

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

[PUBLIC]

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 19th February, 2020, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. A. G. Cowie, Mesdames. M. B. Quayle and J. Wedgwood, Messrs' Rev. Canon N. D. Greenwood, W. L. Hankin, N. Howard, J. McGuinness, G. Monk, A. J. Oldham, L. Parker, F. B. R. Williams and W. G. Young.

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

(2019/20:295) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meetings held on 8th, 16th, 22nd, 27th and 29th January, 2020, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to correction of minor typo-graphical errors.

(2019/20:296) Matters Arising:

There were no matters raised.

(2019/20:297) Chairman's Report:

Resolved: To note the Chairman's report dated 13th February, 2020. The Chairman reiterated his thanks to the Royal British Legion for the invitation extended to him to attend the 74th County Conference held at Ramsey Courthouse.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2019/20:298) Town Clerk's Report - Dog Byelaws:

Member considered the Town Clerk's report dated 12th February, 2020, concerning correspondence received with regard to "dogs on leashes" in view of alleged incidents of dogs being at large and increased incidents of dog fouling particularly at Poyll Dooy. General discussion ensued concerning DNA testing; the need for wardens to wear high visibility clothing; the difficulties in "policing"; the need for the public to be more pro-active in reporting offenders; the level of fines and fixed penalty notices; the provision of providing disposable bags; restricting the number of dogs a person may have in their charge at any one time.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Cowie, that the Commission continue advertising and reporting problems and prosecutions with regard to dog fouling, etc., and continue with this strategy whilst encouraging the public to report matters. This was agreed by 11 votes to 1 Canon Greenwood voting against as he was in favour of dogs being on leashes at all times.

The Technical Services Manager was requested to report to members on the number of successful prosecutions.

(2019/20:299) Finance Officer General Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer's General Report dated 12th February, 2020.

Works and Development:

(2019/20:300) Town Clerk's Report - Changes to Planning Process:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 24th January, 2020, concerning a meeting attended by officers of the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture held on 13th January, 2020, concerning the changes to the Planning Progress. Details of the Power Point presentation made by the officers had been circulated to members.

(2019/20:301) Town Clerk's Report - Litter Act 1972:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 12th February, 2020, advising of the provisions of the Litter Act, 1972, in view of comments received about litter caused by disposal of cigarette ends and other items in the vicinity of some public houses in the Town.

(2019/20:302) Town Clerk's Report - North Barrule Art Installation:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 12th February, 2020, concerning planning application 19/01313/B, referring to creation of Art Installation through the re-arrangement and painting of stone. Members were advised that Garff Commissioners had received complaints with regard to the application and Lezayre Commissioners had not yet considered the application. Bio-Diversity had raised no objection other than commenting not to paint during Summer.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Young, seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood, that the Commission do not support and therefore submit an objection to the planning application. The proposal was carried by 8 votes to 4, Messrs' Cowie, Howard, McGuinness and Williams voting against.

(2019/20:303) Town Clerk's Report - T.T. Course Preparatory Works:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 12th February, 2020, advising of the dates upon which the Department of Infrastructure propose to close the Mountain Road to undertake preparatory works for the 2020 TT Races.



(2019/20:304) Technical Services Manager’s Report - Planning Applications:

Resolved: That the Technical Services Manager’s Report dated 12th February, 2020, 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: 3743
P.A. NO.: 20/00069/B
APPLICANT: Forest Homes
PROPOSED: Erection of three attached dwellings with associated off road parking
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Land at the junction of May Hill and Glen Elfin Road, Ramsey**

Mr. Williams drew attention to concerns about the proposed location of the bin store, parking provision, lack of amenity space and the possibility that the proposals might be over-intensive.

Mr. Cowie proposed that the Commission submit comments on the application with regard to the concerns raised about parking and the location of the bin store. This was seconded by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Williams proposed an amendment that the Commission’s comment that they support the application and like the design but have concerns about the bin store and parking provision. This proposal was seconded by Mr. McGuinness and carried by 11 votes to 1, Mr. Oldham voting against, as he considered the development over-intensive.

Housing and Property:

(2019/20:305) Town Clerk’s Report - Former Mart Site:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s report dated 6th February, 2020, advising that the asking sale price for the former Mart site has been reduced by the owners to £400,000.

(2019/20:306) Housing and Property Manager’s Report - Housing Performance and Statistics 2019/20:

Resolved: To note the Housing and Property Manager’s report dated 12th February, 2020, to which was appended the quarterly return to 31st December, 2019, presented to the Department of Infrastructure.

Mr. Cowie expressed his pleasure in seeing a reduction in the numbers on the housing waiting lists and progression of installation of heat pumps, but also expressed his disappointment on the increase in rent arrears.



Parks and Leisure:

(2019/20:307) Deputy Town Clerk Report - Lhergy Frissell Hill Climb:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 6th February, 2020, advising of the various road closures to be in place for the Manx Motor Racing Hill Climb events, including the Lhergy Frissell Climb on Saturday, 2nd May, 2020, during which the road will be closed between 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. 8th January, 2020, concerning requests made to hold events in the Mooragh Park during 2020.

Mr. Parker suggested that the Commission's website include a calendar of road closures affecting Ramsey.

Any Other Business:

(2019/20:308) V.E. Day Commemorations:

Mr. Oldham referred to V.E. Day Commemorations being organised by Ramsey Branch Royal British Legion and asked if the Commission would be willing to arrange for a road closing order, between East Street and the Courthouse, to facilitate a street party.

It was agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk liaise with the British Legion in this matter. It was noted that costs would be incurred and chargeable to the Legion of approximately £270. It was agreed to permit music to be play from the Courthouse during the commemorations.

The Chairman expressed the hope that the Town would come together during the commemorations.

(2019/20:309) Matter raised by Public:

Resolved: To note, for record purposes, that no matters were raised by members of the public for consideration.

The Chairman thanked the media representatives 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.

(2019/20:310) Minutes:

Resolved: To note, for record purposes, that no minutes of the Board or Special Board Meetings held in January, 2020, were recorded in private.



Matters for Information:

(2019/20:311) Minutes Meetings Housing Committee:

Resolved: To note the Minutes of meetings of the Housing Committee held on 14th January and 4th February, 2020.

(2019/20:312) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker”:


Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker” to 13th February, 2020, 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** - it was noted that the Town Clerk has meet with staff of the Attorney General’s department and is still awaiting receipt of revised byelaws;
- **Shoprite Group** - the Town Clerk verbally advised members of discussions held, which he will confirm in a report to the Board;
- **Vollan / Balladoole Odours** - programme of works still awaited;
- **Mart Site** - the Town Clerk informed members that the owners had advised they have received a serious enquiry about the site and were seeking an unconditional offer from the Commission. It was noted that the Architect’s drawings have been received - it was proposed by Mr. Parker that the Architect’s proposals be considered by the Housing Committee for report to the Board. A proposal put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie that the owners of the site be informed that the Commission has just received the options for the site, which they need to consider, and will submit an offer for the site if and when they feel able. Mr. McGuinness’s proposal was carried by 11 votes to 1, Mr. Oldham voting against.
- **Bunscoill Rhumsaa Mosaic** - Mr. Oldham advised members that the Royal British Legion have sought tenders for the casing of the mosaic and if possible they will also fund provision of the base. Members were happy for the Legion to proceed in this matter and agreed to fund, if necessary, and install the base. It was agreed to check whether or not planning approval is required.
- **Gardeners Lane Traffic** - the Town Clerk advised that works have commenced and of his understanding that works have also started with regard to the legislative process, which may be subject to Tynwald approval.
- **Water Feature / Play Area** - the works have been commenced and an application for grant-aid submitted.
- **Local Authority General Election** - to be removed from Tracker.
- **Refuse Collection** - to be removed from Tracker

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

- **Auldyn House** - the Technical Services Manager informed members that it is understood that the owners are seeking building control approval for works to be undertaken;

(2019/20:312) On-Going Matters Ruinous Buildings Continued:

- **Bleak House** - the Town Clerk indicated that responses are still awaited on the proposals of interested parties. Mr. Parker suggested that the Section 24 Notice be reinstated. The Town Clerk advised getting ~~having~~ an up-dated inspection by Environmental Health. Mr. Parker proposed that an EHI update be obtained after which a Section 24 Notice be re-instated. The proposal was seconded by Mr. McGuinness. 

The Town Clerk advised members that due to the changed circumstances at the property it may now be possible to progress compulsory purchase of the property. Mr. McGuinness therefore proposed an amendment to Mr. Parker's proposition, that progression of compulsory purchase run in tandem with re-instatement, after environmental health inspection of the Section 24 Notice. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Williams and carried.

- **Victoria Mall** - members raised concern about the increasing unsightliness of the properties.

Finance and General Purposes Committee:

(2019/20:313) Town Clerk's Report - Rate Arrears:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 12th February, 2020, with appended details of rate defaulters.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed, Treasury be requested to commence legal proceedings to recover the debts of the largest individual and longest-outstanding debtors.

It was further resolved that guidance be sought with regard to the publication of details of executions for rate debt.

(2019/20:314) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Town Branding:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 12th February, 2020, with regard to a joint meeting with Ramsey Chamber of Commerce concerning Town Branding and illustrating preferred logos to promote Ramsey.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Howard that, subject to minor amendment, the logo including the Mooragh Park be used. The proposal was carried by 9 votes to 3 - Mrs. Wedgwood and Messrs' Cowie and Young voting against.



(2019/20:315) Finance Officer's Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer's Report dated 12th February, 2020, subject to the following:-

Estimates and Revenue Expenditure: - queries with regard to timing of receipt of Housing Deficiency and with regard to budget figures for unapplied capital receipts were answered to members' satisfaction.

Aged Debtors - members were informed that a specific date, to which reference was made, had been reduced and that the estate of the late Mr. Simpson has now been finalised and the Commission had received slightly more income than envisaged, but that the balance of the debt would be required to be written-off for accounting purposes - about which the Finance Officer would report further.

Works and Development:

(2019/20:316) Town Clerk's Report - Flood Protection Ramsey Quayside:

Members discussed the Town Clerk's report dated 7th February, 2020, concerning the latest proposal received from the Department of Infrastructure with regard to flood protection on Ramsey Quayside. Members noted the proposals reduced the number of car parking spaces to 73, 35 fewer than the previous proposals.

A proposal was put by Mr. Cowie seconded by Mr. Monk that the Commission inform the Department that they would prefer to keep chevron parking, rather than loose parking spaces. Mr. Parker submitted a proposal, seconded by Mr. Oldham that the Commission prefer parallel parking and would wish to further investigate the provision of parking elsewhere in the Town which may involve a bigger overall scheme. Neither proposal was put to the vote as discussion ensued. Concern was expressed that the Department was only presenting one scheme and therefore only addressing one issue if the scheme presented is progressed.

A proposal was put by Mr. Parker seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood that the Commission thank the Department for coming back with this option but the Commission feel that as this is not their preferred option for flood control incorporating quayside redevelopment, they be asked to keep the matter open for further discussion and provide further options particularly with regard to parking provision.

The proposal was carried by 10 votes to 2, Messrs' Cowie and Monk voting against.



(2019/20:317) Town Clerk's Report - Ramsey Road Map:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 12th February, 2020, advising of the long-term aspirational document provided by the Department of Infrastructure with regard to roads in Ramsey.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood and carried without division, that the Department be thanked for providing the document and invited to meet with the Commission to discuss the matter in detail.

(2019/20:318) Technical Services Manager's Report - Appeal Hearing for the Former Farmers Combine Property:

Members considered the Technical Services Manager report dated 11th February, 2010, advising that the Appeal Hearing for the former Farmers Combine premises will be held on 24th March, 2020, and to which the Commission is invited to be represented.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Hankin and agreed by 10 votes to 2, either the Town Clerk or Technical Services Manager represent the Commission at the Appeal Hearing. Messrs' Cowie and McGuinness voted against.

(2019/20:319) Technical Services Manager's Report - Disposal of Old Festive Lighting Panels:

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed to disposal of the old festive lighting panels as recommended in the Technical Services Manager's report dated 12th February, 2020, such panels having been replaced during 2019.

(2019/20:320) Technical Services Manager's Report - MUA Additional EV Charging Points:

Members considered the Technical Services Manager's report dated 10th February, 2020, concerning the wish of the MUA to enter into agreement with the Commission to install additional electric vehicle charging points within the Town. Members suggested Station Road Car Park and other possible locations including:

- Mooragh Park amenity tri-angle car park;
- Ramsey Park Hotel car park
- Town Hall Car park
- St. Paul's Square

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed the Town Clerk formalise a licence to permit a 5 year licence with the MUA with regard to the provision of EV charging points, and transfer existing points to the control of the authority.

Members also suggested the Swimming Pool car park - but agreed that MUA should make a direct approach to the Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board.

(2019/20:321) Technical Services Manager's Report - Public Lighting Maintenance Contract:

Resolved: To note the Technical Services Manager's report dated 10th February, 2020, advising of the changes notified by Manx Utilities Authority for public lighting maintenance contract fees for 2020/21.

Housing and Property:

(2019/20:322) Housing and Property Manager's Report - Tenant Representative:

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mrs. Wedgwood, seconded by Mr. Williams, to note the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 12th February, 2020, concerning the resignation, due to personal reasons of the Tenant Representative and to defer consideration of a replacement for the present time. The proposal was carried by 11 votes to 1, Mr. Oldham voted against being in favour of no replacement should be sought.

Parks and Leisure:

(2019 /20:323) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - A18 Mountain Road Closure for Events:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 12th February, 2020, advising of the policy being developed by the Department of Infrastructure with regard to closure of the A18 "Mountain Road" for events. Copies of the draft policy and guidance notes had been provided to members.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mrs. Quayle, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed by 9 votes to 3, Messrs' Hankin, Monk and Young voting against, to support the draft policy.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m. giving a time of 3 hours for the payment of attendance allowances.



Chairman.