A Special Private Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 10th January, 2018, at 7.00 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J. McGuinness.

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

**2017/18:270** Estimates 2018/19:

Members resumed consideration of initial estimate proposals from Finance and General Purposes.

- Office Equipment (copiers) – Members agreed to progress the replacement of the ground floor copier during the current financial year and the make financial provision of £6,000 to replace the first floor copier in 2018/19. Officers are to review options for lease or purchase as appropriate.

- Town Warden Service – Members noted a further report was to be provided to the January Board and agreed to include financial provision in the sum of £33,000.00 towards warden services (either contracted or by direct employment) during 2018/19/"

- Extension of CCTV to Market Square and West Quay – Members agreed to include a sum of £15,000 in the 2018/19 estimates.

The Finance Officer presented notes on the estimates for further discussion. The notes included a summary of year end balances on the basis of those items presented for consideration to date being incorporated within the rate estimate for 2018/19.

Members noted that the 2018/19 estimates would require to include financial provisions related to the acquisition of the Courthouse, and that the authority had held the current town rate of 348p in the £ since 2013 (five years), and that inflation at the present time stands at around 4% which is applied would be reflected by a 14p in the £ rate increase, notwithstanding any inflation experienced during the period for which rates had been frozen.

Members commenced a review of proposals, it was noted that further review of all proposals is expected prior to setting the town rate, and therefore the discussion should not be taken as a final decision on any item proposed.
Members reviewed proposals previously put as follows:-

- **Workshop Alarm and Emergency Lighting** – Members agreed to make provision of £5,000 during the current year for the appointment of a consultant to advise on a scheme to upgrade the alarms and emergency lighting systems at the Riverside Workshops (and to review the provisions within the Courthouse) and to include a budget estimate of £20,000 within 2018/19 rates for such works.

- **Ramsey Courthouse** – Members agreed to the provision of £35,000 within the 2018/19 budget for works to maintain the integrity of the Courthouse (electrical/alarms/heating etc.) and noted that subject to the expressions of interest exercise there may be the potential for some rental income from the premises. The Town Clerk reminded Members that the acquisition would be funded by £71,000 unapplied capital receipts and £9,000 from the revenue account, and that there would be a loss of rental income from the Police Station already reflected in estimates.

- **Town Hall review of electrical installation** – Members agreed to defer this matter for consideration with 2019/20 and requested the Housing and Property Manager to prepare a detail report on options for future consideration.

- **Purchase of Scissor Lift** – Members determined that this item should not be included in the 2018/19 estimates, a further report on benefits and cost savings to be provided when appropriate.

- **Station Road Car Park** – Members agreed to defer current year expenditure and provide a budgetary provision of £20,000 in 2018/19 against a capital project to resurface areas of the car park, funding options by borrowing or otherwise to be further explored and reported.

- **Replacement Wheelie Bins** – Members agreed budgetary provision of £18,000 to be made in 2018/19 to complete the phased replacement of domestic wheelie bins.

- **Replacement Litter Bins and Collection Wagon** - Members agreed to defer for further consideration within 2019/20 estimates. Members requested a full paper detailed current operations, future options costs and benefits be provided.

- **Mooragh Sewer Line** – Members agreed to include provision of £28,000 towards clearing a relining the private sewer serving Mooragh Hall in Mooragh Park, subject to investigatory works and further report.

- **Zero Turn Grass Mower** – Members noted the success of the use of a similar (but smaller mower) in the park and agreed to include £10,000 in 2018/19 for the acquisition of a new road licensed zero turn mulching mower for use on amenity areas throughout the town.
• Rough Grass Flail – Member agreed to provide £2,000 within the 2018/19 budget to replace the rough grass flail. The Chief Technical Officer to report on potential contracting out prior to purchase.

• Replacement hand mowers – Members agreed to include £4,000 within the 2018/19 budget for the replacement of 4 mulching mowers – the existing mowers to be sold for spares/repair.

• Jurby Road Street Lighting upgrade – Members noted and confirmed prior agreement to include £9,500 in the 2018/19 budget.

• Decorative Lighting – Members discussed the decorative lighting provision with the town and agreed that a detailed report, options and costings, be prepared for further consideration prior to the 2019/29 estimate process commencing. Members agreed to provide for expenditure of £5,000 in the 2018/19 budget towards maintaining the present provision. £15,000 provided for annual maintenance, to also be included in 2018/19.

• Mooragh Park Greenhouse Staging – Members noted prior agreement for this to proceed in the current financial year.

• New Planter baskets – Members agreed to proceed with the acquisition of new self-watering planter baskets in the current financial year.

• Planter Troughs – Members noted the proposal and agreed to defer for consideration as part of the 2019/20 estimates process.

• Staff Training – RSH Diploma and pesticides etc. Members noted and confirmed prior approval to proceed.

• Development Fund – Members agreed to delete provision of a fund.

• Re-roofing Boathouse Café Building – Members agreed to make provision of £16,000 in 2018/19 for reroofing of the Boathouse Café Building.

• Purchase of long-reach chainsaw – Members agreed to the purchase of this item (estimated cost £1,500) within the current financial year park’s budget.

It was proposed by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Ayres and agreed unanimously that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue to its conclusion.

• Wet Play Area resurfacing – Members agreed to include provision of £25,000 within the 208/19 budget for resurfacing of the water play area, noting the popularity of the attraction within the Mooragh Park.
• Canopy Shades and Changing Huts – Members agreed to proceed with the provision of 4 changing huts to be located by the Water Play Area within the current financial year at a cost of £2,250. The provision of canopy shades was deferred for future consideration.

• Play Surfaces repairs – Members agreed to proceed with surface repairs during the current financial year at a cost of £9,000.

• Office Equipment – The Deputy Town Clerk reminded Members that a recent decision to provide IT facilities to some Members (if required) would necessitate a budgetary provision of £5,000 in the 2018/19 estimates.

The meeting closed at 10:20 p.m. giving a time of 3½ hours for payment of attendance allowances.

Chairman.