

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

[PUBLIC]

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in the Boardroom of the Town Hall and using a telephone conference call system on Wednesday, 17th June, 2020, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Messrs' A. G. Cowie, Rev Canon N. D. Greenwood, J. McGuinness, L. Parker, F. B. R. Williams and W. G. Young.

Mrs. M. Quayle and Messrs' A. J. Oldham and W. L. Hankin by telephone conference.

Apologies: Mrs. J. Wedgwood and Mr. N. P. Howard.

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

(2020/21:022) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meetings held on 20th May, 2020, and the Special Meeting held on 10th June, 2020, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

(2020/21:023) Matters Arising:

There were no matters raised.

In the absence of a Chairman's report Mr. McGuinness asked if any feedback had been received from the recent visit of Mr. Skelly to local retail premises. The Chairman advised that the visit had been well received and appreciated and had proved a good PR exercise. Members were reminded that government support was available for businesses who may have struggled during the "Covid-19" pandemic.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2020/21:024) Town Clerk's Report - Byelaws

Member considered the Town Clerk's report dated 9th June, 2020, to which was appended drafts of the Town's General Byelaws and its Amenity Byelaws as provided by the Attorney General's Chambers.

Ramsey Town General Byelaws - no comments made.



**Ramsey Town Commissioners - Board Meeting -
17th June, 2020, Public Continued:**

(2020/21:024) Town Clerk's Report - Byelaws Continued:

Ramsey Public Parks and Foreshore Byelaws - the following comments were made:

- Byelaw 7 - Mr. Oldham queried the inclusion of this byelaw and was advised that it is written to allow use of the main drive way through the Mooragh Park.
- *Mr* Byelaw 11- Mr. Williams queried the need to seek permission from the Commission with regard to light of fires and that paragraph 2 should be adapted in relation to nuisance or danger accordingly. The Town Clerk drew attention to the beach abutting the Mooragh Promenade being an area of Special Scientific Interest. It was proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Young that the need to seek permission be removed from the Byelaws and the clause be amended. The proposal was carried by 8 votes to 1, Rev Canon Greenwood voting against.
- Clause 17 - Members agreed there was no objection to use of jet-skis north of the Stone Pier. A proposal to remove this Byelaw was put by Mr. Cowie and seconded by Mr. McGuinness and approved unanimously.

Resolved: It was proposed by Mr McGuinness, seconded by Mr Cowie and approved unanimously that the Byelaws, subject to amendments, be approved for signature and progression to Tynwald for approval.

(2020/21:025) Town Clerk's Report – Covid 19

The Town Clerk read his report dated 17th June, 2020, updating members on arrangements to be put in place following the removal of social distancing requirements. It was noted that the Town Hall, Library and Civil Registry will return to normal duties from 18th June; the DHSC Benefits Office will resume operation on 23rd June and the Northern Civic Amenity Site will remove booking requirements with immediate effect but will retain some restrictions / prohibitions of operation.

Members noted the Town Clerk's tabled report dated 17th June, 2020, confirming the arrangements in place having regard to current "Covid-19" regulations and guidance.

2020/21:026) Finance Officer General Report:

Resolved: To note and approved the Finance Officer's general report dated 10th June, 2020, subject to the following:-

Summary of Revenue Income and Expenditure - a query raised with regard to receipt of housing income was answered to Members satisfaction.

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**Ramsey Town Commissioners - Board Meeting -
17th June, 2020, Public Continued:**

Works and Development:

(2020/21:027) Town Clerk's Report – Consultation Wayleaves Bill:

Members considered the Town Clerk's tabled report dated 8th June, 2020, detailing responses sought with regard to the Consultation on the Wayleaves Bill which are to be submitted by 10th July, 2020.

It was proposed by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that the Commission record its agreement to questions 6 - 10 and 12, but record their strong agreement to question 11, concerning rights of appeal. This was agreed by all with the exception of Mr. Oldham who indicated his objection to Question 10 concerning compulsory powers which he proposed the Commission disagree with. This amendment was seconded by Mr Young and put to the vote. The amendment was defeated by 4 votes to 5, Mrs. Quayle and Messrs Greenwood, Oldham and Young voting for.

The original proposal was re-put and carried by 7 votes to 1 - Mr. Young voting against and Mr. Hankin having lost telephonic communication at 7.30 p.m. during the latter part of the clause.

(2020/21:028) Town Clerk's Report – Ramsey Quayside:

Members considered the Town Clerk's tabled report dated 8th June, 2020, concerning the current proposals of the Department of Infrastructure with regard to the introduction of tidal flood protection measures and reconstruction of roads and regeneration improvement at West Quayside. Illustrations of the proposals had been circulated to members. Members felt that the illustrations provided showed no regard to previous comments made by the Commission.

Resolved: Following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that the Department be informed of the Commission's disappointment and the original comments be resubmitted.

(2020/21:029) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications:

Members agreed that the Technical Services Manager's Report dated 10th June, 2020, detailing planning applications received from the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, under the planning consultation procedures, be noted and no objections be made to such applications, subject to the following:-



**Ramsey Town Commissioners - Board Meeting -
17th June, 2020, Public Continued:**

**(2020/21:029) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications
Continued:**

REF NO:
P.A. NO.: 20/00530/B
PROPOSED: Conversion of an apartment (class3.4) into two apartments (class 3.4)
NOTES: P.A. in Detail.
SITE: **19 Waterloo Road, Ramsey.**

It was proposed by Mr Cowie, seconded by Mr. Young that the Commission object to the proposal due to loss / reduction of parking in an already congested area. The proposal was defeated by 5 votes to 4 - Messrs' Cowie, Greenwood, Parker and Young voting in favour. It was agreed that no objection be made.

REF NO:
P.A. NO.: 20/00533/B
PROPOSED: Installation of 28 solar panels to gable wall and installation of a heat pump
NOTES: P.A. in Detail.
SITE: **The Haven, Windsor Mount, Ramsey.**

It was proposed by Mr. Williams that the Commission make no objection to the proposal; an amendment was put by Mr. Cowie that the Commission support the application on the positive environmental grounds. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Williams and carried by 7 votes to 1 - Mr. Parker voting against insofar as approval and support might create a precedent.

There were no comments made on the Appendix to the Technical Services Manager's report.

Housing and Property:

(2020/21:030) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Safeguarding:

Resolved: To note and approve the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 9th June, 2020, concerning the recommendation that appropriate Safeguarding approaches within local authority housing providers be undertaken.

Any other Business

It was proposed by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk's report, as hereunder, be brought into the Public Sector.



(2020/21:031) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Non-Essential Retail Social Distancing:

The Deputy Town Clerk verbally précised his report dated 17th June, 2020, concerning the pedestrianisation of Parliament Street and the result of the survey undertaken as to its popularity.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams that the temporary pedestrianisation be discontinued with immediate effect. The proposal was carried by 7 votes to 1, Mrs. Quayle voting against.

It was agreed to raise the question of pedestrianisation as a subject for discussion, and thorough consultation, with the Department of Infrastructure along with traffic and parking at a future date.

Mr. Hankin regained telephonic connection at 7.55 p.m.

(2020/21:032) Wildflower Planting:

Mr. Williams referred to the trial of wildflower planting undertaken at the Vollan and proposed that Facebook awareness be made thereof to encourage further planting. The proposal was seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed unanimously.

(2020/21:033) Planning "Three Legs of Man":

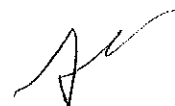
Mr. Parker queried the status of the planning application with regard to the Three Legs of Man on North Barrule. The Town Clerk informed members that the planning application had been withdrawn and it was understood that the site was subject of a planning enforcement investigation.

The Chairman closed the public session at 8.05 p.m. and moved directly to private business

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.

(2020/21:034) Minutes:

Resolved: To note, for record purposes, that no minutes of the Board Meetings held on 20th May, 2020, and the Special Meeting held on 10th June, 2020, were recorded in private.



**Ramsey Town Commissioners - Board Meeting -
17th June, 2020, Continued:**

Finance and General Purposes:

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(2020/21:035) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Ramey Courthouse:

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Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 11th June, 2020, concerning the agreement with THOR's for use of Ramey Courthouse.

Resolved: A proposal was put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Parker, that the current agreement be extended for a further period of 12 months. An amendment was put by Mr. Oldham, seconded by Mr. Hankin, that THOR be granted an extension of three months, equating to the time lost due to the Covid pandemic. The amendment was put to the vote and defeated by 7 votes to 2, the proposer and seconder voting in favour.

The original proposal was then put and carried by 7 votes to 2, Messrs' Hankin and Oldham voting against.

(2020/21:036) Finance Officer's Report:

Members noted and approved the Finance Officer's Report dated 10th June, 2020, subject to the following:-

Estimates and Revenue Expenditure:

- comment was made on the impact of the enforced increased Civic Amenity Site costs;
- a query with regard to labour costs, against a particular heading, was due to staff having been re-deployed on other duties. The Finance Officer indicated he would be undertaking an over-view of the budgets.

Rent Arrears / Aged Debtors: members were informed that since the report had been prepared rent arrears had reduced because the Town Hall counter had been re-open enabling payments to be made. It was noted that discussion and payment plans would be put in place with those in rent-arrears and aged debtors. It was recognized that some debts might be irrecoverable should business have been forced to close during the Covid pandemic.

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Works and Development:

(2020/21:037) Technical Services Manager's Report - Age Profile of Fleet:

Resolved: To note the Technical Services Manager's report dated 8th June, 2020, to which was appended details of the Commission's vehicle fleet, the ages of the vehicles and costs of repairs over the last 6 years. It was agreed that further report be made with regard to tendering options, bulk purchasing, leasing and vehicle requirements.

Members were appreciative of the information provided which will be useful for budgetary purposes.

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**Ramsey Town Commissioners - Board Meeting -
17th June, 2020, Continued:**

(2020/21:038) Technical Services Manager's Report - Commercial Refuse Charges during "Lock-Down":

Members considered the Technical Services Manager's report dated 27th May, 2020, querying the implementation of commercial refuse charges to business not operating during the "lock-down" period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Resolved: Following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed that no service charges be levied against those businesses not operating and not having refuse collection services during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

(2020/21:039) Technical Services Manager's Report - Political Contact Re: Plasterboard Disposal:

Members considered the Technical Services Manager's report dated 1st June, 2020, concerning the future disposal of plasterboard.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed that the Commission's concerns be conveyed to the Department with regard to the disposal of plasterboard and other toxic waste and clarification be sought on future arrangements.

(2020/21:040) Technical Services Manager's Report - Street Lighting:

Members considered the Technical Services Manager's report dated 1st June, 2020, concerning the charges applied by Manx Utilities authority for the provision and maintenance of street lighting.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that the Street Lighting Maintenance Programme with Manx Utilities Authority be continued for a further period of 12 months.

Parks and Leisure:

(2020/21:041) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Firework Display November 2020:

Members' considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 11th June, 2020, concerning the need to progress, if the event is to be held, arrangements for the Firework display on 5th November, 2020.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mrs. Quayle, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed that preparations be progressed.

It was agreed that event-cancellation insurance be investigated and also noted that it may be possible to store the fireworks and hold the event at a later date.



**Ramsey Town Commissioners - Board Meeting -
17th June, 2020, Continued:**

Any Other Business:

(2020/21:042) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Events 2020:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 17th June, 2020, detailing events which it is proposed now take place following the easing of social distancing including the Gran Fondo; Purple Helmets Display and Ramsey Rocks.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that Officers to continue to engage with performers to draw up a schedule of entertainment at Ramsey Courthouse and if useable the Lakeside Centre and liaise with the Lead Member for Parks and to stage Ramsey Rocks on 5th July 2020 with officers liaising with the Lead Member for Parks and Lead Member for Finance as required.

It was noted that it is proposed to enable music to be provided around the Town and that stewarding could be provided by staff and volunteers.

(2020/21:043) Motorhomes - Old River Road:

Mr. Williams raised the matter of motorhomes parking on Old River Road in view of imminent road works.


It was agreed that members advise the Town Clerk of any suggestions with regard to re-locations of motorhomes and a future report be made.

(2020/21:044) Future Meetings:

Mr. McGuinness queried the meeting's effectiveness and asked when full attendance could be expected. The Town Clerk advised that attending remotely was permitted under emergency powers, but that might change. Mrs. Quayle and Messrs' Hankin and Oldham indicated they could not attend meetings because of medical advice with regard to shielding.

The Town Clerk undertook to monitor the statutory powers.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. giving a time of 2 ½ hours for the payment of attendance allowances.


Chairman.