The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 21st June, 2017, at 7.00 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from Rev’d Canon N. D. Greenwood and A. J. Oldham.

The Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Finance Officer, Housing and Property Manager, and Minute Clerk were in attendance.

As the Chairman was not yet in attendance Mr. Parker took the Chair and opened the meeting in congratulating Mr. Lee Parker on his success in completing the recent “Parish Walk”.

(2017/18:044) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 17th May, 2017, be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Chairman.

(2017/18:045) Matters Arising:

The Chairman invited Members and officers to indicate if there were any matters arising, not included within the Agenda that they wished to bring to the Board’s attention.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2017/18:046) Town Clerk’s Report – Ramsey Cottage Hospital:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s Report dated 12th June, 2017, with which was appended the response from the Hon. Mrs. K. Beeacroft, M.H.K., Minister for Health and Social Care, with regard to the decision taken by the Department to transfer the endoscopy service from Ramsey Cottage Hospital. Members appreciated the Minister’s response but felt it lacking in information about financial benefits and staffing implications. Concern was also expressed about the lack of communication prior to the announcements made about the transfer of the endoscopy service.

Resolved: That the Minister be thanked for her letter and be asked to qualify within one year about the effectiveness of the transfer in reducing waiting lists and on the targets mentioned therein. Members also felt that stronger written assurances with regard to the future of Ramsey Cottage Hospital should be provided.
(2017/18:047) Finance Officer’s Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s General Report dated 15th June, 2017, subject to the following:

Accounts: In response to a query Members were informed that where available grants were sought towards the costs of staff training.

Summary of Revenue Income and Expenditure: Mr. McGuinness referred to information within this appendix, and taking the Library as an example explained how he had sought further information about the library service provided. He encouraged members to make enquiry of the officers if they wished to know information in any particular area.

Rates: Members requested that the Finance Officer’s July report include figures reflecting arrears of Town Rates.

(2017/18:048) Technical Assistant’s Report - Commemoration of Loss:

Resolved: To note and approve the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 15th June, 2017, detailing the losses during the Great War to be commemorated in the next few weeks.

(2017/18:049) Technical Assistant’s Report - Enforcement Action:

Resolved: To note and approve the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 12th June, 2017, detailing fines imposed at Court Sittings on 18th May, 2017, against persons named therein. Members re-iterated their zero tolerance policy against offenders.

Mr. McGuinness reported that the Establishment Committee had met the Town Warden and indicated the Board’s support of the service being provided.

Works and Development:

(2017/18:050) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Planning Applications:

Resolved: That Chief Technical Officer’s Report dated 15th June, 2017, detailing planning applications received from the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, under the planning consultation procedures, be noted and approved, subject to the following:-

REF NO: 3491
P.A. NO.: 17/00590/B
APPLICANT: Shearwater Limited
PROPOSED: Revised access road pursuant to PA 15/01064/B for the erection of nine detached dwellings with associated landscaping and access
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: Site of former Grand Island Hotel, Bride Road, Ramsey
(2017/18:050) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Planning Applications Cont:

Members’ attention was drawn to proposal to amend the width and construction method for the internal access road to provide a public highway suitable for ultimate adoption by the Highways Division of the Department of Infrastructure.

It was proposed by Mr. Hankin seconded by Mrs. Quayle and agreed that no objection be made.

REF NO: 3492  
P.A. NO.: 17/00596/B  
APPLICANT: Hartford Homes Limited  
PROPOSED: Erection of two detached dwellings with integral garaging and 3 terraced bungalows (forming amendments to PA 16/00232/B)  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: Plots 110 - 114, Royal Park, Ramsey.

Members’ attention was drawn to this application which proposed a revised layout to accommodate realignment of the sewers for the development.

It was proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Ayres and agreed that no objection be made.

Appendix: Members noted that greater detail on decisions made with regard to planning applications can be accessed via the Government’s website.

(2017/18:051) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Flooding Event Vollan Pumping Station:

Resolved: To note the Chief Technical Officer’s report dated 15th June, 2107, advising of a flooding event at the site of the new Vollan Pumping Station during recent adverse weather conditions, due to a faulty seal.

It was noted that the Chief Technical Officer is to discuss a recent incident of flooding of a grassed area in the vicinity of the pumping station and whether the installation of a soak-away would prevent recurrences.

(2017/18:052) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Legacy Landfill Sites:

Resolved to note and approve the Chief Technical Officer’s Report dated 15th June, 2017, advising that a “STEP” student is to be appointed to undertake a project on legacy landfill sites.

Members referred to areas they knew to have been landfill sites in Ramsey including the rear of Ramsey Bus Station, Shoprite Car Park, Mayfield and the Mooragh Brooghs. It was agreed to advertise the project via Social Media. Mr. Young was encouraged to discuss his knowledge in this matter with the Chief Technical Officer.

Resolved: To note the Chief Technical Officer’s report dated 15th June, 2017, advising that a letter dated 24th May, 2017, has been received from the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture as Notice of an intention to demolish the buildings at The Mart Site, Bowing Road, Ramsey.


Resolved: To note the Chief Technical Officer’s report dated 15th June, 2017, outlining the additional duties undertaken by the Workforce and refuse crews during the recent T.T. fortnight.

Members recorded their thanks and appreciation of all the extra work undertaken during this fortnight.

Parks and Leisure:

(2017/18:055)  Deputy Town Clerk Report - Events:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk’s tabled report dated 21st June, 2017, advising of forthcoming events, particularly in National Week and August Bank Holiday Weekend.

Mr. Hankin in welcoming this report encouraged all those involved to give as much publicity as possible to the events and asked if the list might be included as a regular report.

(2017/18:056)  Notice of Motion - Courthouse Sub-Committee:

The Notice of Motion dated 12th June, 2017, standing in the name of Mr. P. S. Ayres, as hereunder, was received and therefore adjourned in accordance with Standing Orders to the meeting of the Board to be held on 19th July, 2017.

“The Courthouse sub-committee be disbanded as their remit has been completed as far as looking at uses for the courthouse following acquisition, and that the Policy Committee take on the responsibilities of managing the future use of the Courthouse when it is acquired.”

Standing Order 14 - Notices of Motion provides that every motion relating to any new subject or matter not already before the Board, other than a motion which under Standing Order 15 may be moved without notice, shall be given in writing at the ordinary meeting preceding the one at which it is intended to bring it forward.

[Signature]
Any Other Business:

(2017/18:057) Representative Reports:

Resolved: To note the reports submitted by Mr. Parker with regard to a recent meeting of the Isle of Man Municipal Association and a meeting concerning promotion of cycling on the Island attended with the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk advised that “Cycling Plus” a specific cycling magazine has recently featured a full page spread about cycling in Ramsey and undertook to provide copies of the article to members if they wished to receive them.

Mr. McGuinness provided a verbal report that the Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board had met and elected their Chairman, etc., for the forthcoming year. The Deputy Town Clerk commended the action of the Secretary of the Swimming Pool Board in promptly dealing with a complaint about overgrown weeds in the grounds of the pool.

Mr. Ayres indicated that the Northern Neighbourhood Police Level One meeting was not held in June because of T.T. commitments by the Isle of Man Constabulary.

The Chairman thanked the public and media representatives for attending and closed the public session at 7.45 p.m.

The following items were considered in private the detail of which, having regard to data protection, matters affecting persons who cannot be named, etc., is not as extensive as that contained in minutes of matters discussed in public.

(2017/18:058) Minutes:

Resolved: To note that no matters from the meeting of the Board Meeting held on 17th May, 2017, were recorded in private.

Matters for Information:

(2017/18:059) Housing Committee:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the Housing Committee held on 6th June, 2017, subject to the following:-

Clause 11c) - Members queried if the address of the Commissioners’ property included in the clause was correct. The Housing and Property Manager undertook to check this.
(2017/18:059) Housing Committee Continued:

Reference was made to the recent Tenants’ Survey and agreed to include reference to this in the “On-going Matters” tracker with the aim that a media release be made with the results of the survey including areas of positive and negative feedback and comment on how negative feedback has or will be addressed.

Mrs. Quayle referred to a “photo-shoot” for the presentation of a gift for the name drawn from tenants having returned the tenants’ survey and asked if a photograph might be included in the media release.

(2017/18:060) On-Going Matters:

Resolved: To note on-going matters listed at 21st June, 2017, which was tabled and the following comments made thereon, accepting that some matters are referred to in other sections of these minutes:-

Bleak House - Mr. Young queried the need to employ a Structural Engineer, which the Town Clerk explained.

Fireworks Display - the Deputy Town Clerk outlined the theme proposed for musical accompaniment for the 2017 fireworks display.

Decorative and Street Lighting - the Deputy Town Clerk indicated that he is investigating decorative lighting that can be used year round and various options to hopefully provide decorative lighting in four areas of the town.

Live Streaming of Meetings - the Deputy Town Clerk indicated that discussions with Douglas Corporation are on-going.

Abolition of Ward Division - Mr. Corkish queried why his “Motion” had not been progressed and was advised that the request to have the matter re-considered had not been presented as a “Notice of Motion” and would be progressed as indicated by way of consideration of a Town Clerk’s report.

Mrs. Quayle also referred to a suggestion that members be provided with iPads. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that he is attempting to identify suitable model of iPads to meet the Commission’s needs.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2017/18:061) Town Clerk’s Report - Ramsey Courthouse:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s Report dated 21st June, 2017, which was tabled, advising of the outcome of negotiations on the terms of purchase of the Ramsey Courthouse Building, and the receipt by the Department of Home Affairs of Treasury concurrence to such terms.

Commission were reminded that the matter remains private and discussed the making of a formal announcement about the purchase recognising the need to ensure that any announcement had been agreed in advance with the Department of Home Affairs.
(2017/18:061)  Town Clerk’s Report - Ramsey Courthouse Continued:

Resolved: to submit a petition seeking the approval of the Department of Infrastructure, under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 1985 to:-

• purchase the Ramsey Courthouse and Grounds from the Department of Home Affairs in consideration of the granting of a 25 year leasehold interest in the Police Office, Ramsey Town Hall, for nominal consideration of £1 per annum, and a single payment of the sum of £80,000.00.

• the granting of a lease to the Department of Home Affairs, for 25 years from the 1st April 2018, at an annual rental payment of £1, of the Police Office premises at Ramsey Town Hall, Ramsey, as previously detailed in the lease dated 1st August, 2014, between the Ramsey Town Commissioners and the Department of Home Affairs.

Resolved: It was agreed unanimously that a formal media release should be agreed in advance with the Department of Home Affairs. Members further agreed unanimously that the matter would remain strictly confidential until such time as the media release, which would be circulated to Members under embargo, had been made public.

Mrs. Quayle referred to proposals to refurbish the War Memorial and members were reminded that the Chief Technical Officer had referred to this matter in a report presented in April and would report further following discussions with a representative of the Island’s War Memorials Committee.

(2017/18:062)  Finance Officer’s Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s report dated 15th June, 2017, subject to the following:-

**Estimates and Revenue Expenditure:** Mr. McGuinness asked if additional information could be included within the graphed appendix to show monthly income and expenditure as well as the cumulative figures.

Mr. McGuinness referred to his comments made in public with regard to members to enquire if they wished further information in any matters and particularly asked Lead Members to begin to consider their budgetary requirements for the next financial year.
(2017/18:062) Finance Officer’s Report: continued

**Aged Debtors:** Members queried certain companies / persons listed in the Aged Debtors’ list and were advised as follows:-

- Company listed second within the list - discussions with our advocates suggest there is little likelihood of the debt being recovered;
- Person listed seventh within the list - this debt is in addition to rent arrears owed by a former tenant.
- Company listed ninth within the list - correspondence is being exchanged with this debtor.
- Company listed twentieth within the list - a promise of payment on 26th June for older part of debt has been made.

**Northern Civic Amenity Site:** The Town Clerk verbally reported that the consent of the Department of Infrastructure had been received to the formation of the Committee to run the Northern Civic Amenity Site and to formally enter into the Lease Agreement.

Resolved: To authorise the sealing and signing of the Lease Agreement on behalf of the Commission.

(2017/18:063) Technical Assistant’s Report - Enforcement Actions:

Members considered the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 15th June, 2017. Further to the meeting of the Establishment Committee with the Town Warden, discussion ensued with regard to the possibility of the use of a “body camera”. It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mrs. Quayle that the Deputy Town Clerk investigates the practicality and cost of body cameras including data protection requirements.

It was noted that as the Town Warden is the employee of the Company to which the service was awarded these proposals will require to be discussed with them.

Discussion continued with regard to those persons named within the Report and referred to the Board for decision as to prosecution / fixed penalty.

Resolved: To progress prosecution / issue of a fixed penalty as follows:-

Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Hankin and agreed without division, to prosecute those persons first named in the report for parking in designated disabled parking spaces;

Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Ayres and agreed without division to issue a fixed penalty notice against that person named in the second part of the report.
(2017/18:063) Technical Assistant’s Report - Enforcement Actions Continued:

The Town Clerk drew attention to an additional matter, an appeal submitted by a person issued with a fixed penalty notice in respect of littering. The appeal was read and following a proposition by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Hankin, it was agreed without division, to reject the appeal.

Works and Development:


Resolved: That the stance adopted at the meeting of the Commissioners held on 17th May, 2017, remain, and Standing Orders be not suspended to allow further consideration of the request concerning Cooperage Lane.

Housing and Property:

(2017/18:065) Housing and Property Manager’s Report - Yew Tree Apartments:

Resolved: To note the Housing and Property Manager’s dated 1st June, 2017, concerning remedial and rendering works at Yew Tree Apartments and advising that works are scheduled to commence on 26th June, 2017.

Any Other Business:

(2017/18:066) Ramsey Carnival:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s Report dated 21st June, 2017, concerning a request made by Ramsey Carnival Committee for assistance in funding for Ramsey Carnival, in the amount of promised sponsorship, which will not be forthcoming until the Committee’s bank account has been set-up. Members queried if the sponsors would agree to make payment to the Commissioners instead of the Committee and were informed not.
(2017/18:066) Ramsey Carnival: continued

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed by 7 votes to 1, Mr. Corkish voting against:-

- The Lead Member for Finance, Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Officer work with the Carnival Committee in an attempt to resolve any problems that might be delaying their application to open a bank account;
- A temporary loan be made to the Carnival Committee in the amount of the promised sponsorship. It was noted that the Committee has on-going fund raising in respect of the additional sum they perceive is required;
- A letter of agreement to the arrangement and reimbursement of the loan be obtained from the Carnival Committee.

Matters of Establishment:

(2017/18:043) Minutes Establishment Committee:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the Meetings of the Establishment Committee held on 2nd and 12th June, 2017, subject to the following:-

Mr. McGuinness indicated that budget preparations for future years should include wages and should be presented more in the style of a “business plan”, which is why he has asked members to be considered the budget process earlier than in previous years.

Members suggested that staffing levels be reviewed with the budget preparation process.

Members agreed that signage should be reviewed and renewed where needed within the Commissions car parks, and that new signage should be prepared to reflect the revised Dog Byelaws.

Mr. Cowie attended the meeting during discussion of this Clause at 9.40 p.m. and in so doing apologised for the lateness of his arrival.

The meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m., giving a time of 3 hours for payment of attendance allowances.

Chairman.