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


Apologies: Canon N. D. Greenwood has been granted leave of absence.

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

The meeting was joined by Mrs. Dawn Kinnish, Equality Advisor for IOM Government and representatives of Lezayre Parish Commissioners and the Clerk to the Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board for the first item only.

(2018/19:352) Equality Act:

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Kinnish who gave a short presentation on the Equality Act and its implications for public bodies.

The presentation outlined an overview of the Equality Act 2017, description of the Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2017, the 6 Types of Prohibited Behaviour, the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and the application of Equality Impact Assessments.

The Aim of the Public Sector Equality Duty is that we are able to recognise, understand and meet the needs of the diverse range of people we exist to serve. It provides all public bodies with a duty to have “due regard” to 3 aims:-

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

After questions Mrs. Kinnish was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting at 8 p.m. along with other none Ramsey Town Commission attendees.
(2018/19:352) Rate Setting initial Information:

Mr McGuiness, Lead Member for Finance & General Purposes, and Mr Cannell, Finance Officer circulated the initial budget figures and led the discussions which included the following:

1. Format of figures presented:

Mr Cannell provided an overview of the format explaining that the format was similar to previous years with the following exceptions:
   - The summaries were expanded to include the base figures, i.e. those as at 31st October 2018. It was believed this gave a better indication as to how the projected figures for 2018-19 and the estimates for 2019-20 were developed.
   - Where an account included more than one type of expenditure these had been separately disclosed again for clarity.
   - The overall budget had been split into 5 sections – Social Housing, Assets & Buildings, Works & Development, Parks & Leisure and Finance & General Purposes.
   - This categorisation was agreed at a previous Establishment Committee meeting and enabled those managing the assets direct control over the associated budget. It had an additional effect of ‘trimming’ budget items in certain of the sections.

2. Content:

Mr. Cannell advised that in his opinion it would be best if the Members took the document away and reviewed it at their leisure and requested that should there be any problems or questions arising from that review then any Member would be welcome to come and discuss the position or alternatively they could e-mail the problem to him for a written response.

Mr. McGuiness suggested that obtaining as much information and understanding of the figures are important and supported Mr. Cannell’s offer.

The rationale in the development of the figures from 31st October through to the 2019-20 estimates was briefly discussed.

The impact of those 2018-19 projects not yet completed and their treatment in the figures were discussed.

Mr. Cannell also advised that the figures as presented were the day-to-day running costs and did not include any projects as previously discussed with the supervisors for the sections of the Commission.

Mr. Cannell advised that a summary of the various projects would be circulated before Christmas for the Members to consider prior to the January, 2019, budget meeting.
(2018/19:352) Rate Setting initial Information continued:

3. Proposed amendments:

The Chairman made the following suggestions for potential amendments to the disclosed figures:

- Separate the ‘fixed’ costs from the ‘variable’ costs. Fixed costs are those where the Commission has an obligation to pay – loan repayments, lease obligations, rates, insurance etc. Variable costs are those where there is greater opportunity to control the costs in managing overall expenditure – maintenance costs, advertising, printing, stationery, etc.
- Indicate on the ‘fixed’ costs the expected time period over which we are due to incur the expenditure.
- Include any assumptions and the rationale employed in the development of the figures.

Mr. Cannell agreed such amendments would be beneficial and would amend the formatting accordingly.

4. Closure:

Mr. McGuiness brought the budget discussion to a close by highlighting the fact that although the projected 2018-19 figures indicated a lesser over-spend for the year than originally budgeted we were still overspending and that in itself should indicate the importance of the budgeting process and therefore further encouraged all Members to fully engage in the process.

5. Additional project

Mr Young indicated that the Commission should give consideration to purchasing more land within the town presently understood to be available for sale.

His initial thoughts were that the Commission could utilise the area as a car park in the short-term whilst other uses were to be considered.

Mr. Cannell invited Mr Young into the office to discuss the possible project further in order to put some ‘meat on the bones’ of the proposal.

The meeting closed at 9:00 p.m. giving a time of 2 hours for payment of attendance allowances.

[Signature]
Chairman.