

**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, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Messrs. A. J. Oldham, G. S. Court, R. D. Cowell, Revd Canon N. D. Greenwood, S. R. Kelly, J. McGuinness, L. I. Singer, 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.

**(2021/22:105) Minutes:**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, and those of the Annual Meeting and the Special Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, respectively be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Board Meeting for 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, had been confirmed at a previous Board meeting and are brought into public, the consent of parties involved having now been received.

**(2021/22:106) Matters Arising:**

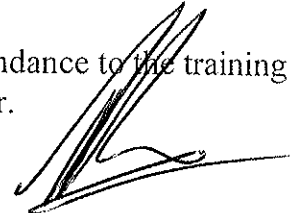
No matters were formally raised.

**(2021/22:107) Chairman's Report:**

Resolved: To note the Chairman's report dated 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, subject to the following:-

The Chairman reiterated his thanks to members in electing him Chairman

***Training for Commissioners*** – the Chairman commended attendance to the training to be given by the Department of Infrastructure on 14<sup>th</sup> September.



**Finance and General Purposes:**

**(2021/22:108) Town Clerk's Report – Kayak and Paddleboard Hire Foreshore:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, concerning the request made by The Venture Centre to operate occasional kayak and paddleboard hire from the beaches in Ramsey, which has been given approval after electronic communication.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Court and agreed that confirmation be given to the approval in terms of Byelaw 5 of the Ramsey Public Parks and Foreshore Byelaws 2020. Mr. Williams declared an interest and did not vote.

Mr. McGuinness proposed that the order of business be varied to enable the Notices of Motion to be considered at this point. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Williams and carried.

**(2021/22:124) Notices of Motion:**

Mr. Williams presented his Notices of Motion and explained his thinking in reducing the workloads put upon members, reducing the number of members and removal of ward boundaries and in so doing encouraged debate. It was agreed to consider the Notices severally.

**124(a) *Merger of Responsibilities*** In proposing the Notice of Motion Mr. Williams explained that the proposal would ease the strain on the Board by reducing the number of posts to be filled at the Annual Meetings, especially in view of recent difficulties in filling vacancies.

Mr. Singer in opposing the proposition felt that members were in position to work together for the Town the merger might result in a "clique" of those members with responsibility. He expressed the view that all members would want to be involved with the work of the Commission and that the proposition represented change for change's sake which was not for the better. Mr. Cowell felt that the proposal could be considered "closing doors" and that the workloads could be spread.

Mr. Williams's proposal did not receive a seconder and no vote was taken.

**124(b) *Merger of Representatives, and Isle of Man Municipal Association:***

Mr. Williams explained his thinking that combining representation as a "Safety Representative" to represent the Commission on the Policing Level One Meetings and the Northern Traffic Liaison Group; and a "Community Representative" to represent the Commission on the Manx Wildlife Trust and the Chamber of Commerce would again ease the strain on the Commission and felt that there was logistical cohesion within the roles. The proposal was put by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. McGuinness.

**(2021/22:124) Notices of Motion Continued:**

The proposal also included that the “merged” representatives also sit on the Ramsey Regeneration Committee if it is reformed and that the Commission be no longer represented on the Isle of Man Municipal Association.

Mr. Singer queried how the members elected to the posts felt had been sought. He felt that the present arrangements assured greater involvement of members; and suggested that representation on the Municipal Association be deferred until the new representatives had time to assess the value of attendance. Mr. Singer asked that the matters be voted on severally.

Mr. Court indicated he was willing to accept the advice with regard to the Municipal Association but felt that keeping the other appointments separated gave better service and ensured differing points of view.

Mr. Court proposed an amendment to keep the representation separate. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Singer. Mr. Singer also moved deferral on membership of the Municipal Association.

*on Ramsey Wildlife Trust & the Chamber of Commerce*

It was noted that any changes would not come into effect until the next Annual Meeting of the Commission. The Amendment was carried and no vote taken on the question of Municipal Association Membership.

***124(c) Reduction of Number of Members and Abolition of Wards:***

Mr. Williams in presenting the Motion suggested, having regard to difficulties faced by local authorities in filling vacancies, reduce the membership from 12 to 8. He also felt that maintaining the wards was no longer necessary as members served the whole town. Mr. Williams felt that such actions should not take place before April 2022 at the earliest or from the date of the next local authority general elections.

Members discussed the proposal but felt that whilst the ward boundaries had no bearing in how they represented the Town there was financial benefit in maintaining them for elections. Little support was forthcoming for reducing the number of members.

It was felt that to reduce the number of elected members because candidates were not forthcoming was defeatist. Mr. Singer referred to the rotational system for the election of members to local authorities and felt this provided better continuity of membership with only 1/3 of the members standing for election at a time, he considered the “General Election” system has not achieved the aims in stimulating interest in local authorities. He felt that the status quo should be maintained until after the next House of Keys’ election but the matter be discussed thereafter.



**(2021/22:124) Notices of Motion Continued:**

It was proposed by Mr. Cowell, seconded by Mr. Williams that these matters be deferred to a future Special Meeting. The proposal was carried by 8 votes to 1, Mr. McGuinness voting against.

Mr. Kelly commended increasing awareness of local authority membership via social media or open days. Mr. Oldham agreed there needs to be a better way of engaging with the public.

**(2021/22:110) Town Clerk's Report – Local Authority Vacancies:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, concerning the vacancies in the Commission arising due to insufficient candidates having been forthcoming at the recent local authority general elections and conveying the request from the Department of Infrastructure to delay filling such vacancies, should the Commission decide to do so.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed, vacancies on North Ward be filled as soon as practicable after the House of Keys' elections.

It was further resolved, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Court and agreed, that the Department of Infrastructure be informed that the Commission believe that access to electronic voting needs to be improved immediately.

**(2021/22:111) Town Clerk's Report – Members' Attendances Allowances:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021, concerning the payment of attendance allowances in terms of the 2013 Order and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1985.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that the Commission pay attendance allowances only for formal meetings of the Commission.

**(2021/22:112) Town Clerk's Report – Wayleave Bircham Avenue Area:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, concerning the provision of poles, to facilitate the provision of fibre broadband, by Manx Telecom on land in the Commission's ownership at Bircham Avenue and in respect of which the approval of the Department of Infrastructure would be required.

Resolved: That the matter be deferred to enable further report providing details of comparison costs for the provision of underground cables : cables and also details of any ground rent payments to the authority for the siting of poles on land in their ownership, in respect of which the advice of the Government Valuer will be required.



**(2021/22:113) Finance Officer General Report:**

Resolved: To note and approved the Finance Officer's general report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

The Lead Member took the opportunity to advise members that the budget process for 2022/23 would commence in December but that Lead Members are welcome to discuss any ideas with the Finance Officer before that date; and that any members are welcome to discuss any matter of finance with the Finance Officer at any time.

**Works and Development:**

**(2021/22:114) Town Clerk's Report – Consultation Single-Use Plastic:**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, concerning the consultation with regard to Single-Use Plastic, for which responses are required by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

A proposal was put by Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. Young that a response be submitted in the name of the Commission.

Mr. McGuinness proposed that the Commission take the opportunity to promote the Town by way, for example, of the provision of a cloth bag. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Court and agreed without division.

Mr. Kelly withdrew his original proposal.

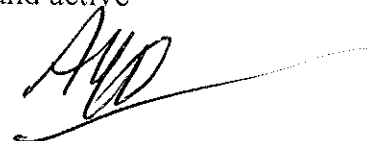
**(2021/22:115) Town Clerk's Report – Register of Protected Buildings:**

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021, detailing properties in Ramsey appearing on the Register of Protected Buildings.

It was noted that the Department of the Environment has acknowledged the Commission's request to have the Swing Bridge included on the register.

**(2021/22:116) Town Clerk's Report – Residential Design Guide:**

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2021, advising of the updating of the guidance document for residential design for houses and extensions in the Isle of Man and providing the relevant website link. The update has more emphasis on environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity and active travel.

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**(2021/22:117) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications:**

Members agreed that the Technical Services Manager's Report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 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: 3910  
P.A. NO.: 21/00696/C  
PROPOSED: Change of use from office to a gaming/entertainment lounge  
NOTES: P.A. - Change of Use  
SITE: **2 - 4, Peel Street, Ramsey**

Members discussed the application and queried whether any gambling slot machines would be installed. The Town Clerk advised that if that was to be the case a specific licence would be required. Members had mixed views with regard to specific hours of opening being included as part of any approval.

It was proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McGuinness that no comments be made on the application, which was carried by 7 votes 2, Messrs' Kelly and Singer voting against, being in favour of an observation with regard to gaming machines not being permitted.

REF NO: 3911  
P.A. NO.: 21/00744/B  
PROPOSED: Siting and cladding of a storage container to be used as motorcycle storage/workshop in rear garden and widening of existing driveway access (part retrospective)  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **1, Lezayre Park, Ramsey.**

Resolved: Following a proposal by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Cowell and agreed that the Commission submit an objection to the application which they consider is over intensive for domestic use and might also create an unwelcome precedent.

REF NO: 3913  
P.A. NO.: 21/00810/C  
PROPOSED: Change of use from motorbike workshop to leisure facility and kart repair workshop  
NOTES: P.A. - Change of Use  
SITE: **Unit 1B, Gladstone Park Industrial Estate, Ramsey.**

Mr. McGuinness suggested the application be refused in view of concerns raised to other changes of use on this Industrial Estate. The Town Clerk advised that the application would be suitable for the area as it did not fit into a usual "street retail" category. The Technical Services Manager advised that "The Gym" and "Dog Training" came under the same criteria.



**(2021/22:117) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications Continued:**

Discussion ensued with regard to noise that might emanate in view of the proximity of houses. Mr. Singer asked if a noise attenuation system could be installed? Mr. Cowell responded that such a system would be extremely expensive and it might deter the applicant. The Town Clerk advised that any problems with noise can be dealt with through Environmental Health.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Cowell, seconded by Mr. Court and agreed to approve the application subject to an observation with regard to the playing of music and a cap on the hours of opening, no later than 10.00 p.m., be included within any approval.

REF NO: 3914  
P.A. NO.: 21/00814/B  
PROPOSED: Creation of a driveway and vehicular access  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **2, Coburg Road, Ramsey.**

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. Singer and agreed, the application be approved subject to an observation that double yellow lines be placed in front of the property to prevent parking on the road to enable access.

REF NO: 3915  
P.A. NO.: 21/00868/B  
PROPOSED: Erection of an extension to the rear elevation and creation of raised decking  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **46, Claughbane Drive, Ramsey.**

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed, the application be approved subject to an observation that access to the covered manhole should be maintained.

REF NO: 3916  
P.A. NO.: 21/00937/C  
PROPOSED: Change of use from light industrial to the assemblage, storage and sales of furniture goods  
NOTES: P.A. – Change of Use  
SITE: **Unit 24, Gladstone Park Industrial Estate, Ramsey**

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed, the Commission object to this application because it does not comply with the Ramsey Local Plan or the Isle of Man Strategic Plan Business Policy 5.



**(2021/22:117) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications Continued:**

REF NO: 3918  
P.A. NO.: 21/00947/B  
PROPOSED: Creation of a driveway and vehicular access  
NOTES: P.A. in Detail  
SITE: **Ballachrink, 3a, Coburg Road, Ramsey.**

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams seconded by Mr. Court and agreed, the application be approved subject to an observation that access to the covered manhole should be maintained.

**Appendix:**

No comments were made on the Appendices to the report.

**Housing and Property:**

**(2021/22:118) Town Clerk's Report – Refurbishment of Cronk Elfin Houses:**

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, advising of the approval by the Department of Infrastructure of the Commission's petition for borrowing powers in respect of refurbishment works at Cronk Elfin, following a successful pilot scheme.

**(2021/22:119) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Housing Performance and Statistics 2021/22:**

Resolved: To note the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, to which was appended the First Quarter's statistics required to be provided to the Department of Infrastructure.

**(2021/22:120) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Public Sector Rents 2022-23:**

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, advising that the Commission's comments are sought on the rents for public sector housing for 2022-23 and detailing recent increases applied in recent years.

Mr. Cowell proposal that it would not sit well if the Commission sought an increase – the proposal was not seconded, following debate about the increased costs being incurred in undertaking maintenance works and the increasing costs of materials. The Housing and Property Manager advised that any rent increase would result in a greater sum being available for maintenance. The Town Clerk advised that leaving maintenance allowances unchanged may cause future problems.





**(2021/22:120) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Public Sector Rents 2022-23 Continued:**

Mr. Williams suggested that having no increase in rents, although beneficial in the short-term, would not necessarily be for the best in that any future increased could be for greater percentages.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that the Department of Infrastructure be informed that the Commission would wish to see a 1% rise in public sector housing rentals with the maintenance allowance being increased to 30%.

**Parks and Leisure:**

**(2021/22:121) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Car Boot Sale:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, advising of the request made by Miss Louise Hitchen to hold a charity car boot sale in the vicinity of the rugby pitch in September, 2021.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed, permission be granted.

**(2021/22:122) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Masons in the Park Event:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, advising of the request made by the Northern Freemasons to hold a Charitable Fund-Raising Event in the Mooragh Park 2022, following the success of their 2021 event.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed by 8 votes to 1, permission be granted. Mr. Cowell voted against.

**(2021/22:123) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Ramsey Skate Park**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, advising of the request made by Mr. Andrew Storey to install two additional features in Ramsey Skate Park, for which he is running a "GoFundMe" page via social media.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Mr. Singer, permission be granted.

A proposal by Mr. Cowell that the Commission match funds raised to a maximum of £400, was withdrawn when it was explained that the Commission's workforce would be installing any new equipment provided.



**Any Other Business:**

**(2021/22:124) “Meet and Greet” Sessions:**

Mr. Williams referred to comments made during discussion on his Notices of Motion and suggested that the reintroduction of “Meet and Greet” would be beneficial, especially with a new Board. The Town Clerk advised that it is hoped to reintroduce these sessions on a quarterly basis. Mr. McGuinness expressed reservations about using the Courthouse at the same time of the Farmers’ Markets are taking place and suggested if Meet and Greet continue to be on a Saturday morning the venue be changed from the Courthouse to the Town Hall.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Cowell and agreed “Meet and Greet” sessions be held quarterly at the Courthouse between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

**(2021/22:125) “Action Tracker”**

Mr McGuinness referred to the Action Tracker presented in Private and asked that consideration be given to presenting some matters within the Public Agenda.

**(2021/22:126) Community Policing Public Meeting:**

Mr. McGuinness referred to the recently held public meeting organised by the Isle of Man Constabulary which he and Mr. Oldham had attended. Mr. McGuinness felt the meeting to be beneficial but not very well attended, because he considered it not to have been advertised sufficiently. Mr. McGuinness requested his comments be conveyed to the Police.

**2021/22:127) Climate Change:**

The Town Clerk took the opportunity to advise members that a Special Board Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, to consider the Consultation on the Outline and Principles for the First Statutory Climate Change Plan 2022 – 2027 and advised also that personnel from Cabinet Office would be in attendance at the Town Hall, Ramsey, on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> August between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, to discuss the matter with any members of the public wishing to do so.

**2021/22:128) South Foreshore:**

Mr. Young referred to the clearing of the South Foreshore, which he understood has taken place. Mr. Court qualified that the work was not yet completed but a good start had been made.

The Chairman closed the public session at 8.35 p.m. and, after members of the public and media 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.

**(2021/22:129) Minutes:**

It was noted, for record purposes that no matters from the Board Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, nor the Special Meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, were recorded in private.

**Matters for Information:**

**(2021/22:130) Housing Committee:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2021, subject to the following:

*Clause 32b) Cronk Elfin External Refurbishment* – in response to a query from Mr. Kelly, members were reminded that this matter had been reported in public Clause 118 refers.

*Clauses 36b and 36c)* – in response to a query from Mr. Singer, the Housing and Property Manager explained the circumstances which had resulted in applicants for transfers of tenancies losing points on the housing waiting lists.

**(2021/22:131) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker”:**

Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker” to 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, subject to the following and accepting that some matters may be referred to within other Clauses of these minutes:-

The Chairman undertook to prioritise the Action Tracker to determine what matters could be brought into public.

- *Shelter Public Art* – Mr. Young welcomed the painting of the public shelters but felt the topics did not fit the criteria originally specified by the Commission.
- *Changing Huts Mooragh Promenade* – members were informed that provision of changing huts has been deferred as the North Beach has not achieved suitable quality of bathing water.
- *Street Traders* – the Town Clerk confirmed the matter is due to be considered by the Commission’s Policy Committee, scheduled to meet in September.
- *Empty Pubs* – in response to a query, members were informed that a meeting between officers and Heron & Brearley is being arranged.



**(2021/22:132) Technical Services Manager' Report - Ruinous Properties....**

Members considered the Technical Services Manager's tabled report dated 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, concerning ruinous properties in Ramsey and advising that an application has been submitted to Building Control for full demolition thereof. It was noted that the applicant does not have a structural engineer's report which may result in the Commission becoming involved with the application.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Kelly should it be necessary the Technical Services Manager be authorised to gain entry to the premises in terms of Section 35 of the Local Government Act 2985, to enable a structural engineer of the Commission's choosing to carry out a survey to determine an appropriate course of action.

Mr. Cowell expressed concern at the number of properties being demolished around the town. The Town Clerk advised members that a special board meeting is being scheduled to discuss ruinous buildings.

Mr. Oldham suggested a deferral, to which the Technical Services Manager responded that it may be necessary to seek approval as a matter of urgency. The Town Clerk advised that the other option available to the Commission would be to go through the Courts to seek the approval of the High Bailiff to progress the matter.

The proposal was put to the vote and carried by 6 votes to 3, Messrs. Court, McGuinness and Young voting against.

Mr. McGuinness referred to another property, in respect of which a "Time and Place" meeting is being arranged and was informed that advice is awaited from the Environmental Health Officers.

**Finance and General Purposes:**

**(2021/22:133) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Ramsey Courthouse:**

Mr. Oldham withdrew from the meeting at prior to any discussion on this clause and Mr. Williams occupied the Chair.

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's tabled report dated 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, presenting the current situation with regard to Ramsey Courthouse, and advising of receipt of a further expression of interest. Mr. McGuinness informed members of the history of the Courthouse and the Deputy Town Clerk gave a brief synopsis of the two parties having submitted expressions of interest

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Court and agreed a special meeting be held on 6<sup>th</sup> September to enable presentations by the two parties and that the late expression be not considered.

Mr. Oldham returned to the meeting at this stage and resumed occupancy of the Chair.

**(2021/22:134) Finance Officer's Report:**

Resolved: To note and approved the Finance Officer's Report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, subject to the following:-

*Estimates and Revenue Expenditure* – the Finance Officer informed members that he would be willing to discuss the format of presentation of the information with any member.

*Rent Arrears* - in response to a query from Mr. Singer member were informed of the methods available and difficulties in recovering long-standing rent arrears.

*Aged Debtors* – in response to a query from Mr. Singer the Finance Officer explained the “long-term” debts and also advised that one of the larger debts included within the list had been paid since the list was prepared.

*in response to several queries members were informed:-*

- i) Rate and Insurance in Housing and Property Expenditure reflected rates only at this stage;
- ii) Domestic Refuse Expenditure reflected different time periods than the previous year. The Finance Officer was requested to provide details of actual year-end figures as compared to budget figures.
- iii) Petty Cash – the principles of the Petty Cash account reflected as a cumulative figure for items of sundry petty expenditure was explained.

*Aged Debtors* –reference was made to two debtors in particular and members were informed that one had agreed to enter into a payment plan but had not yet commenced payments and the Finance Officer was “chasing” the other.

**(2021/22:135) Technical Assistant's Report – Fixed Penalty Appeals:**

Members considered and discussed the Technical Assistant's report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, detailing appeals submitted against fixed penalty notices issued in respect of two offences of littering in the vicinity of the Recycling area at Station Road Car Park.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Mr. McGuiness and agreed by 6 votes to 3, the appeals be rejected. Messrs. Kelly, Singer and Young voted against.

It was further proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Singer that a sign be erected advising that items should not be left on the ground. The Technical Services Manager advised that the Recycling area came under the control of the Department of Infrastructure to whom she would refer the Commission's request. Mr. Williams's proposal was not put to the vote. in that Dogs had been brought into the Mooragh Park contrary to byelaws.



**Housing and Property:**

**(2021/22:136) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Capital Schemes Business Cases:**

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, advising of business cases for three capital schemes which it is proposed to progress, subject to relevant approvals, and inclusion of such schemes within Government's budget. It was noted that Government have been advised of the schemes in view of their time schedules.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed, to approve the business cases and following the Department of Infrastructure's approval, proceed to tender for the respective schemes.

It was noted that further reports will be made to the Board.

**(2021/22:137) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Close Woirrey:**

A proposal was put by Mr Williams, seconded by Mr. Kelly to defer consideration of the Housing and Property Manager's report to a special meeting of the Commission.

Mr. McGuinness outlined the history of this matter and indicated the financial implications by either rate or housing deficiency and proposed the matter be considered at this meeting. This proposal did not receive a seconder.

The matter was not put to a vote but progressed and discussion ensued.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Williams the matter, and to submit an offer to acquire the former Albert Road School site, be progressed. Mr. McGuinness amended his proposal to include a specific figure.

The Town Clerk advised that the advice of the Government Valuer would need to be sought with regard to land value, and that of the Department of Infrastructure with regard to the stance on housing implications. The Town Clerk further advised that progressing the matter fully, only as housing, could take years to bring to fruition.

**(2021/22:138) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Planned Preventative Maintenance Town Hall:**

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, advising of an underpayment to a contractor in respect of a previously completed fixed-price contract, due to clerical errors on the part of the contractor; and the oversight of the presentation of such contract for renewal for the Board's approval.



**(2021/22:138) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Planned Preventative Maintenance Town Hall Continued:**

Mr. Williams expressed the view that the Commission should go out to tender. The Housing and Property Manager concurred that this would normally be the procedure but it had been considered beneficial at that time not to do so and advised that the contract price was considered competitive and provides good value for money.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Mr. Singer and agreed to make 12 monthly repayments of the balance due and approve the renewal of the contract for a period of 5 years, from February, 2021.

It was proposed by Mr. Oldham, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue to its conclusion.

**(2021/22:139) Technical Services Manager's Report – Christmas Tree Selection:**

Members considered the Technical Services Manager's report dated 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, providing options of the artificial decorative tree that might be provided at the Courthouse Grounds. Mr. McGuinness explained the current policy of budgeting to regularly renew decorative and festive lighting.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr Cowell and agreed by 6 votes to 3, Messrs. Canon Greenwood, McGuinness and Young voting against the tree illustrated at Option 1 be purchased.

**(2021/22:140) Technical Assistant's Report – Application for Reserved Space:**

Members considered the Technical Assistant's report dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, advising of the request made by a tenant for a reserved parking space in a rear car park close to their recently acquired tenancy. It was noted that the applicant has a Disabled Driver Blue Badge.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Williams seconded by Mr. Cowell and agreed the request be approved.

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**Parks and Leisure:**

**(2021/22:141) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Christmas Events:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, concerning Christmas events scheduled to take place within the Town.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Court and agreed the events be approved, namely

Christmas Lights Switch-On – with entertainment 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2021;  
Festival of Christmas Trees - between 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022,  
Carols at the Courthouse – 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

It was agreed to ask the Farmers' Market to extend or change their hours to enhance the events.

**(2021/22:142) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Fireworks Display 5<sup>th</sup> November:**

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, updating the Commission on the arrangements in place for the Fireworks Display on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The Technical Services Manager advised that trees on "The Island" will be limbed and not removed.

**(2021/22:143) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Media Partnership for Events:**

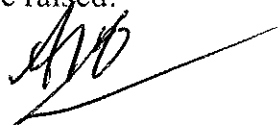
Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, advising of a request made by local radio stations to enter into a "media partnership" arrangement for the Fireworks Display and for the Switch-on of the Christmas Lights.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that the radio stations be informed that the Commission is not willing to enter into a partnership as suggested.

Members felt that an arrangement, possibly including the Ramsey Chamber of Commerce would be more beneficial.

**Any Other Business:**

No matters were raised.





**Ramsey Town Commissioners Board Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, Continued:**

**Matters of Establishment:**

**(2021/22:144) Minutes Establishment Committee:**

Members considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

Mr. Singer enquired about the selection process with regard to the appointment of the Town Clerk. Staff, other than the Town Clerk were requested to withdraw from the meeting at this point, 10.15 p.m.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

The meeting closed at 10:25p.m. giving a time of 3 hours 30 minutes for the payment of attendance allowances.



Chairman.