

Mr Michael Pace Ross

Date: 22 July 2020
Our Ref: PA/04011/20

Application Number: PA/04011/20
Application Type: Full development permission
Date Received: 25 May 2020
Approved Documents: PA 4011/20/1A/1B/1C/1D and;

Supporting Documents
PA 4011/20/1F - Restoration Method Statement
PA 4011/20/39A - Superintendence Cultural Heritage conditions

Location: Archbishop's Palace, Triq L-Arcisqof, Belt Valletta
Proposal: Conservation and restoration of the main facade of the Archbishop's Palace, Archbishop Street, Valletta.

Development Planning Act, 2016 Full Development Permission

The Planning Authority hereby grants development permission in accordance with the application and documents described above, subject to the following conditions:

- 1 Works shall be monitored by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage at the applicant's expense. Any removal of rendering and cleaning must be preceded by trial patches carried out in the presence of the SCH officers. The works hereby being permitted are subject to a bank guarantee to the value of € 2300 (Two Thousand Three Hundred Euro) to ensure compliance with this monitoring condition and to ensure that the restoration works are carried out in conformity with the approved Restoration Method Statement. The bank guarantee shall only be released after SCH officers confirm compliance with this condition. In the event that the works have not been carried out in accordance with the approved method statement or instructions given by the Planning Authority, the bank guarantee shall be forfeited. Its forfeiture would not, however, preclude the applicant from adhering to all the conditions contained in this development permission. **Applicant / perit is reminded about the need to submit the commencement notice as per standard conditions included with this permit. Failure to submit this notice will ipso facto result in a 10% forfeiture of the bank guarantee.**
- 2 a) Where applicable, prior to any demolition of buildings/boundary walls abutting streets, the Setting Out Request Notice must be submitted to the Land Survey Unit of the Planning Authority. Demolition works shall not be undertaken before setting out is made by Planning Authority officials.

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b) Original internal and external walls shall not be hacked (mbaqqna) or grit-blasted. New stone on the façade is to be fair faced without any attrition or marking, unless otherwise specified in approved drawings or supporting documents.

c) Unless otherwise indicated on the approved drawings, the facade of the building, all roof structures, rear garden/yard walls, (but excluding internal shafts), and back elevation shall be retained/constructed in local stone. The stone shall remain unrendered and unpainted, and it shall be allowed to weather naturally. Such components of a building indicated to be rendered/finished other than in local stone, are to be painted in local stone colour, unless other colours are indicated on the approved drawings.

d) Unless otherwise indicated on the approved drawings, all external apertures and closed balconies, visible from a public space, shall be constructed in timber. Open balcony railings and all other metalwork, visible from a public space, shall be in wrought iron.

e) All services located on the roof of the uppermost roof structures shall not extend beyond the height of the approved parapet wall.

- 3 The conditions imposed and enforced by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage are at supporting document PA 4011/20/39A. The architect/applicant is required to contact the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, throughout the implementation of the development hereby approved, to ensure conformity with the imposed conditions. A copy of the relative correspondence issued by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage shall be submitted to the Planning Authority accordingly.

The conditions imposed and enforced by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage are as follows:

First floor facade is a post-war building, with a healthy intact patina which must be retained. Intervention is recommended to be restrained and focused only on the ground floor to be homogenized with the noble patina at first floor.

- 4 a) This development permission is valid for a period of FIVE YEARS from the date of publication of the decision in the press but will cease to be valid if the development is not completed by the end of this validity period.
- b) This permission relates only to the development as specifically indicated on the approved drawings. This permission does not sanction any other illegal development that may exist on the site.
- c) A Commencement Notice is to be submitted to the Planning Authority, by the perit on behalf of the applicant, at least FIVE DAYS prior to the date of commencement of works or utilisation of the permission. Failure to submit the Commencement Notice (with all fields correctly completed) or failure to submit it within the required timeframe shall invalidate the Notice and shall result in the imposition of fines according to Schedule D of Legal Notice 277 of 2012, or its amendments, or its replacements. In addition, **if the applicant fails to submit the Commencement Notice or the Commencement Notice submitted is invalid, the relative permission shall be considered as never having been utilised** - Article 72(4) of the Development Planning Act (2016).
- d) Copies of all approved drawings and documents shall be available for inspection on site by Planning Authority officers at all reasonable times.

e) The development shall be carried out in complete accordance with the approved drawings, documents and conditions of this permission. Where a matter is not specified, then the conditions of this permission and of Development Control Design Policy, Guidance and Standards 2015 shall apply.

f) Before any part of the development hereby permitted commences, the enclosed green copy of this development permission shall be displayed on the site. This must be mounted on a notice board, suitably protected from the weather and located not more than 2 metres above ground level at a point on the site boundary where it is clearly visible and can be easily read from the street. The copy of the permission must be maintained in a good condition and it shall remain displayed on the site until the works are completed.

g) All building works shall be erected in accordance with the official alignment and official/existing finished road levels as set out on site by the Planning Authority's Land Surveyor. A Setting Out Request must be submitted to the Land Survey Unit of the Planning Authority, prior to the commencement of works on site, when the setting out of the alignment and levels is required.

h) Where an officially schemed street, within the development zone, bordering the site is unopened or unformed, it shall be opened up and brought up to its proper, approved and official formation levels prior to the commencement of any development hereby being permitted.

i) It is the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that development is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Management Construction Site Regulations, Legal Notice 295 of 2007 (or subsequent amendments). Any hoarding shall be erected in accordance with Schedule 2 of the same Regulations.

j) New development on vacant or redeveloped sites shall be provided with a water cistern to store rainwater run-off as required by the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2012) [published through Legal Notice 376 of 2012 and any amendments thereto].

k) No steps, ramps or street furniture are to be constructed on or encroached onto the public pavement or road.

l) Any doors and windows, the lower edge of which is less than 2m above road level, and any gates shall not open outwards onto a public pavement or road.

m) Where present, window grilles (including 'pregnant' windows), sills, planters and other similar elements which are part of or fixed to the facade of buildings, the lower edge of which is less than 2 metres above road level, shall not project more than 0.15 metres from the facade over a public pavement or street.

n) Air conditioning units shall not be located on the facades of the building which are visible from the street or a public space.

o) There shall be no service pipes, cables or wires visible on the front elevation or on any other elevations of the building which are visible from the street or public space.

5 **Conditions imposed and enforced by other entities**

A. Where construction activity is involved:

(a) the applicant shall:

(i) **Appoint a Project Supervisor for the Design Stage and a Project Supervisor for the Construction Stage** and any such appointment shall be terminated, changed or renewed as necessary. The same person may be appointed to act as project supervisor for both the design and construction stage, if that person is competent to undertake the duties involved and

(ii) **Keep a health and safety file** prepared by the Project Supervisor for the Design Stage.

(b) When the construction works related to this application are scheduled to last longer than thirty working days and on which more than twenty workers are occupied simultaneously, or on which the volume of work is scheduled to exceed five hundred person-days, the project supervisor **shall communicate a prior notice to the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) at least four calendar weeks before commencement of works.**

(c) The Project Supervisor for the Design Stage shall **draw up a health and safety plan** which sets out the occupational health and safety rules applicable to the construction activities concerned, outlining the measures to ensure cooperation between different contractors and shall also include specific measures concerning occupational risks that may be present at this site.

B. Where the development concerns a change of use to a place of work, the applicant shall obtain a Perit's declaration that the building conforms to the requirements of LN 44 of 2002.

C. Where the development concerns a place of work:

The applicant shall:

(i) obtain a Perit's declaration that the necessary requirements arising out of LN 44 of 2002 have been included in the plans and drawings; and

(ii) obtain a Perit's declaration that the building conforms to the requirements of LN 44 of 2002.

D. The development is to strictly adhere to the 'Design Guidelines on fire safety for buildings in Malta' to ensure that all Fire Safety measures and provisions are addressed as indicated in the Design Guidelines on Fire Safety for Buildings in Malta, published by the DCID in 2004, (or other relevant standard, provided it is approved by the Civil Protection Department), Policies, and the Laws and Regulations of Malta.

E. Prior to laying of water and wastewater services in the road, the development shall comply with the requirements of Legal Notice 29/10 Part III (Roads in inhabited Areas) Clause 12.

F. In the event of an accidental discovery in the course of approved works, any cultural heritage feature discovered should not be damaged or disturbed and the Superintendence is to be immediately informed of such discovery. Any cultural heritage features discovered are to be investigated, evaluated and protected in line with the Cultural Heritage Act 2019 (CAP 445). The discovery of cultural heritage features may require the amendment of approved plans.

G. For new development, the following condition, imposed and enforced by Enemalta, applies:

A culvert measuring 0.8m wide by 0.75m deep should be prepared along the façade of the development in order that any overhead lines may be substituted by underground cables. The culvert is to be interconnected to an adequate space consisting of a **small room or recess** located near the **entrance**, provided for the purpose of housing the electricity meter. Another adequate space for the purpose of housing the electricity meters, consisting of a **small room or recess** located in the basement near the **entrance**, also interconnected to the culvert, is to be provided. The architect/applicant is required to contact Enemalta, throughout the implementation of the development hereby approved, to ensure conformity with the imposed conditions. A copy of the relative correspondence issued by Enemalta shall be submitted to the Planning Authority accordingly.

In terms of Article 72(3) of the Development Planning Act, 2016, the execution and validity of this permission is automatically temporarily **suspended** and no works as approved by the said development permission may commence before the lapse of the time period established in Article 13 of the Environment and Planning Review Tribunal Act and subsequently will remain so suspended if the Tribunal so decides in accordance with the Environment and Planning Review Tribunal Act.

Where the approved drawings and/or documents are dimensioned, then the declared dimensions shall prevail over the actual size as depicted on the approved drawings and/or documents.

Developers are advised to check the invert level to the sewer main with the Water Services Corporation as they would have to make their own arrangements where a gravity service connection is not possible. In these cases, the architect has to indicate the solutions envisaged and to indicate on the plan what needs to be carried out and obtain approval from WSC. Developers are further reminded that connection of storm water into main sewers is not allowed.

If the declaration of ownership, as contained in the application form, is determined as incorrect by a Court of Law, then the said Court of Law can declare this development permission as null and void. This development permission does not remove or replace the need to obtain the consent of the land/building owner to this development before it is carried out. Furthermore, it does not imply that consent will necessarily be forthcoming nor does it bind the land/building owner to agree to this development. Where the land/building is owned or administered by the Government of Malta a specific clearance and agreement must be obtained for this development from the Land and/or Estate Management Departments.

This development permission is granted saving third party rights. This permission does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining any other necessary permission, license, clearance or approval required from any Government department, local council, agency or authority, as required by any law or regulation.

This development permit does not authorise any storage of substances listed in Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act (Cap. 424) - Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations, 2003, as amended, in quantities that would render this site an establishment within scope of these regulations. The storage and handling of said substances may require a new or amended development permission in line with current policies and regulations.

For any non-residential uses hereby being approved, prior to commencement of any works on site or any eventual permitted change of use, the applicant shall be required to contact the Environment and Resources Authority to obtain any necessary operational permit or registration. This requirement

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does not apply to Class 2B, 2C, 4A and 4B uses as listed in the Development Planning (Use Classes) Order 2014, or its subsequent amendments.

This decision is being published on 5 August 2020.

Monica Gauci
Secretary Planning Commission
Outside Development Zone and Urban Conservation Areas

Notes to Applicant and Perit

Right for reconsideration

Where applicable, you have a right to submit a request for reconsideration to the Authority in terms of regulation 14 of Legal Notice 162 of 2016.

Right for appeal

You have a right to submit an appeal, against the decision, to the Environment and Planning Review Tribunal in terms of Article 13 of the Environment and Planning Review Tribunal Act, 2016.

Time limits

Requests for reconsideration or appeals must be made within 30 days from the publication of the decision notification in the local press as required by regulation 14(1) of Legal Notice 162 of 2016.

Fees to submit a request for reconsideration or appeal

In either case, there is a fee to be paid which should accompany the request for reconsideration or the appeal. The fees are as follows:

For reconsideration - 3% of the Development Permit Fee paid in respect of the original application, subject to a minimum of €69.88.

For appeal - 5% of DPF (Development Permit Fee) paid in respect of the original application, subject to a minimum of €150 + €50 administrative fee (LN 112 of 2016).

Submission of request for reconsideration or appeal

With regards to requests for reconsideration, Form PA 4/16 must be used for submission. All fields of the Form must be filled in as appropriate. Requests for reconsideration can only be submitted electronically.

With regards to appeals, as required by Article 13 of the Environment and Planning Review Tribunal Act, 2016, the submission must include the detailed grounds for appeal and the requests being made by the appellant. Appeals must be submitted physically at the offices of the Environment and Planning Review Tribunal, St. Francis Ditch, Floriana.

Important Notice

In view of the provisions of Article 72(4) of the Development Planning Act (2016), a Commencement Notice is to be submitted to the Planning Authority, by the perit on behalf of the applicant, at least FIVE DAYS prior to the date of commencement of works or utilisation of the permission. Failure to submit the Commencement Notice (with all fields correctly completed) or failure to submit it within the required timeframe shall invalidate the Notice and shall result in the imposition of fines according to Schedule D of Legal Notice 277 of 2012, or its amendments, or its replacements. In addition, if the applicant fails to submit the Commencement Notice or the Commencement Notice submitted is invalid, the relative permission shall be considered as never having been utilised.

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