

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

[PUBLIC]

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

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

Apologies: Mr. W. L. Hankin

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

(2020/21:080) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meetings held on 15th July, 2020, and the Special Board Meeting held on 23rd July, 2020, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

(2020/21:081) Matters Arising:

No matters were raised.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2020/21:082) Town Clerk's Report - Vacancy North Ward:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 10th August, 2020, advising of correspondence and legal advice received from the Department of Infrastructure and the Commission's Advocates, with regard to the status of membership of the Commission, following the resignation of Mr. Monk and having regard to the emergency powers introduced owing to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed, in view of legal advice obtained, "Covid" uncertainties and having regard to time factors the Commission do not seek to advertise the vacancy in North Ward.

(2020/21:083) Finance Officer General Report:

Resolved: To note and approved the Finance Officer's general report dated 12th August, 2020, subject to the following:-

Rates: - Members concurred with Mr. McGuinness's expression of gratitude to Treasury in supplying the rate income which is beneficial to the Commission's cash flow.



Works and Development:

(2020/21:084) Town Clerk's Report – Consultation - Climate Change Bill:

Members received the Town Clerk's report dated 10th August, 2020, concerning the consultation being undertaken by the Department of the Environment Food and Agriculture with regard to Climate Change. It was noted that Dr. Fiona Gell, from Department of the Environment Food and Agriculture has indicated she is willing to make a presentation to the Commission.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed, a Special Board Meeting be held on Monday, 24th August, 2020, to meet Dr. Gell and then consider the consultation.

Attention was drawn to implications, within the consultation, to local authorities and members were urged to ensure they read the document fully prior to the meeting.

(2020/21:085) Town Clerk's Report – Consultation - Water Quality Objectives:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 10th August, 2020, concerning the consultation being undertaken by the Department of the Environment Food and Agriculture with regard to Water Quality Objectives, which it was noted were following UK and European standards.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed, the responses proposed within the report be submitted.

Mr. Williams attended the meeting at this point [7.15 p.m.].

(2020/21:086) Town Clerk's Report – Planning Breaches Policy:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 10th August, 2020, to which was appended a Draft Policy Statement with regard to Planning Breaches.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that the Planning Breaches Policy be approved and adopted.

(2020/21:087) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications:

Members agreed that the Technical Services Manager's Report dated 13th August, 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:-



(2020/21:087) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications:continued

REF NO: 3776 AMENDED PLANS
P.A. NO.: 20/00530/B
APPLICANT: Elliott Construction Limited
PROPOSED: Conversion of an apartment (class 3.4) into two apartments (class 3.4)
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **19, Waterloo Road, Ramsey**

Members were informed that the amended plans referred to a "Juliette" balcony and that no change had been made with regard to parking provision.

No comments were made with regard to the Appendix to this report.

Housing and Property:

(2020/21:088) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Public Sector Rents 2021-22:

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 12th August, 2020, informing members that the Department of Infrastructure is seeking views of local authorities with regard to rent levels and allowances for 2021-22.

Discussion ensued during which reference was made to the low inflation rates and the impact of recession as a result of the Covid pandemic. Mr. McGuinness whilst recognising an increase based at least on the rate of inflation should be applied, felt that this year was unusual and a 0% increase should be recommended. The Housing and Property Manager advised that no increases would have an effect on the maintenance budgets especially if prices increased for goods and services.

Mrs. Quayle proposed an increase of 2% - 3%. - this proposal did not receive a seconder. Mr. Parker commented that the ultimate decision would be made by Government but proposed an increase of 1%, which was less than the increase of last year. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Howard.

Canon Greenwood commented that the average CPI for the year to date was approximately 1% and the Town Clerk advised that a 1% increase would increase the average 3 bedroom public house rent by approximately £1.07. Mrs. Wedgwood expressed concern about unknown factors pertaining to Covid.

Mr. Oldham proposed an increase of 0.5% - this proposal did not receive a seconder.

An amendment was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie that no increase be recommended. This amendment was put to the vote with only Messrs' Cowie, McGuinness, Oldham and Young being in support.

(2020/21:088) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Public Sector Rents 2021-22 Continued:

Mr. Parker's original proposal was put, and carried by 6 votes to 4, Messrs' Cowie, McGuinness, Oldham and Young voting against.

Parks and Leisure:

(2020/21:089) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Water-Feature Play Area:

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 13th August, 2020, concerning the upgrading of water-play equipment in the Mooragh Park and on-going delays caused by travel restrictions in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Housing and Property Manager advised that further problems have arisen in that one of the key workers is now unable to travel and greater restrictions would be placed on the Commission in that the remaining key workers would require to be provided with separate individual accommodation and have food, etc., brought to them; in addition to which the works would be further delayed in starting and would also take longer. It was noted that one local contractor who may be capable to undertake part of the works had failed to respond to the Housing and Property Manager's communications in this matter.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed, works on upgrading the water feature be deferred until Spring 2021.

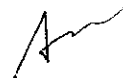
The Finance Officer was asked to check if there was any time factor applied to Lottery Trust funding towards this project. It was agreed that the opportunity be taken to reviewing other matters in the area.

Mr. Parker asked if the installers could be asked to commit to a date for installation, but this was considered to be impracticable in the present circumstances.

Any other Business

(2020/21:090) Sea Rafts:

Mr. McGuinness referred to the proposal to site a raft in the sea off the south foreshore and asked for an update; he understood technical difficulties had prevented it being sited this summer but felt there was no reason why it cannot be ready for next spring. The Housing and Property Manager informed members that he has been in contact with other authorities and the Deputy Town Clerk had contacted the RNLi and Department of Infrastructure. The Housing and Property Manager is also researching suitable anchorage and block fixings. It was noted that the Commission had originally considered siting a raft off the North foreshore.



(2020/21:091) LED Light Bulb Scheme:

Mr. McGuinness referred to a scheme, run by Department of the Environment Food and Agriculture, whereby assistance can be given in the provision of LED Light Bulbs. It was noted that Age Isle of Man is currently an agent for the scheme

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr Cowie and agreed that enquiry be made to determine if the Commission can also be an agent for the Department's scheme.

(2020/21:092) Shelters Mooragh Promenade:

Mr. McGuinness informed members that the Isle of Man Arts Council had agreed 50% funding of the project to include art work in the shelters along the Mooragh Promenade. It is noted that a decision is still awaited concerning regeneration funding but it is hoped that one artist will soon be able to start work.

(2020/21:093) Road-line Painting - Parliament Street:

Mr. Parker again asked Mr. Cowie about road-line painting in Parliament Street - Mr Cowie confirmed he had contacted the officer at the Department of Infrastructure to request a programme date.

(2020/21:094) Royal British Legion - VJ Commemoration and Street Party:

Mr Oldham thanked everyone for the support given and reported on the success of the VJ Day Commemoration at the Ramsey War Memorial on 15th August, 2020, and also on the Street Party held on 16th August, at the Courthouse Grounds. Mr. Oldham indicated that approximately £1,000 had been raised towards the costs of providing a suitable casing for the mosaic.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Mr. Oldham for all he and the Royal British Legion had done to mark the occasion.

(2020/21:095) Key Worker Thanks "Covid" Lockdown:

Mr. Williams informed members that His Excellency has started an initiative to thank Covid 19 Key Workers and was delighted to note that representatives of the refuse crew, who had worked throughout the pandemic, were included on a guest list to one of such events.

(2020/21:096) Representative Reports:

Resolved: To note the representative reports submitted by Mr. McGuinness with regard to the Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board and the Isle of Man Municipal Association.



The Chairman closed the public session at 7.55 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.

(2020/21:097) Minutes:

Resolved: To note and approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on 20th July, 2020.

Matters for Information:

(2020.21:098) Minutes Meeting of the Housing Committee:

Resolved: To note the Minutes of meeting of the Housing Committee held on 4th August, 2020, subject to the following:-

Clause 19b - All Island Affordable Housing Strategy: - the Town Clerk advised that the Commission had previously indicated that it opposed the creation of a separate regional housing body, and had submitted proposals for the housing function for the northern area, presently delivered only through the Ramsey Town Commissions offices and the Department of Infrastructure, to be undertaken entirely through the Commission, thereby avoiding the creation of a further authority.

(2020.21:099) Minutes Meeting of the Policy Committee:

Resolved: To note the Minutes of meeting of the Policy Committee held on 5th August, 2020.

(2020/21:100) On-Going Matters "Action Tracker":

Resolved: To note the "Action Tracker" to 13th August, 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:-

- **Ramsey North Beach** - Mrs. Quayle queried if the Commission should be promoting bathing or use of the North Beach until such time as water quality testing thereat is undertaken on a more regular basis;
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Points** - Mr. Cowie informed members that users were now required to pay for charging electric vehicles in Market Place and asked the Town Clerk to check that the Commission was no longer paying for the electrical supplies to the charging points;
- **Planning Enforcements** - the matter pertaining to Gladstone Park has been referred to the Planning Enforcement Officer and response is awaited; that suggested at West Quay has been confirmed as works of a temporary nature and no breach has taken place. Mrs. Quayle queried a recent incident of tables being sited on a pavement - the Town Clerk advised that application has been made to permit such action.

(2020/21:100) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker” Continued:

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

- **Bleak House** - the Town Clerk presented a verbal report on the current freehold and leasehold ownership of the premises and was instructed to obtain a current environmental health report and advice as to who can be considered party to legal proceedings to resolve this long-outstanding matter.
- **19, West Quay** - Mrs. Wedgwood informed members of her understanding that the premises were no longer occupied. The matter can now be removed from the list and Mrs. Wedgwood will liaise with the Technical Services Manager in future if necessary.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2020/21:101) Town Clerk’s Report - Smoking Policy:

Members considered the Town Clerk’s report dated 10th August, 2020, to which was appended the reviewed Smoke Free Policy, first adopted by the Commission in 2008. The policy was framed having regard to the “Prohibition of Smoking in Certain Premises Regulations 2007.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed that the reviewed Smoke Free Policy be approved.

(2020/21:102) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report - Ramsey Courthouse:

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk’s tabled report dated 18th August, 2020, concerning Ramsey Courthouse be considered at this point. It was noted that the Chairman and a Committee member of THOR had indicated to officers that they wished, reluctantly, to relinquish the exclusivity held for use of the Courthouse. Three options available to the Commission were noted.

It was proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Quayle that the Commission commence the process of seeking new expressions of interest but operate the premises in the meantime.

An amendment was proposed by Mrs. Wedgwood that the Commission be more proactive in promoting use of the Courthouse but also seek new expressions of interest. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Cowie.

Mr. Oldham indicated a preference that the Commission should fully operate the Courthouse and offered his services in “manning” the premises if necessary.

The amendment was put and carried by 7 votes to 3, Mrs. Quayle and Messrs’ McGuinness and Williams voting against.

A joint media release is to be provided by the Commission and THOR.

(2020/21:103) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Ramsey Courthouse Flu-Clinic:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13th August, 2020, with regard to the request made by Ramsey Group Practice to utilise the Ramsey Courthouse as venue for the annual community flu clinics, which it is hoped will be held during the 3rd week in October.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed that permission be granted and no charge be levied due to the extensive community benefit of the flu vaccination during the current circumstances.

(2020/21:104) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Street Vendor's Licence Parish Pantry:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13th August, 2020, with regard to the request made by Parish Pantry to extend the terms of the Street Vendor's licence approved in March, 2020, from one to up to three days each week and in addition to allow a "pop-up" adjacent gelatory.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed by 9 votes to 1, that permission be not granted, Mr. Howard voting against.

Members agreed with a suggestion by Mr. Williams that the Town Clerk draft a formal policy and guidance with regard to street trading.

(2020/21:105) Finance Officer's Report:

Members noted and approved the Finance Officer's Report dated 12th August, 2020, subject to the following:-

Estimates and Revenue Expenditure - in response to a query by Mr. Cowie, the Finance Officer again advised that overtime expenditure incurred because of staff deployment during Covid-19, would require budget review later in the year;

Rent Arrears - the Finance Officer advised that, since compilation of the appendix, 33 tenants had reduced their arrears;

Aged Debtors - it was noted that some of the debtors listed have ceased trading - the Finance Officer informed members that some had paid, since the list was compiled and that he is in communication with others;

IT Hardware Upgrade: - a proposal was put by Mr. Cowie that the Commission make an outright purchase; an amendment was put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams that the equipment be purchased by way of a five year loan. The amendment was carried by 7 votes to 2, Messrs' Cowie and Greenwood voting against; Mrs. Quayle, being temporarily absent from the room, did not vote.

Works and Development:

(2020/21:106) Town Clerk's Report - Drivers' Handbook:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 10th August, 2020, to which was appended a Drivers' Handbook, drafted by the Technical Services Manager to standardise vehicle use, practices and safety checks, in addition to giving guidance to staff using the Commission's vehicles.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that the Handbook be approved and adopted.

(2020/21:107) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Skatepark Area Mooragh Estate:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13th August, 2020, concerning the request made by the Youth Worker of the Department of Education, on behalf of the LGBTQ youth group, for permission to undertake a litter-pick in the vicinity of the skatepark. In addition the group ask for permission to paint a section of railings in rainbow colours representing LGBTQ.

A proposal was put by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Parker that he group be permitted to undertake the litter-pick. Discussion ensued with regard to the impracticalities of painting the fence surrounding the skatepark and an alternative of painting a bench was suggested.

An amended was put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Oldham and carried by 6 votes to 4 that the Group be permitted to undertake a litter-pick and paint a town bench. Mesdames Quayle and Wedgwood and Messrs' Cowie and Greenwood voting against.

(2020/21:108) Technical Services Manager's Report - Refuse Bins:

Consideration of the Technical Services Manager's report dated 21st July, 2020, was deferred.

(2020/21:109) Technical Services Manager's Report - Town Warden:

Members considered the Technical Services Manager's report dated 21st July, 2020, concerning the future of the Town Warden service.

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams that the Commission employ direct labour, on a part-time basis with a degree of flexibility. Mr. Cowie proposed the employment of 2 part-time staff and suggested the details be decided by the Establishment Committee and he also queried the possibility of an initial fixed-term contract.



(2020/21:109) Technical Services Manager's Report - Town Warden Continued:

Mr. McGuinness amended his proposal to allow for the employment of 2 part-time staff, on an initial 12 month contract the details of which will allow for a degree of flexibility and be decided by the Establishment Committee. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Cowie and carried by 9 votes to 1 Mrs. Quayle voting against.

Housing and Property:

(2020/21:110) Housing and Property Manager's Report - Brookfield Court Porches Remedial Works:

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 12th August, 2020, advising of the need to undertake remedial works to porches at Brookfield Court, the cost of which will be claimed from the Commission's insurers.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that the tender submitted by Kinrade Construction Limited, to undertake the works, as specified by the Building Survey Consultant and Structural Engineer, be accepted.

(2020/21:111) Housing and Property Manager's Report - Close Woirrey:

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager's report concerning additional costs likely to be incurred because of delays in progressing works for the demolition and reconstruction of Close Woirrey.

Mr. Cowie proposed that the Commission reconsider the need for the development this was seconded by Mr. Williams.

Mr. Parker proposed an amendment that the matter be referred back, initially to the Housing Committee. The amendment was seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed.

Parks and Leisure:

(2020/21:112) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Events Update:

Resolved: To note and approve the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13th August, 2020, and an Addendum report, also dated 13th August, 2020, concerning TT Events 2021, précised as hereunder:

"Supermanx" Weekend Family Funday 31st August - plans are well advance and 50% funding will be met by the Department of Enterprise;

Fireworks Display - to take place on 5th November;

Christmas Lights Switch On - to take place on Saturday, 21st November, 2020;

(2020/21:112) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Events Update: continued

Sprintfest - it was agreed to promote a festival between 5th and 8th June, based on the events planned for 2020;

Red Arrows - it was agreed to make a bid for a Red Arrows display to take place in Ramsey during TT 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.58 p.m. giving a time of 3 hours for the payment of attendance allowances.



Chairman.

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

[PRIVATE]

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

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

Apologies: Mr. W. L. Hankin

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

(2020/21:113) Town Boundary Extension:

It was agreed that reports, debate, and minutes related to this matter be maintained in private until such time as discussions had taken place with adjacent affected local authorities, and the proposals had been made public.

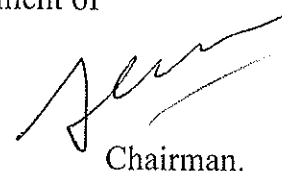
Members considered the Town Clerk's Report dated 11th August, 2020, to which was appended a draft report and map with regard to proposals to extend the Town Boundary. The Town Clerk advised members that, at this stage, the Board needed to determine inputs or exclusions from his initial report and indicate a general consensus, or otherwise, to progressing a boundary extension. Following members input, and subject to approval, the final report would form the basis of discussions with the affected adjacent authorities.

Mr. Howard referred to 2 youth clubs in Ramsey and also those in Andreas and Jurby. Mrs. Quayle referred to the Mannin Art Group.

The Town Clerk also informed members that reference to rate income is specifically excluded as a factor in any plans to extend the boundary. Mr. McGuinness reminded members that the matter would be contentious and members almost certainly would receive criticisms and objections.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood and agreed by 8 votes to 2, Messrs' Oldham and Young voting against, a Town Boundary Extension scheme be progressed.

The meeting closed at 9.58 p.m. giving a time of 3 hours for the payment of attendance allowances.



Chairman.