

The Manchester Parish Council

WHO ARE WE?

The Manchester Parish Council is the body set up under law, at the local level, to manage the affairs of the parish while providing essential public services to communities. The Council consists of elected representatives known as Councillors who meet monthly to deal with correspondence and petitions from all its citizens. In addition to its powers to provide services, the Parish Council has some legislative powers and can make by-laws or regulations to govern its operations.

It should be noted that the Government is undertaking a programme of Local Government Reform.

WHAT ARE WE RESPONSIBLE FOR?

The Council is responsible for:

- The construction and maintenance of parochial roads
- The construction and maintenance of drains and gullies
- The maintenance of minor water supply schemes (including springs)
- The maintenance of Public Markets, Arcades and Abattoirs
- The management and maintenance of the Infirmary for the accommodation/care of poor
- The provision Poor Relief and welfare services for outdoor poor persons
- The maintenance of Public Cemeteries
- The provision and maintenance of bus terminals and public parking facilities
- The maintenance of Public Sanitary Conveniences
- The maintenance of Public Parks and beautification projects
- The provision and maintenance of animal pounds
- The provision of social water through community standpipes and the trucking of water to drought stricken areas
- The coordination of disaster preparedness activities and the management of emergencies
- Street names and numbers
- Street lighting
- The regulation of public vending

The licensing of-

- Places of Amusement, hotels, motels and lodging houses, Barbers and hairdressers, Butchers

The council acts as the Local Planning Authority to regulate and approve-

- Buildings and Subdivisions
- Advertisements signs

HOW WE ARE FUNDED?

The Council is funded by:

Subventions from the Office of the Prime Minister, Local Government Dept. contributions to the following:

- Pensions
- Salaries
- Indoor Poor
- Minor Water Supplies

Parochial Revenue Fund

- Property Tax (used in the payment of Solid waste services and Street lights)
- Motor vehicle licenses (used to assist in the maintenance of Parochial Roads)

Own Source

(General Revenue)

- User Fees and charges (Commercial)
- Markets, Abattoirs and Cemetery Fees, Car Parks

DEPARTMENTS OF COUNCIL

ROADS AND WORKS- headed by the Superintendent of Roads & Works

Functions:

1. Construction and maintenance of parochial roads
2. Maintenance of minor water supplies (public reservoirs, steel tanks, entombed springs and trucking of water to dry areas)
3. Building inspection, Enforcement and Approval
4. Subdivision inspection, Enforcement and Approval
5. Maintenance of municipal buildings including Markets

6. Maintenance and oversight of Public Sanitary Conveniences
7. Supervision and maintenance of all vehicles owned by the Council
8. Maintenance and oversight of Abattoirs
9. Traffic Management
10. Maintenance of Public Cemeteries
11. Development and maintenance of Public open spaces

The department also works in conjunction with the Council's Planning Department to ensure that orderly and proper development takes place throughout the parish

COMMERCIAL SERVICES

The Commercial Services division manages the self-financing entities of Council which comprises the following:

- Markets/Arcades
- Abattoirs
- Transport Centres
- Cemeteries
- Shops (miscellaneous)

POOR RELIEF SERVICES

INDOOR POOR

This is offered mainly to the elderly. However, persons with no one liable for them are also given institutional care in the Infirmary.

This programme is geared towards the provision of nutrition, transportation and medical assistance to those citizens of the parish who have no home or family to attend to their needs.

OUTDOOR POOR

The poor relief functions primarily as the Social Welfare Service of Local Government. In this regard it is one of two programmes administered by the Parish Council that is funded by a grant from Central Government.

OUTDOOR POOR (con't)

The persons entitled to relief in the parish are the persons who are in a state of destitution and are at the same time, unable to work and earn their means of subsistence due to mental or physical causes.

The primary objective of the poor relief programme can be defined as follows:

- To monitor and ensure that registered poor persons receive their bi-monthly allowance payments under the PATH Programme administered through the Ministry of Labour & Social Security
- To provide proper nutrition, Medicare, transportation and assistance with school uniforms, fees and books for beneficiaries and dependents of beneficiaries when necessary
- To ensure the provision of residential facilities to house beneficiaries in need of same

PHYSICAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Planning Department is engaged in the processing

- Building and subdivision applications
- Change of use applications
- Outline approvals
- Applications for billboards and advertisement signs
- Applications for Petrol Filling stations
- Alterations to buildings
- Enforcement as it relates to illegal buildings
- Applications under the Places of Amusements Act

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This Unit works alongside the Parish Disaster Committee and in conjunction with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management to ensure that the parish is prepared for disasters by means of public education and by encouraging community programmes to help minimize or lessen the effects of disasters on communities.

In the event of disaster e.g.. Hurricane, earthquake, flood or fire the Unit will act to establish temporary emergency shelters and to ensure the distribution of emergency relief supplies to victims.

MUNICIPAL POLICE

Performs the following functions:

Operations—to discourage illegal vending mainly in towns as well as other areas of the parish

Enforcement—

1. Assist in enforcing the legal placement of billboards and advertisements
2. Monitor amusement activities and ensure that they comply with the relevant regulations
3. Monitor and report any buildings or development activities that appear to be illegal

Collections—

1. Assist the Collector in safeguarding fee collected
2. Assist the Inland Revenue department in preparing notices, reminders and Summons for the collection of property tax and trade



MANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

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