

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

[PUBLIC]

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 21st July, 2010, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cpt. N. H. Malpass, Mesdames, Mrs. S. P. Beattie, Mrs. E. M. Bruce and Mrs. E. Carlile and 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, Chief Technical Officer and Minute Clerk were in attendance.

(2010/11:087) Minutes – Board Meetings:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Board held on 16th June, 2010, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to the addition of the words “could be utilised” at the end of the final paragraph of Clause 2010/11:075: Station Road Car Park Entrance.

Mr. Singer asked of the Department’s machine could be utilised to undertake a survey of the whole car park.

(2010/11:088) Chairman’s Report:

Resolved: to note and approve the Chairman’s Report dated 16th July, 2010, subject to the following:

Civic Duties: The Chairman reiterated his pride in having attended Tynwald on 5th July.

Meeting for the Business Community: The Chairman expressed the hope that this initiative would be well supported.

(2010/11:089) Town Clerk’s Report – Bleak House:

Resolved: To note and approve the Town Clerk’s Report dated 9th July, 2010, advising members that a meeting will be arranged with interested parties prior to the expiry of the court Order on 15th August, 2010.



(2010/11:090) Town Clerk's Report – Courthouse Grounds:

Lengthy discussion ensued with regard to the wholly unacceptable condition of the Courthouse Grounds since budget restraints introduced by the Department of Home Affairs have resulted in Inspector Flint not considering maintenance of the grounds a priority.

Mr. Beattie expressed the view that the grounds could be maintained by persons serving community service orders or by those in custody and for whom the prison service have a policy for introducing training, and could not agree that the cost of maintenance be met by ratepayers. Mrs. Bruce agreed that the Board cannot accept responsibility for private property and suggested that young people might be involved in a community project.

Mr. L. I. Singer proposed that we approach the Department of Home Affairs to determine whether the Commission could take over control for the grounds for which he believed expenditure of a ½: ¾ p rate in the pound would be considered acceptable to the ratepayers. Mr. Beattie indicated his agreement subject to the grounds being in the Commissioners ownership.

Mr. K. A. Crowe agreed that we take over the grounds if possible, but that we seek the views of the Head Gardener as to what work is required.

It was proposed by Mr. B. Beattie, seconded by Mr. R. Radcliffe and agreed that the Commissioners undertake a one-off tidy of the Courthouse Grounds, as a goodwill gesture and then enter into negotiation with Government as to the transfer of the grounds into the Commission's ownership.

(2010/11:091) Town Clerk's Report – Freedom of Information Bill:

Resolved: To note and approve the Town Clerk's Report dated 14th July, 2010, advising of the receipt of the Consultation on Draft Legislation on the Freedom of Information Bill, to be considered in detail at the meeting of the Board to be held on 18th August, 2010.

(2010/11:092) Town Clerk's Report - Land Adjacent to Bleak House:

Resolved: To note and approve the Town Clerk's Report dated 2nd July, 2010, advising that Mr. and Mrs. Morris have been given 28 days to remove their possession from land in the Commission's ownership adjacent to Bleak House, Mooragh Promenade, Ramsey.



(2010/11:093) Town Clerk’s Report – Policing:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s report dated 16th July, 2010, advising that as a result of a meeting Inspector Flint has requested to meet the Board.

Resolved: That Inspector Flint be invited to meet the Board at the commencement of the public meeting to be held on 18th August, 2010.

(2010/11:094) Town Clerk’s Report – Public Sector Housing Fire Sprinkler Systems:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s Report dated 9th July, 2010, advising of the promotion of the use of domestic fire sprinklers within public sector housing.

Resolved: that the Isle of Man Fire and Rescue Service be informed that whilst appreciating the reasons for the proposals the Commissioners feel that insisting upon the introduction of fire sprinklers might be considered “a step too far”.

(2010/11:095) Finance Officer’s Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s Report dated 12th July, 2010, subject to the following:

Revenue Accounts – the list of Revenue Accounts for payment was circulated.

(2010/11:096) Chief Technical Officer’s Report – Planning Applications:

Resolved: That Report prepared on behalf of the Chief Technical Officer dated 14th July, 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:

REF NO: 2754
P.A. NO.: 10/00905/B
APPLICANT: Mr. & Mrs. M. Walmsley
PROPOSED: Extension to dwelling
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Greenhaven, 1, Lheaney Grove, Ramsey.**

In response to a query as to what had changed, when previous applications with regard to this property had been opposed, members were informed that this application referred to the dwelling, whereas previous had referred to the garage. There have been no objections to these proposals.



(2010/11:096) Chief Technical Officer's Report – Planning Applications Continued

REF NO: 2756
P.A. NO.: 10/00903/B
APPLICANT: Mr. & Mrs. M. Casson
PROPOSED: Alterations and extensions to dwelling
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Fairfield, Fairfield Avenue, Ramsey.**

Mr. G. K. Quayle declared an interest due to residential proximity.

Appendices:

2741 – Advertising Sign The Milntown Trust: Members expressed their concern that an appeal has been submitted against the decision to refuse this retrospective application as it was their understanding that the sign were to be of a temporary nature.

It was agreed to write to the Trustees of the Milntown Trust seeking clarification.

Members raised concern at the *advertising signs* being erected by Hartford Homes on the banking on the land leading from Vollan Crescent to Bride Road, opposite the former Grand Island Hotel.

The Chief Technical Officer undertook to draw the matter to the attention of the Planning Enforcement Officer of the Department of Infrastructure.

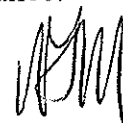
(2010/11:097) Chief Technical Officer's – General Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Chief Technical Officer's General Report dated 9th July, 2010, subject to the following:

Big Tidy Up Event 2010: Members made no comment other than they were entirely satisfied with and appreciative of the initiative of Faith in Action that had resulted in numerous "tidy-ups" around the Town.

Proposed Alterations to Street Lighting Hours: the Chief Technical Officer advised that the Manx Electricity Authority had estimated a cost for electricity consumption of £100 . It was unanimously agreed that illumination of street lighting in the Bowring Road area be extended until 2.00 a.m. during the course of the road reconstruction works.

Christmas Trees – Members expressed concern at the Department's stance with regard to Health and Safety and agreed that enquiry be made to determine how the legislation had changed from that in force last year resulting in the loss of assistance.



(2010/11:097) Chief Technical Officer's – General Report Continued:

Co-Ordinating Health and Safety in the Public Sector: The Chief Technical Officer advised that he had met with Caron Palmer who seems happy with the Board's Health and Safety Policy. Questionnaires require to be completed.

Provision of Fire Detection in Local Authority Housing – this item was debated in relation to the Town Clerk's Report – Clause 2010/11:094 refers).

(2010/11:098) Administration Officer's Report Enforcement Actions:

Resolved: To note and approve the Administration Officer's Report dated 16th July, 2010, advising of action taken against persons in respect of an abandoned vehicle and parking on disabled parking spaces.

Mr. K. A. Crowe asked if greater fines might be imposed. The Town Clerk advised that fines were within a set scale and determined by the Magistrates.

(2010/11:099) Bowring Road Reconstruction – Arrangements for Events:

Resolved: To note assurances given by the Department of Infrastructure's Director of Highways that Bowring Road will be open on 2nd September to facilitate Ramsey Sprint.

(2010/11:099) Sprint Compound:

Resolved: That permission be granted Straightliners to have a compound at the Vollan Amenity Area for the period 31st August - 7th September (not 31st July – 7th August as detailed in the Agenda) to enable their attendance at the Ramsey Sprint and a Drag Race at Jurby.

(2010/11:100) Bowring Road Water Mains Rehabilitation:

Resolved: To note that the Isle of Man Water and Sewerage Authority will be replacing distribution water mains in Bowring Road in conjunction with works being undertaken by the Department of Infrastructure.

(2010/11:101) Energy From Waste Plant Annual Report 2009:

Resolved: To note availability of the Energy from Waste Annual Report 2009, via the SITA's website.

(2010/11:102) Traffic Notices:

Resolved: to note the decision taken by the Department of Infrastructure Highways Administration concerning the future issue of Traffic Regulations documentation via e mail.

(2010/11:103) Parking Places Amendments Taubman Street

Members discussed the proposed parking places amendment order in respect of Taubman Street and agreed that access for the emergency services was essential. It was noted that residents would be eligible to apply for residential permits.

Resolved: that the Department of Infrastructure be informed of the Commissioners support to the introduction of a one-way system subject to the additional introduction of speed control.

(2010/11:104) Isle of Man Municipal Association:

Resolved: to note the offer of six months' free membership made by the Isle of Man Municipal Association, in an attempt to encourage non-members to join. Members declined to accept the offer.

(2010/11:105) Mountain Road Closure:

Resolved: To note that the Mountain Road will close on 17th August and 7th September, 2010, to enable maintenance and works associated with the Manx Grand Prix to be undertaken.

Any Other Business:

(2010/11:106) HMS Ramsey:

Resolved: to note that HMS Ramsey has a new Commanding Officer Cmd. Andy Lamb, who introduces himself and takes the opportunity to thank the Town and the ship's affiliates for their friendship, etc., in the past. It is noted that the Ship will shortly be undertaking a 3 year tour of duty in the Middle East.

(2010/11:107) Tram Crossing – Walpole Drive:

Members noted receipt of copy correspondence from Mrs. M. Brew, Cornerstones, Walpole Drive, Ramsey, concerning the policy of Public Transport not to allow the trams to sound warning whistles at the crossings on Walpole Drive, siting the reason that the crossings are on unadopted roads.

Members felt that the need to sound warning whistles existed whether the roads were adopted or not.

Resolved: That Isle of Man Public Transport be informed and Mrs. Brew advised accordingly.



(2010/11:108) Traffic – Market Place:

Mr. L. I. Singer drew attention to the difficulty of coming off the give-way junction at Market Place onto the Quay.

Resolved: That enquiry be made from the Department of Infrastructure to determine if the give-way signs could be upgraded to stop signs.

The Chairman thanked the public for their interest and attendance and closed the public session at 8.01 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. J. Mabasa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chairman.