

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
OF MANCHESTER HELD ON MARCH 13, 2014**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council of Manchester was held in the Council's Chamber, 32 Hargreaves Avenue, Mandeville on Thursday, March 13, 2014, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Her Worship the Mayor  
Councillor Brenda Ramsay

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

**ELECTORAL DIVISION**

Bellefield

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

**ENTERED DURING THE MEETING**

Councillor Jones Oliphant  
Darlton Brown  
Anthony Bryce

Mandeville  
Alligator Pond  
Newport

**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
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. Livingston Morgan	-	Fire Prevention Officer, Jamaica Fire Brigade
Miss Beverley Boothe	-	Parish Manager, Social Development Commission
Miss Ava Tomlin	-	Parish Manager, Jamaica Public Service Company

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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 her a good day.

Rev. Dr. White thanked the Mayor for the sentiments expressed.

## WELCOME

Her Worship the Mayor extended a warm welcome to everyone present, especially the agencies who were present.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were tendered on behalf of Councillors Anthony Bryce, Jones Oliphant Darlton Brown and Mr. Dewaine Larmond Director of Planning who would be late.

Mayor Ramsay pointed out that officers of the Council are expected to be in attendance at Council Meeting and should be there on time unless there were apologies.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### **Corrections:**

Page 5- Under the caption – ‘National Water Commission’ 6<sup>th</sup> bullet 4<sup>th</sup> line the word ‘carry’ is to be corrected to read – ‘*carrying*’.  
7<sup>th</sup> bullet 6<sup>th</sup> line the word ‘overall’ to be corrected to read – ‘*overhaul*’  
Page 6 9<sup>th</sup> para. 1<sup>st</sup> line the word ‘that’ to be deleted and the word ‘*which*’ to be inserted.

Moved by : Councillor Muriel Swaby  
Seconded by : Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor and Agreed -

“that the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Council  
“held on February 13, 2014 be and are hereby confirmed.

## MATTERS ARISING

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

The Secretary/Manager advised the meeting that he was in dialogue with the Secretariat at Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) and stated that the projects were being re-scoped.

### **Re: Outstanding Matters from National Water Commission**

Concerning the above, Councillor McArthur Collins mentioned that there was no representative present from the National Water Commission at the meeting and there were matters to be addressed. The member further mentioned that with the increase in buildings and subdivisions in the parish it is critical to provide answers.

### **Re: Request for Trucking of Water - Rapid Response Truck**

The Superintendent, Roads & Works informed the Council that he made contact with Mr. Radcliffe Brown, Manager of the Rapid Response Unit via telephone and he obtained a faxed copy of a pro-forma invoice for the company to do trucking of water in the parish.

Continuing, the officer said that Rapid Response would commit three days per week for trucking within the parish and this is broken down as follows, one day during the week and two days on the weekend. The water will be sold for \$3.50 per gallon.

Council discussed at length the whether or not Council would receive cost savings by going to Rapid or using hired water trucks.

The Superintendent confirmed that it would be cheaper to Council if Rapid is used. He highlighted that all purchases will and must be made from the NWC supply.

Following Mayor Ramsay questioning, the Superintendent Roads & Works gave a specific figure by stating that Council would save approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000 maximum per trip load.

Councillor Burton Wright questioned whether the fees that were quoted included trucking of water to rural areas in the parish as well. The Superintendent, Roads & Works answered in the affirmative.

Council had a long discussion on trucking to each division. The Superintendent indicated that each division would receive two or three truck loads per week on average.

Mayor Ramsay remarked that from her recollection it was two (2) trips to be given to each Division and did not know when same was increased to three (3).

The Superintendent, Roads & Works advised that he was informed by the Superintendent, Minor Water that it was three (3) trips and it was on that information that the calculations were done. The Superintendent further advised that the officer at the Rural Water Supplies Unit stated that the truck that was now parked at the Roads & Works Compound would be used during the week; however a date had not yet been established when same would begin.

Mayor Ramsay mentioned that the Superintendent - Minor Water Supply may have been responding to pressure from Councillors, hence the need for an additional day.

It was agreed that each Council division, would receive two truck loads, per week and if the need arises some would get a third.

Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor, enquired as to the present status of the Council's water truck. Responding, the Superintendent, Roads & Works advised the meeting that to date the source in the United States of America had not been able to access the parts that the truck needed. He said that he was now forced to go back to the (original) supplier in Japan, where a direct contact was made and his office is awaiting a quotation.

Mayor Ramsay suggested to the Superintendent to obtain more than one parts as the Council could not afford for the truck to be out of service for so long in the future.

The Chairman in summary indicated that that she was not very clear and was not settled on the matter regarding Rapid Response and whether the Council would be going forward with the proposal made. She said she was not convinced that this was a reliable service.

Mayor Ramsay further directed that the Superintendent, Roads & Works did a more accurate costing per division and to treat the matter as urgent.

Councillor Cleon Francis in his queries indicated that comparisons should be made with the costing of private truckers and stated that if the savings for the private truck worked out to be the same as the Rapid Response unit then the Council could look at both and see which one would be more feasible.

Council is to await the final costing for trucking from the Superintendent.

Mayor Ramsay lamented that she was sorry that a representative from the National Water Commission was not present, as she was made aware that should private trucks be considered it would not be easy as there are stringent requirements such as proof of the trucks being sanitized in order for them to deliver water from the National Water Commission facility. She further said that subject to the clarification, something in writing should come to the Council before private trucks would be considered.

The matter of repairs to the Councils truck was raised by Councillor Collins, he suggested that Council should buy an engine rather than do direct repairs and stated that this would be more cost effective and suggested that the Superintendent explore this option.

The Superintendent in response stated that the option to purchase was explored; and his office received a quotation totalling \$800,000.00. He further stated that the axle base on the truck could not accommodate any new engine so he had to go back to source the parts.

Mayor Ramsay indicated that Council should have a signed agreement to ensure that the commitments with Rapid Response are realised. The Superintendent advised that the commitment letter would be obtained.

### **Re: Joint Site Visit - Ramble Cemetery**

The Superintendent, Roads & Works advised the meeting that he had secured the Council's vehicle for the joint site visit to be carried out as was requested by Councillor Swaby to the above mentioned location for the next day and he was awaiting the action of the Councillor in setting the time.

### **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

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

The Chairman invited Mr. Livingston Morgan, Fire Prevention Officer, Jamaica Fire Brigade to update the meeting accordingly.

Mr. Morgan reported that during the month of February 2014; the Agency responded to 71 fire calls, broken down as:

51 were genuine, 6 malicious false alarms, 4 false alarm with good intent (F.A.G.I.) and 10 special services.

Summary – Mandeville had 57 in total; and Christiana had 14.

Estimated value of property at risk was \$122,400,000.00;

Estimated loss was \$7,600,000.00.

Estimated value of property saved was \$114,800,000.00.

#### **Concerning Major Fires**

The report included the following:

<i>2<sup>nd</sup> February</i>	<i>Two apartment dwelling house at Plowden District, Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium jet. Loss \$300,000; Risk \$300,000.00. Homeless: two adults. Origin: unknown</i>
<i>10<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>Two-apartment dwelling house at Busy Park, Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium. Loss \$1,300,000; Risk: \$1,500,000.00; Homeless: 3 adults. Origin: unknown.</i>
<i>26<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>Ford Cargo Truck owned by Baking Enterprises at Spur Tree, Manchester Number of jets used: one medium jet. Loss \$600,000; Risk: Nil. Homeless: N/A Origin: suspected mechanical failure.</i>
<i>27<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>15--apartment dwelling house at Succeed District, Manchester. Number of jets used: one medium. Loss \$3,000,000; Risk: \$5,000,000.00; Risk \$40,000,000.00 Homeless: none. Origin: suspected arson</i>

The officer indicated that Homeless total 5.

#### **Major Special Service**

The officer indicated that there was no major special service.

#### **Other Issues**

**Councillor Omar Miller** mentioned that there was a fire in the **Heavy Tree District** approximately two weeks ago; however he was not certain whether the case was reported to the Fire Department as they did not turn up; however the Police was present on the scene. The member stated that where the fire occurred he was certain that the fire unit was unable to put out the blaze due to the poor terrain; however he had expected the police to report the matter to the Fire Department in order for them to do their investigations.

The Councillor further noted that this was the second case where a fire had taken place and the Fire Department did not turn up. He stated that he had visited the location and the home was completely destroyed and four persons were left homeless.

Mayor Ramsay directed that a letter be sent to the Superintendent of Police to express this occurrence and a copy forwarded to the Superintendent of the Fire Department.

**Councillor Desmond Harrison** sought answers on the reliability and condition of the Unit stationed in Christiana and when last was the unit serviced.

Responding, Mr. Morgan advised that the unit in Christiana was operational, it was an older one and the mechanics in Manchester continuously services the units. He further stated that if a difficult case arises, mechanics from Kingston would address the matter. The officer said at present all trucks were up, running and operable.

The Chairman Ramsey requested an update on the servicing of hydrants across the parish and enquired whether those that were in working condition were properly labelled.

Mr. Morgan responded that there is an ongoing assessment of hydrants to inform the Fire Prevention Team or the Operational/Responding Units. He indicated that the Fire Department was faced with a shortage of water, especially in the Christiana and Spalding areas. He said that often times the unit had to travel to WINDALCO at Kirkvine for refill and return to Christiana and this was a cause of concern.

Mayor Ramsay enquired whether the tank at the Christiana Fire Station was always full. Mr. Morgan answered in the affirmative. He stated that there was a non returning valve and as soon as water was taken from the tank the valves open and refill same.

Mr. Morgan indicated to Council that hydrants working were painted in bright red and those not working a (white X) was placed on them.

Mayor Ramsay thanked Mr. Morgan the Fire Prevention Officer for his report.

### **Report from the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited**

The Chairman invited Ms. Ava Tomlin, Parish Manager – Manchester, to update the meeting accordingly.

Ms. Tomlin updated the meeting as follows:

#### **1. Reliability**

##### **a. Forced Outages**

1. Total – 3

2. 25/2- 2.5 hrs. Spur Tree to Alligator Pond Burnt Switch

26/2 – 2hrs. All areas from Decarteret Red, Newport through to South Manchester

##### **b. Planned Outages- February – To Effect Repairs**

i. Total – 3

ii. 26/2- 7 hours. Windsor Lodge Pole Replacement

iii. 27/2 – 6 hours. Williamsfield Pole Replacement

iv. 28/2- 6 hrs. Mt. Zion pole replacement

##### **c. Planned Outages- March**

i. March 20 – 9 hours (8-5)Bellfield to Blue Mountain

- ii. With planned outages the public is made aware at least 10 days prior to the outages through the various medias

d. Pole Replacement

- i. Feb. 20 poles- Mt Zion, Lamb town, Grove Rd, Ingleside, Williamsfield, Windsor Lodge , Inverness
- ii. March – 50 poles

e. Vegetation

- i. Feb..24 Harmons, St. Toolis, Melrose Bypass,, Endeavour, Maidstone, Ingleside , Chudleigh, Top Hill
- ii. March...Old Melrose & Hermitage areas will be bushed

**2. Street Light**

- a. Apologise- backlog due to challenges with our supply process. Now being sorted out and will be back on track by the end of March 2014
- b. Patrol areas- Christiana, Walderston, Devon

**3. Cost of electricity**

- a. 1.09% <.... Feb> Jan. price of oil
- b. 10.28%>.....March> Feb....price of oil and devaluation of the \$

**4. Theft Control and fight against losses**

- a. Throw –ups removed – 634 Yonder pond, Chudleigh, Mandeville
- b. Arrests- 6 Mandeville, Chudleigh, Williamsfield
- c. Audits – 559

Ms. Tomlin, in closing her presentation, expressed appreciation to the members of the Council, the police and members of the public for reporting the stealing of electricity. She said that for the Theft Control Programme one could email the agency at 'stoptheft@jpsco.com and for any other business they could be reached at 1888-225-5577

***Questions to the JPS Officer:***

*Councillor Muriel Swaby* - pointed out that all the debris from the bushing was still on the roadway along the Melrose Bypass and asked that same be removed as quickly as possible as she was in the process of cleaning up that area.

*Councillor Iceval Brown* - commented that she was sorry to know that the Grove Town Division was not one the areas slated for the month of March to do street lights repairing. The member stated that the area faced with many problems, such as criminal activities, etc. She said due to the malfunctioning of the street lights thieves were now targeting the churches and several requests had been made for the lights in the Division to be repaired and to date nothing has been done. She then asked that the area be investigated in that regard.

Continuing *Councillor Iceval Brown* that special attention be paid to the Grove Town Division as it relates to the stealing of lights. She mentioned that as soon as the throw ups were taken down and the team leaves the area they were replaced. She suggested that another method be looked at.

*Councillor McArthur Collins* - made reference to the promotions being made by JPS on the print and electronic media regarding the planned outages and the time when same should returned and asked that same be elaborated on. The member also noted that the street lights in communities, were no longer bright but very dim and needed to be addressed.

Councillor Collins stated that in the New Green Division there were a number of poles that needed to be replaced which were a danger to life and property and had stated that he would be willingly to show the technician the exact locations; however to date the offer was not accepted.

*Councillor Faith Sampson* requested that the John's Hall Division be one of the first areas that the team from the Jamaica Public Service Company visit for the repairing of the street lights as approximately a third of them were not working. The member stated that she had been asking for quite some time for a rotten pole at Top Coley Mountain to be replaced, which is a threat to live and property; however to date nothing has been done. She asked that the matter be treated with urgency.

Regarding theft control program, Councillor Sampson who was in agreement with her colleague, advised that the stealing of electricity was also bad in her division and those who were doing it did not care, as they had the lights on both day and night. She suggested that when the metre readers go around they could make notation of the situation and address same.

Continuing, Councillor Sampson commented that the contractors that did the bushing from Inglewood to Maidstone did a good job and commended them for a work well done.

*Councillor Burton Wright* - commented that after listening to the report he wondered whether the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. had a programme of installing new street lights that the Council / Councillors were not aware of. The member stated that the reason for saying so was that he had received complaints of new street lights that were installed in his Division which he was not aware of.

*Councillor Omar Miller* - enquired on the JPS \$250.00 rebate program and asked if people were paying bills on time and whether the company was benefitting. The member further stated that one of the reasons for the late payment of the bills was that persons did not have the money to pay and most times the bills do come when no one gets pay.

Councillor Miller also made mentioned of the failure to pay and the attracting of a \$42.00 GCT charge on the bill and concluded that this is not a fair system.

The Council member requested that some patrolling be carried out in the Craighead Division to identify street lights that were not working as the Council was paying hefty bills for street lights and majority of them were not working.

*Councillor Fairbourne Maxwell* proposed that going forward the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. (JPSCo. Ltd) should first start with the town centres when they are going to change to the LED lights. The member thanked the agency for the efforts being made in the Mount Zion area; however there were still quite a number of lights that needed to be replaced and installed.

Mayor Ramsay remarked that based on the reports from the Councillors there was a large number of street lights that had been out for sometime and questioned as to whether there was a reduction in the Council's payment for street lights from the Ministry of Local Government. The Mayor enquired as to when poles were placed on private properties, did the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. (JPSCo.) entered into any agreement with the owner for the easement and the placement of those poles. She further questioned that when these poles are to be removed whether same was at the cost of the property owner.

Continuing, Mayor Ramsay mentioned that when the pole at Williamsfield had been replaced due to a fire, the JPS took the light and asked that same be reinstalled.

*Councillor Desmond Harrison* questioned whether the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. (JPSCo.) was still proposing some identification marks for street lights and if this was not so he would proposed for this to be done.

*Councillor Darlton Brown* mentioned that he had similar experiences to that of Councillor Wright where new street lights had been installed and had been brought to his attention by citizens in the Alligator Pond Division and asked that those be investigated. The member also stated that when street lights were removed and placed at other locations citizens were of the view that same was removed by Councillors and asked that the matter be addressed as well.

Mayor Ramsay added that all Councillors were being attacked as citizens often blamed them for the removing of the lights and also stated that they were not making proper representation to have them replaced. She expressed the view that a proper arrangement should be in place for the removal of these lights.

Ms. Tomlin the JPS Manager, thanked the members for their expressions and gratitude, questions and concerns. She said as it relates to the \$250.00 rebate, the system is working as the company had seen more persons paying in full and on time and it did affect their cash flow. She reminded the members that the oil was purchased with United States Dollars; however collections were made in Jamaican Dollars and that made the difference in terms of the cash flow and the ability to serve.

The Officer pointed out that the \$42.00 that was charged was a requirement by the General Consumption Tax Department and the JPSCo. Ltd. had no control over same.

Ms. Tomlin explained that when a Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. pole or structure is to be placed on a private property the practice would be that an easement would be sought. She said where a pole is required to be removed by the owner of the property she said she was not certain of the cost or procedure and promised to investigate same.

Continuing, the officer reiterated that the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. had a regular schedule and a regular system of patrolling and inspecting for their entire infrastructure and not just the poles. She said where there were special requests for a representative to accompany members to specific locations this could be arranged.

In relation to the vegetation programme, Ms. Tomlin apologized for the areas where the debris were not removed by the contractors and would ensure that this is done. She stated that she had stated in her report that the company had supply challenges; hence the reason for the back log. She said that the relocation of street lights was a challenge that the Jamaica Public Service Company was faced with and there was also a concern that Manchester in particular was over four hundred (400) lights heavy. She explained that on the audit that was done there were four hundred (400) lights in the system than what the Council was being billed for. She advised that what the company is now working on a programme and that is to tag the street lights to the specific poles in their Geography Information System.

Ms. Tomlin advised that she knew that the Councillors were coming under pressure as well as JPSCo. in relation to street lights patrolling and it was not possible that the company could patrol the entire parish during the month of March. The officer stated that while she do empathize and understand the specific requests it was not going to happen. She said the question was raised regarding the led lights and advised that over time the company would be moving to install led lights and as well as for those to be replaced.

The officer further commented that the theft of electricity was something that the company continues to struggle with and stated that the majority of the cost was borne by the agency. She pointed out that the team had visited the Grove Town Division on several occasions as in every other divisions and advised that the company had put in the anti-theft measures which makes it harder for the system to be breached which has become very effective. Ms. Tomlin advised the meeting that the Jamaica Public Service Company had been receiving strong support in regard to electricity theft and stated that the meter readers do take note of the throw ups as well as any other irregularities.

Ms. Tomlin mentioned that the cost of electricity in Jamaica is the highest in the region and one of the reasons it is high was the source of fuel that was being used.



Mayor Ramsay remarked that when the Council called on the Jamaica Public Service Company to attend the Parish Safety and Security Meetings they should attend as there was reliable information which goes both ways and was needed to pass on.

*Councillor Darlton Brown* mentioned that more in depth knowledge was needed on the street light audit that was done as same had implications.

*Councillor Donovan Mitchell* mentioned that when developers go to the Jamaica Public Service Company to pay for connection to their system the company do collect for the services that the developers requested and in them there are a number of street lights that are being erected without them making reference to the Council, hence the overload. The member stated that after the two years expires the citizens become burden of the Council and because the Council did not know when they were installed hence the Council could not make any adjustment to their budget.

The Councillor stated that when developers approach the JPSCo. for payments of street lights they should be referred to the Parish Council.

Mayor Ramsay reiterated that it must go that way as developers were being told that they would not be granting Certificate of Completion if the Council was not in receipt of the money for the street lights going forward.

*Councillor McArthur Collins* commented that approximately a year ago a representative from JPSCo. had visited Batterssea in the New Green Division where a number of rotten poles were identified to be change; however to date nothing has been done. The member also mentioned that the officer did not give an update on the announcement that was made regarding the restoration of light after an outage.

Ms. Tomlin advised the meeting that she was not aware of the announcement regarding the restoration of an outage; however there was certain service agreement to which it had stated that the company team ought to arrive at the location within a specific time and also certain expectations as to the restoration of power.

Ms. Tomlin advised the meeting that the procedure to provide developers with street lights continues to be the same wherein they would have to make the application through the Local Authorities and there was no direct connection between the Jamaica Public Service and the developer for the installation of street lights.

Mayor Ramsay enquired and was advised that it was the Parish Council that did the collecting and forward same to the Ministry of Local Government.

*Councillor Donovan Mitchell* questioned as to whenever the team goes out to developments to install service whether they would verify to see whether the street lights were already installed. He suggested that the Council meet with representatives from the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. to ascertain how much of those subdivisions were given service and lights without the knowledge of the Council. He said he too knew of subdivisions that had street lights that did not come through the Council.

Mayor Ramsay pointed out that street lights were a part of the development within subdivisions as well as infrastructure and fire hydrants to be installed; however there these were not being done. She said after Certificate of Completion is granted the residents then returned to the Council complaining that there were no lights in the subdivisions. She said that going forward the Council would not be granting Certificates of Completion unless the developers abide by the rules. She advised the members that the matter would be discussed extensively at the Planning Committee.

In relation to the company verifying to see whether lights are already installed in subdivisions where services are required, Ms. Tomlin advised that this was done routinely; however this was not a part of the company's standard operational procedure. She said that she would take the suggestions under advisement and put it forward.

Ms. Tomlin also stated that she was in agreement for the meeting to be held and where there were specific areas where lights were being installed without the knowledge of the Council she asked that she be so advised.

Mayor Ramsay advised that she would like for the Superintendent, Roads & Works to be a part of the discussion.

*Councillor Cleon Francis* mentioned that there was a situation at Perth Housing Scheme regarding street lights wherein he was asked to investigate and upon investigation he was told that the matter was being dealt with through the Construction Department of the National Housing Trust and questioned whether the officer had any update on the progress of the street lights.

Responding, Ms. Tomlin advised that she was not aware of the situation and promised to investigate the matter.

The Secretary/Manager mentioned that he had seen the letter regarding the request from the National Housing Trust in relation to the installation of street lights in Perth Housing Scheme; however to date the scheme had not been officially handed over to the Council. He also advised that he would revisit the street light audit.

Councillor Mitchell asked whether there were areas within the parish that the Jamaica Public Service Company team could not go to. He said the reason for the question was that he had travelled to a certain parish and if he could see the throw ups he could not see why the meter readers did not see them and if this was so he wondered whether those areas were written off by the company.

Ms. Tomlin advised the meeting that she was not aware of such places where the team could not go; however the areas that were more volatile the company's internal security along with the police and the military would conduct operations in those areas.

After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Ramsay thanked the Ms. Tomlin for her report and stated that she hoped the matters that had been aired; the officer would take them back to her company and have them addressed.

**Council gave permission for Ms. TOMLIN to leave the meeting.**

### **The Social Development Commission**

The Chairman welcomed Miss Beverly Boothe, Parish Manager, Social Development Commission and invited her to update the meeting accordingly.

*Over the reporting period:*

- ✓ *Three (3) CBOs were established namely, Craighead Golden Arrow Community Club, Huntley Community Club and Huntley Center Management Committee, three (3) CDCs and two (2) DACs were assessed and seven (7) CDCs and one (1) DAC was strengthened.*
- ✓ *SDC held a meeting with the executive of the PDC and DAC Chairpersons to inform them of the functions of the PDC and the integral part that the DACs play in the Local Governance process. A strategic review was also done on how to engage the wider communities to become participatory in the DA structures. A presentation on the Participatory Governance Framework concept and its operations was done.*
- ✓ *SDC interviewed twenty-four (24) farmers from the Manchester Plateau area to participate in the open-field farming and water harvesting project at Rose Hill. At Manchester Plateau Community Council Meeting discussions focused on the status of the Rose Hill Project. A second interview will be conducted where the successful farmers will be selected. There is also a school garden project initiated by JBI to generate food for the school kitchens.*

- ✓ *The MIAN Planning Committee meeting was held to report on the findings from a site visit that was made to Zion Hill Primary school to address improvement to educational outcome and also the planned awards function for NSWMA "lower level" staff in the parish. From the resulting discussion, it was decided that a five-gallon bucket of paint donated by the SDC would be presented to the school to give the bathrooms a facelift, and also to extend the date for the awards function. The partners in attendance were; Tax Administration of Jamaica, JCF, CDA & NSWMA. Apology was given for Councillor Collins who was representing the Parish Council. The Handing- Over Ceremony took place the following day at the school with the partners.*
- ✓ *Oxford River Park Project Implementation meeting was held. The objective of this forum was to sensitize community members about the proposed infrastructural development for the Oxford River. This project is being funded from the MP's CDF, TEF and the community. Partners in attendance were; Parish Council, Forestry Department, Political Directorate and SDC. As a next step, SDC will strengthen the community group by sensitizing the wider community to become involved in the process*
- ✓ *SDC collaborated with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management in assisting with the mobilization of community members from Devon to participate in an earthquake simulation exercise, which was well received by the community and school.*
- ✓ *A meeting was held with STATIN where the borders and boundaries of communities in the parish were verified. This will help with the updating and redefining of emerging communities/districts, into the existing E.D. boundaries.*
- ✓ *Six (6) Wealth Assessment Workshops were held, two (2) Asset Mapping exercises were conducted.*
- ✓ *Eight (8) Safety and Security meetings were held during the month. To date 18 such meetings have been completed across the parish.*
- ✓ *Two Councillors namely Councillors Sampson-Nickle & Beverly Swaby attended our staff meeting. Work completed and to be completed were shared. They also made request of areas they needed assistance with from the CDOs.*
- ✓ *Councillors Brenda Ramsay, Fairbourne Maxwell and Omar Miller also submitted the areas of work they needed intervention with.*
- ✓ *All these request have been incorporated into the work-plan for the period 2014-2015.*

Mayor Ramsay thanked Ms. Boothe for the comprehensive report and also thanked the officer on behalf of the Manchester Parish Council for the efforts that she had put into the joint operation to the Parish Safety and Security Meetings. Mayor Ramsay in her opinion stated that the meetings were going very well, the information that had been put in the public's domain, the residents were very appreciative and those that were remaining she looked forward to attending them.

Mayor Ramsay also commended the Social Development Commission for the job they were doing by large as the members had seen marked activities in some of the areas.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Councillor Omar Miller expressed condolence at the passing of Mr. Clive Smith former teacher of the Craig Head & Pike All Age School and also a former Justice of the Peace who died in a motor vehicle accident. He said Mr. Smith would be greatly missed and he would try to support them as best he could.

He also announced that former principal of the Harry Watch All Age School, Mr. Jacob Robinson had passed and his funeral would be on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at the Mandeville Parish Church.

Mayor Ramsay announced the following:

- Mr. Noel Davy one of the reporters who reports on the Council's meeting and activities also lost a daughter and asked that the Council remembers him in a special way and the necessary condolence be expressed to him as well as his family.
- Mrs. Ouida Rowe former employee of WINDALCO who was an active community worker both with the Boys Scout and Girls Guide and other associations had passed away and her funeral would be held on Friday, March 14, 2014 at the Andrews Memorial Church at 10:00 a.m.
- Mr. Harold Ramsay who was well known throughout the parish also passed off.

The Mayor said she could not name everyone; however to those who had lost love ones the Council sympathize/empathize and have them in their prayers.

## **ACCOUNTS**

### **Property Tax**

Mr David Harris, Director of Finance advised the meeting that property tax collection for the month of February was \$25,518,950.00 which would take the collection to the end of February to a year to date total of \$618,983,527.00 out of a budgeted target of \$903M. The officer stated that up to the end of February the Council was at 68% of estimate and the Council was anticipating that by the end of March it would be at 78% of estimate. The Director of Finance stated that he was appealing to the residents to pay their property taxes in order that the necessary services will be provided.

Mayor Ramsay added that there was a concern where people had been complaining about the circumstances under which they had to be paying their property tax She said the Council was making and had been making efforts to have something done about the location of the Inland Revenue Department due to the experience persons had when they go to pay their taxes.

Mayor Ramsay said that during the last week of March going into the new Financial Year she opined that some efforts should be made to have the senior citizens given a little preferable treatment as it was unfair for them to stand in lines for long periods. She said going forward more would be said on the matter.

The Director of Finance reported that Revenue collected for the period April 1, 2013 – January 31, 2014 was \$535,207,855.00 and Expenditure incurred was \$551,620,683.00 with a shortfall of \$16.4M. The officer added that the Council was recently advised by the Ministry of Local Government & Community Development that there was a reduction in the subvention support up to the end of March and the Council was having very challenging times.

Mayor Ramsay advised that all members should bear that in mind and thanked the Director of Finance for the 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**

### **Resolution from St. Thomas Parish Council**

The Secretary/Manager presented and read letter dated January 28, 2014 from Mrs. Suezette Hemmings-Bryan, Acting Secretary/Manager forwarding Resolution requesting the Council's support in calling on the United States of America to lift the embargo against Cuba.

Councillor McArthur Collins advised the meeting that he would have to seek legal advice on the matter before he could support the Resolution.

Councillor Fairbourne Maxwell advised that he would support the Resolution from a national point of view; however looking at it from an economic point he would not support same.

Councillor Donovan Mitchell mentioned that the matter is a long standing one and he did not know how best the Council could help at the local level.

Mayor Ramsay mentioned that the Canadian Government was fully on board with their support with the Cuban Economic, the Americans were going there as tourists in their numbers and she did not believe that they were being targeted in going to Cuba. She remarked that Cuba was almost an open market as she had seen where there is going to be some private investment there as well. She said individual and groups were already on board to get the embargo lifted; however from her point of view she would support the Resolution.

Mayor Ramsay then asked for a show of hands as to the members who would support the Resolution it was noted that majority had taken the position to support the Resolution. It was noted that the Council supported the Resolution in principle.

### **From Other sources**

#### **ALGAJ's Report**

Mayor Ramsay noted that members had received the report of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica; however she asked that members who had not yet submitted their email address to the Council should do so in order for the report to be emailed to them. She said the Council was cutting back on the number of papers being used and members should not expect that the report would be copied and circulated in the future.

Mayor Ramsay then asked whether there were any comments from the report.

*Councillor McArthur Collins* stated that he was happy to see that there is a proposal to do some amendments to the Noise Abatement Act as the police was taking quite some time to grant licenses and other parishes were having similar experience.

Mayor Ramsay advised that when the Committee comes into play then they would take it from there. She went on to say that members had to bear in mind that residents must have quiet enjoyment of their own premises and some of what goes on around the town could not continue.

Continuing, Mayor Ramsay stated that if permits were being granted people should understand that there were rules and regulations and the police should also understand that they must also enforce. She said when that body is constituted all that she had stated would have to be put into consideration, as well as entertainment zones, timing, decibels ect., would have to be addressed.

*Councillor Donovan Mitchell* asked of the Councillors to read the report and give their comment/s on the proposed amendments to the Noise Abatement Act, Development Application Review Process, Councillors to be paid Motor Vehicle Allowance and the Establishment of a Committee of commercial Services Officers and Revenue Officers. The member expounded on the Development Application Review Process that this topic is still up for review by the Private Sector and the Ministry of Local Government. He said that Senator Angella Brown-Burke is representing the Association and would point out that ALGAJ was not in agreement with any decision as there were competent officers within the Councils. He advised members that they

could give their comments before the end of March as the Committee meets on 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2014.

Mayor Ramsay added that as a Council they needed to prove that they had the competency and had been delivering although the perception of the public was not good; however the reality was something else.

Mayor Ramsay noted that the report had asked of members to submit news worthy events that would be taking place within their Divisions in order for same to be published in the News Letter. She questioned whether there was a timeline / cut off period in which these items are to be submitted.

Responding, Councillor Mitchell advised that the ALGAJ's Secretariat asked that each event within the Divisions be submitted at the end of each month in order for same to be published on time.

Mayor Ramsay mentioned that there should be some cut off period as in the instance where five Councillors may submit their report at once whether the Association would take all five. She said there ought to be some guidance; hence the reason she had stated that the Council would not be able to copy but to send the report by soft copy.

At this juncture Councillor McArthur Collins congratulated Mr. Robert Hill on his appointment as new Town Clerk of the Kinston & St. Andrew Corporation.

Mayor Ramsay directed that a congratulatory letter be sent to new Town Clerk.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL**

There was no correspondence.

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

Moved by : Councillor Desmond Harrison  
Seconded by : Councillor Burton Wright and Agreed -

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

1. Finance & Planning Committee held 4/02/14
2. Infrastructure Traffic & Sanitation held 5/02/14
3. Human Resource Committee held 11/02/14
4. Civic Affairs & Brooks Park held 11/02/14
5. Municipal & Commercial Services held 18/02/14
6. Physical Planning & Environment held 20/02/14
7. Poor Relief held 26/02/14
8. Agriculture held 26/02/14
9. Local Board of Health and Environmental Sanitation 27/02/14

#### **Human Resource Committee**

The Chairman, Councillor Donovan Mitchell advised the meeting that the Minutes of the Human Resource Committee was circulated to all Councillors. The Chairman advised that at the last Human Resource Committee congratulations were extended to Mr. Conroy Barnes, Accounting Technician 2 for his achievement in receiving the Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a Magna Cum Laude and Mrs. Lajeane Richards in achieving her Masters of Science Degree in Climate and Development with Merit.

Mayor Ramsay mentioned that these were note worthy news for the magazine and reemphasized that there are competent workers in the Councils.

Mayor Ramsay thanked the Chairman of the Committee for the report.

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

Councillor Darlton Brown, Chairman of the Committee reported that the Committee had some deliberations and received guidance from the Secretary/Manager and the Superintendent, Roads & Works as it relates to the matter of remedying the illegal farming that is taking place on some sections of Brooks Park and this is being addressed.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Development Committee along with the Manchester Parish Council launched the official Manchester 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in December 2013. The Chairman stated that there will be a series of activities that will take place during the year and commemorate on December 2014, and as the activities unfold members would be aware. He said he was expecting the support of all Councillors as they take on this task to celebrate this official event that is occurring within the parish

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 is ongoing*
- *New shops at Christiana Market some are now vacant.*
- *Porus market – The Committee received a report on the way forward for this facility based on the recommendations further discussions will continue on the matter.*
- *The Committee requested a listing of vacant lands that are owned by the council that can be utilized.*
- *Monitoring of Sunday vending in the town centre continues*

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:

- *“A joint site inspection was carried between the Manchester Parish Council and the National Works Agency regarding the no entry / no exit sign at the Greenvale round-about a decision was taken to have the entrance blocked; however the date for same to be done had not yet been finalized.*
- *In regard to the renovation of the old dormant building on Park Crescent, the Chairman advised that both Stop and Enforcement Notices had been served on the developer as he was asked to submit an engineering report to substantiate the structural integrity of the building which he had not delivered.*
- *20 residential building plans were approved  
1 institutional building plan was approved  
2 commercial building plans were approved  
2 subdivision plans were approved”*

Mayor Ramsay thanked Councillor Darlton Brown for presenting the report.

### **Poor Relief Report**

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

- *“The month started with 88 residents at the Infirmary and during the month 2 persons were admitted and 1 died. The month ended with 90 residents as against 91 for the corresponding period last year.*
- *The Medical Officer of Health visited and attended to twenty-three (23) residents.*
- *The Mental Health Officer also visited and attended to fourteen (14) residents.*
- *At the beginning of the month 490 persons were on the outdoor roll, 11 were added 8 died and 2 were admitted to the Infirmary. The month ended with 491 persons on Roll- 262 Male and 229 Female.*
- *Of this number 38 were children, 1 registered in his own name.*
- *The officers did 88 home visits*
- *The Committee approved 6 new cases*
- *We are happy that new friends of the Infirmary the Social Development Commission have come on board, we want to thank them and we welcome new friends and encourage the old ones to continue contribution.*
- *A male inmate of the Infirmary absconded on March 2, 2014. The required reports were made to the Police and the Board of Supervision. He returned on the March 10, 2014; however a new inmate was admitted during the time he was away.*
- *The Inspector of Poor is investigating the case to determine the most feasible course of action to remedy the situation.*

Chairman Ramsay commented that sometimes when these incidents happen the public becomes very critical, stating that the Council was not doing the best they should/ought to do. She said it was not easy a job to manage these institutions and when one had ninety-one (91) residents of varying illnesses, she was not asking the public to understand and the Council needs help and any help that can be offered would be highly appreciated.

Mayor Ramsay went on to say she was happy that the inmate/resident had returned and the Council would now have to look at how people go in and out of these institutions as there are times they cannot be locked away and would require day passes. She reassured the public that the Council was doing the best they could under the difficult circumstances.

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 Fairbourne Maxwell

“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 Upper Lincoln for Rohan Wright
2. Part of Snowden and Mount Blow called Snowden Glebe for Alpart
3. Part of Hopeton Pen for Marlon Eaton
4. Part of Knockpatrick for Ceretta Thompson
5. Part of Struan Castle for Horace Fisher
6. Part of Hanson's Run for Bryan Mighty



7. Part of Cedar Grove for Norval Radway
8. Part of Newleigh for Wesley Methodist Church
9. Part of Cocoa Walk for Ian Hines

(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 May Day Hill, Manchester for Clinton Deeble

The Secretary/Manager presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads & Works dated February 25, 2014, recommending for the Council's approval, the issuance of Certificate of Completion of development works in respect of subdivision located at Part of May Day Hill, Manchester for Clinton Deeble 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 May Day Hill  
 “Manchester for Clinton Deeble.

(ii) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion –  
Part of McKinley - Manchester for Colleen Bowes

The Secretary/Manager presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads & Works dated February 20, 2014, recommending for the Council's approval, the issuance of Certificate of Completion of development works in respect of subdivision located at Part of McKinley, Manchester for Colleen Bowes 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 McKinley -  
 “Manchester for Colleen Bowes.

(iii) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion –  
Part of Retreat- Manchester for Est. Delmorine Sumner

The Secretary/Manager presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads & Works dated February 27, 2014, recommending for the Council's approval, the issuance of Certificate of Completion of development works in respect of subdivision located at Part of Retreat, Manchester for Est. Delmorine Sumner 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 Retreat  
 “Manchester for Est. Delmorine Sumner.

(iv) Recommendation for Issuance of Certificate of Completion –  
Part of Williamsfield - Manchester for Ransford Wilkinson

The Secretary/Manager presented and read report of the Superintendent, Roads & Works dated February 10, 2014, recommending for the Council's approval, the issuance of Certificate of Completion of development works in respect of subdivision located at Part of Williamsfield, Manchester for Ransford Wilkinson 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 Williamsfield  
“Manchester for Ransford Wilkinson.

Mayor Ramsay questioned whether the two lots subdivisions that were before the Council fall within the quota or the designated amount depending on the amount of lots. The Superintendent, Roads & Works answered in the affirmative.

### **QUESTIONS**

There was no question.

### **PETITIONS**

**Councillor Burton Wright** - petitioned for an estimate to done with a view to have the catchment tank at Halifax clean with a matter of urgency as it had been brought to his attention that the said tank is empty.

**Councillor Donovan Mitchell** - mentioned that he had received a number of petitions from a number of people including the citizens of the Williamsfield Gardens Citizens' Association petitioning for street lights to be installed in the vicinity of the Williamsfield Round about as a matter of safety to life and property. The member also petitioned for street lights to be installed where the Catholic College is located in Williamsfield as the area is extremely dark.

**Mayor Ramsay** mentioned that she too had received letter from the Williamsfield Gardens Citizens' Association regarding the installation of street lights and one of the lights missing was from the Williamsfield round-about area which she had been lobbying for same to be replaced.

**Councillor Darlton Brown** - petitioned for a letter to be written to the National Water Commission asking them to explain the scope of work that had taken place in the Bottom Bay Area to Alligator Pond and also a timeline given as to when the work would be completed. The member explained that the National Water Commission contractors went into the area and did some measures of work and the stand pipe, even though the service had been irregular, had been removed and he was certain that the Council would still be paying for that service.

The Councillor further stated that the contractors had not reinstated the road and the debris was still left along the side of the road. He said to his knowledge because it is the Council's roadway it would be their responsibility to reinstate the road; however the Council was never informed of that work and the burden was now placed on the Councillor and was causing discomfort to the citizens. He said that the National Water Commission should advise the Council when the scope of work would be completed and when they would be replacing the stand pipe and where.

Mayor Ramsay added that the Council should advise them that prior to any work to be undertaken on the Council's roadway that the Council be written to and the terms and conditions be agreed on.

**Councillor Desmond Harrison** – requested that estimates be done for: Jones Lane, Job Lane in Christiana and Hanson Run in Bryce.

**Councillor McArthur Collins** – asked that the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. adopt the New Green round-about with a view to install lights within that vicinity. The member asked that the Council should make the citizens of Mandeville and its environs aware that the Ward Avenue road way would be rehabilitated in short order.

Mayor Ramsay reassured the meeting that the road would be totally rehabilitated and doing so was very costly; however there is a process as the National Water Commission is to change their

pipes within the area to ensure that there are no leaks as once the surface is laid down it could not be take up again. She said a tendering process would have to take place which takes some time and asked that the residence bear with the Council until same is done.

Mayor Ramsay advised that the directive had been given to the Superintendent, Roads & Works for some pro-patching to take place as temporary measures.

***Councillor Fairbourne Maxwell*** – petitioned for water to be trucked to Auchtembeddie and Comfort Hall All Age Schools and also in the Litchfield Community.

Mayor Ramsay mentioned that the Ministry of Education should be the ones to do the trucking of water to schools and not the Council.

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

There was no Notice of Motion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Ramsay thanked the members, officers and agencies for coming so that the meeting could be started on time and for their participation.

There being no other matter for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 a.m. on a motion by Councillor Ervin Facey, Deputy Mayor seconded by Councillor Jones Oliphant following closing prayers by Councillor Jones Oliphant.

C O N F I R M E D

C H A I R M A N