

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
[PRIVATE] [Brought into the Public Sector]

A Special Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in the on Wednesday, 13th January 2021, at 7.00 p.m, via telephone conference.

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

Apologies: Mr. L. Parker

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

(2020/21:244) Rate Setting - Review of Project Submissions

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting and noted that its purpose to review proposed projects for incorporation within the Ramsey 2021/22 Rates Budget, the papers related thereto having previously been circulated to members as hard copies. It was noted that the discussions would be subject to further review until such time as the Board has formally set the 2021/22 Town Rate in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 2006 which requires a rate to be set by 31st January 2021.

The Chairman invited the Lead Member for Finance and General Purpose, Mr. J. McGuinness to lead the discussion, which considered the following project submissions: -

Project 1 – replacement of a refuse collection vehicle.

Members noted the ages of the current vehicles, that vehicles tend to be run for between 8-10 years, and the purchase options outlined. Concern was expressed that having 3 vehicles of similar age could present difficulties in managing future replacement, it was a greed a purchase plan was needed to spread costs over vehicle life.

The Finance Officer referred Members to a linked project (6 – Bin-weigh upgrade) which he felt was a priority whatever decision was made on the vehicle replacement.

Resolved: It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Young, and agreed by 5 votes to 3, to defer the project for 1 year. Mrs. Wedgwood and Messrs Oldham and Williams voted against.



(2020/21:244) Rate Setting - Review of Project Submissions continued

Project 2 - Fleet Vehicle Overhaul -

Mr. McGuinness expressed a preference to stagger fleet replacements over time. The Finance Officer indicated that this would be preferable and that he was still working on a review with a proposal to achieve such.

Resolved. It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie, and approved unanimously that the project as presented be not taken forward and further options considered.

Project 3 – replacement of 3 panel vans Housing and Properties

Members noted that the proposal sought to utilise part of the housing maintenance allowance to fund 3 replacement vehicles. It was noted that the replacement would be undertaken as part of the Commissions fleet management but if it funded through the maintenance allowance there would be no rates impact.

Resolved: It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams, and approved unanimously that the project be taken forward.

Project 4 - Vollan Estate Road Resurfacing

Members noted that the MUA had been approached regarding a contribution to the works following its use as an access for the Vollan Sewerage infrastructure project without success.

Resolve: It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed unanimously that the project be rejected as being not essential.

Project - 5 Decorative Lighting

Members noted that an 80% grant was available towards the light canopy. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that an application can be submitted immediately.

Resolved: Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed unanimously that the project should proceed on the basis of grant being obtained and reviewed in light of overall costs within budget.

Project 6 – Upgrade of Bin Weigh System for Refuse Collection.

Members noted that the existing system was an outdated version of software which was suffering increasing problems and required replacement, the system enabled accurate charging and recovery of commercial refuse tonnage fees.



(2020/21:244) Rate Setting - Review of Project Submissions continued

Resolved Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams, and agreed unanimously that the project be taken forward, if possible, based on a software lease agreement.

(2020/21:244) Rate Setting - Review of Project Submissions continued

Project 7 - Seasonal Staff.

The Chairman proposed, and Mr. Williams seconded, that the project proceed subject to a review of the costs and manpower requirement before recruitment.

An amendment that the number of posts be capped at 2 persons was proposed by Mr. McGuinness and seconded by Mr. Young.

The amendment was voted on and failed by 3 votes to 5, Mesdames Quayle and Wedgwood and Messrs Cowie, Oldham and Williams voting against.

Resolved: the original proposal to proceed with the project subject to a review of the costs and manpower requirement before recruitment was approved by 7 votes to 1, Mr. McGuinness voting against.

Project 8 – Riverside Workshops Fire Alarms

The Housing and Property Manager advised that the figures were a guesstimate and may reduce once quotes had been obtained.

Resolved: It was proposed by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood and agreed unanimously that the project be retained and further reviewed through the budget process.

Project 9 – Replacement Wheely Bins

Mr. Williams proposed that the project be accepted as bins are essential to our refuse service provision. The Technical Services Manager advised that the position with Covid had resulted in a greater demand for 1100litre bins as Nursing Homes were having to store material before disposal. storage of material. The new development at Mayfield would also require bins, the Town Clerk advised that based on a 120l bin for a single person unit, and 240l bin for a 2 bedroom the overall requirement for Mayfield would be in the region of 5 x 1100 litre bins. Members noted that due to the nature of the acquisition it may not be possible to lease purchase.

Resolved Proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Quayle and agreed by 5 votes to 3, that the project be retained, Messrs Cowie, Greenwood and McGuinness voting against.



(2020/21:244) Rate Setting - Review of Project Submissions continued

Project 10 - Market Square Toilets Sewer line

The Housing and Property Manager reported the project was subject to testing of the sewer line following internal repairs undertaken during the past year. It is possible that the work may not be necessary, following the early works there had been no further problems with the sewer however due to the Covid situation it had not been subject to the volume of use previously experienced due to a lack of visitors. Members commented that the scheme might therefore be deferred subject to how the system performs once the visitor economy has recovered.

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams that the scheme be rejected for one year.

The matter was put to the vote resulting on 4 votes in favour and 4 against. Messrs Cowie, Greenwood, McGuinness, and Williams supported the motion which was carried on Chairman's casting vote.

Project 11 Gardening Equipment

Members asked that further information be obtained on the existing asset list and replacement programme before the project is considered as part of the estimates process.

Project 12 - Water Feature surround

The Housing and Property Manager reported that the scheme would extend the safety matting around the Water Play Feature and could be undertaken before or after the works to the feature were completed. Regarding the major project investigation is currently ongoing to identify on-island contractors to complete the works.

Resolved: It was proposed by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Oldham, that the project be deferred for one year. The motion failed by 3 votes to 5, Mrs. Quayle and Wedgwood, and Messrs McGuinness, Williams and Young. The project was retained in the budget.

Project 13 – Coronation Park Toilet Block re-roofing.

The Housing and Property Manager confirmed that the budget includes planning and building regulation fees where applicable.

Resolved: It was proposed by Mr. Oldham, seconded by Mr. Young, and agreed by 6 votes to 2, Mr. Cowie and Canon Greenwood voting against, that the project proceed.



(2020/21:244) Rate Setting - Review of Project Submissions continued

Project 14 – Old River Road Structures Clearance

The Housing and Property Manager reported that a report on the site was included on the agenda for the January meeting.

Mr. McGuinness proposed, seconded by Mr. Oldham, that the project be rejected. An amendment was placed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Quayle, that the project be deferred for further consideration within the budget process.

Resolved: the amendment was voted on and failed by the Chairman's casting vote, Mrs. Wedgwood and Messrs Cowie, McGuinness, and Young voting against. The original motion passed by 6 votes to 2, Mrs. Quayle and Mr. Oldham voting against/

Project 15 Bicycle shelters

Resolved: Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed unanimously that the project be rejected.

Project 16 Landscaping

Mr. McGuinness commented that the Parks Section should prioritise works within its existing resources, suggesting that a reduction in the use of labour-intensive planters would enable the Section to concentrate on the landscaped areas. Mrs. Wedgwood commented that she felt planters added a lot to the park and should be retained.

Resolved: Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie, and agreed by the Chairman's casting vote, Mesdames Quayle and Wedgwood and Messrs Oldham and Williams voting against that the project be rejected and funded within existing Parks resources.

Project 17 - Town Hall Entrance

Members commented that a more detailed proposal was required rather than seeking just to appoint consultants.

Resolved: Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood and agreed unanimously that the project be rejected, and a more detailed proposal sought.

Project 18 - Mooragh CCTV camera upgrades.

Mr. McGuinness question how effective the CCTV was, and whether it had resulted in any successful prosecutions. Members noted that there was little if any vandalism in the parks.




(2020/21:244) Rate Setting - Review of Project Submissions continued

Resolved: Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie, and agreed by 6 votes to 2, Mrs. Quayle and Mr. Oldham voting against, that the project does not proceed.

Projects 19 & 20 – Heating Town Hall and Riverside Workshops.

Mr. McGuinness stated that he was, in principle, in favour of environmentally friendly heating schemes for both locations. Members noted that the boiler at Riverside needed replacement, and that the boilers at the town hall were now 20 years old and that plans should be in place to replace with an environmentally friendly solution in advance of any failure and forced replacement.

A proposal from Mr. Young that the project be rejected failed to obtain a seconder.

Resolved: Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams that the Riverside Boiler replacement be planned, but that alternatives to a carbon fuel replacement be sought within the budget if possible, and that further costings be sought from local suppliers for the town hall replacement heating system rather than appointing consultants. The motion was carried unanimously. 

At the conclusion of consideration of projects Mr. McGuinness suggested that the Finance Officer review the budget figures and circulate revised calculations to Members for discussion as part of private section of the January monthly board.

Members asked also that comment be provided on any projects which could be funded using unapplied capital receipts.

The meeting closed at 9:15p.m., giving a time of 2 ½ hours for the payment of attendance allowances.



Chairman.