

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS**  
**[ PUBLIC ]**

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in the Boardroom of the Town Hall on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2020, at 7.00 p.m.

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

**Apologies:** Messrs' W. L. Hankin and N. J. Howard.

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

**(2020/21:153) Minutes:**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, and 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

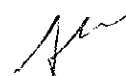
**(2020/21:154) Matters Arising:**

No matters were raised.

**(2020/21:155) Chairman's Report:**

Resolved: To note the Chairman's report dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, subject to the following:

- ***H.M. The Queen's Birthday Honours' List*** - the Chairman reiterated congratulations to those recognised in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours' List.
- ***Annual Civic Service of Remembrance*** - Members were reminded of the Service of Remembrance on 8<sup>th</sup> November, including the Ramsey Branch Royal British Legion's Evening service at St. Paul's Church at 6.30 p.m.
- ***Annual Fireworks Display*** - in response to a query by Mrs. Wedgwood concerning parking the Chairman advised that the event details were contained within a report to be presented later during the meeting.
- ***Greenflag Award*** - the Chairman conveyed congratulations to the Parks' staff;
- ***RGS Prize-giving*** - the Chairman reiterated his thanks to Mrs. Annette Baker and wished her well in her approaching retirement.
- ***Chief Minister's Public Engagement Committee*** - the Chairman expressed the hope that the incentive would prove beneficial to everyone in the future



**Finance and General Purposes:**

**(2020/21:156) Town Clerk's Report - Town Boundary:**

Members discussed the Town Clerk's report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, (sic) 2020 advising that he has met with and written to the respective Clerks of Lezayre and Garff Parish Commissioners outlining the Board's wish to extend the Town Boundary. The Chairman made reference to recent radio interviews with parish authority members, from which it would seem that the Parish authority members interviewed had not been made fully aware of the communication from Ramsey Town Commissioners.

Mr. Young wished his opposition to any boundary extension to be recorded as he felt the Town did not have sufficient infrastructure or staffing resources.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed, that invitations be sent to Lezayre and Garff Parish Commissioners independently to meet the Commission and that the Town Clerk's earlier report on the proposal to extend the Town Boundary, and letters sent to the adjacent authorities be made available via the Commissions website.

**(2020/21:157) Finance Officer General Report:**

Resolved: To note and approved the Finance Officer's general report dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, subject to the following:-

- *Accounts* - Mr. McGuinness queried costs allocated against Events and Attractions, which the Finance Officer answered to his satisfaction and also asked the Finance Officer to investigate the finances allocated to Promenade Shelters. Mr. Cowie referred to the pro-rata reduction in Library Expenditure - Mr. McGuinness expressed his disappointment in the sum but stated that any reduction was welcome.
- *Audit and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020* - it was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed to approve the draft financial statement and authorise signature of the associated Letter of Representation on completion of the audit process.

Mr. McGuinness took the opportunity to remind Lead Members and officers of the importance of meeting together during November to discuss projects and budgets for 2021/22. He commented that particular regard would need to be taken for "Covid" mitigation.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Finance Officer and staff for their work in preparation of the financial statement.



**Works and Development:**

**(2020/21:158) Town Clerk's Report – Consultation Food Hygiene Rating Scheme:**

Members discussed the Town Clerk's report dated 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, advising that the Department of the Environment Food and Agriculture is seeking views on proposals to introduce a Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in the Isle of Man. It was noted that new legislation and public consultation would be required. Members queried whether it was necessary to submit a "corporate" response or whether individual responses would be more appropriate and expressed concern at the proposal to use a "QR" coded scheme. It was felt that catering standards could vary for various reasons and it would be impossible to fully implement a graded scheme.

A proposal was put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Oldham that the Commission indicate their non-support of the scheme and express the opinion that such regulations would be in-appropriate and over bureaucratic.

An amendment was put by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Young that the Commission make no response.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried by 5 votes to 4, Mrs. Quayle, and Messrs' Williams, Young, Canon Greenwood, Oldham voting in favour.

**(2020/21:159) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications:**

Members agreed that the Technical Services Manager's Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 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:-

REF NO: 3803  
P.A. NO.: 20/01015/CON  
PROPOSED: Registered Building consent for the installation of replacement antenna  
NOTES: Registered Building  
SITE: **Albert Tower, Lhergy Frissell, Maughold.**

Members were informed that antenna was smaller than the one it is replacing.

REF NO: 3804  
P.A. NO.: 20/01043/B  
PROPOSED: Creation of a bin and oil tank store (retrospective)  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **Shoprite Supermarket, Bowring Road, Ramsey.**

It was noted that the application is on land in the Commission's ownership and it was proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed to approve the application.

**(2020/21:159) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications continued:**

REF NO: 3806  
P.A. NO.: 20/01063/B  
PROPOSED: Proposed erection of a 3 bed dormer bungalow  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **Land to the west of 17, Royal Park, Ramsey.**

It was agreed, by 8 votes to 1, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Oldham, that the Commission object to the application which is still considered to be over-intensive and would adversely affect the amenity of local residents or character of the locality. Mr. Young voted against.

REF NO: 3808  
P.A. NO.: 20/01080/B  
PROPOSED: Residential development of 181 dwellings with associated drainage, highway works and public open space  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **Land at Lower Milntown Farm (Fields 134278, 134279, 134280, 134281, 134282, 134283, 134284, 134288 & 134289) & a strip of land between Auldyn River and Auldyn Meadows, off Lezayre Road.**

The Technical Services Manager circulated extracts from the Ramsey Local Plan 1988, pertinent to this area and members were reminded that, whilst the development was in Lezayre, the Commission has interested party status and had met the developer.

Discussion ensued following which a proposal was put by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Oldham that the Commission submit an observation concerning the failure of the developer to meet the community development requirement of previous applications, i.e. the shop, pub and nursery school, and with regard to road access both from the main road and any access in the absence of the proposed by-pass road, particularly if the TT course is unavailable.

Mr McGuinness expressed the view that it was expected that infrastructure and services should expand to meet the demands of an increased population.

An amendment was put by Mr. McGuinness and seconded by Mrs. Quayle that the Commission submit an objection, on the same grounds.

The amendment was put and carried by 5 votes to 4, Mesdames Quayle and Wedgwood and Messrs' Canon Greenwood, McGuinness and Young voting in favour.

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



**(2020/21:160) Technical Services Manager's Report - Probation Services:**

Members considered the Technical Services Manager's report dated 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, concerning the mutual partnership with the Probation Service in supplementing the Commission's workforce.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed by 5 votes to 4 to include Supervisors from the Probation Service in any appropriate training undertaken by the Commission's employees. Mesdames Quayle and Wedgwood and Messrs' Canon Greenwood, Oldham and Williams voting for.

It was further resolved, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed by 7 votes to 2, that a budget restriction of £1,000 be applied. Messrs' Williams and Young voted against.

**Parks and Leisure:**

**(2020/21:161) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Events Update:**

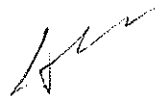
Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk's tabled report dated 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2020, giving an update on events planned in the near future subject to the following:

*...Fireworks Display Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2020* - Members were informed that arrangements are in hand to allow for additional parking, particularly for disabled drivers. It was proposed by Mrs. Quayle, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that Bunscoill Rhumsaa's Parents Teachers Association be permitted to sell merchandise, such as glow-sticks, at the display. Mr. McGuinness expressed the hope that the time-lapse between sections of the display would not be too great. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the gap would be for only seconds. In the case of inclement weather the display would be held on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

*Ramsey Festival of Christmas Trees* - it was agreed following a proposal by Mrs. Quayle seconded by Mr. Oldham to stage a Festival of Christmas Trees in the Atrium of the Town Hall between 28<sup>th</sup> November - 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

*"Santa's on a Bike; Santa Dash and Tractor Run"* - it was agreed following a proposal by Mrs. Quayle, seconded by Mr. Parker to permit and support these events to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Mr. Oldham informed members that he hopes to organise an artisan traders' event at the Courthouse on the same date to complement these events, such event would have no cost implications for the Commission. Mr. Oldham was permitted to proceed.



**Any other Business**

**(2020/21:162) Representative Reports:**

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

Mr McGuinness referred to the lack of submissions from other members who represent the Commission on other bodies. Mrs. Wedgwood expressed her understanding that discussion at Level One Police meetings was confidential - the Town Clerk was asked to determine if any information could be conveyed to members. The Chairman undertook to speak with other members.

**(2020/21:163) Ramsey Quayside:**

Mr. McGuinness queried if a meeting had yet been arranged with the Minister of the Department of Infrastructure concerning Ramsey Quayside. The Town Clerk advised that he had spoken with the Minister's secretary and it is hoped to have a meeting on either 26<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> October [subsequently arranged for 28<sup>th</sup>].

**(2020/21:164) Fireman's Run:**

Mr. Parker referred to a letter distributed to businesses by the organisers of the "Firemen's Run", which inferred that discussions had taken place with the Commissioners concerning these events which are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month. The Deputy Town Clerk referred to initial discussions, at officer level, advising that the event was growing and needed a new starting point and increased safety arrangements.


The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the organisers had been advised to speak with the Department of Infrastructure with regard to their wish to start the event from the Market Square which would require the square to be closed-off for 2 hours. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that the road closure would not be the responsibility of the Commission and that, with the exception of the request to have public conveniences open, no other assistance was required.

**(2020/21:165) Ramsey Traffic Plan:**

Mr. Cowie asked if the Department of Infrastructure could be reminded about the wish of the Commission to meet to discuss the Ramsey Traffic Plan - such meeting having been deferred during the Covid crisis – and the opportunity to raise such at the forthcoming meeting with the Minister was noted.



**(2020/21:166) Camper-Van / Motorhomes Mooragh Estate:**

Mr. Parker referred to the permits granted to enable camper vans/motorhomes to park on the Mooragh Estate and asked if, in view of the current inability to travel off-Island, if the season could be extended. Mr. Parker was informed that the season was restricted to prevent damage to the grassed area. 

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed by 8 votes to 1, Mrs. Quayle voting against, that camper van permits be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The Chairman closed the public session at 8.20 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.

**(2020/21:167) Minutes:**

Resolved: To note for future ease of reference that no minutes of the Board Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September or the Special Board Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, were recorded in private.

**Matters for Information:**

**(2020.21:168) Minutes Meeting of the Housing Committee:**

Resolved: To note the Minutes of meeting of the Housing Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, subject to the following:-

**Clause 32c) Air Sourced Heat Pumps...** Mr. Cowie queried tenants' satisfaction with the air sourced heat pumps and was advised by Mr. Parker that tenants seemed to be happy.

**Clause 39a) ... Deduction of Points Tenancy Refusal** - Members queried if deduction of points, in this particular case, was counter-productive but were informed that the situation had been fully discussed with the tenant prior to the offer of a transfer of tenancy.

**(2020/21:168) On-Going Matters "Action Tracker":**

Resolved: To note the "Action Tracker" to 15<sup>th</sup> October, 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:-

- **Shoprite Group** - the Town Clerk advised that he has spoken with the Government Valuer and was authorised to progress further negotiation with the Shoprite Group having regard to budget timetables;

**(2020/21:168) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker” Continued:**

- *Ramsey North Beach* - members queried if the direct labour force could provide the distance markers along the promenade;
- *Vollan / Balladoole Odours* - members were informed that it is hoped to commence work at the end of October, subject to Cabinet Office clearance for workers to travel to the Island;
- *Town Branding* - the Deputy Town Clerk advised that radio and social media advertising is progressing in time for Christmas;
- *Ramsey Courthouse* - the Deputy Town Clerk offered to update members but was requested to report on all expressions at the same time;
- *Bunscoill Rhumsaa Mosaic* - to be removed from the Action Tracker;
- *Gardeners Lane Traffic* - noted that some carriageway repairs will also be undertaken;
- *Public Shelter Art* - the Deputy Town Clerk is in negotiations in an attempt to find further funding;
- *“Toilet Art”* - members were informed that this has matter been deferred as the Arts Council felt there was not enough interest;
- *Rate Debt* - members considered it should now be possible for Treasury to press for recovery of the longest outstanding/ largest rate debts;
- *Ramsey Road Map* - members asked if this topic could also be considered when the Commission next meet the Department of Infrastructure;
- *Planning Enforcement* - members were informed that it is understood the Planning Enforcement Officer has been in touch with business about which the complaint was raised;
- *Bowling Green* - it was noted that a further meeting has been scheduled and it is hoped to submit a report to the November, 2020, Board Meeting.

The Register of Ruinous Property and Unsightly Buildings appended to the Action Tracker was noted.

**Finance and General Purposes:**

**(2020/21:169) Town Clerk’s Report - Old River Road Yard:**

Resolved: That consideration of the Town Clerk’s report dated 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, concerning possible letting of Old River Road Yard be deferred until the November meeting, pending receipt of further information from the Housing and Property Manager.

**(2020/21:170) Town Clerk’s Report - Town Hall Lease:**

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed, that the lease of facilities within the Town Hall, by the Treasury for use by the Benefits’ Office, as detailed within the Town Clerk’s report dated 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, be extended for a further period of 12 months, and the option to extend such arrangement for a term of up to 7 years be given.





**(2020/21:171) Finance Officer's Report:**

Members noted and approved the Finance Officer's Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, subject to the following:-

*Aged Debtors* - it was again noted that some of the debtors listed have made payments since the list was compiled.

*Financial Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020* - Mr. McGuinness again drew attention to the budget process and asked that Lead Members and officers liaise to discuss business cases. Mrs. Quayle stated that she felt items to be included within the budget should be on a "needs" basis rather "wished for".

**(2020/21:172) Technical Assistant's Report - Litter Fixed Penalty Notice Appeal:**

Members discussed the Technical Assistant's report dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, advising that an appeal has been received with regard to a fixed penalty notice for littering.

A proposal was put by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Cowie that the appeal be upheld. The proposal failed by 5 votes to 4, Mrs. Quayle and Messrs' Cowie, Oldham and Young voting in favour.

**Works and Development:**

**(2020/21:173) Town Clerk's Report - Bleak House:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, and an Addendum report dated 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, advising on the current situation with regard to Bleak House, Mooragh Promenade.

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie that the interested parties be give one further month to present a proposal to the Commissioners to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion, and the Town Clerk be instructed to convey only such information - the Commission being unwilling to enter into any further discussions.

An amendment, by Mr. Parker, that parties be given a further 21 days to present options to be submitted to the November Board meeting did not receive a seconder.

A further amendment, by Mr. Williams, that the Commission serve immediate Notice also did not receive a seconder.

The original proposal was put and carried by 8 votes to 1, Mr. Young voting against.



**(2020/21:174) Technical Services Manager's Report - Cycle Path Former Railway Line Lighting:**

Members' considered the Technical Services Manager's report dated 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, detailing the options available for the provision or otherwise of public lighting along the cycle path to be provided on the former railway line. Members noted that the Commissions adopted policy on street lighting stated that *"Footpaths and cycle tracks will only be lit where there is high night-time use, fear of crime issues and no alternative route."*

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood and agreed, Option 3, not to provide lighting at the present time be accepted.

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed by 8 votes to 1, to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue to conclusion. Mrs. Wedgwood voted against and withdrew from the meeting at 9.58 p.m.

**Any Other Business:**

**(2020/21:175) Ramsey Town Boundary:**

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed, that the private minutes of a meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2020, be brought into the public forum.

**(2020/21:176) Refuse:**

Mrs. Quayle asked if the Commission had considered providing an extra refuse collection service and was informed that this service had been discontinued because of the increasing collection and disposal costs. Mr. Parker queried circumstances for increased size of domestic refuse bins and was informed that the number of persons in a household was the prime factor.

**Matters of Establishment:**

**(2020/21:177) Minutes Establishment Committee:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the meetings of the Establishment Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, and 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, subject to the following:

**Job Description Works Supervisor** - the matter was referred back to the Establishment Committee in view of a query raised by the Technical Services Manager with regard to desirable and essential qualifications for the position.

The meeting closed at 10.12 p.m. giving a time of 3 ½ hours for the payment of attendance allowances.



Chairman.