

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS  
[ PUBLIC ]**

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in the Boardroom of the Town Hall, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, at 7.00 p.m.

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

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

**(2021/22:005) Minutes:**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2021, and those of the Special Meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> April, and 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**(2021/22:006) Matters Arising:**

No matters were raised.

**(2021/22:007) Chairman's Report:**

Resolved: To note the Chairman's report dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. The Chairman reiterated his congratulations to Mrs. Clarke and Mr. Garrett and to the Royal British Legion.

**Finance and General Purposes:**

**(2021/22:008) Town Clerk's Report – Adoption of Public Open Space:**

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, advising of the approval by the Department of Infrastructure of public open space at Royal Park for nominal consideration.

It was also noted that the Commissioners' advocates will progress conveyancing and registration and that all area offered for adoption will be inspected prior to final acceptance.



**(2021/22:009) Town Clerk's Report – Annual General Meeting:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, drawing attention to Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act, 1985, as amended which refers to the date of local authority Annual Meetings.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed the Commission's annual meeting be held on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021, subject to local authority general elections taking place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2021.

**(2021/22:010) Town Clerk's Report – Community Hub:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, referring to discussion held with representatives of the Cabinet Office with regard to the possibility of extending Government services by way of establishing "Community Hubs" one of which to be within the Town Hall.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed that the Commissioners support the introduction of Government Hub services at the Town Hall.

**(2021/22:011) Town Clerk's Report – Local Authority General Election 2021:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, reminding members of the proposed date for local authority general elections and requesting that, in view of the proximity of that date to the routine meeting of the Commission, the meeting be rescheduled.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed that the July, 2021, meeting of the Commissioners be held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup>.

**(2021/22:012) Town Clerk's Report – Members' Attendances:**

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, to which was appended the summary of Members' attendances for the financial year 2020/21. A typographical error on the appendix was corrected to reflect that Mrs. Wedgwood had attended 11 Special Board Meetings.



**(2021/22:013) Town Clerk’s Report – Boundary Extension:**

Members considered the Town Clerk’s tabled report dated 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, which detailed questions posed by the Department of Infrastructure and suggested responses thereto with regard to the Commission’s application to extend the Town Boundary, and to which was appended a draft timetable for the extension process.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed that the suggested responses be made to the Department.

**(2021/22:014) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – Local Policing Plans:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, concerning the Policing Plan about which views are sought on policing matters and views on priorities and also conveying the request of Superintendent Stephen Maddocks to meet the Commission.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed by 7 votes to 3, that the request to meet Superintendent Maddocks be deferred until a new Board is in place. Mrs. Wedgwood and Messrs. Cowie and Parker voted against.

In response to a query from Mr. Parker the Deputy Town Clerk undertook to enquire whether there is a timeframe for responses to the Plan.

**(2021/22:015) Finance Officer General Report:**

Resolved: To note and approved the Finance Officer’s general report dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, subject to the following:-

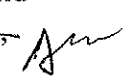
***IOM Bank Loans:*** It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed to:

- approve the draft Amendment Loan Agreement as provided by IOM Bank and,
- transfer existing LIBOR loan facilities to SONIA loan facilities.

**Works and Development:**

**(2021/22:016) Town Clerk’s Report – Area Plan for the North and West:**

Members discussed the Town Clerk’s report dated 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, concerning the consultation taking place with regard to the Area Plan for the North and West, responses to which are required to be submitted by 5.00 p.m. on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that a Special Board Meeting be convened to discuss this matter. ~~9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, respectively on these related matters including planning aspects.~~ 

**(2021/22:017) Town Clerk's Report – Art Installation North Barrule:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, concerning the Art Installation situate on North Barrule. The Town Clerk reminded members of the history of the application made in 2019 which was with-drawn, and that the matter had subsequently having been referred to planning enforcement by several parties. The Commission did not have interested party status in the original application but submitted a comment in opposition.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Parker seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed by 9 votes to 1, an update be sought from Planning Enforcement on this matter. Mr. McGuinness voted against.

**(2021/22:018) Town Clerk's Report – Fibre in Ramsey:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, advising of the further information supplied by Manx Telecom with regard to the provision of fibre poles throughout the Town. The Town Clerk advised that the authority has scheduled a meeting with some residents to which members of the Commission and Members of the House of Keys for Ramsey will be invited, which is to be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed that the Commission be represented at the meeting by a member or members and an officer with the remit to liaise and report back to the Board, following which a decision will be taken whether or not to arrange a private meeting with the authority.

Mr. Cowie indicated his wish to attend, and Mr. Parker stated he would also attend if needs be.

**(2021/22:019) Town Clerk's Report – Proposal to Register Ramsey War Memorial:**

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, advising of the proposal to Register War Memorials around the Island including that situate at the Courthouse Grounds in Ramsey as Registered Buildings.

Members were advised that the registration would not affect routine remedial works required to the monument and agreed that they had no reason to object to the proposal.



**(2021/22:020) Town Clerk's Report – Withdrawal of Public Phone Boxes:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, advising of the intention of Manx Telecom to withdraw 3 public telephone boxes from service in Rasmey, namely at Courthouse, Glen Elfin Road and Jurby Road. Members were reminded that a decision had already been taken to acquire the box at the Courthouse to facilitate installation of a defibrillator.

Mrs. Wedgwood drew attention to the box at Jurby Road being an obstruction on the footpath and as such caused people with prams or using wheel chairs to go onto the road. The Deputy Town Clerk, whilst declaring an interest as a Trustee advised that the League of Friends of Ramey and District Cottage Hospital has indicated a willingness to sponsor the provision of a defibrillator in the telephone box situate at Glen Elfin Road because of its location inside the T.T. Course.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr Williams seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed unanimously that Manx Telecom be informed of the Commission's agreement to the removal of the box at Jurby Road and of the wish to acquire the box at Glen Elfin Road to facilitate installation of a defibrillator.

**(2021/22:021) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications:**

Members agreed that the Technical Services Manager's Report dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, 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: 3884  
P.A. NO.: 21/00310/B  
PROPOSED: Creation of new door and window in side elevation  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **6, Parliament Square, Ramsey.**

It was proposed by Mr. Cowie, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed by 6 votes to 4 that the Commission submit an observation to express concern at the proposal to have a door opening outwards into a narrow lane. Mrs. Wedgwood and Messrs' McGuinness, Parker and Williams voting against.

REF NO: 3885  
P.A. NO.: 21/00326/OLA  
PROPOSED: Proposed alterations and erection of extension to rear elevation of dwelling  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **Orrisdale, Brookfield Crescent, Ramsey**

It was noted that this application was not taken forward and as such it was not possible to find the plans on-line.

**(2021/22:021) Technical Services Manager’s Report - Planning Applications Continued:**

REF NO: 3890  
P.A. NO.: 21/00531/GB / 21/0532/CON  
PROPOSED: Alterations and erection of a rear garage (Registered Building No. 151)  
NOTES: Registered Building  
SITE: **Norwood, May Hill, Ramsey.**

The address of this application was corrected to read “4, Albion Terrace, Ramsey”.

No comments were made on the Appendices.

**(2021/22:022) Technical Services Manager’s Report – Auldyn House Parliament Street:**

Resolved: To note the Technical Services Manager’s tabled report dated 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, concerning the property Auldyn House, Parliament Street, and for which an application to demolish has been submitted and an emergency demolition directive issued.

It was also noted that the timeline for works reflects a commencement, in earnest date, of 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Housing and Property:**

**(2021/22:022) Housing and Property Manager’s Report – Housing Performance and Statistics:**

Resolved: To note the Housing and Property Manager’s report dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, to which was appended the Fourth Quarter’s Statistics to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021.

Mr Cowie referred to the lower percentage of property inspections and was informed that this was owing to Covid-19 restrictions and that although some tenants are still reserved about allowing people into their homes the number of inspections are getting back to usual levels.



**Parks and Leisure:**

**(2021/22:023) Town Clerk's Report "Pickle Ball":**

Members discussed the Town Clerk's report dated 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, concerning the request made by a resident about marking a tennis court in the Mooragh Park to facilitate the playing of "Pickle Ball". Members were reminded that the Tennis Courts are subject to a seven-year lease agreement with Ramsey Tennis Club, who also have control of the lights provided at the courts.

A proposal by Mr. Parker that the Commission support a trial on one court subject to discussions with the Tennis Club did not receive a seconder.

A proposal by Mr. Oldham that the matter be deferred until the views of the Tennis Club are known was also un-seconded.

A further proposal by Mr. Parker that the Commission support the application if the Clubs can reach mutual agreement again did not receive a seconder.

Further discussion ensued during which it was suggested that use could be made of tennis courts at Ramsey Grammar School.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mrs. Quayle, seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood and agreed by 9 votes to 1, Mr. Cowie voting against, that the "Pickle Ball" club be advised to enter into discussions with Ramsey Tennis Club, as tenants of the courts in the Mooragh Park.

**Notice of Motion:**

**(2021/22:024) Notice of Motion – "Deckchairs" standing in the name of Mr. J. McGuinness:**

It was agreed by the Chairman that the Notice of Motion dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, standing in the name of Mr. McGuinness be considered, namely

"That the board agree that Ramsey Town Commissioners commit to the deckchairs being available on every weekend over the summer months until September, so that the amenity space at the heart of the town centre is used to its maximum potential and agree to the practical requirements to ensure this is carried out."

The Notice was seconded by Mr. Williams.

Members queried how setting out and taking in deckchairs could be achieved and at what overtime costs. The Technical Services Manager advised that those men already on call for other duties could set out the deckchairs at no extra costs and informed members that a Kermelly's Fishmonger had indicated a wish to sight some of their own deckchairs and had indicated a willingness to take in the Commissioners chairs at the same time as their own.

Resolved: To agree to the Notice of Motion and permit Kermelly's to site their own chairs and accept their kind offer to take in all deckchairs at the end of each day.

**Any Other Business:**

**(2021/22:025) Land Parliament Street:**

Mr. Williams referred to a request put to him that the Commission consider the purchase of land at the junction of East Street and Parliament Street, adjacent to an Italian restaurant. The Town Clerk informed members that the land is understood to be on the market for sale at a price of £345,000.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed by 9 votes to 1, that the Commission do not progress any enquiries for the acquisition of the land. Mr. Oldham voted against.

**(2021/22:026) Charges and Weekend Opening Civic Amenity Site:**

Mr. McGuinness referred to complaints put to him about charges made for depositing rubble at, and the weekend opening hours of, the Civic Amenity Site. Mr. Cowie made reference to the removal of electrical items.

Resolved: That Mr. Oldham, as the representative on the Committee, bring these matters to the Committee and report back to the Commissioners in due course.

**(2021/22:027) Broken Sewer Pipe:**

Mr. Young drew attention to a broken sewer pipe which was discharging “detergent” (sic) onto the beach. Mr. Young was informed that Manx Utilities were aware of the problem. The Town Clerk was requested to raise the matter with the authority.

**(2021/22:028) Congested Entrance Auldyn Meadows:**

Mr. Parker drew attention to complaints put to him about congestion at the entrance to Auldyn Meadows in that numerous vehicles are parking close to a roundabout. The Town Clerk undertook to raise the matter with the Highways Division.

**(2021/22:029) Representative Reports:**

Resolved: To note the representative reports submitted by Mr. Cowie and Mr. McGuinness for the Isle of Man Municipal Association and the Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board, respectively.

It was further resolved that, following a proposal by Mr. Cowie seconded by Mrs. Wedgwood that the Town Clerk communicate with the Minister concerning progress on rate reform.

The Chairman closed the public session at 8.16 p.m. and, after thanking Mrs. Woolley and a member of the public for their attendance, moved 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.

**(2021/22:030) Minutes:**

It was noted, for record purposes that no matters from the Board Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April or the Special Meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> April or 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, were recorded in private.

**Matters for Information:**

**(2021/22:031) Housing Committee:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

**(2021/22:032) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker”:**

Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker” to 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, and the following comments made thereon, accepting that some matters may be referred to within other Clauses of these minutes:-

- **War Memorial** – in response to a query from Mr. Cowie members were advised that registration of the War Memorial (Clause 019) refers) would not affect the placement of the Royal British Legion’s plaque.
- **Ramsey North Beach (Raft)** – the Housing and Property Manager advised that the raft is half-completed but advised of difficulties in obtaining suitable timber, because of waiting lists. Mr. Young suggested that treated larch-decking might be a suitable alternative.
- **Toilet Art** – the Deputy Town Clerk advised that works would be completed after the Summer Season and had a completion date of March 2022.
- **Ramsey Quayside** – the Town Clerk read a letter from the Director of Highways confirming items raised by the Commission and seeking the Commission’s support to a submission of a planning application. It was agreed that a further meeting be held with the Planners and Design Team – Mrs. Wedgwood and Messrs. Williams and Oldham volunteering to attend in company with officer(s). Mr. Young suggested the need for further public consultation.

Members also noted the Register of Ruinous Property and Unsightly Land and Buildings to 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, subject to the following:-

- **Auldyn House** – the Technical Services Manager advised that the owner has been asked if they are prepared to make a contribution towards public relations and raising awareness that businesses are open as usual.
- **10/11 West Quay** – the Technical Services Manager advised that the owner has agreed to seek a Structural Engineers Report following concerns raised about the condition of the building.
- **The Holly, Grove Mount** – the Technical Services Manager advised that Notice has been served

**(2021/22:032) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker”:** continued

- *Seymour House, Ballure Road* – the Technical Services Manager again advised that Notice has been served.

**Finance and General Purposes:**

Mr. Oldham withdrew from the meeting during discussion of the following clause.

**(2021/22:033) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – Ramsey Courthouse Expressions of Interest:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s tabled report dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, to which was appended details of 2 expressions of interest with regard to operation of the former Ramsey Courthouse.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr Cowie, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed, both parties be invited to make presentations to the Commission.

Mr. McGuinness queried the option of the Commission operating the premises and was advised that it was not dis-similar from one of the expressions but that a paper would be prepared.

Mr. Oldham returned to the meeting.

**(2021/22:034) Finance Officer’s Report:**

Resolved: To note and approved the Finance Officer’s Report dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

**(2021/22:035) Technical Assistant’s Report – Fixed Penalty Appeal:**

Members considered the Technical Assistant’s report dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, advising that an appeal has been submitted against a fixed penalty notice issued for littering, the appellant stating that he was not responsible for all the packaging.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed that the Notice stand. Members noted that the appellant did admit to depositing some packaging and agreed that if the communication implied responsibility for all packaging, apology be made, having regard, however, to the resolution.

Concern was raised about the regularly overflowing recycling bins and it was agreed to raise the matter with the Department of Infrastructure.



**Housing and Property:**

**(2021/22:036) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Close Woirrey:**

Members received the Housing and Property Manager's tabled report dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, concerning proposals for the redevelopment of Close Woirrey.

Resolved: To defer consideration of the matter and the Housing and Property Manager report further after a meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

**Parks and Leisure:**

**(2021/22:037) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Fireworks Display 2021:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, concerning the 2021 Fireworks Display.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Parker seconded by Mr. Cowie and agreed by 9 votes to 1, Canon Greenwood voting against, that the fireworks display be held, weather permitting on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, with 6<sup>th</sup> November as a reserve date.

It was further resolved, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and also agreed by 9 votes to 1, Canon Greenwood again voting against, to recommend a theme based around "Marvel Superheroes"

The Deputy Town Clerk was requested to report back giving detailed costings.

A suggestion by Mr. Cowie that the Commission have donation buckets to assist with funding the event received no support.

**(2021/22:038) Events:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's tabled report ~~un-dated report~~ concerning events schedule to take place in Ramsey.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr Cowie, seconded by Mrs. McGuinness and agreed the Family Funday, scheduled to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> August be transferred to 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, in view of the Rotary Club of Ramsey having informed the Deputy Town Clerk that the Club cannot run its event in 2021.

It was further resolved to agree to permit a Tin Bath Race to be held on the same day as Ramsey Carnival, namely 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 – members agreed that both events will complement each other.

**Any Other Business:**

**(2021/22:039) Complaints Policy:**

The Town Clerk verbally reported feedback from the Tynwald Administrator in which a shorter response time than that included within the Commission's existing policy is suggested.

Resolved: That the Commission's existing policy remain in place.

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



Chairman.