A reconvened Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Ramsey Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Thursday, 16th August, 2018 at 7.00 p.m.


Apologies: Messrs’ W. L. Hankin, N. P. Howard, A. J. Oldham and F. B. R. Williams

The Town Clerk, Chief Technical Officer, and Finance Officer were in attendance.

(2018/19:238) Mooragh Park Bowling Green:

Mr. Monk declared an interest as a Member and Treasurer of the North Ramsey Bowling Club and requested permission to clarify an aspect of the report presented, in regard to fees, which was granted by the Chairman.

Mr Monk explained that the Club made annual payments to the Commission for use of the bowling green based on its membership. During 2014/15 no payment was made in recognition by the Commission of the contribution made by the Club in developing the bowling pavilion. In 2016/17 no payment was made in agreement with the Commission as the Commissions Head Gardener had closed the green as being unfit to play on. During 2017/18 the club played some games on the green however it was still in poor condition and so also paid to play matches at other greens when the Mooragh green wasn’t fit to use. No payment arrangements were made the Club understanding that the Commission had not sought to charge due to the poor condition of the green. Mr Monk concluded that the Club were happy to pay for the green if it was in good condition for play.

Mr Monk was thanked for his clarification and withdrew from the meeting at 7:10pm.

The Commission noted the content of a report presented by the Finance Officer outlining the income and expenditure on the Mooragh Bowling Green, the proposals offered by the North Ramsey Bowling Club and the options identified for consideration. Mrs Quayle outlined the discussions held with Club representatives during which it had been indicated that the club might be prepared to accept responsibility for day to day management of the green if it was first brought to high standard condition.

Mr McGuinness expressed concern at the level of expenditure being undertaken on the green and the view that the Commission should maintain it to basic standard befitting a municipal facility but that any greater standard of maintenance should be addressed by the bowling club. Whilst sympathetic with the past difficulties the green is presently looking good and he is concerned that the club may be demanding higher standards than are justified for a municipal facility.
(2018/19:238) Mooragh Park Bowling Green Continued:

Both Mrs Quayle and Mr McGuinness felt that the club's proposal to defer payment for the current year use was untenable and that payment should be required to be made before the end of the bowling season.

Mrs Wedgwood commented that the facility was municipal and intended for public use. The Chairman concurred with Mr McGuinness’s view that the green appears to be in good condition at present and proposed that the Club be advised that payment in the sum of 5/7ths of £2,200 budget fees, recognising the 2 lost months due to maintenance, is required to be paid before the end of the season. The proposal as seconded by Mrs Quayle.

Resolved: without division that the North Ramsey Bowling Club be advised that payment in the sum of 5/7ths of £2,200, recognising the 2 lost months due to maintenance, is required to be paid before the end of the season.

Members discussed future option for the bowling green, and were agreed that there is a need to ensure that maintenance costs are not excessive and that expenditure should be restricted to that required to establish a basic standard of maintenance as a public facility.

Mr Young proposed that the Commission offer the North Ramsey Bowling Club the opportunity to accept responsibility for the day to day operation and maintenance of the green at a peppercorn rental, with breach clauses to be included, the alternative being the continued maintenance of the green to the present level of care and rental or the allocation of the site for an alternative use.

Resolved: without division to offer to lease the operation of the bowling green to North Ramsey Bowling Club to accept responsibility for the day to day operation and maintenance of the green at a peppercorn rental, with breach clauses to be included, the alternative being the continued maintenance of the green to the present level of care and rental or the allocation of the site for an alternative use.

Mr Monk returned to the meeting at 7:50 p.m. and was advised that the Chief Technical Officer would be writing to the North Ramsey Bowling Club in the terms of the adopted motions. Mr Monk requested and was granted approval to provide an information leaflet on the Club and bowling in general to the Commission, noting that Standing Orders prevented further consideration.

(2018/19:239) Former Railway Line

Members noted a verbal report from the Town Clerk detailing actions of a developer in removing hedgerow and trees, and erecting fencing on Commissioners’ lands without prior consent.
(2018/19:239) Former Railway Line Continued:

Members noted an offer to undertake works to remediate, and a schedule of planting agreed with DEFA, but felt that the developer should have liaised with the Commission in advance of any works.

Resolved: Proposed by Mr Cowie, seconded by Mrs Quayle and agreed unanimously that the developer be requested to undertake some improvements to the railway line path in areas susceptible to wet by way of reparation.


Members noted a report from Mr McGuinness outlining questions raised through the Chamber of Commerce in relation to town centre street cleaning schedules and standards. Mr McGuinness explained that the matter had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Chamber, at which a response from officers had been provided, but that he felt it should have been reported to the Board for consideration in the absence of a current policy statement and to obtain the Board’s opinion thereon. Mr McGuinness had undertaken to raise the matter with the Board and revert to the Chamber after Board consideration thereof.

Members noted that, in common with other town regeneration schemes, the granite sets used in the regeneration area have been found to be susceptible to staining, and requested that officers investigate means of improving the appearance of the areas where these are used and report thereon.

Resolved: Officers to report to the September Board on a policy on street cleaning, litter and weeds, drawing on published UK DEFRA guidelines; the report to identify cleansing schedules and response time to complaints.

(2018/19:241) Town Library

Mrs Quayle presented a verbal update on activities at the Town Library and new memberships resulting for the Year of Our Island Challenge.

Resolved: unanimously the Head Librarian be requested to provide a quarterly report to the Board on library activity and performance.

(2018/19:242) Standing Orders

Mr McGuinness requested that the Board review the drafting and interpretation of Standing Order 31 to clarify its application.

Resolved: to be included on the agenda for the September meeting.
Matters of Establishment:

(2018/19:243) Minutes Establishment Committee Meetings:

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 8th August, 2018.

The meeting closed at 8:25p.m., giving a time of 1 ½ hours for payment of attendance allowances.

Chairman.