



**HOUSE OF KEYS
OFFICIAL REPORT**

**RECORTYS OIKOIL
Y CHIARE AS FEED**

**PROCEEDINGS
DAALTYN
(HANSARD)**

Douglas, Thursday, 14th December 2006

Present:

Hon. D M Anderson (Glenfaba); Mrs A V Craine and Hon. A R Bell (Ramsey);
 Mr W E Teare (Ayre); Mr J D Q Cannan (Michael); Mr T Crookall (Peel); Hon. S C Rodan (Garff);
 Mr P Karran, Mr A J Earnshaw and Mr D J Quirk (Onchan); Mr G M Quayle (Middle);
 Mr R W Henderson and Mr J R Houghton (Douglas North); Hon. D C Cretney and Mr W M Malarkey (Douglas South);
 Hon. R P Braidwood and Mrs B J Cannell (Douglas East); Mr C G Corkish and Hon. J P Shimmin (Douglas West);
 Hon. J A Brown (Castletown); Mr G D Cregeen (Malew and Santon);
 Mr J P Watterson, Hon. P A Gawne and Mr Q B Gill (Rushen);
 with Mr M Cornwell-Kelly, Secretary of the House

Business transacted*Page***Orders of the Day**

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The House adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

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House of Keys

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

Sitting convened by Precept of His Excellency dated 12th December 2006.

Orders of the Day

Acting Speaker of the House Mr Bell appointed

The Secretary: Hon. Members, we are meeting this afternoon to elect a new Speaker for the House of Keys. Before that we must choose an Acting Speaker to conduct the sitting. I therefore call for nominations for Acting Speaker. Mr Anderson.

Mr Anderson: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I nominate Mr Bell.

The Secretary: Thank you. Can I have a seconder?

Mr Gawne: I second Mr Bell.

The Secretary: Thank you. Do I have any further nominations? All those in favour of Mr Bell, please say aye; against no.

Thank you, Hon. Members. Mr Bell, I invite you to take the Speaker's Chair.

Mr Bell: Thank you, Mr Secretary.

Mr Bell took the Chair.

Speaker of the House Mr Rodan elected

The Acting Speaker (Mr Bell): We turn to Item 2 on the Order Paper, Hon. Members – the Election of the Speaker of the House.

The House sits today in accordance with the summons of His Excellency in the Precept under his hand dated 12th December 2006 to elect a new Speaker.

The election is governed by Standing Order 9, which is appended to the Order Paper. Standing Order 9 provides that if only one Member is proposed and seconded as Speaker, he or she shall be called to the Chair without the question being put; but if there is more than one candidate, there must be a ballot of the Members present and the candidate who receives the highest number of votes in that ballot shall be Speaker of the House.

Hon. Members, I will proceed as follows. When a Member has been nominated, I will seek a seconder for the nomination before calling any further nominations. Hon.

Members nominating and seconding a candidate may make a short speech in support of their nominee.

If more than one Member is nominated and seconded, we will proceed by ballot and the Member receiving the highest number of votes will be elected.

Therefore, Hon. Members, I call for nominations and seconders.

Hon. Member for Douglas East.

Mrs Cannell: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

The qualities that the holder of office of Speaker must possess are impartiality, fairness and a good knowledge of the Standing Orders and procedures of both the House of Keys and Tynwald Court, a person who has the interests of the Isle of Man firstly and foremost in their mind. The Speaker should protect with vigour the right of Hon. Members to act at all times with integrity.

I believe the Hon. Member for Michael, David Cannan, meets closely the criteria of this position. John David Qualtrough Cannan was first elected to the House of Keys to represent Michael in October 1982. He has been returned at every general election since that time and has 24 years' time served in this House. David Cannan has a wealth of experience, having served as Minister for the Treasury, Chairman of the Financial Supervision Commission, former Local Government Board, Tourist Board, Health Services and Social Security, Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. He has also served as the Chairman on the Standing Orders Committee, the Constitutional Committee and the Members' Standards and Interests Committee, and has also served as chairman of many and varied Select Committees.

More importantly, David served as the Deputy Speaker from 1996 to the year 2000, when he was elected in April 2000 as the Speaker of the House of Keys. David has the knowledge of Standing Orders and parliamentary procedures and while he was Speaker always acted with fairness, impartiality and integrity and can be said today, Mr Acting Speaker, as being truly the father of this House.

I commend John David Qualtrough Cannan for this most important and historic position as Speaker of the House of Keys.

I beg to move.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Member for Douglas North.

Mr Houghton: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

I beg to second the nomination put forward by the Member for East Douglas who has spoken extremely eloquently and all those points that have been stated by the Hon. Member I fully endorse, sir.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much. Any further nominations? Hon. Member for Onchan.

Mr Earnshaw: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Hon. Members, the person I wish to propose was first elected to the House of Keys five years ago and during the intervening time has displayed enthusiasm and commitment for the various roles he has undertaken.

In particular, he has shown a consistent interest in the parliamentary side of our work and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Considerable effort and enterprise

has been evident in the encouragement he has given to introduce young people to our activities and the Junior Tynwald template he produced has been used to good advantage by many of us for school trips around our Chambers.

The educational aspect of this, in my view, reflects considerable credit on him and this has, of course, been widened to welcome audiences from many other walks of life to experience the workings of our parliament. I believe, Hon. Members, this has provided ample demonstration of a strong and genuine desire to promote Tynwald wherever possible and whenever possible. In my opinion, he is helpful and approachable, a good listener and possesses the sharpness of mind, the resilience and good humour essential for this role.

And so, Mr Acting Speaker, it gives me pleasure to nominate, and ask Members of this Hon. House to join me in supporting, the Hon. Member for Rushen, Mr Quintin Gill for the position of Speaker of the House of Keys.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Do I have a seconder?

Mr Cretney: I rise to second the nomination of the Hon. Member for Rushen, Mr Gill.

He has, since 2001, certainly made his presence felt in terms of knowledge of the rules and procedures of this House and the other place. He has served on a number of Tynwald and Keys committees of relevance to this election and he has also been the Chairman of the Office of Fair Trading since 2004 and held a number of other positions, elected by his peers in here.

I think the point made by the Hon. Member for Onchan, Mr Earnshaw, though, is the one which is of most relevance and that is getting young people involved and interested in the work that we carry on in here and I am happy to second his nomination.

The Acting Speaker: Any further nominations? Hon. Member for Rushen.

Mr Gawne: Gura mie eu.

It is my honour this afternoon to propose the Hon. Member for Garff, Steve Rodan, for the position of Speaker.

At 52 years of age, Steve Rodan has both the strength and experience to preside fairly and dispassionately over this House over the next five years. He has successfully served the people of Garff for more than 11 years now and has played a full role in the work of this House, in Tynwald and in Government.

Hon. Members, whoever we choose as our new Speaker this afternoon will need to command the respect of this House and indeed the respect of the people of the Isle of Man. We need a Speaker who is fair-minded, who acts with integrity and has demonstrated his ability to command authority. It is clear to me, and I believe to all who have seen him in action, that the Hon. Member for Garff is well suited to taking on this important role. He has always given his best when representing the Isle of Man, both nationally and internationally, and his evident pride in his adopted country, its people and culture make him an excellent ambassador for our Island. It has been my privilege to work with the Hon. Member for Garff in the DHSS and latterly in the Council of Ministers. At all times I have found him to be a positive team player who helps to encourage and control debate in a fair but firm manner.

I believe that the Hon. Member for Garff is the best candidate to fulfil the ancient and highly esteemed role of

Speaker of the House of Keys. Therefore I have pleasure in proposing Steve Rodan, Hon. Member for Garff, to be our next Speaker and urge this Hon. House to support him.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Is there a seconder?

Mr Braidwood: Mr Acting Speaker, I would like to endorse the sentiments expressed by the Hon. Member for Rushen, Mr Gawne, and as I said last week in seconding Steve Rodan's nomination for Chief Minister, I have known him since May 1995 when we were both elected to our respective constituencies. I know he is a man of integrity, he is fair, he is firm and impartial and I know that he will hold the scales of justice with equal poise and therefore I would like to second his nomination.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Do we have any further nominations? Thank you very much, Hon. Members.

In that case, as there is more than one nomination, there will need to be a ballot and therefore I call on the Secretary of the House to distribute ballot papers.

Once these papers have been distributed, I will ask the learned Secretary to read the names of the nominated Members just to remind Members of who we are voting for.

The Secretary: Mr Acting Speaker, the Members nominated...

The Acting Speaker: Hon. Members, could we just allow the Secretary to read out the nominated persons.

The Secretary: The Members nominated are: Mr Cannan; Mr Gill; and Mr Rodan.

The Acting Speaker: Could I nominate the Hon. Member for Malew and Santon, Mr Cregeen, to act as scrutineer, and the Hon. Member for West Douglas, Mr Corkish.

Mr Corkish: Pleasure, Mr Acting Speaker.

A ballot took place.

The Acting Speaker: Hon. Members, the results of that ballot are as follows: Mr Cannan, 7 votes; Mr Gill, 6 votes; and Mr Rodan, 10 votes; and there is one spoiled paper. (**Mr Cannan:** Congratulations.)

So it is my pleasure to announce Mr Rodan, the Hon. Member for Garff, as our new Speaker. If I could ask him to come forward.

Mr Rodan took the Chair.

Thanks from the Speaker upon election

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like to thank you for the great honour and the confidence you have shown in me today, in electing me as your Speaker.

It is a real privilege to occupy this ancient office in this ancient parliament of ours, and I pledge to uphold the dignity

of this office and the rights and privileges of Members of the House of Keys, the elected representatives of the people of the Isle of Man.

I would wish to pay tribute at this point to my predecessor, the Hon. Member for Castletown, our new Chief Minister, for the high standards of impartiality, firmness and fairness (**Mr Houghton:** Hear, hear.) with which he discharged his duties as Speaker this past five years. (**Several Members:** Hear, hear.) I would wish to emulate such standards and work to further enhance the standing of this office for the national good and, indeed, in the best international interests of the Isle of Man.

Hon. Members, I sincerely thank you all for this honour. I thank the other Members who stood for a dignified contest. I thank them for giving the opportunity for a vote to all Members of this House, but above all I thank you, Hon. Members, for the opportunity to serve you, in your role as Members, and to serve this House as its presiding officer.

Thank you.

Several Members: Hear, hear.

Management and Members' Standards Committee Three Members elected

3. Election of three Members to form the House of Keys Management and Members' Standards Committee.

The Speaker: We now turn to Item 3 of the Agenda.

Standing Order 6.4 provides that the Management and Members' Standards Committee is to be elected at the first sitting of the House following the sitting of Tynwald at which the Chief Minister is elected. The Committee consists of four Members, three of whom must now be elected, the Speaker of the House being the fourth Member. The four Members thus comprising the Committee are also automatically the Keys Members of the Tynwald Standards and Members' Interests Committee and the Joint Committee on the Emoluments of Certain Public Servants.

So, Hon. Members, we now turn to the election of Members of the Committee. To ensure an orderly procedure, Hon. Members, as each Member is nominated I will seek a seconder for that nomination before calling for a further nomination. Should there be more than three nominations, we will proceed by ballot.

I now call for nominations.

Mr Bell: Mr Speaker, I beg to move my hon. colleague for Ramsey, Mrs Craine.

Mr Shimmin: I beg to second, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. Mrs Craine.

Mrs Craine: Mr Speaker, I beg to move Mr Anderson, Hon. Member for Glenfaba.

Mr Quayle: I beg to second, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr Braidwood: Mr Speaker, I would like to propose the

Hon. Member for West Douglas, Mr Corkish.

The Speaker: Thank you. Can I have a seconder for Mr Corkish?

Mr Teare: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I beg to nominate Mr Earnshaw, the Hon. Member for Onchan, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr Teare. Do I have a seconder for Mr Earnshaw?

Mr Watterson: I would like to second Mr Corkish.

The Speaker: A seconder for Mr Corkish.
A seconder for Mr Earnshaw?

Mr Gill: I will second Mr Earnshaw, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. Mr Gawne.

Mr Gawne: I would like to propose the Hon. Member for Michael, Mr Cannan.

Mrs Cannell: I beg to second, Mr Speaker.

Mrs Craine: I beg to nominate Mr Tim Crookall, Member for Peel.

The Speaker: Thank you, Mrs Craine.

Mr Quayle: I beg to second, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: You are seconding Mr Crookall, thank you.

Any further nominations, Hon. Members?

Mr Bell: That is the whole House, isn't it? (*Laughter*)

The Speaker: After distributing ballot papers, I shall ask the Secretary to read out the names of the Members nominated and seconded.

The Secretary: Mr Speaker, the Members nominated are: Mr Anderson; Mr Cannan; Mr Corkish; Mrs Craine; Mr Crookall; and Mr Earnshaw.

The Speaker: Can I add, Hon. Members, that three Members must be nominated for a voting paper to be valid. I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Glenfaba to act as teller.

Mr Anderson: I cannot; I am nominated.

Mrs Craine: No, he is nominated. Mr Bell?

The Speaker: I beg your pardon. I ask the Hon. Member for Rushen, Mr... (**Several Members:** Watterson.) Watterson. (*Laughter*)

Mr Shimmin and Mr Braidwood: No, he seconded.

Mr Cretney: I did not vote for anybody! (*Laughter and interjections*)

The Speaker: I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Douglas North, Mr Henderson, to act as a teller, (*Interjections*) and the Hon. Member for Onchan, Mr... (**Several Members:** Quirk.) (**A Member:** Smith.) Quirk. (*Laughter*)

A first ballot took place.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the result of the ballot is as follows: Mr Anderson received 14 votes; Mr Cannan received 9 votes; Mr Corkish received 7 votes; Mrs Craine received 17 votes; Mr Crookall received 12 votes; Mr Earnshaw received 10 votes. I therefore declare that on this ballot Mr Anderson and Mrs Craine have been duly elected.

It is necessary to proceed to a further round of balloting, Hon. Members, in respect of the third member of the Committee and therefore I shall ask for ballot papers again to be distributed and I shall ask the Secretary to read out the names of the remaining candidates to be balloted for the last remaining place. One vote only, Hon. Members. Thirteen votes are required, the majority of the Members present voting in order to be successful.

Secretary, if you could read out the names of the candidates, please.

The Secretary: Mr Speaker, the remaining candidates are: Mr Cannan; Mr Corkish; Mr Crookall; and Mr Earnshaw.

A second ballot took place.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the result of the ballot is as follows: Mr Cannan received 3 votes; Mr Corkish received 1 vote; Mr Crookall received 17 votes (**Several Members:** Hear, hear.); Mr Earnshaw received 2 votes; and there was 1 spoilt paper. I therefore declare Mr Crookall elected as the third member of the Committee.

Electronic voting in the House Statement by the Speaker

The Speaker: That concludes the business on the Order Paper, Hon. Members, but before I adjourn the House, I will add to what Mr Speaker Brown said on 28th November about electronic voting.

As matters rest at present, the Standing Orders of the House have not been amended to provide for electronic voting. Electronic voting has now been used for the December sitting of Tynwald on 12th December, as we know.

As the experience of it was satisfactory, I propose to move the necessary formal changes to Standing Orders at the start of the sitting on 23rd January, which will be the next full sitting of the House, for electronic voting here to take place from that sitting onwards.

Tynwald Standing Orders provide for the details to be settled for the remainder of this session by a practice direction of the President and I would propose that the House adopt a similar provision while the system settles down. The necessary change to Standing Orders themselves is therefore minimal, and I would not propose to trouble the Standing Orders Committee to specifically meet.

Hon. Members, that concludes the business of the House.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all Members a very happy festive season. A very happy Christmas to yourselves and to your families and with that, Hon. Members, the House stands adjourned to the sitting of Tynwald Court on Tuesday, 16th January 2007 at 10.30 a.m.

Thank you, Hon. Members.

The House adjourned at 3.15 p.m.