The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 21st February, 2018, at 7.00 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from Messrs’ P. S. Ayres, Rev’d Canon N. D. Greenwood and W. G. Young.

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

Before commencing the meeting the Chairman asked that members mark, by way of a minute’s silence, the recent death of former Chairman of the Commissioners, Mr. John Quayle Garrett.

**(2017/18:299) Minutes:**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 17th January, 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to the word “probably” appearing within Clause 295 being amended to read “probable”.

**(2017/18:300) Matters Arising:**

Mrs. Wedgwood and Mr. Hankin referred to poor road and pavement conditions particularly in Parliament Street. The matters will be referred to the Department of Infrastructure.

**(2017/18:301) Chairman’s Report:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Chairman’s Report dated 16th February, 2018.

**Finance and General Purposes:**

**(2017/18:302) Town Clerk’s Report – Consultation EU General Data Protection Regulation:**

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s Report dated 12th February, 2018, detailing the proposals of Government to introduce a Data Protection Bill.

The report detailed questions contained within the proposals and it was noted that officers will further report on this matter as necessary.
(2017/18:303) Town Clerk’s Report – Consultation Vehicle Excise Duty:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s report dated 3rd February, 2018, concerning the Consultation being undertaken with regard to the review of vehicle excise duty by the Department of Infrastructure. Mr. McGuinness suggested that so much of the consultation was subjective and commended members to submit individual responses. General discussion ensued.

Resolved: That the Department of Infrastructure be informed the Commission has no specific comments to make on this consultation, other than their opposition to visiting vehicles paying any contribution whilst on the Island (Question 10), and their opposition to the introduction of congestion charges (Question 13).

(2017/18:304) Town Clerk’s Report – Local Authority Attendance Allowances:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s Report dated 12th February, 2018, concerning the provisions of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act, 1985, with regard to the payment of members’ expenses.

(2017/18:305) Town Clerk’s Report – Northern Policing Staff Changes:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s Report dated 8th February, 2018, advising of recent changes to police staffing and concerns raised about continuity arising as a result thereof. It was suggested that an invitation be extended to officers to meet with the Commission in approximately six months’ time.

(2017/18:306) Town Clerk’s Report – Register of Electors Annual Canvass 2018:


(2017/18:307) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – Street Vendor’s Licence:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 14th February, 2018, concerning the request made by Manx Whippy Limited to renew their street vendor’s licence to operate a mobile ice cream van within residential areas of Ramsey.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams, and agreed without division that approval be granted on the same terms and conditions that applied in 2017.
(2017/18:308) Finance Officer’s Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s General Report dated 15th February, 2018, subject to the following:-

Quarterly Annual Return: Mr. Cowie queried the inclusion of the wording “Parks Glens” within the Return. The Finance Officer advised that the return is in a format set by the Department.

Bank Account Signatories: It was agreed, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Hankin and agreed without division, that Mrs. Kinnin be added as a signatory to the Commission’s bank accounts in place of Mrs. Cain.

(2017/18:309) Technical Assistant’s Report - Commemoration of Loss:

Resolved: To note and approve the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 14th February, 2018, detailing the losses during the Great War to be commemorated in the next few weeks.

Works and Development:

(2017/18:310) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Planning Applications:

Resolved: That Chief Technical Officer’s Report dated 15th February, 2018, 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:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REF NO:</th>
<th>3527</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.A. NO.:</td>
<td>17/01104/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLICANT:</td>
<td>Ramsey Town Commissioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROPOSED:</td>
<td>Removal of condition 4 of 16/00924/B, erection of a two storey complex comprising 12 apartments with associated parking and landscaping, regarding alterations to an existing footbridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTES:</td>
<td>P.A. in Detail</td>
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<tr>
<td>SITE:</td>
<td>Close Woirrey, Queen’s Pier Road, Ramsey.</td>
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Amended Plans

Members were reminded that removal of condition 4 refers to the non-removal of the footbridge and to landscaping provision.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REF NO:</th>
<th>3544</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.A. NO.:</td>
<td>18/00066/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLICANT:</td>
<td>Samantha Galvin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROPOSED:</td>
<td>Installation of non-illuminated signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTES:</td>
<td>P.A. - Advertising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE:</td>
<td>29, Parliament Street, Ramsey.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Concerns were expressed that the application might be considered over-intensive - but it was ultimately decided to make no comment thereon.
(2017/18:310) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Planning Applications Cont:

REF NO: 3545
P.A. NO.: 18/00067/B
APPLICANT: Department of Infrastructure Public Estates and Housing Division
PROPOSED: Alterations, erection of first floor extension to provide a study area and repositioning of existing escape stair
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: West Building, Ramsey Grammar School, Lezayre Road, Ramsey.

Mr. Corkish indicated he was not in favour of this applicant as he felt Government funding could be better used elsewhere.

REF NO: 3546
P.A. NO.: 18/00073/B
APPLICANT: Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Duggan
PROPOSED: Alterations and additions including removal of conservatory, erection of extension, removal of chimney stack, installation of gable window and erection of detached garage
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: 62, Ormly Road, Ramsey.

Members expressed concern about access to the proposed garage and queried whether ulterior use might be possible after the works.

A proposal by Mr. Hankin, seconded by Mr. Williams that the Commission request deferral of consideration of the application pending receipt of further information was defeated by 7 votes to 2.

REF NO: 3548
P.A. NO.: 18/00141/B
APPLICANT: Conrod Limited
PROPOSED: Conversion of ground floor opticians to a hot food and drink establishment
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: Ground Floor, Kermode House, 74, Parliament Street, Ramsey.

It was agreed to seek clarification of the opening hours - particularly if weekend hours would apply to Friday night trading, and to request that upon clarification the opening hours be included as a condition if the application is approved.
Housing and Property:

(2017/18:311) Housing and Property Manager’s Report - Housing Maintenance Projects Update:

Resolved: To note the Housing and Property Manager’s Report dated 12th February, 2018, advising of the current status of Housing Maintenance projects which it is hoped will be undertaken within the next three years.

In response to a query from Mrs. Wedgwood, the Finance Officer explained how the Housing Reserve Fund is maintained from maintenance allowances not used, but that Government is now restricting the amount permitted to be retained in such funds unless schemes are in place. If no schemes are in place excess maintenance allowance funds will be refunded to Government in that they will be off-set against Housing Deficiency payments.

Mr. Oldham declared an interest with regard to proposals for Cronk Elfin.

Parks and Leisure:

(2017/18:312) Town Clerk’s Report – Select Committee of Tynwald on Library Provision:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s report dated 8th February, 2018, concerning correspondence received with regard to Library Provision, and the initial response provided thereto.

Members queried if any other local authorities provided funding to the mobile library and the status of the funding, understood to have been obtained from the Manx Education Foundation, therefor. The Town Clerk advised members that he has sought further information from the Select Committee to which a reply is awaited.

Mr. Oldham suggested that some of the library books being discarded from our library might be gifted to residential homes. It was agreed that the library staff make enquiry on this matter.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed without division that the Select Committee be informed that the Commission is unable to provide financial support to the mobile library service.

(2017/18:313) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – Island at War:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk’s Report dated 14th February, 2018, with regard to events proposed between 17th - 20th August - which Isle of Man Transport has designated “Island at War” weekend.

Mr. Hankin outlined some of the events proposed and expressed his delight at the positive initial responses and invited further input.
(2017/18:314) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – Road Closure Event Consultation:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk’s Report dated 12th February, 2018, concerning the consultation received with regard to various road closure applications to facilitate events to be staged, subject to the following:-

Mountain Road T.T. Preparation Works - members asked if the closure could commence at 9.00 a.m., rather than 6.00 a.m. to facilitate commuters.

Lhery Frissell Hill Climb - discussion ensued on the benefit to traders of the event, which some members felt was minimal at best, but the consensus was to welcome the event to Ramsey and make no comment on the road closure application.

(2017/18:315) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – TT/FOM Road Closures for Postponed Practices:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 12th February, 2018, concerning the consultation undertaken by the Department of Enterprise with regard to the provision of emergency practice sessions during the T.T. and/or Festival of Motorcycling.

Resolved: That the Department be informed of the Commission support of the proposals.

Mr. Corkish expressed his view that better road opening procedures should be in place to compensate for protracted closures due to incidents around the course. He also expressed concern about marshalling provision.

Any Other Business:

(2017/18:316) Representative Reports:

Noted, for record purposes, that no representative reports had been received.

(2017/18:317) Ramsey Carnival:

Mr. Oldham advised members that Ramsey Carnival will take place over the weekend 21st/22nd July.

There will be a fund raising bag-pack at Shoprite Supermarket on 3rd March, 2018.

(2017/18:318) Manx Wildlife Trust:

Mrs. Wedgwood advised members that she had been invited to attend the Manx Wildlife Trust’s talk by Mr. Andree Dubbeldam about the Ramsey Forest Project, at the Town Hall on 22nd February, 2018, and had been requested to convey the invitation to her fellow members.
The Chairman thanked the public and media representatives for attending and closed the public session at 8.27 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.

(2017/18:319) Minutes:

Resolved: To note that no Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 17th January, 2018, were recorded in private.

Matters for Information:

(2017/18:320) Policy Committee:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 31st January, 2018.

(2017/18:321) Housing Committee:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the Housing Committee held on 6th February, 2018.


Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker”, to 16th February, 2018, included within the agenda and the following comments made thereon, and accepting that some matters are referred to in other sections of these minutes:-

- **Community Sports Hall** - planning application will be considered on 29th February;
- **Tenant Representative** - appointment has been made, (reference Housing Committee minutes), policies and procedures are being finalised. The Tenant Representative will attend meetings of the Housing Committee at the beginning of such meetings and will then withdraw;
- **Bleak House** - it was agreed to obtain an updated report from Structural Engineers and the Government Valuer and report further to the March 2018 Board Meeting after which the Time and Place meeting will be arranged;
- **Mobile Homes Parking on Public Highways** - Mr. Oldham declared an interest. The majority of mobile homes are understood to be under 3.5 tonnes and are street legal, but a report will be presented to the March 2018 Board Meeting;
- **Scaffolding on Public Highway** - the Town Clerk verbally reported that the Department of Infrastructure does not seem enthused to lose this service;
- **Ramsey Courthouse** - questions put by our Advocates to the Attorney General’s Chambers have yet to be answered - the Town Clerk will make a direct approach;
- **Cooperage Lane** - responses received to Commissioners’ initial consultation have been referred to the Department of Infrastructure;
(2017/18:322) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker” Continued:

- **Amenity Byelaws** - it has been confirmed that the Department has removed street collections and future applications will require a licence to be obtained from the Police. A final drafted copy is anticipated for signature;
- **Water Street Boundary Wall** - a meeting with Mr. S. Young will take place early next week;
- **Parking Queen’s Promenade** - the Department has been asked to provide yellow lines; reference was made to parking in general and it was requested that the Department be asked to review parking on the quayside - to remove the chevron parking;
- **Shoprite Group** - Station Road - the meeting had not taken place because of illness.

**Finance and General Purposes:**

(2017/18:323) **Finance Officer’s General Report:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s Report dated 15th February, 2018, subject to the following:

**Rent Arrears** - members discussed the list of tenant in arrears with their rental payments, and noted

6. the circumstances of this entry on the list and difficulties with the tenant were explained. It was suggested that an “Attachment to Earnings” order might be sought.

**Aged Debtors** - members queried two specific aged debtors and were advised that payments were being made by the first and arrangements to reduce the debt by the second.

**Rates Summary** - the following was suggested / agreed:

- Courthouse - not to expand the comments already included;
- Car Parking - remove comment;
- Continue discussions…public sector housing - add wording - following the successful combination of housing waiting lists.

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood and agreed that the Rates Summary as amended be approved and distributed with rates bills and to tenants of the Commission with letters advising them of the rents applicable from 1st April, 2018.
Works and Development:

(2017/18:324) Town Clerk’s Report - Development at Auldyn Walk:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s report dated 8th February, 2018, concerning correspondence between the Planning Committee and Dandara Ltd., about the company’s planning application to construct 26 new dwellings on land at Auldyn Meadow, Ramsey, and which, it is understood, is to be referred back to the Planning Committee.


Members considered the Chief Technical Officer’s Report dated 13th February, 2018, advising of the quotation submitted by Manx Utilities for the maintenance of street lighting and that only 11 mercury type lighting heads remaining within the Town. It was noted that a global ban on transportation of mercury will be placed in the near future.

Resolved: as follows:-

Following a proposal by Mr. Oldham, seconded by Mr. Hankin to accept the quotation and enter into a contract with Manx Utilities for street lighting maintenance for 2018/19;

- That the Chief Technical Officer obtain prices for the replacement of the 11 mercury type lighting heads as a specific scheme possibly in 2019/20 financial year;
- To permit the Chief Technical Officer to discuss the possibility of entering into an additional contract to cover feature and decorative lighting;
- To note that the Chief Technical Officer will meet with a representative from Manx Utilities later this month, to discuss if decorative lighting might be contained within street lighting columns.

(2017/18:326) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Town Wardens’ Contract Expressions of Interest:

Members considered the Chief Technical Officer’s Report dated 14th February, 2018, and noted that by the closing date 4 expressions of interest for the provision of the Town Warden Service had been received.

Resolved: That tender documents, etc., be sent to three of the four and the Chief Technical Officer report further upon receipt of the tenders, and in such report include a comparison of the tender figures: costs and benefits: disadvantages of directly employing Town Wardens.

\[Signature\]
Housing and Property:

(2017/18:327) Housing and Property Manager’s Report - Site Adjacent to “St. Olave’s”, Jurby Road:

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager’s report dated 13th February, 2018, concerning a request that the Commission consider property to be constructed on a site adjacent to “St. Olave’s,” Jurby Road, Ramsey, and advice received from the Department of Infrastructure in relation thereto.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Quayle, and agreed without division to advise Mr. Monks of the Department’s advice and to inform him that the Commission cannot commit to his proposals at this time and he should discuss the matter if he so wishes directly with the Department of Infrastructure.

(2017/18:328) Housing and Property Manager’s Report - Town Hall ... Electrical and IT Services:

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager’s report dated 12th February, 2018, concerning queries raised during the budget and rate setting meetings in relation to electrical and IT services within the Town Hall.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie, and agreed without division, that the Commission accept the recommendations contained within the report which is in accordance with advice obtained from consultants.

Parks and Leisure:


Resolved: To note the Chief Technical Officer’s report dated 15th February, 2018, advising of a meeting that had taken place with representatives of North Ramsey Bowling Club and that a further meeting will be held on 28th February, 2018.

It is noted that further communication from / to the Bowling Club are requested to be made through the Club Secretary.

In response to a query members were informed that the Club is aware that fees will be payable this year and agreed they be asked to advise the Commission of the number of their members so that an invoice can be raised.

It was proposed by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Hankin and agreed by 7 votes to 2, to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue to its conclusion. Mrs. Wedgwood and Mr. Corkish voted against.

\[Signature\]
Any Other Business:

(2017/18:330) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report - Highway Safety Improvements Gardener’s Lane:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 21st February, 2018, advising of proposals of the Department of Infrastructure with regard to the layout of the highway on Gardener’s Lane between its junction with Lezayre Road and Greenlands Avenue, which the Department hope to have completed before the end of May, 2018.

General discussion ensued during which various observations/suggestions were put:-
  • That the 30 metre removal of hedgerow is acceptable but not the proposal to place double yellow lines;
  • That the hedgerow be removed in full and replaced with a central verge;
  • General support of the proposals - they will improve safety;
  • Removal of the full hedgerow - but with no double yellow lines
  • Concern that the hedges in nearby private gardens obscure visibility

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Corkish, and agreed by 8 votes to 1, that the Department be informed of the general comments and of the Commission’s views that the timescale of the proposals considered insensitive and will cause upheaval and the matter could have been handled in a better way.

Mr. Cowie voted against.

(2017/18:331) Temporary Scaffolding - Swan Hotel:

The Chief Technical Officer advised that the Commission’s views have been sought with regard to the request made by the proprietors of the Swan Hotel, to erect scaffolding to facilitate spectators of the 2018 T.T.

Resolved: That no objections be submitted - but comment made concerning the requirement to clear any litter deposited.

(2017/18:332) Bowling Green Embankment:

Resolved: To note that the Chief Technical Officer will meet with officers of the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, to discuss possible replanting following the removal of vegetation on the embankment adjacent to the Bowling green in the Mooragh Park.
The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m. giving a late of 3½ hours for payment of attendance.

allowances.

Informed by the Commission caused by the Above.

members that an invoice has been received on the matter because of overtime costs

the matter goes to Court the party can be named. The Deputy Town Clerk informed

the matter will either issue a caution or refer the matter to the Courts. It was noted that if

police will either issue a caution or refer the matter to the Courts. It was noted that if

It is understood that depending on advice to be obtained from the Attorney General.

- Mr. Comish informed members of his understanding that the police are soon to


Ramsey Town Commissioners - Board Meeting 21st February, 2018 Continued: