

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

[PUBLIC]

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 21st August, 2019, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. L. Parker, Mrs. M. B. Quayle and Messrs' Canon N. D. Greenwood, W. L. Hankin, J. McGuinness, G. Monk, F. B. R. Williams and W. G. Young.

Apologies: Mrs. J. Wedgwood and Messrs' A. C. Cowie, A. J. Oldham and N. P. Howard.

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

(2019/20:096) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 17th July, 2019, and the Special Board Meeting held on 29th July, 2019, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

(2019/20:097) Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising raised.

(2019/20:098) Chairman's Report:

Resolved: To note the Chairman's report dated 15th August, 2019.

Mr. McGuinness praised the Tin Bath Event held despite inclement weather and in congratulating the organisers advised that it is hope ~~the~~ build on the event in the future.

Mr. Parker reiterated his comments with regard to the Blessing of the Lifeboat in which he emphasised the importance of the lifeboat services around the Island.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2019/20:099) Town Clerk's Report - Local Authority Transition:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 14th August, 2019, concerning the findings of the Local Authority Transition Review, copies of which had been provided to members.

The review confirmed that the focus for future transition should be to improve the services that are delivered rather than the future structure of Local Authorities, and identified that different structures are appropriate for different services.



(2019/20:100) Town Clerk's Report - Tynwald Commissioner for Administration:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 1st August, 2019, advising of the proposal of the Council of Ministers that the remit of The Tynwald Commissioner for Administration to investigate Isle of Man Government Departments be extended to include et al all local authorities. Local Authority inclusion would become effective on 1st July, 2020, and will include Joint Committees and Joint Boards.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams, and agreed without division that the Commission indicate its support of the proposal to include local authorities within the remit.

(2019/20:101) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Parking and Town Branding:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 14th August, 2019, advising that the STEP student has completed work on the parking study in Ramsey, a presentation of which to officers is to be arranged by the Department of Enterprise.

It was further resolved to note that the ^{Business} Agency will hold a meeting and workshop to outline the Town Branding project at Ramsey Grammar School West Hall, on Monday 2nd September, 2019, at 7.00 p.m. Mr. McGuinness commended attendance at the meeting.

(2019/20:102) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Record Retention Policy:

Members considered the Record Retention Schedule provided with the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 15th August, 2019.

Resolved: Following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed without division, to adopt the Record Retention Policy in accordance with the schedule presented.

(2019/20:103) Finance Officer General Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer's General Report dated 14th August, 2019.

(2019/20:104) Technical Assistant's Report - Commemoration of Loss - 100th Anniversary:

Resolved: To note and approve the Technical Assistant's Report dated 14th August, 2019, advising of the final commemoration, on 11th September, commemorating losses from the Great War. The commemoration will be at the Ramsey War Memorial at 6.15 p.m. and will include a short commemoration service led by the Rev'd Bryan Yardy.

It was proposed by Mr. Hankin, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that special thanks be recorded to Miss Gemma Kelly, Technical Assistant, for all her work on the commemorations.

Works and Development:

(2019/20:105) Town Clerk's Report - Consultation Reform of the Planning System:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 14th August, 2019, advising of the launch of a consultation in relation to proposed Secondary Legislation with regard to the Planning System.

It was agreed, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Young that a Special Board meeting be convened to discuss the matter, prior to 15th September, i.e. the submission date for responses to the consultation.

(2019/20:106) Town Clerk's Report - Ramey Marina Project:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 14th August, 2019, advising of the current status of the Ramsey Marina Project.

Mr. Hankin asked if more specific detail could be given about the progress of the Ramsey Marina project, as the Town Clerk's report focused on the Isle of Man Government seeking expressions of interest.

The Town Clerk advised that no further progress has yet been made by Ramsey Marina Limited in view of the Government's actions.

(2019/20:107) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Isle of Man Anti-Cancer Association Roadshow:

Resolved: To note and approve the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 14th August, 2019, advising of the request made by the Isle of Man Anti-Cancer Association to site an ambulance on Station Road Car park on 10th September as part of the cancer awareness roadshow.

It was proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed that permission be granted.

(2019/20:108) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications:

Resolved: That the Technical Services Manager's Report dated 14th August, 2019, detailing planning applications received from the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, under the planning consultation procedures, be noted and approved.



Housing and Property:

(2019/20:109) Town Clerk's Report - Public Sector Rents 2020-21:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 14th August, 2019, advising of the request made by the Department of Infrastructure for the views of local authorities on the level of increase of public section rents for 2020-21.

It was further resolved, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Hankin that the matter be deferred to allow it to be considered by the Housing Committee, from whom a report should be received for Board consideration in September, 2019.

Parks and Leisure:

(2019/20:110) Town Clerk's Report - Isle of Man Cycling Challenge:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 1st August, 2019, advising of a proposed road closure of the Mountain Road on Sunday, 22nd September, 2019, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. to facilitate the Isle of Man Cycling Challenge.

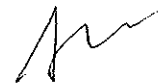
Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mrs. Quayle, seconded by Mr. Williams the Commission support the closure. The proposal was agreed by 7 votes to 1, Mr. Young voting against.

Mr. Hankin queried if the closures was a "rolling or fixed closure" and was informed that it is understood to be a fixed road closure in respect of the Mountain Road only, the remained for the course remaining open to traffic.

(2019/20:111) Town Clerk's Report - Town Library Review:

Prior to presenting this item the Town Clerk circulated an Addendum Report, which drew attention to a significant 23% increase in library membership since 1st April, 2019, and advising of the change of children's reading sessions to Tuesdays and Thursday and no longer on Saturday mornings. The report was noted.

Members considered the Town Clerk's Report dated 14th August, 2019, concerning a review of the library services being undertaken by the Commission's Policy Committee. A copy of the review was appended to the Town Clerk's report.



(2019/20:111) Town Clerk’s Report - Town Library Review Continued:

The recommendations listed within the review were considered as hereunder:-

Précised Review Recommendation	Comments:
Introduce online access	Costs were noted as being approximately £2,500 in the first year and then reducing. Proposed by Mrs. Quayle, seconded by Mr. Hankin and agreed to obtain costings and investigate further. Mr. Williams queried if the online services could indicate the genre of books being read/searched for - which might help with book purchasing, and was advised that this was the case.
Create Performance Measures to enable quarterly report for publication	Proposed by Mrs. Quayle, seconded by Mr. Williams that this be progressed.
Promote Library services through social media and media releases	Fully accepted - Mrs. Quayle queried if library user book reviews might be included.
Seek to increase library membership by 5% each year measured at 31 st March	Members queried the need for a specific percentage increase and were advised that this was considered a “flexible/working” figure by the Policy Committee.
Continue to work with Age Concern to provide Lifelong Learning opportunities	Agreed to continue this facility. The Town Clerk advised that Government is trying to determine if some services could be located in Ramsey, in addition to the Job Club, which is now operational in the Library.
Continue to filter non circulating library stock to remove loan items	This is on-going and needs to continue.
Extend and Promote Library hosted events to encourage use and membership	Agreed
Introduce Annual Survey of library users and townsfolk...	Agreed this would be valuable
Continue to provide internet access PC.s and free WiFi with appropriate content filters	Agreed - Canon Greenwood drew attention to the ability of younger users to by-pass filters and access games, not available through library PC’s, via Facebook using the library computers.
Review of operating hours and staffing	This is on-going - Mr. Hankin advised caution in this matter to ensure that adequate cover is available when, for example the Head Librarian is called to a meeting away from the Library, particularly at busy times.

(2019/20:112) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report - Tynwald Millennium Exhibition:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 14th August, 2019, advising that the Public Records Office will stage their exhibition commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Millennium of Tynwald, in the Atrium of the Town Hall between 22nd and 29th August, 2019.

Any Other Business:

(2019/20:113) Representative Report:

Resolved: To note the Representative report submitted by Mr. McGuinness in respect of his attendance at a meeting of the Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board. Mr. McGuinness informed members of his disappointment in the Board still not being able to progress installation of LED lighting, installation of which might result in savings of £3,000 per annum.

(2019/20:114) Sundry Items:

The following sundry items were raised by members, as follows:-

Mr. Hankin:

- weeds in the town generally
- littering particularly along Quayside and outside food premises
These will be brought to the attention of the workforce and proprietors of businesses respectively.

Mr. McGuinness:

- the acquisition, or otherwise, of a Wallaby being sold by auction on 26th September;
The matter to be discussed in private to determine members views, decide budget if progressed (Clause 2019/20:125 Refers
- Stanley Mount East traffic - speed and direction:
The Town Clerk advised that the Northern Traffic Management Committee, on which Mr. Young is the Commission's representative has not met for many months - and that he would query the lack of lack of meetings with the Department of Infrastructure and also bring this this matter to their attention:
- Ramsey Rocks - is this going ahead
The Deputy Town Clerk advised that no sponsor had been found for this year's event and there had been operational difficulties about which the Lead Member for Parks and Leisure had been informed as had the stakeholders.
- Mooragh Park Main Drive - too many cars going through the park without permits:
It was agreed to instruct the Town Warden to pay greater attention to this area of his duties;
- Mr. Hankin referred to bicycles going through the park:
This is permissible on the main driveway within the Town's byelaws but not on the other paths. The Town Warden will again be asked to give this matter his attention and it was agreed to increase awareness through the mass-media.

The Chairman thanked the media representative and public for attending and closed the public session at 7.52 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.

(2019/20:115) Minutes:

Resolved: To note, for record purposes, that no minutes of the Board Meeting held on 17th July, nor the Special Board Meeting held on 29th July, 2019, were recorded in private.

Matters for Information:

(2019/20:116) Housing Committee:

Resolved: To note and approve the minutes of the Housing Committee held on 6th August, 2019, subject to the following:-

Clause 32e - Mr. McGuinness queried whether a precedent would be created should the proposal be progressed. The Town Clerk indicated his understanding that a letting restriction was in place with regard to the property - it was agreed that this matter be raised with the Department of Infrastructure.

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed unanimously to open dialogue with the tenant concerning a possible transfer of tenancy to more appropriate accommodation.

Clause 36a - the Housing and Property Manager updated members on this matter - a further approach will be made to the tenant.

(2019/20:117) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker”:

Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker” to 115th August, 2019, 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:-

- *Amenity Byelaws* - a new draft of the byelaws has been received it is hoped to have a final set in the near future.
- *Ramsey North Beach* - Mr. Young expressed concern about the discharge of “grey water” into the bay (and also sewerage being discharged from Maughold).
- *Vollan / Balladoole Odours* - a mobile unit has been in use and the problem has improved significantly.
- *Ramsey Courthouse* - Members requested regular contact and updates. The Town Clerk indicated the Planning Committee will be considering the application soon and that a meeting was arranged with Mr Baker immediately thereafter.



(2019/20:118) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker” Continued:

- *Mart Site* - discussions are required to be held with the Department of Infrastructure. The Housing and Property Manager was instructed to discuss options for the site with a local architect. Mr. Young suggested that the Commission acquire the site as a “land bank” for the provision of car parking.
- *Upper Queen’s Pier Road* - a start date of 16th September 2019 is anticipated.
- *Bunscoil Rhumsaa Mosaic* - a second quotation is still awaited.

The Register of Ruinous Property and Unsightly Buildings appended to the Action Tracker was noted, subject to the following:-

- *Old Milk Depot Approach Road* - The Technical Services Manager reported significant improvement to this property.
- *Property College Street* - Mr. Hankin asked if a property in College Street could be added to the list - this was agreed and members were informed that its condition had been brought to the attention of Environmental Health.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2019/20:119) Town Clerk’s Report - Government Services:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s report dated 14th August, 2019, advising that “Job Club” is now operating from the Town Library on Tuesday mornings and on Thursdays each week and of further approaches that have been made with regard to the possibility of locating other services at the Town Hall on two days a week.

It was further resolved, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Quayle and agreed that further discussions be authorised and a rental figure in parity with that currently paid by the Coroner for the Sheadings of Ayre and Garff be suggested to Government.

(2019/20:120) Town Clerk’s Report - Rate Arrears:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s report dated 10th August, 2019, with appended list of rate defaulters to 31st March, 2019.

Members requested that future lists reflect debts of longest standing and greatest amount.

(2019/20:121) Finance Officer’s General Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer’s Report dated 14th August, 2019, subject to the following:-

Mr McGuinness queried an account paid and was advised that this was for annual maintenance of town clocks at the Town Hall and Boathouse, Mooragh Park.

Aged Debtors - it was noted that accounts outstanding with regard to the civic amenity site had been paid.



(2019/20:122) Technical Assistant's - Mitigation Against Fixed Penalty Notice:

Members considered the Technical Assistant's report dated 12th August, 2019, advising that a claim against a Fixed Penalty Notice had been received with regard to a dog being exercised in a prohibited area on Easter Monday, 22nd April, 2019, the appellant averring he was elsewhere and working at the time. Members noted statements submitted by the Town Warden.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed without division, the appeal be rejected and the Fixed Penalty be upheld.

Parks and Leisure:

(2019/20:123) Town Clerk's Report - Mooragh Lake Concession:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 15th August, 2019, advising that public notice will be given inviting expressions of interest for the Concession of the Mooragh Lake, including the Boathouse Café and games in the Mooragh Park from 1st April, 2020.

It was confirmed that a copy of the draft notice, appended to the Town Clerk's report had been supplied to the existing concessionaire, and response thereto received before the matter was advertised.

(2019/20:124) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Sprintfest:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 14th August, 2019, giving details of the parties who gave feedback on the 2019 Sprintfest together with a breakdown of expenditure for the event.

Mr. Hankin asked for some details of the feedback and was informed by Mr. McGuinness that Sprintfest had been well received and a much needed event, feedback was positive although it was recognised that there had been some problems with road closures. It was felt that events could be maximised and extended to include more in the vicinity of the Courthouse and at the other end of Parliament Street. Car parking needs to be looked at and it may be necessary to work with third parties.

Mr. Hankin asked if events could be held on the Market Square during days when the area is closed to parking and asked that greater advertising be given. Mr. Hankin also requested that the Commission, as a whole be given the opportunity to have input. Mr. McGuinness explained that working with a smaller team on this event was preferable.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed by 7 votes to 1, Mr. Hankin voting against, that the Commission make a commitment to running Sprintfest in 2020 with the Deputy Town Clerk working with the Lead Members for Finance and Parks, and the Deputy Lead Member for Finance, to develop an event plan and budget.

Any Other Business:

(2019/20:125) Wallaby Trail - Auction:

Members discussed whether they wished to acquire a Wallaby - which formed a fund raising trail in aid of Hospice and which are soon to be auctioned.

Resolved: That, following a ^{discussion for as to whether} proposal by Mrs. Quayle, ~~seconded by Mr. Parker~~ ^{right} that the Commission acquire a wallaby, one of those exhibited in Ramsey, at an auction cost not exceeding £500. The proposal was defeated by 6 votes to 2.

(2019/20:126) Leave of Absence - Mr. A. J. Oldham:

Members considered a request by Mr. A. J. Oldham to be granted leave of absence from the Commission in terms of Section 12(1) of the Local Elections Act, 1986.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Quayle and agreed without division, leave of absence be granted.

(2019/20:127) Ramsey Rocks:

Mr. McGuinness referred to this event, which was not taking place in 2019 due to numerous difficulties and asked that as much publicity as possible be given as to why it was not taking place.

Matters of Establishment:

(2019/20:128) Minutes Establishment Committee:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the meetings of the Establishment Committee held on 14th August, 2019, subject to the following:-

Members noted that advertisements will be placed for a General Labourer and for staff for the Civic Amenity Site.

Members took the opportunity to thank the remaining staff at the C.A. Site and Commission's general workforce for covering during difficult circumstances due to staff shortages at the site.

The meeting closed at 9.14 p.m. giving a time of 2 ½ hours for the payment of attendance allowances.



Chairman.