

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS**

**[ PUBLIC ]**

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cpt. N. H. Malpass, Mesdames. S. P. Beattie, E. M. Bruce and E. Carlile, Messrs. Dr. A. J. Allinson, B. Beattie, K. A. Crowe, K. B. Mayne, G. K. Quayle, R. Radcliffe. L. I. Singer and W. G. Young.

The Town Clerk, Finance Officer and Minute Clerk were in attendance.

**(2010/11:289) Minutes – Board Meetings:**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Board held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2010, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following:-

**(2010/11:290) Chairman's Report:**

Resolved: to note and approve the Chairman's Report dated 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, subject to the following:-

*Christmas in Ramsey:* the Chairman verbally reported on the success of the Chamber of Commerce's Santa Trail.

**(2010/11:291) Town Clerk's Report – Action Pending:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Town Clerk's Report dated 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, detailing matters pending response or action, subject to the following:-

*New Bus Timetables:* Mr. L. I. Singer expressed disappointment that the Chairman had decided, without consultation, to cancel a meeting understood to be taking place with Mr. Cretney to discuss the revised bus timetables. Several members concurred with Mr. Singer's comments.

The Chairman explained his actions in that representatives of the Department of Education, who were to attend the meeting, had indicated their preference to postpone such meeting until the affect of re-opening Bowring Road could be taken into account. The Chairman apologised if his actions had aggrieved or inconvenienced members.

It was agreed that a meeting be reconvened at the earliest opportunity.

**(2010/11:292) Town Clerk's Report – Regeneration Scheme:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Town Clerk's Report dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, detailing the proposed regeneration schemes phased work which it is hoped can be commenced from July 2011.



**(2010/11:293) Town Clerk’s Report – Road Traffic and Highways (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill:**

Members considered the Town Clerk’s report dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, detailing comments submitted by the Chairman, Dr. A. J. Allinson and Mr. R. Radcliffe, with regard to the consultation process for the Road Traffic and Highways (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill.

Discussion ensued during which Dr. Allinson referred to the proposal to have two limits for blood: alcohol levels, which he considered to be a dangerous precedent. Members agreed:

- Blood: alcohol limits should either be reduced from 80 to 50 or a zero tolerance to alcohol consumption introduced;
- The police should have greater powers to carry out random stops/searches;
- There should be greater powers with regard to drug abuse;
- There should be powers to seize vehicle as a deterrent against driving offences (Mr. L. I. Singer did not agree with this comment)
- Road Closures on the Mountain Road should be permitted only if there is financial benefit to the Island;
- The Courts should have greater sentencing powers

It was proposed by Mr. K. B. Mayne, seconded by Mr. R. Radcliffe and agreed that the comments be submitted in response to the Consultation Document.

**(2010/11:294) Finance Officer’s Report:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s Report dated 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, subject to the following:

**Public Sector Rents:** Mrs. E. M. Bruce expressed serious concern that the Maintenance Allowance had been reduced. Whilst recognising that works to public sector housing should reduce routine maintenance there are now new costs boiler and lift maintenance for example.

The Town Clerk undertook to produce a report for comparison maintenance costs so that a formulated response can be submitted to the Department.

**(2010/11:295) Chief Technical Officer’s Report – Planning Applications:**

Resolved: That Chief Technical Officer’s Report dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, detailing planning applications received from the Department of Local Government and the Environment under the planning consultation procedures, be noted and approved, and that submissions of “no objection” be made, subject to the following:



**(2010/11:295) Chief Technical Officer's Report – Planning Applications Cont:**

REF NO: 2798  
P.A. NO.: 10/01693/B  
APPLICANT: Heritage Homes Limited  
PROPOSED: Widening of highway and creation of priority junction at existing section of single carriageway (alternative to dual carriageway previously approved under P.A.'s 03/00790, 03/01846 & 10/00392)  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **Highway, Roadside Hedge, Land adjacent to Highway, Gardeners Lane, Ramsey.**

The Town Clerk reported that numerous letters of objection had been received primarily expressing concern at the loss of the central reservation, trees and shrubs, with which members agreed.

Members wished it be recorded that the Commission had been in unsuccessful discussions with the applicants with regard to land comprising the former railway line. It was felt that the proposals were not in accordance with the West Ramsey Redevelopment Framework. Concern was expressed that the proposals would cause too great a bottleneck on the TT access road and create gridlock.

It was agreed to object to the application.

REF NO: 2805  
P.A. NO.: 10/01758/B  
APPLICANT: Nigel Frank Fairclough  
PROPOSED: Installation of flue and stack (retrospective)  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **34, Royal Park, Ramsey.**

It was agreed to seek a deferral pending receipt of further information.

**(2010/11:296) Chief Technical Officer's – General Report:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Chief Technical Officer's General Report dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.

**(2010/11:297) Refuse Disposal Charges:**

Resolved: To note details of the 6% increase, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010, in refuse disposal charges as advised by the Department of Infrastructure, which will result in the charge for Domestic waste increasing from £29 to £30.74 and Commercial waste from £100 to £106 per tonne.

**(2010/11:298) Manx Transport Trust – Annual Report:**

Resolved: To note receipt of a copy of the Trust's Annual Report for 2009 – 2010, which reflects the success of the Transport Museum at Jurby and which has been placed in the public Library.

**(2010/11:299) Local Authority Audit Fees:**

Resolved: to note that the Isle of Man Government's Chief Internal Auditor has responded to the Town Clerk's enquiries as to the method by which local authority external audit fees are apportioned, in that the audit fees are those that were provided as part of the tendering process and represent the auditors quoted price for undertaking each of the audits. There is no apportionment of costs undertaken by Treasury.

**(2010/11:300) Holocaust Day 23rd January Methodist Church Castletown:**

Resolved: To note that the annual Holocaust Service will take place on 23rd January, 2011, to which members have been invited.

**(2010/11:301) PA 01/00884 - alleged non implementation of landscaping scheme - 1-3 Fairway Drive, Ramsey.**

Resolved: to note that the Planning Enforcement Officer has advised that he has completed the investigation into this complaint and is advised by Hartford Homes that although some trees were planted the bulk of the landscaping was delayed pending the outcome of the application for garaging on the site [PA 09/01153].

The Planning enforcement Officer has received an undertaking from Hartford Homes that landscaping will be implemented this coming planting season.

**(2010/11:302) Access to Planning Documents:**

Resolved: To note that the Department of Infrastructure has provided access to all planning application documents in electronic format on the Government website - <https://www.gov.im/onlineservices>.

Members noted that full paper copies of applications will continue to be lodged with local authorities and applications for Ramsey will be available for viewing at the Town Hall.

**(2010/11:303) Malawi Mission Projects: - Carol Singing:**

Resolved: To note that permission has been granted the Isle of Man Registered Charity – Malawi Mission Projects to sing Christmas Carols in Ramsey on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2010.

**(2010/11:304) Notice of Motion Standing Orders:**

Mr. R. Radcliffe presented the Notice of Motion, dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2010, standing in his name “That the Commissioners introduce certain amendments to their Standing Orders”.

It was proposed by Mr. R. Radcliffe, seconded by Mrs. S. P. Beattie and agreed that, in accordance with Standing Orders, consideration be made at the January, 2011, meeting of the Board.

**(2010/11:305) Queen’s Pier Planning Application:**

Reference was made to correspondence received by the Chairman from the Chairman of the Friends of the Queen’s Pier which had been brought to the attention of Members.

The Chairman of the Friends of the Queen’s Pier was disparaging about the decision of the Commission to object to the planning application in respect of the proposed removal to storage of many parts of the Queen’s Pier. Members were adamant that they had considered the application with the same consideration that would have been given to any other planning application whereby parts of a building were to be removed; with no indication being given as to when, how or at what cost they would eventually be replaced.

Members felt that Government is trying to avoid its obligations to the Pier; a registered building. Government has shown no commitment to its ongoing maintenance for at least 30 years and none appears to be being shown to its future refurbishment; in that no allowance is included within the budget calculations for at least the next five years. The commission felt that the sum allowed of £1.8 m should be used to refurbish fully at least part of the pier, rather than to remove parts.

Members were concerned that parts, once removed, could eventually be used elsewhere on the Island; something that they believe has happened in the past.

Members reiterated their support for the pier being regenerated; not demolished by stealth.

The Chairman thanked the public for their interest and attendance invited them to join members for seasonal refreshments.



Chairman.

