The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 20th December, 2017, at 7.00 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from Messrs’ J. McGuinness and F. B. R. Williams.

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

(2017/18:242) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meetings held on 15th and 23rd November, and 6th December, 2017, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

(2017/18:243) Matters Arising:

Action Plan to improve the Planning System - Members agreed to discuss this at a later stage of the meeting.

(2017/18:244) Chairman’s Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Chairman’s Report dated 15th December, 2017, subject to the following:-

Christmas - the Chairman reiterated his good wishes.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2017/18:245) Town Clerk’s Report – Consultation Collection of Civil Debt:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s report dated 14th December, 2017, concerning the consultation being progressed by the Treasury with regard to the collection of civil debt. In addition to it being confirmed that members could submit individual comments to the consultation if they so wished, the questions raised were discussed:-

Revised Register:

- a revised register would be beneficial - benefit would be gained by accessing the register in that people could be forewarned of possible debtors;
- it was important to retain a paper copy of the list with free access at the General Registry;
- Government warrants should be included in the register.
(2017/18:245) Town Clerk’s Report – Consultation Collection of Civil Debt Cont:

**Government Preference over other Creditors:**
With the exception of Mrs. Quayle and Mr. Corkish members agreed that Government and Crown preferences should be retained.

**Landlord Preference over other creditors in relation to the payment of rent:**
General discussion ensued on this section during which the Town Clerk reminded members that Execution of the Debts would have been required to have been obtained. Reference was made to “slum-landlords” who it was felt should not have any preference, commercial landlords and local authorities. It was suggested that these debts might be considered on an “individual” basis. It was proposed by Mr. Parker seconded by Mr. Ayres that no comment be made on this section.

Resolved: That Treasury be informed accordingly.

(2017/18:246) Town Clerk’s Report – Proposed Community Sports Hall:

Resolved; To note the Town Clerk’s Report dated 14th December, 2017, confirming the submission of a Planning Application for approval in principle to develop a new community sports hall on land at the Vollan, Mooragh Promenade.

(2017/18:247) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – Licensing Court Triennial Sessions 2018:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 14th December, 2017, concerning the invitation conveyed to the Commission to submit any comments on liquor, and music and dancing licences to be considered at the Triennial Licensing Court in 2018. Discussion ensued during which members were advised that instances of litter by way of discarded cigarettes and bottles and empty glasses were occasionally encountered.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Hankin, the Licensing Court be informed of the Commission’s general support to the renewal of liquor, and music and dancing licences and the Court advised that the Commission will be pro-active in progressing action in terms of the Litter Act 1972.

It was suggested that the receptacle used by public houses for discarded cigarettes might not be suitable and was a contributory factor to the problem of litter.

(2017/18:248) Finance Officer’s Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s General Report dated 14th December, 2017.
(2017/18:249) Technical Assistant’s Report - Commemoration of Loss:

Resolved: To note and approve the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 8th December, 2017, detailing the losses during the Great War to be commemorated in the next few weeks.

In response to a query by Mr. Hankin that something be arranged to mark the “last loss” in 2018, Mr. Oldham advised that Ramsey Branch of the Royal British Legion has something in mind for this occasion.

(2017/18:250) Technical Assistant’s Report Enforcement Actions - Court Hearings:

Resolved: To note the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 1st December, 2017, advising of successful prosecutions against persons for parking and littering offences.

In response to a query from Mr. Corkish, members were advised that correspondence is addressed to persons issued with fixed penalty notices, etc., and that legal action is taken in the absence of response thereto.

Mrs. Wedgwood referred to parking restrictions imposed on Queen’s Promenade and to penalty notices issued - Mrs. Wedgwood was reminded that anyone receiving a penalty notice had rights of appeal, and in addition was requested to ask the persons understood to have received such notices to bring them to the attention of the Deputy Town Clerk.

Works and Development:

(2017/18:251) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report - Cooperage Lane:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 14th December, 2017, advising that a consultation has been commenced with regard to the suggestion put to the Northern Traffic Management Liaison Group that Cooperage Lane be designed one way, with access via West Quay and egress onto Bowring Road.

(2017/18:252) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Planning Applications:

Resolved: That Chief Technical Officer’s Report dated 14th December, 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: 3530
P.A. NO.: 17/01194/B
APPLICANT: Athol Street Auctioneers Limited
PROPOSED: Construction of twenty apartments within three accommodation blocks with associated refuse storage, car parking and landscaping
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: The Former Mart Site, Bowring Road, Ramsey.
(2017/18:252) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Planning Applications Cont:

Members discussed the application and raised concerns at the lack of parking spaces proposed, the lack of open space and expressed concern that existing local playgrounds are considered to be in close proximity to the proposals.

The attention of members was drawn to the Strategic plan which indicates that the number of parking spaces may be reduced in circumstances, such as those of this application.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Ayres, seconded by Mrs. Quayle, the Commission objects to the application on the grounds of lack of parking and open space.

The proposal was carried by 6 votes to 4 - Messrs’ Corkish, Cowie, Oldham and Parker voted against.


Members considered the Chief Technical Officer’s Report dated 14th December, 2017, concerning the request made by the Department of Infrastructure to the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, to remove 19 trees at the rear of 27, Barrule Park, Ramsey.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Ayres, seconded by Mrs. Quayle, to inform DEFA that the Commission understand the need for the removal of the trees but would wish a condition to be included if the application is approved that an appropriate replanting scheme be implemented.

Mr. Cowie and Mr. Young voted against.

Parks and Leisure:

(2017/18:254) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report - Marquee on Rugby Pitch:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s Report dated 14th December, 2017, concerning a request made to site a marquee on the Ramsey Rugby Pitch to facilitate a birthday party on 7th July, 2018.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Ayres, seconded by Mr. Corkish, permission be granted subject to the Commission being indemnified, in writing, from any and all liabilities arising from the event, including access via the Mooragh Park brooghs, and to no nuisance being caused.

Mrs. Wedgwood voted against insofar as she felt public open space should not be used for private purposes.
Any Other Business:

(2017/18:255) Technical Assistant’s Report - Advertising Boards and Street Furniture:

Members considered the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 20th December, 2017, concerning applications made for the siting of items on the public highway.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Parker seconded by Mr. Ayres and agreed without division, that the applications, as detailed below be approved for a three year period:-

- HA17-004 - Fancy A Coffee Limited (Costa), 14, Parliament Street
- HA17-005 - JAC Stores (The Ramsey Warehouse), 37, Parliament Street
- HA17-006 - Ramsey Garden Centre, Albert Road

It was further resolved, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed without division, to approve the application submitted by Mrs. L. Meijer for a permit for 28 days.

Members were advised that although this application referred to a “pop-up shop” the Highway Act does not differentiate between applications. The Town Clerk advised that although the “pop-up shop” does not pay rates the owner of any premises used in this way does.

(2017/18:256) Public Sector Rent Increase 2018:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk verbal report concerning receipt of a news release made concerning public sector rents for 2018. Members noted the increase has been set at 3.1% to be applied with effect from 1st April.

It was noted that the 3.1% reflects a 2% increase in costs and 1.1% to be ring-fenced for maintenance. The release advises that increases sought by housing authorities on the Island varied from 0% to 6% and average increases would be £1.74 for a one bedrooomed flat to £2.96 for a three bedroomed house.

Mr. Corkish asked if details could be obtained of the increases sought by each authority.

(2017/18:257) Carols Around the Courthouse:

Mr. Hankin informed members that Carols will be Sung around the Christmas Tree at the Courthouse on Saturday, 23rd December, 2017, at 4.30 p.m.

The Chairman thanked the public and media representatives for attending and closed the public session at 8.37 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.

(2017/18:258) Minutes:

Resolved: To note that no matters from the meeting of the Board Meeting held on 15th or 23rd November or 6th December 2017 recorded in private.

Matters for Information:

(2017/18:259) Housing Committee:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the Housing Committee held on 5th December, 2017.


Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker”, to 15th December, 2017, included within the agenda and the following comments made thereon, and accepting that some matters are referred to in other sections of these minutes:-

- Retirement Mrs. S. Cain - Members took the opportunity to record their thanks to Mrs. Cain and wish her a long and happy retirement.
- Water Street Boundary Wall - Mr. Young declared an interest.
- Town Warden Contract - the Report to January will be on options available to the Commission.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2017/18:261) Town Clerk’s Report - Lease of Lands Mooragh Estate:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s Report dated 8th December, 2017, concerning the request made by the Ramsey Rugby Union Football Club to extend their lease agreement.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Ayres seconded by Mr. Hankin and agreed without division, that the Rugby Club’s lease be extended for a further period of 20 years, from the expiration of the current agreement, in 2023.

(2017/18:262) Town Clerk’s Report - Ramsey Courthouse:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s Report dated 14th December, 2017, advising of receipt by the Commission’s Advocates of amended purchase agreement documents, in respect of the acquisition of the Ramsey Courthouse, which are currently being reviewed.
(2017/18:263) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report - Electronic Devices and Email:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s Report dated 13th December, 2017, concerning proposals with regard to the provision of electronic devices and email accounts. Reference was made to GDPR controls and the need to be rigorous about data protection, which it was considered could be better achieved with separate ipads and using appropriate email addresses.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed that those members who wish to do so avail themselves of iPads and email addresses.

(2017/18:264) Town Clerk’s Report - Station Road Car Park:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s Report dated 19th December, 2017, which was tabled.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Hankin, and agreed without division, the report be noted and the Town Clerk be authorised to enter into further discussions, based on the content of his report, and report further to the Board in due course.

(2017/18:265) Finance Officer’s General Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s Report dated 14th December, 2017, subject to the following:

2018-19 Budget - Mr. Oldham circulated a budget report dated December 2017, prepared in his capacity as Lead Member for Works and Development.

Parks and Leisure:

(2017/18:266) Deputy Town Clerk’s Events 2018:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk’s Report dated 14th December, 2017, with which was appended a list of provisional events for 2018, for Members’ information.

Any Other Business:

(2017/18:267) Planning Consultation:

Members considered the consultation issued by the Cabinet Office on its action plan to improve the planning systems, which had been originally presented in the Town Clerk’s report at the November, 2017, Board meeting and adjourned as the consultation closure date had been extended. Comments submitted by the Mr. Cowie were also considered.
(2017/18:267) Planning Consultation Continued:

Mr. Ayres recommended that personal responses be submitted as he felt a “corporate / consensus” response would not be beneficial. The Chairman asked if members would like a special meeting to be convened.

Resolved: That a general response, including Mr. Cowie’s comments, be framed.

(2017/18:268) Proposed Nursery:

The Town Clerk verbally reported that a new nursery for 0-5 year olds is proposed for Ramsey and the proprietor thereof seeks the views of the Commission. Members noted that several nurseries in Ramsey have closed over recent months.

Resolved: That the Commission indicate their general support of the proposal.

Matters of Establishment:

(2017/18:269) Minutes Establishment Committee:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 6th December, 2017, subject to the following:

- **Staffing Living Wage** - Members were informed that “Living Wage” was now being paid to employees of the Ramsey and Northern Districts Housing Committee and the Civic Amenity Site.

- **Workshop Staffing** - in response to a query Members were informed that it was by the choice of the employee that a temporary zero hours contract had been agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.58 p.m. giving a time of 3 hours for payment of attendance allowances.

Chairman.