The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 16th May, 2018, at 7.00 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from Revd Canon N. D. Greenwood.

A vacancy exists in each ward.

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 referred to the death of Mrs. Rosemary Mazzone and asked that a period of silence to her memory be observed.

(2018/19:008) Appointment Deputy Lead Member for Parks and Leisure:

Nominations were sought for the appointment of Deputy Lead Member for Parks and Leisure, due to the resignation of Mr. Hankin.

Mr. Oldham Proposed by Mr. Hankin, seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood

Mr. McGuinness Proposed by Mr. Parker - Mr. McGuinness declined nomination.

Mr. Parker Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Quayle.

A Ballot was taken and Mr. Oldham was elected by 5 votes to 4.

(2018/19:009) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 18th April and the Annual Meeting held 1st May, 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

(2018/19:010) Matters Arising:

There were no matter arising.

(2018/19:011) Chairman’s Report:

Resolved: To note the Chairman’s Report dated 11th May, 2018, subject to the following:

Onchan Civic Sunday - the Chairman expressed his regret at being unable to attend.
Finance and General Purposes:

(2018/19:012) Town Clerk’s Report – Casual Vacancies Local Authority:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s report dated 2nd May, 2018, which refers to advice received from the Department of Infrastructure in terms of Sections 11 - 15 of the Local Government Act, 1986.

Mr. McGuinness commended response to the public notices.


Members considered the Draft General Data Protection Policy presented by way of the Town Clerk’s report dated 25th April, 2018.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Oldham, and agreed, the Policy as presented be adopted.

(2018/19:014) Town Clerk’s Report – Ramsey Courthouse:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s Report dated 10th May, 2018, advising that the Department of Infrastructure has confirmed that no further approvals are required with regard to the purchase of the Ramsey Courthouse or lease of the Police Station, and as a result the Agreement for Sale and Lease Agreement were executed on behalf of the Commission.

The Town Clerk advised that confirmation of payment arrangements is awaited.

(2018/19:015) Finance Officer’s Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s General Report dated 10th May, 2018, subject to the following:

Summary of Revenue Income and Expenditure: the graphs reflecting zero income for May, were explained as being a necessary inclusion to allow the April figures to be indicated - the May figures not yet being recorded.

(2018/19:016) Technical Assistant’s Report - Advertising Boards and Street Furniture:

Resolved: To note the Technical Assistant’s report dated 1st May, 2018, advising of applications submitted for the placement of Advertising Board and Street Furniture.

It was further noted that the application submitted by Miss R. Price has been amended in that the applicant now wishes to apply for a three year approval in respect of which any comments, observations or objections should be submitted by 5 p.m. 7th June.
(2018/19:017) Technical Assistant’s Report - Commemoration of Loss:

Resolved: To note and approve the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 10th May, 2018, detailing the losses during the Great War to be commemorated in the next few weeks.

(2018/19:018) Technical Assistant’s Report - Enforcement Action Court Hearing:

Resolved: To note the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 1st May, 2018, advising of recent successful action brought against a person for offences in respect of dog fouling.

Mr. McGuinness drew attention to the fact that this action was brought because of a complaint made by a member of the public, who had been prepared to make a witness statement and encouraged any members of the public witnessing owners allowing their dogs to foul to report it.

Works and Development:

(2018/19:019) Town Clerk’s Report – Cooperage Lane - One Way Order:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s Report dated 9th May, 2018, advising of the draft order made by the Department of Infrastructure with regard to one-way traffic along Cooperage Lane with ingress from Derby Road.

Mr. Hankin raised concern about visibility at the exit point and was advised that it is understood that the Department of Infrastructure will place a give way sign, sufficiently forward to allow visibility of traffic approaching from Bowring Road / West Quay.

(2018/19:020) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – Lezayre Road:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk’s Report dated 16th May, 2018, advising of roadworks to commence on 11th June, 2018, on Lezayre Road. The report indicates arrangements for School buses using Station Road Car Park about which the school will be writing to parents. It is noted that the Department of Infrastructure have liaised with schools, business owners and Isle of Man Transport on this matter to ensure as little disruption as possible. Refuse collection times may have to be altered and residents will be advised accordingly.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that phasing of traffic light controls at Parliament Square will be adjusted to have regard to the works.

The Deputy Town Clerk was instructed to ensure that information is made available to the public as early as possible and a map be included to show diversions, etc. It was noted also that the contract has a completion date of 10th August but it is hoped the work will be finished before then.
(2018/19:021) Chief Technical Officer’s Report - Planning Applications:

Resolved: That Chief Technical Officer’s Report dated 16th May, 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:-

REF NO: 3568
P.A. NO.: 18/00420/B
APPLICANT: Island Care Limited
PROPOSED: Alterations, erection of 2 no. two storey extensions and amendments to car park and delivery access
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: Kings Reach Care Home, Alkest Way, Clifton Park, Ramsey.

Members noted the details of the application to refurbish and update the care home and provide additional occupancy. It was agreed to raise no objection.

REF NO: 3570
P.A. NO.: 18/00436/LAW
APPLICANT: Patrick Stephen Ayres
PROPOSED: Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for the creation of parking area and erection of associated fencing
NOTES: P.A. - LAW
SITE: 5, Brookfield Crescent, Ramsey.

Members were informed that this was an application to meet legal requirements, in respect of works understood to have been completed some time ago.

Appendices:

Mr. Parker queried why the application for the installation of non-illuminated signage at 29 Parliament Street had been refused - and was referred to the detail contained in Appendix II to the Chief Technical Officer Report.

(2018/19:022) Representatives’ Reports:

Resolved: To note the Report submitted by Mr. Williams of the April 2018 meeting of the Ramsey Chamber of Commerce. In presenting the report Mr. Williams made particular reference to T.T. week events and parking difficulties within the town.

Any Other Business:

(2018/19:023) Ramsey Carnival:

Mr. Oldham reported that Ramsey Carnival will take place on 20th July, 2018, or on 21st in the case of inclement weather on 20th, and that the Farmers’ Combine Limited has kindly agreed to sponsor the event to enable children’s carnival rides to again be provided so that no charges will be made to those enjoying them.
(2018/19:024) Ramsey at War Weekend:

Mr. Hankin advised that plans are well in hand for the Island at War events to be held in Ramsey in August. Cloudeyn Players are holding a special event and concerts, band performances and exhibitions are also planned.

(2018/19:025) Ramsey BMX Storage Facility:

It was proposed by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that the Town Clerk's report included within the Private Agenda be brought into Public.

Accordingly, members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 10th May, 2018, concerning the request made by Ramsey BMX Club to site a screened container to afford the Club greater security and extra storage. In making the request the Club has also asked if the Commission, as owners of the land, would be willing to submit the necessary planning application on its behalf.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed without division, that a planning application be submitted on its behalf.

The Chairman thanked the public and media representatives for attending and closed the public session at 7.40 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.

(2018/19:026) Minutes:

Resolved: To note that no minutes from the Board Meetings held on 18th April, 2018, were recorded in Private.

Matters for Information:

(2018/19:027) Policy Committee:

The Board received the Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held on 25th April, 2018, Mr. Parker raised a question and it was agreed that they be checked and submitted to a future meeting.

In view of the proximity of the T.T., discussion on the recommendation of the Policy Committee that street lighting times during T.T. fortnight be extended to 2 a.m. across the Town, was permitted. Mr. Hankin advised that street lighting in the vicinity of his home was lit until 2.15 a.m.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed, the extended illumination, estimated to be £12 per day be approved and irregularities with regard to general timing be reported to Manx Utilities for investigation.
(2018/19:028) Housing Committee:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the Housing Committee held on 8th May, 2018, subject to the following:-

Clause 10a) Vacant Properties - Members recognised the Committee’s wish to ensure selection of the correct tenant for this property at which a Heat Source Pump has been installed as a trial. It was recognised that the operation of the heating system will not suit many people. 

The Housing and Property Manager was asked to arrange a viewing of the property for members.


Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker”, to 11th May, 2018, included within the agenda and the following comments made thereon, and accepting that some matters may be referred to in other sections of these minutes:-

- **Bleak House** - reference was made to the Heras fencing and members were advised that its condition was being monitored.

- **Decorative and Festive Lighting** - the Chief Technical Officer advised that a representative of Manx Utilities had met with a contractor to discuss the matter. The Chief Technical Officer was requested to keep pressure on Manx Utilities and the contractors requested to submit options.

- **Scaffolding on Public Highway** - the Town Clerk informed Members that he had met with a representative of the Department of Infrastructure from which it was apparent that the Department would be reluctant to transfer this matter to local authorities. The Town Clerk further advised that in regard to the scaffold at Victoria Mall he had requested the Department to decline further renewal as the scaffolding has been in place for a considerable period of time.

- **Amenity Byelaws** - the Commission has now been requested to include plans with the Byelaws, drafts of which are awaited.

- **Parking Queen’s Promenade** - the Department has indicated their intention to resurface Queen’s Promenade in August, after which the restrictive white lines will be painted. It was agreed to enquire if the Commission could arrange to have the lines painted in the meantime.

- **Queen’s Pier Restoration Trust** - it was agreed to remind the Trust about the invitation extended to meet with the Establishment Committee.

- **Regeneration Works Parliament Street** - the Town Clerk advised that the Department of Infrastructure has indicated that investigation is needed to determine the cause of problems. The red-macadam surface would be difficult to patch and the Commission agreed they would have no problem with standard tar-macadam being used. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the area is a 30 mph zone but the Department is considering having this reduced to 20 mph. Concern was raised about the difficulty of policing and enforcing speed limits through Parliament Street.

Mr. Parker suggested that an initiative be launched in liaison with the Chamber of Commerce and the Police “Slow Down in Our Town”. The suggestion was welcomed by Members and it was proposed by Mr. Parker, Seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed to promote such initiative.

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- **Unsightly Shop Premises** - reference was made to litter by way of empty glasses and discarded cigarettes outside licensed premises and emanating therefrom. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that this matter has been discussed at “Pub Watch” meetings. The Chief Technical Officer advised that some monitoring of the problems is undertaken. It was agreed, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie that further monitoring be undertaken and in the absence or continuation of litter or general untidiness the “offenders” by named and shamed.

- **Mooragh Park Management Agreement** - the Head Gardener has submitted his proposals to the Chief Technical Officer - it was agreed they be submitted to the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture for comment and then to the Commission for approval.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2018/19:030) Town Clerk’s Report - Rating Appeals:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s report dated 10th May, 2018, advising of applications submitted to Treasury by persons requesting rate reviews.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed without division, that the revisions recommended by Treasury in all cases be accepted, and that in relation to the application for Romney Wynd a temporary reduction of 10% be recommended.

(2018/19:031) Town Clerk’s Report – TT and Festival of Motorsport Economic Impact:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s Report dated 25th April, 2018, advising of the economic impact assessment being undertaken by Government with regard to the T.T and Festival of Motorsport.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr McGuinness seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that the Commission advise of a mixed impact insofar as they are concerned. The influx of visitors and benefit to retailers is recognised, but there are cost implications for the Commission and it is also recognised that some residents suffer considerable inconvenience by way of these events.

The Town Clerk was authorised to respond accordingly and include part of his report and costs to the Commission within his response.

It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce will be submitting their own response.
(2018/19:032) Finance Officer’s General Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s Report dated 10th May, 2018, subject to the following:

Estimates and Revenue Expenditure - a query was explained to members’ satisfaction.

Rent Arrears - reference was made to recovery of rent arrears owed by former tenants and explanation given.

Aged Debtors - Members were informed that a payment was due by one of the debtors and that such debtor had agreed to increase the amount being paid by instalment to reduce the debt. It was noted that another debtor about which query was raised had paid in full.

Mooragh Sewer Lining: It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Hankin that the Commission accept the quotation. An amendment was put by Mr. Cowie that the matter be deferred whilst comparative rates are obtained. The amendment was seconded by Mrs. Quayle.

Whilst it was recognised that options available to the Commission in this matter were limited and that the quotation was probably the best that could be acquired, the amendment was carried by 8 votes to 1, Mr. McGuinness voting against.

Mr. McGuinness queried services provided by a particular contractor, details of which had been included in the public record of accounts paid. He proposed that the Commission investigate the options available to them in this regard. This was seconded by Mr. Parker, who also asked that details be provided of the service.

Works and Development:


Members considered the Chief Technical Officer’s report dated 10th May, 2018, reporting on interview conducted with regard to the provision of the Town Warden contract.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McGuinness subject to details concerning Data and credit references being provided the Commission appoint the Company providing the lower quotation.

Mr. Parker queried if the Commission had ruled out employing staff directly to carry out the service. Further discussion ensued during which members expressed the view that it would be fairer to employ an independent contractor. Mr. Oldham, who had attended the interviews indicated his preference was now to employ a contractor.

Mr. McGuinness queried why the May report did not provide the comparison of direct employment costs. Officers explained that the cost comparisons had been previously provided to the Board and they had interpreted the instruction to interview companies as dismissing the option of employing staff.

Resolved: That subject to the necessary checks, the contractor named within the report be engaged initially for one year. It was noted that the existing contractor is continuing to provide Town Warden services on a month to month basis.

Parks and Leisure:

(2018/19:034) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report - Ramsey Rocks:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s tabled report dated 15th May, 2018, concerning the “Ramsey Rocks” event proposed to be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Oldham, seconded by Mrs. Quayle and agreed, Ramsey Rocks be progressed to take place on Sunday, 26th August, 2018. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the cost could be met from current budgetary provision.


Members considered the Chief Technical Officer’s report dated 10th May, 2018, concerning quotations received, from two of three specialist consultants to assess the practicalities of upgrade works for the bowling green. Mr. McGuinness advised that there was no budget provision to undertake additional work on the bowling green.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that the Commission proceed no further in this matter other than effecting minimal maintenance work, and that further report be made to the Board in September.

Any Other Business:

(2018/19:036) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report- Ramsey Courthouse Expressions of Interest:

Discussion took place on the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 16th May, 2016, which listed expressions of interest received, three substantive and numerous general submissions with regard to the future of Ramsey Courthouse.
(2018/19:036) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report- Ramsey Courthouse Expressions of Interest Continued:

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that the Board meet with the three parties who submitted substantive proposals, after T.T. week. It was recognised that pre-set questions would require to be prepared to ensure all were asked the same things. The Deputy Town Clerk will circulate some questions to which members can add their own.

Members agreed that every effort should be taken to make maximum use of the premises until such time as their future is fully decided.

Mr Parker suggested a working group be formed, possibly to include public representation to manage the premises in the meantime. It was further resolved, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Hankin that a Management Sub-Committee be established to “run” the Courthouse as an interim measure.

Mr. Cowie queried how many members and suggested 4, but 5 members was ultimately agreed upon. It was agreed the following members comprise the Sub-Committee, namely:-

Mrs. Quayle and Messrs’ Hankin, Oldham, Parker and Young.

Mr. Hankin queried the condition of the public notice board outside the Courthouse premises and it was agreed that report on this be made to the next Board meeting.

(2018/19:037) Police Level One Meeting:

Mrs. Wedgwood gave a verbal report of the May Police Level One meeting and was thanked for so doing.

(2018/19:038) War Memorial:

Mr. Oldham queried the condition of the Ramsey War Memorial. Mr. McGuinness advised that there was no budget inclusion for works thereon this year. The Chief Technical Officer advised that approach had been made of the War Memorial Committee, without reply, to see if they had any funding available. The Chief Technical Officer was requested to again approach the War Memorial Committee.

(2018/19:039) Mannin Art Group:

Mrs. Quayle reported of an approach made by Mannin Art Group to see if the Commission could make any form of grant to the group. Mrs. Quayle was asked to request that the group make formal approach and give an indication of the amount of grant they are seeking.
(2018/19:040) **Mooragh Park Boathouse - Changing Rooms:**

Mr. Williams again queried works required at the changing rooms abutting the Boathouse in the Mooragh Park. The Housing and Property Manager informed members of his understanding that the works were completed, but he would investigate the matter.

**Matters of Establishment:**

(2018/19:041) **Minutes Establishment Committee Meetings:**

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 18\(^{th}\) April and 9\(^{th}\) May, 2018, subject to the following:

9\(^{th}\) May - Managers Meeting - members queried the time of day jetting of lanes is undertaken and were advised that it was usually at a time to cause least nuisance for residents and least obstruction for traffic.

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

Chairman.