from the Secretary/Manager the likely outcomes as to whether the information that had been garnered had been sent to the requisite Ministry in Kingston; however they were not able to get that information. She said she was trusting and apologizing to the public for those persons who had sent in applications for relief and who have not yet been properly advised as to their requests. She mentioned that March 31, 2015 ends the current relief period and she was sure that a new session would have to start come April 2015 and once more apologized to those persons who have been affected.

#### **Entered the Meeting – Councillor Fairbourne Maxwell**

#### **Re: Public Private Partnership Project**

Councillor Mitchell in requesting an update on the matter at captioned, stated although he knew the Secretary/Manager was not present to give an update on the project. He further stated that an officer was temporary hired to deal with some of the matters; however his contract came to an end on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 and the Council did not know the status. He said to his understanding the Secretary/Manager should address the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the topic in the afternoon and he did not know who would do so since he was not present. He said he was not privy to what had been done over the past months since the inception of the project and he did not know whether the opinion of the Secretary/Manager in giving a statement or making a statement would be to the reward of the Manchester Parish Council.

Her Worship the Mayor remarked that what the member had stated she would not think that all the Councillors would agree that they knew of the project which was conceptualized many, many years ago and that they knew that they wanted to embark on a project to see whether or not the Council would be able to carry forward the redevelopment of the town centre with market and the parking facilities.

Mayor Ramsay said as members they had been stating that while the project is ongoing, the Council had not been updated and there was no progress report brought before them and they were just being told that meetings were being held with different entities and what those meetings entails they did not know. She said at the Finance & Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 members had indicated that they were not going to support the Secretary/Manager's address to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce unless he presents the contents of the presentation as he would be representing the Manchester Parish Council. She said she could not allow someone to go out and represent his or her own view unless it is sanctioned by the Council. She went on to state that the presentation should have been made at the Council's Infrastructure Meeting; however the Secretary/Manager did not turn up for work and today he said he is not well. She said that same would be communicated to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Continuing, Her Worship the Mayor mentioned that the person who was engaged to do the findings contract came to an end. She said she was displeased when the gentleman had to come and hand her a report which she told him that she would not read as she thought it was not the proper procedure as he was not aware of the details of what he should have been doing. She went on to say that the report should have gone to the Secretary/Manager and discussions had; hence she could not forward the report to Council as she was not sure as to what was in same. She said further discussions would be had on the matter as soon as the Secretary/Manager gets back into office.

#### **Re: Representatives from National Water Commission**

Councillor Collins mentioned that he had observed that there was no representative from the National Water Commission and stated that no apology was tendered on their behalf. He said he had questions pertaining to their facilities and stated that he would air them when the time arises.

#### **Re: Manchester 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

Her Worship the Mayor mentioned that on the day of the Manchester 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration there were lots of rain and thanked the public and all the persons who turned out to make the service and the ceremony a successful one. She also thanked the students and all those who gave items in particularly the Security Forces and the Fire Brigade who in the rain displayed and 'strut their stuff' in order that there would be a wonderful display. She said she wanted to thank them sincerely for making it a memorable occasion. Mayor Ramsay went on to say that she was watching the television and she saw where a time capsule was on earth and all that was in it and the coins and documents. She said that Manchester buried a capsule and she wondered what people might say when they unearth this another one hundred (100) years. She said may their story be a pleasant one with good memories. She said thanks once more to all and stated that they may not have the money to do all the things that they wanted to; however they think that they did their best under the circumstances

#### **Re: Establishing of a Parochial Revenue Fund Account**

Councillor Mitchell commented that the Secretary/Manager made some remarks pertaining to the Parochial Revenue Fund at November's meeting. He stated that when one reads the minutes it would seem as if there were some other things happening with those funds that the Council received for Road Maintenance than it ought to have been. He then asked of the Director of Finance to give an update as to the opening of the Account.

Her Worship the Mayor added that the matter was also raised at the Finance & Planning Committee to find out whether the statements made by the Secretary/Manager regarding the reasons for opening the Account which implied that there were some improper activities in the Council and the members did not get him to answer a 'yes' or a 'no'. She reemphasized that the Council received an award last year for fiscal prudence and if they were not doing something right then the Council would not have been awarded.

The Director of Finance advised the meeting that the Account had been established at the Bank of Nova Scotia Limited and is a Chequing Account in which the Parochial Revenue Fund is received on a monthly basis and cheques are drawn from this Account solely for Road Maintenance activities. He further clarified that the Parochial Revenue Fund resides under the Ministry of Local Government and there were two aspects to the Fund.

The Officer explained that one aspect deals with the Road Maintenance in which 66⅔% of the Motor Vehicle License Fees paid at the Inland Revenue Department is received into this fund at the Ministry of Local Government and disbursed to the Parish Councils on a monthly basis, and this was based on the amount of kilometre Parochial Roads in the respective parishes. He went on to say that the other aspect dealt with property tax collections under which 90% of what is collected for Property Taxes is retained in the Parochial Revenue Fund Account and is used to pay for solid waste and street lights, and the other 10% goes into an Equalization Fund at the Ministry of Local Government which is disbursed by way of discretion by the Minister of Local Government by way of resolution from the respective Councils. The Director of Finance went on to say that the matter of setting up a Parochial Revenue Banking Account was an operational matter and the Manchester Parish Council had not have any challenges as it relates to Road Maintenance activities and hoped his explanation sheds some light on the subject.

Mayor Ramsay asked of Councillor Mitchell as to whether his question had been answered.

Councillor Mitchell answered in the affirmative and added that one had to be careful as to what goes out into the public and he has been in the Council since 1998 and it was the first that the matter of the Parochial Revenue Fund had come before Council.

The Mayor reassured the public that the Manchester Parish Council is dealing with the public funds in a transparent and honest way and needed that assurance to continue to do so.

#### **Re: New Female Ward to be Constructed at the Infirmary**

Regarding the captioned matter, Her Worship the Mayor advised the meeting that the Council still awaits the commencement date as the funds are in place. She said that works would be carried out by the Food for the Poor. She said she knew that Councillor Sampson, Chairman of the Poor Relief Committee was more than anxious to see that particular ward in place, as where the females are now housed was less than acceptable. She went on to say that follow up would be done in that regard to ensure that the commencement and completion of the facility is done as early as possible.

Councillor Mitchell pointed out that at the last meeting the Secretary/Manager had stated that there was no title for the Infirmary; however the Mayor had instructed that a copy of same be sent to the Ministry of Local Government. The Member asked whether this was done as he said he did not want to hear that the matter of the title was the cause for the delay in commencing the work.

The Director of Finance advised the meeting that the necessary checks would have to be made to ascertain as to whether the title had been sent to the Ministry of Local Government.

The Superintendent, Roads & Works added that the Council's Spatial Planner had done some checks with the National Land Agency and it was revealed that the property in question belongs to the Manchester Parish Council.

The Mayor enquired as to whether the boundary survey had been done and submitted to the Ministry of Local Government.

The Superintendent replied that the survey was done and copies sent to the Secretary/Manager; however he could not confirmed whether same was sent to the Ministry

#### **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

##### **The Jamaica Fire Brigade**

The Chairman invited Mr. Neville Bennett, Deputy Superintendent, Jamaica Fire Brigade to

update the meeting accordingly.

The Deputy Superintendent wished everyone a happy New Year and stated that it was his privilege to give the report on the activities that took place during the month of December 2014. The officer advised the meeting that all three units were up and running, one in Christiana and two Mandeville.

Continuing, the Deputy Superintendent stated that for the month of December 2014 the Department responded to 37 fire calls broken down as follows:-

- 18 genuine, 3 malicious false alarms, 1 false alarm with good intention and 7 special services;
- Summary – Mandeville 29 and Christiana 8;
- Estimated value of property at risk was \$68,000,000.00;
- Estimated loss was \$950,000.00;
- Estimated value saved - \$67,050,000,000.00;
- There were three (3) major fires, and one (1) adult was left homeless

#### Major Fires

11 <sup>th</sup> December	Six apartment dwelling house at Broadleaf District -Manchester. Number of jets used: None, Loss \$350,000.00. Risk \$2.5M. Homeless: 0 Origin: Injury: none Origin: unknown
12 <sup>th</sup> December	one bedroom dwelling house at Hopeton District -Manchester. Number of jets used: One medium Loss \$300,000.00. Risk \$300,000.00. Homeless: 1 adult Origin: Injury: none Origin: unknown
21 <sup>st</sup> December	dwelling house at Confidence Avenue – Mandeville. Number of jets used: none. Loss \$300,000.00. Risk \$3M Homeless: none Origin: suspected arson

Mr. Bennett stated that during the month of December 2014 the recurrences were low and the Brigade was grateful for same.

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

Her Worship the Mayor asked whether this was something new in comparison to similar periods.

Responding, the Deputy Superintendent stated that they had noticed a trend that fires were down due to the public education that the Fire Brigade was doing and there was less bush fires which he hoped would continue in the New Year.

Her Worship the Mayor mentioned that there were frequent complaints about malfunctioning/out of service hydrants and asked for an update on those within the parish.

The Deputy Superintendent reported that the Fire Brigade continues to work on all hydrants within the parish as much as possible and was focussing more on the critical ones. He said that malfunctioning hydrants had always been with the Brigade and they were trying to reduce that number as a survey was being done to look at those that are more critical in terms of the scope of work to be carried out. He said it was going to be a long process as the funds were limited and it was going to take some time to have them repaired. The Officer went on to say that some of the hydrants were not really malfunctioning but due to the fact that they were not being used frequently as others; however when they are tested they may only need some minor repairs.

Continuing, the Officer stated that it was a concern as some of the hydrants were connected a long time and they were not sure of the type of mains that were used to connect them, as some of them were connected with the old earthen ware pipes years ago; hence there needs to be a rehabilitation of the work itself. However, for those that were workable the Brigade was aware of same. He said a Google survey was done which did not reveal everything about the hydrants but where they have been placed that they can be easily located. He went on to say that for those that were being worked on last year only four had been completed and to tidy up some of the areas to secure the valve box, etc and the team would be back in the parish by the following



week to complete same.

Mayor Ramsay stated she was happy to hear and encouraged the Department to keep the focus as the Brigade needed to be able to access those hydrants if and when they are needed. She went on to say that she was sorry that there was no representative from the National Water Commission as they also played a critical partner as well. She said that not only do the public wants to know that some of the clay pipes are going to be changed as they were now breaking down but re-emphasized that the Ministries are now preparing for a new budget year and some of those things must be factored in such as the replacement of those old system. The Mayor said that she hoped that this was communicated to their Department Heads in order that dialogue can be had with both agencies as to the way forward. She went on to say replacement must be a part of what goes into the budget for the new year as the citizens were tired with those frequent leaks and the moment a bit of roadway is fixed the National Water Commission comes in and disturbed same.

Her Worship the Mayor mentioned that at the Infrastructure Committee the matter of the digging up of the roadways was mentioned where they were frequent disturbances by the National Water Commission which impacted negatively on the road surfaces. She said she was tired of hearing the same thing that there were no funds and no funds could not go through 2015. She went on to say that someone else had to find the funds and even when the surfaces were replaced they were not of the quality of the previous one and the Council would be taking a no tolerance approach to this practice in 2015.

The Deputy Superintendent informed the meeting that the Brigade received a small grant fund from Japan and that was what was helping to maintain some of the hydrants; however he did not know how far same will be able to stretch; however he was trying to do his best.

Mayor Ramsay remarked that she had every confidence that the officer will try to do something about the additional funding. She suggested that the Fire Department create a critical list and where the funding could not do all he should send the remainder to the Parish Council for them to lobby on their behalf.

*Councillor Collins* thanked the officer for his report on a monthly basis and for the repairing of the two hydrants at Brumalia Road and the other at the intersection of Wint Road and Ward Avenue.

*Councillor Oliphant* stated that he noted the removal of hydrants from certain areas and asked which of the agency was responsible for the removing of same and who is responsible to replace them.

The Deputy Superintendent replied that he had no report of any hydrants being missing or removed unless in areas where there were new subdivisions. He said if there were any such happenings he would tender a report to the Council who through the Councillors would make the necessary investigations to ascertain whether same was true and send back a report through the Council to the Fire Brigade. He mentioned that the Brigade do replace hydrants when they are moved for maintainance; however they were not the ones who placed them there, they are put there by developers of subdivision.

The Mayor suggested that Councillor Oliphant have dialogue with the Deputy Superintendent in respect to the missing hydrants.

*Councillor Maxwell* mentioned that there were two fires during the month of December 2014 within his Division; one at Cowick Park and one other at Breezy Hill where a house was totally destroyed. He said that he would have dialogue with the Officer to give more details on the respective fires.

Her Worship the Mayor asked whether there was any report made by the citizens in respect to the fires to the Fire Department.

The Councillor stated that he could not say whether this was done.

Mayor Ramsay implored the need for the sensitization programme to continue and in the Councillors outreach and community meetings the numbers for the Fire Department must be given to the citizens. She also reminded the Social Development Commission that in their meetings that his be done as well.

Mr. Bennett informed the meeting that whenever a fire had been reported and time had passed, and persons are coming to report same they would need some certification from a Justice of the Peace, Pastor, etc to confirm that they are indeed the persons that had been affected as this was the only way that they can place something on their records in order to verify same.

Councillor Mitchell asked for investigations to be carried out on hydrants within the Melrose Mews subdivision as there were approximately eight hundred lots within that subdivision.

Her Worship the Mayor once more pleaded with developers of subdivisions to look at the alternatives, hydrants yes, such as surface water runoff, which must be contained to be used to fight fires. She also asked of developers to come in and talk to the Superintendent, Roads & Works and the Director of Planning before they finalized their development plans.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Superintendent for his report.

**Re: Jamaica Public Service Company's Report**

Her Worship the Mayor asked Mr. Shelton Thomas, Operations Manager to update the meeting accordingly.

Mr. Thomas at this juncture wished all Councillors, members of staff, agencies and members of the media a happy New Year. The Officer went on to say that the reporting period saw the Jamaica Public Service Company on a shortfall in generations which resulted in a number of unscheduled outages especially in the south area of the parish at a time when the demand for energy peak due to the festivities of the season.

The Operations Manager reported as follows:

- During the month of December 2014 the repairing of streetlights in the various Divisions across the Council continued and despite the late start two hundred and fifty-four (254) lights were repaired with concentration mainly in the town centres as those areas are the hub of the commercial activities.
- Street lights were repaired in the following Divisions as follows:

DIVISION	NUMBER REPAIRED
Bellfield	5
Spur Tree	32
Craig Head	2
Walderston	-
Royal Flat	5
Alligator Pond	-
Newport	25
Porus	16
Grove Town	2
Mile Gully	21
Christiana	9
Johns Hall	68
Knockpatrick	2
Mandeville	46
New Green	21

- The loss of electricity due to theft continues to affect the Company and during the reporting period seventeen (17) persons were arrested. He said the Jamaica Public Service Co. intends to send a strong message that the stealing of electricity is a crime.
- The Officer stated that it was the Company's intention during 2015 to implement a more permanent solution to deter persons from committing and or operating this illegal practice.
- The Management and Staff of the Jamaica Public Service Company endeavours to continue to give quality service to the people of Manchester.

- Value all businesses and promised to explore all the available options to provide an affordable energy solution for every Jamaican. Once more the Officer expressed thanks for the opportunity extended to the Company to serve the people.

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

Her Worship the Mayor remarked that the report from the Officer was a bold and positive start to 2015 and thanked him for his report. She mentioned that there were some Divisions that seemed to be underserved when she looked back at the previous report. She said that the last report stated that there were no repairs carried out in the Alligator Pond Division and the report just given stated the same. She stated that Councillor Darlton Brown, the Councillor for that Division reports frequently that lights were not being repaired and some were even stolen from the Division and asked that the area be visited.

The Mayor also asked that more focus be given to the Grove Town, Walderston, Christiana and Craighead Divisions; however she stated that the members appreciated the works that were being carried out by the Company.

#### **Exited the Meeting – Mr. Neville Bennett, Deputy Superintendent – Fire Department**

Mr. Thomas mentioned that there were some Divisions that had not been dealt with as they ought to; however the Alligator Pond Division was serviced approximately two months before; hence the reason that area was not focused on as much, the Officer stated that areas such as Spur Tree, Johns Hall and Mile Gully did not receive any service for several months. He went on to say that Walderston, Christiana and Craighead needed to be attended to and he had spoken to the team before coming to the meeting asking them to give those areas some attention.

The Mayor told the officer that he had demonstrated in the past that he was a man of his words; therefore the members will hold him to what he had said to see that those repairs are undertaken.

*Councillor Facey – Deputy Mayor* expressed thanks for the repairs that had been done in his Division and wished the Jamaica Public Service Company all the best for 2015 and stated that he hoped to see some more improvement in the services offered. He pointed out that although the Officer stated that there were thirty-two (32) lights repaired in his Division this was not so as looking at the report some of the areas fall under the Newport Division and not Spur Tree. He also stated that some of the areas within his Division still needed attention and due to the length of time that the lights take to be repaired they are being stolen.

Continuing, the Deputy Mayor thanked the Jamaica Public Service Company in working with the Rural Electrification Programme in the extension of electricity in the Balm Hill area of Mike Town. The member stated that the citizens are grateful that same was done in time for the Christmas. He enquired as to the reason/s for the frequent short outages that were happening within the Spur Tree area and pointed out that a hole had been dug for some years now to do pole replacement but to date that has not been done. He asked that the matter be addressed.

*Councillor McArthur Collins* thanked the officers for the attention that he had been given in his Division and encouraged the team to continue to do their work. He also mentioned that a number of the poles within his Division did not have a number and asked that same be addressed as when they have numbers they can be easily identified.

*Councillor Beverly Swaby* remarked that although the report stated that sixteen lights were repaired in her Division she could not say thanks as she is yet to verify same. She stated that to date the one at her gate across from the WINDALCO pumping station had not been fixed. She said that she hoped she and JPSCo. will have a good working relationship for 2015.

*Councillor Anthony Bryce* – thanked Mr. Thomas on behalf of the citizens in the Newport Division for the repairs to the twenty-five (25) lights that he had received. He however stated that there were two in Swaby's Hope adjacent to Claire's shop that had not been repaired and asked that same be done.

Mayor Ramsay reminded the members to put their requests in writing as this would make it easier for the Company.

*Councillor Faith Sampson* – expressed thanks for the repairs carried out in her Division; however there were still areas that needed attention. The member further stated that the Customer Care Centre needed to be addressed as there was no customer service at all. She said when calls are made to the Centre you are told to hold for ten minutes and when that ten minutes has passed the call is cut off. She said on behalf of the Johns Hall Division she was appealing for something to be done to the Customer Care Centre at the JPSCo. She said if it was not for Mr. Thomas or Mr. Cunningham probably she would spend days without electricity and she was reminding the Company of the rotting poles within the Division.

*Councillor Fairbourne Maxwell* - thanked Mr. Thomas and his team for the job they were doing within his Division over the past months and they had changed the perception of what people use to have of Jamaica Public Service Company.

*Councillor Burton Wright* – stated that even though the Officer had stated that he had asked the team to address the Walderston Division, he was asking for repairs of street lights to be carried out in the Allison area turning onto the Spalding Hill Road, at Mr. Bailey's shop in Cobbla, at the car wash and Mile Gully road at the playfield.

*Councillor Jones Oliphant* - expressed his appreciation for the repair works that the Company was doing in the Mandeville Division. He also mentioned that the lights at some of the intersections needed to be addressed as they go out quite frequently. He said that he would supply the Officer with some of the locations where this was happening.

Mr. Thomas promised to have the team investigate same. He said that this can be caused from how the photocells are positioned into the bulbs and when the lights from vehicles hit the circuits they are disconnected.

*Councillor Donovan Mitchell* – in giving thanks stated that he was aware of two out of the five that had been repaired. He also thanked the Jamaica Public Service Company on behalf of the citizens of Williamsfield for the installation of the lights in the Williamsfield Round-about and requested some more be placed at the location. The member went on to say that the light at the intersections of Comfort and Royal Flat main roads had the similar problem as those mentioned by Councillor Oliphant and asked that same be investigated.

Continuing, Councillor Mitchell mentioned that a concrete pole was to be erected for approximately two years at the intersections of Congo Town and the Royal Flat main roads; however to date that has not been done and suggested that the Company takes off their wire in the interim and maybe leave the cable/telephone wires on the wooden pole for safety sake. The member asked that some more de-shrubbing be done as the parish was experiencing high winds. He also mentioned that there were some areas within his Division which was not easily accessible by large units and there were lights within those areas that needed to be repaired. He also mentioned that a light was taken down that had not been replaced and asked that this be done.

*Councillor Cleon Francis* – thanked the Officers for the attention given to the Knockpatrick Division; however he had some lights within the Division that were in urgent need of repairs due to security reasons, and they are as follows: Littleton Road off Hillside, Bottom Albion in front of Ms. Lilly's shop, Middle Shop at Inverness and Sunset Boulevard in front of Mr. Wallace's house. The member enquired as to the reason when customers report street lights to be repaired to the Company they are referred to the Council.

*Her Worship the Mayor* – remarked that the contractors were not doing a good cleaning up after the de-shrubbing. She said that it was the day before that both she and Councillor Swaby spoke about the limbs and branches that were left in drains which were causing problems. She also thanked them for the installation of the lights at the Willimasfield; however she was asking for the one where higglers are gathered to take their produce into Kingston be addressed.

The Mayor mentioned that at the exit from her home there was a pole that was leaning badly and needed to be addressed. She said she did not know whether same was the responsibility of WINDALCO or the Public Service Company; hence the investigation needed to be carried out. She also stated that residents in the Clarkes Town community were experiencing surges due to the distance of the wiring. She said that a pole was needed as low voltage was affecting them badly. She said that she could take the Officers to the location.

Mr. Thomas explained that customers at times go to the Jamaica Public Service Company and asked for the installation of new light/s then it was at that time the customers are referred to the Council. He said that the Company did not install new lamps unless they receive written instructions from the Ministry of Local Government. He further stated that where there are existing lamps then the Company would be the ones that they should have dialogue with as they were the ones responsible for same.

Mayor Ramsay stated that she was asking of the Officers to ensure that what he had stated was conveyed to the customers as she too have been receiving similar complaints.

Regarding the vegetation control, Mr. Thomas explained that the Jamaica Public Service Company had asked the contractors to bush the areas that did not pose safety issues and after they have completed same then they would indicate to the Company the locations that needed outages in order to cut those bushes that are near to the lines; hence the reason some are left uncut.

The Operations Manager further explained that there were two types of outages; the very short/mille second ones which the Company is working to address, and can be done locally especially on the Spur Tree 310 feeder the one that goes into Hatfield and South Manchester. He said the other had durations that lasted approximately 3-15 minutes which are above the local Company's level; however they were still making the request to have them addressed. He said that those are caused from under frequency protection and the Company was having some generation issues late last year into the New Year. The Officer stated that when there was a loss of generation the system is designed to automatically shed load until some gas turbine is brought up as the load had to be equal to the generation. He said some requests are being made to ease some of the burdens that some of the customers are experiencing, especially those living in the Spur Tree and Alligator Pond areas.

Mayor Ramsay thanked the officers for their availability and their report and stated that whenever members called there was quick response and they do appreciate it. She said that she knew that the Company were operating under trying circumstances and news that they had received were heart rendering that the Office of Utilities Regulations would not be granting the Company any increase. She said the public is hoping to see low electricity rates, less outages and this was good news.

**LEFT THE MEETING – Mrs. Shelton Thomas and Mr. Cunningham officers JPSCo.**

### **The Social Development Commission**

Mayor Ramsay asked Ms. Beverly Boothe-Parish Manager to update the meeting accordingly.

The Parish Manager reported as follows:

#### ***Governance***

##### ***Strengthening the PGF:***

*Financial management training was completed with the Asia CDC, while team building training was done with Southern United Development Club (Snowdon CDC).*

*Capacity building was conducted in Conflict Resolution with the Comfort Hall CDC.*

*Stakeholder analysis was also completed.*

*Engagement was done with MP Peart about the poor road condition in the French Park and Swaby's Hope communities and about the poor toilet facilities at Plowden Primary.*

*Consultations were held with MP Phillips re the leasing of the Battersea Clarks Town Community Center by SDC for office space.*

*Community Meeting was held at Comfort Community Centre. The objective of the meeting was to continue the sharing of information with community members to enhance the building of their social capital which has experienced social decay in recent times. Partners present were; MP-Hon. Peter Bunting, HEART/NTA, JCF, SDC and Comfort CDC. Approximately one hundred*

and twenty (120) persons attended the forum. As a next step, the MP will finance a Remedial Programme in the community to assist with enhancing the education capacity of the youth.

Asia DAC meeting was held. Matters discussed were; Status of South Manchester Community Council Cassava Planting and Greenhouse Projects, Interest of DA members to start a Beekeeping Project and Report on status of crime in the DA. Partners present were; JCF, SDC and community reps.

Alligator Pond DAC meeting was held. Matters discussed were; Report from the JCF as to the status of Crime in the area, Strategies to strengthen the DAC and Report on the recently held Beach Clean-up Day. Partners present were; JCF, SDC and community reps.

Cross Keys DAC meeting was held. matters discussed were the status of the TEF Centre of Excellence Project at Cross Keys High school which includes Greenhouse farming, Rabbit Rearing and planting of the Hibiscus plant to make value-added products. Partners present were; Cross Keys High school, SDC and community reps.

#### **Inter Agency Network:**

Mile Gully District meeting held Re Garbage collecting with SPM and Parish Council. In attendance was Councilor Maxwell who pledged to contribute eighty thousand dollars towards purchasing materials for the renovation of the garbage receptacle. Community Club will provide workmanship. Councilor Omar Miller was engaged to assist with fun raising event planned by the Robin's Hall Primary PTA & Consultations were held with Councilor Collins and the Management Committee of Battersea Clarks Town Community Center re the leasing of the Battersea Clarks Town Community Center by SDC.

#### **Community Research and Database:**

Asset mapping completed for Victoria Town and Fairfield.

Church, education and business listing were updated for Victoria Town. Education listings updated for Alligator Pond DA.

Butt Up Community Profile completed.

#### **Community Development Planning**

Snowdon CPP process has started approximately 40% has been completed.

Agencies, stakeholders, PDC, Political Reps all participated in the 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations of the Parish. A church service was held at the Mandeville Parish Church, followed by Cultural celebrations in the Cecil Charlton Park, Civic ceremony was held and then the lighting of the Christmas Tree. An all day fun-day was also held at Brooks Park to commemorate the day.

#### **Community Action for the Improvement in Education:**

Proposal writing session was conducted with four (4) teachers, the principal and three (3) members of the PTA executive body to be submitted to JSFI for a playfield for Plowden Primary and the community.

The relevant funding agencies were identified to assist in constructing toilet facilities for the school.

Assistance was given to Robin's Hall Fun –Day & Concert. This was to raise funds for the fencing of the Robin's Hall Primary School. The fund raising activities which included a fun day, sale of lunches and beauty pageant show were held. Over 119 students and staff members will benefit from the proposed safe environment.

Mayor Ramsay thanked the Officer for the comprehensive report and for the ongoing assistance

and partnership with the Council.

### **CARILED Report**

The Chairman invited Mrs. Angella Edwards, Local Economic Development Officer (LEDO) to update the meeting accordingly.

Mrs. Edwards informed the meeting that she has taken over as the Local Economic Development Officer (LEDO) for the parish since October 2014. She said that since the inception of the CARILED project they have been concentrating on the refurbishing and building of additional shops in the Cecil Charlton Park as well as looking on a tourism project for Alligator Pond. She said that the shops were built and completed and would be handed over to the Council shortly.

Continuing, the Local Economic Development Officer stated that the project for Alligator Pond was being worked on and a stake holders meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 in the Council Chambers and invitations were sent out for same. She added that Alligator Pond falls under the area where there are environmental issues and which was being impacted by Global Warming. Mrs. Edwards stated that CARILED was engaged in some 'Ease of doing business' workshops, the first of which was held in Kingston and they would be bringing same to other parishes especially those that the projects were being implemented. She said that Manchester's Workshop will be held on January 27, 2015 and persons from the Council as well members of the micro and small business sectors will be invited to participate.

Mrs. Edwards went on to state that CARILED was in the process of restarting the Local Economic Development Committee meetings which will be held at the Council. She said that in September 2014 a two day workshop was held where strategies were looked at to implement the LED and the report is out and will be circulated to members and an action plan is to be looked at coming out of the workshop as to the way forward. She further stated that she had sent out documents to all Councillors as to how CARILED can implement some of the LED strategies within their Divisions and requested a response to same.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Her Worship the Mayor remarked that 2014 was really a mixed year in terms of achievements and expectations being met and while there were some highs, there were also some down points where crime in the parish was at an unacceptable level and she was hoping that in 2015 there will be reduction and normalcy will return in the parish.

She went on to say that there was hope that there will be some price reductions and she would like to say thanks publicly to the two companies that indicated that the price of chicken would be reduced at \$3.00 to \$4.00 per kilo and it was a start in the right direction. She announced that other areas such as the Jamaica Public Service Company had not been granted the increase that they had been asking for and she hoped that people will be able to see other products being reduced as well.

Continuing, Mayor Ramsay stated that there was a little hope for the public sector as they were at the end of a wage freeze and she did not know whether the expectation levels would be met, but at least they can see that there are some movements in their wages for which they had held strains for sometime as well as the Councillors. She asked all to redouble their efforts and commitments as whatever happens they still have an obligation and a commitment to serve the people of the parish and to give them quality service. She said that she trust that for the New Year the Manchester Parish Council will not let nothing stop them from delivering to the citizens the type of service that they are expecting.

The Mayor went on to say that during the past year the Council had experienced many deaths and four of the Councillors experienced the lost of a parent, such as: Councillors Bryce, Mitchell, I. Brown and Oliphant.

Her Worship the Mayor announced the following:-

- That Councillor Oliphant's father's funeral will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mandeville Seventh Day Adventist Church.
- That funeral service for former Works Overseer Alfred Smikle will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at the Broadleaf Moravian Church at 1:00 p.m.

She asked that the necessary letters of condolences be sent to the relatives on behalf of the Council.

The Director of Finance announced the following:-

- That Mrs. Debbie-Ann Young-Smith, Accounting Technician 2 lost her husband recently the date of the funeral will be announced at a later date.
- That Mr. Jevon Henry - Porter at the Manchester Infirmary lost his grandmother and the funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 1:00 p. m. at the New Hall Assembly Church of God.

Ms. Boothe announced that Mr. Oren Osbourne, Field Supervisor of the Social Development Commission lost his mother and the funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Porus, United Church.

## ACCOUNTS

### Financial Report

The Director of Finance reported that for the Revenue and Expenditure period April 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014 the Council collected \$442,712,816.00 and had a correspondence expenditure of \$438,588,031.00 and ended that period with a \$4.1M surplus.

### Property Tax

With regard to the captioned, the Director of Finance reported that for the April 1, to December 31, 2014 the Council collected a total of \$551.5M which is out of a budgeted target of \$948M for the fiscal year. He said that was 58% of the budget and the Council was behind target and should be at 75% of estimates. The Officer went on to state that further activities will be conducted for the remainder of the quarter to see whether the target can be met.

Her Worship the Mayor took the opportunity to remind citizens who had not yet paid their property tax to do so as the Compliance Team will be taking Court action against delinquent taxpayers. She said as the Director of Finance had stated that the collection team would be pursuing those with much vigour during the end of the financial which ends on March 31, 2015.

Mayor Ramsay mentioned that unfortunately Manchester was among the four (4) parishes that had the lowest collection and she think that they needed to do what they ought to do to ensure that they come as close as possible to the target.

Mayor Ramsay thanked the Director of Finance for his report.

## 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

#### Clarendon Parish Council

The Director of Finance presented and read letter dated October 29, 2014 from Mr. Rowhan Blake, Secretary/Manager, Clarendon Parish Council in regard to Resolution passed at Council Meeting held on October 9, 2014 to have the Government declares sink holes as properties of National Interest and to acquire these properties for the National Good.



Mayor Ramsay opined that she would want to have further dialogue in regard to the Resolution as some part of it was not adding up as one could not start with a drought and ended up with a sink hole. She directed that further dialogue be sought on the matter as she thought that same was too general or maybe same could be rephrased. Members of the Committee were in agreement.

### ALGAJ's Membership Fee

The Director of Finance presented and read letter dated November 27, 2014 from Mr. Rowhan Blake, Secretary/Manager, Clarendon Parish Council in regard to Resolution passed at Council Meeting held on November 13, 2014 asking that the Minister of Local Government & Community Development approved the payment of ALGAJ's membership fee for the year 2014/2015 to Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) in the amount of £3,405.00 from the Equalization Fund.

Councillor Mitchell explained that it was a fee that ALGAJ generally ask the Minister of Local Government to pay as he was also a member of ALGAJ. He said that the Resolution was just for the support of the other Councils as Manchester had done the same. Members of the Committee were in agreement with the Resolution.

### Hanover Parish Council

The Director of Finance presented and read letter dated November 25, 2014 from Mrs. Judy McKenzie-Lawrence, Secretary/Manager, Hanover Parish Council in regard to Resolution passed at Council Meeting held on November 13, 2014 to Minister Hon. Robert Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change and Junior Minister, Hon. Ian Hayles that the connection of water to be done by the National Water Commission and the related cost be added to the customer/s water bill to be paid over an extended period.

Her Worship the Mayor made mention of a section of the Resolution which stated: "*Whereas the Commission is ...various communities but are finding it difficult to collect revenue*". She said that some clarification was needed. She said that she thought what they were trying to say was that the initial cost for the connection of the pipes and metres persons were finding it difficult to make that payment in one instalment and they were seeking to have it added to the ongoing bill of the customer and paid same over a period. She said it was something that every member should support and she would like to see this clause be amended to reflect same. She said she hoped that persons in Manchester could say the same.

Councillor Collins stated that he was in agreement as long as no interest will be accrued.

Mayor Ramsay added that the period for the payment should be given. She then asked of the members whether they would support in principle the amendments to the Resolution. Members of the Committee were in agreement.

### From Other sources

#### ALGAJ's Report

There was no report from ALGAJ.

### DEPARTMENTAL

There was no correspondence.

### REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Her Worship the Mayor advised the meeting that most meetings were not held in December 2014 and therefore there were no reports. She said that same would be taken at the next Council meeting.

### 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 Red Bank for Paul Watson
2. Part of Bloomsville for Venris Brown
3. Part of Chudleigh called Mount Gerazim for Evadney Bailey
4. Part of Greenvale for Franklyn Jackson
5. Part of New Hall for Derrick Murray
6. Part of Williamsfield for Merle & Joeba Clarke

(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:

i) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion –  
Part of Brumalia Manchester for Kenneth Riley

The Director of Finance presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads and Works, dated October 9, 2014, recommending for the Council's approval, the issuance of Certificate of Completion of development works in respect of subdivision located at part of Caledonia, Manchester for Kenneth Riley, as all the required conditions of approval have been complied with.

Moved by : Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor  
Seconded by : Councillor Anthony Bryce and Agreed-

“that a Certificate of Completion of development works be issued to  
“the Registrar of Titles in respect of subdivision, part of Brumalia  
“Manchester for Kenneth Riley.

ii) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion –  
Part of Heathfield, Manchester for Jessann Bryan

The Director of Finance presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads and Works, dated September 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 Heathfield, Manchester for Jessann Bryan as all the required conditions of approval have been complied with.

Moved by : Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor  
Seconded by : Councillor Anthony Bryce and Agreed-

“that a Certificate of Completion of development works be issued to  
“the Registrar of Titles in respect of subdivision, part of Heathfield

“Manchester for Jessann Bryan.

### QUESTIONS

There was no question.

### PETITIONS

*Councillor Anthony Bryce* petitioned for a letter to be written to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security and a copy sent to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries for a vehicle to be made available to assist with praedial larceny in Manchester.

The Mayor added that all members were in agreement with the petition as the farming communities were feeling the pinch.

*Councillor Donovan Mitchell* mentioned that persons were hearing why garbage was not being collected; however no one was hearing from the persons in authority in regard to same. He asked that a letter be written to the Executive Director of the National Solid Waste Management Authority stating the current situation as it relates to garbage collections and enquiring as to what was being done to alleviate same.

The member also petitioned for a letter to be written to the Minister of Local Government requesting street lights for each Division. He also asked for a letter to be written to the Ministry of Local Government and the JEEP Secretariat for funding to be made available to assist with the fixing of the Three Chains Road which is often used as an alternate route into Mandeville especially when there is an accident on the Royal Flat main road.

The Mayor asked that an estimate be prepared in that regard to forward along with the letter.

The Superintendent, Roads & Works responded in the affirmative.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

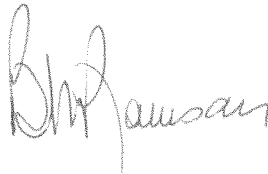
There was not Notice of Motion.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ramsay thanked everyone for their presence and participating in such a manner that they can be able to get through with the business of the Council in a reasonable time. She said she looked forward to their continued prompt attention.

There being no other matter for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m. on a motion by Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor seconded by Councillor Jones Oliphant after closing prayers by Councillor Cleon Francis.

CONFIRMED



CHAIRMAN