

**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, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Mr. A. J. Oldham, Miss L. L. Craine, Messrs. A. R. Beighton, G. Court, R. D. Cowell, Revd Canon N. D. Greenwood, S. R. Kelly, J. McGuinness, F. B. R. Williams and W. G. Young.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. L. Parker

A vacancy exists in South Ward.

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

**Mr. Leonard Singer.** Members stood in memory of Mr. Singer who passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. Tribute was paid to his remarkable 50 years in politics as a Councillor in the UK; a local Commissioners, former Deputy Speaker and Member of the House of Keys, and former Member of the Legislative Council and of his services to the Community as a local pharmacist, and through his involvement with the League of Friends and Ramsey Music Society.

**(2023/24:270) Minutes:**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on be 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**(2023/24:271) Matters Arising:**

The Town Clerk sought permission to bring his report concerning the forthcoming by-Election into public. It was proposed by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed nem con that the Town Clerk's report dated be brought into the public sector.  
[Clause refers]

**Matters for Information:**

**(2023/24:272) Action Tracker January, 2024:**

Mr. Cowell arrived at the meeting at this point [7.07 p.m.]

Resolved: To note the "Action Tracker" to 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, subject to the following and accepting that some matters may be referred to within other Clauses of these minutes:-



**Mooragh Promenade Shelter Public Art** – Mr. McGuinness asked if there was any news about completion of the public shelter. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that the school had not yet indicated when they would be able to finish putting the seagull into the shelter, but that the school was keen to increase its community involvement.

**Move from Weekly to Monthly Pay** – Miss Craine asked about the union meetings. The Town Clerk informed members that the meeting had taken place but he had not been present but had asked for feedback.

**Mooragh Park Disabled Parking** – Miss Craine queried why there had been need to inform Costa of proposals. Members were reminded that any proposals to provide disabled parking would affect the company and the positioning of the bay needs careful consideration to ensure safety of children using the water-feature. Mr. McGuinness reminded members that the original decision was that the matter be progressed by the Lead Member and Deputy Lead Member for Parks and Leisure.

**BMX Track** Miss Craine referred to the closure of the BMX Club and proposed that the future maintenance of the area be added to the Action Tracker. The proposal was seconded by Mr. McGuinness.

Mr. Cowell proposed an amendment that the matter be considered after the budget setting process is complete as there may be future cost implications. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Oldham and put to the vote, which resulted in a split vote 5:5; Messrs. Beighton, Cowell, Kelly, Oldham and Young voting for. The Chairman used his casting vote with the amendment.

**Bus Services** – Mr. McGuinness proposed that the Commission once again approach the Bus Vannin with regard to the lack of late-night bus services between Ramsey and the West of the Island. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that he had been discussing other matters with Bus Vannin and had mentioned this matter with them.

**(2023/24:273) Action Tracker Budget Approved and Proposed Projects:**

Resolved: To note the Action Tracker of Budget Approved projects at 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, and that for proposals for 2023/24, subject to the following:-

**Solar Panels** – the Town Clerk informed members that it is hoped to install the solar panels by the end of March, 2024.

**Toilets Millennium Garden** – the Town Clerk referred to the planning refusal comments and informed members that there needs to be liaison with the flood risk section of the Department of Infrastructure; the appearance needs to be reviewed and the position changed. It is hoped to submit an updated report in February 2024.

Mr. Beighton queried if any response had been received from Tesco with regard to public conveniences – the Town Clerk advised not. Mr. Cowell referred to flood risk generally – the Town Clerk advised he is meeting with officers from the Department and will check on the progress of the required planning application.

**Finance and General Purposes:**

**(2023/24:274) Town Clerk's Report – Competition Act 2021 – Secondary Legislation:**

It was proposed by Mr. Cowell, seconded by Mr. Kelly that the Commission agreed to the responses suggested for 3 consultations, as detailed within the Town Clerk's reports concerning the Competition Act... Climate Change (Application) Order; and Marine Infrastructure Regulations be approved; and the matters be resolved within this one composite resolution.

Discussion commenced with regard to the Marine Infrastructure Regulations.

Mr. Williams referred to Question 16 within the Marine Infrastructure Regulations and proposed that the response be "No – things are not on the same scale as in the UK, costs will only be passed on; a cheaper rate will be an encouragement to companies to come to the Island. The proposal was seconded by Miss Craine and carried nem con.

Mr. McGuinness suggested that it might be more procedurally appropriate if Mr. Cowell temporarily withdrew his proposal to allow debate on whatever was raised and thereafter apply his proposal. Mr. Cowell was agreeable to the suggestion.

Mr. Williams then referred to Question 18 within the same ( Marine... ) consultation – and proposed that the response be amended to read "Yes it should go through marine controls rather than directly through planning. Mr. McGuinness referred to the legislation being specific, he was against the Council of Ministers having powers in these matters; commenting that planning at least had set procedures. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Beighton but failed by 6 votes to 4 Messrs. Beighton, Oldham, Willams and Young voting in favour.

Mr. McGuinness queried Section 12 of the Climate Change Assessment – and asked Mr. Williams if he was happy with the suggested response. Mr. Williams commented that he was happy that the Council of Ministers should not have the power to exempt a controlled marine activity from the requirements of the Regulations except in exceptional circumstances.

Mr. Cowell's original proposal, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to accept the suggested responses, [having regard to the foregoing exceptions] was put to the vote and agreed nem con.

**(2023/24:275) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Street Trader's Licence – Manx Whippy:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, concerning the application made by Manx Whippy for a street traders licence for two vehicles for 2024.

Resolved: that following a proposal by Mr. Cowell, seconded by Mr. Beighton and agreed nem con that permission be granted.

**(2023/24:276) Finance Officer's General Report:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer's general report dated 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, subject to the following:-

**Summary of revenue Income and Expenditure:**

Mr. Cowell, as Lead Member, referred to the expenses incurred to date with regard to the Boundary Extension and drew attention to the fact that expenditure on this matter would exceed the budget.

**Works and Development:**

**(2023/24:277) Town Clerk's Report – Consultation Climate Change ...**

Dealt with under Clause 274

**(2023/24:278) Town Clerk's Report – Consultation Marine Infrastructure...**

Dealt with under Clause 274

**(2023/24:279) Town Clerk's Report – Christian Street and West Street:**

Discussion ensued with regard to the Town Clerk's report dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, concerning progress being made by the Department of Infrastructure with regard to proposals for traffic direction controls in Christian Street and about which the Commissioners' views are sought. Mr. Young commented that he thought no changes were necessary. Mr. Cowell commented that Christian Street proposals should not be considered in isolation, Parliament Square should be considered at the same time.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McGuinness that the Department be informed that the Commission would wish them to consider making the following traffic arrangements:-

- Christian Street – one way towards the Quay;
- East Street – reversing the traffic direction to make it one way towards Parliament Street;
- West Street – making it two way to a point allowing entry to and exit from the Ramsey Town Commissioners' car park; and one way from its junction with Parliament Street to the point at which it becomes two-way.

The proposal was carried by 8 votes to 2, Mr. Beighton and Mr. Young voting against.



**(2023/24:280) Technical Services Manager’s Report - Planning Applications:**

Resolved: To note the Technical Services Manager’s Report dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, detailing planning applications received from the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, under the planning consultation procedures.

Mr. McGuinness referred to planning generally and asked about progress on the planning application for Poyll Dooey. The Technical Services Manager informed members that the matter had been deferred for 2 weeks to allow a site visit, provision of further information with regard to first-time buyer property and flood risk.

**(2023/24:281) Technical Services Manager’s Report – Built Environment Reform Programme:**

Members considered the Technical Services Manager’s report dated 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, concerning the consultation being undertaken with regard to the above-titled Programme. A copy of the consultation had been provided to members and the report included suggested responses thereto.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Cowell and agreed by 9 votes to 1, the responses suggested with the report be submitted. Mr. McGuinness voted against.

**Parks and Leisure:**

**(2023/24:282) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – Community Garden – Tram Station:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, advising of the request made by Ramsey Grammar School that pupils get involved with creation of a community garden.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Miss Craine and agreed nem con that permission be given for liaison with the school to commence to hopefully result in the development of the garden in front of the Manx Electric Railway Station.

**(2023/24:283) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – Expedition Limitless 24:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, advising of the request made by the organizers of “Expedition Limitless 24” to use the Mooragh Lake on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, from 10.00 a.m. and to use part of the Mooragh Estate in the vicinity of the Lake and the playground.

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

**(2023/24:284) Town Clerk's Report – By-Election:**

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, advising of the proposed timetable for the by-election to fill the vacancy in South Ward, following the death of Mr. Singer. In the case of a contested election Polling Day will be 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

**Any Other Business:**

**(2023/24:285) Provision of Ice-Cream Mooragh Park:**

Mr. Kelly referred to the licence agreed for Mr. Whippy and referred to the lack of facilities, other than at the "Boathouse Café", for the sale of ice cream in the Mooragh Park. He referred to shed facilities adjacent to the Costa café and sought an update on any proposals to make alternative arrangements.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that he has spoken with the lessee and, in terms of the lease, needs to hold further discussions – further report will require to be submitted in private because of commercial sensitivity.

**(2023/24:286) Sundry Matters:**

The Town Clerk drew attention to the following matters:

- a) **Boundary Extension Inquiry** – the Town Clerk reminded members that the Inquiry would take place at the Ramsey Park Hotel for 3 days commencing on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024, at 10.00 a.m.
- b) **House of Keys Proposed Constituency Reform** – the Town Clerk informed members that he had received a response from Mr. W. Henderson, to the letter written to all members of Tynwald with regard to the proposals of the Electoral Reform Commission to recommend constituency boundary changes for House of Keys Elections. Acknowledgements had been received from the Attorney General and the Chief Minister.
- c) **National Week Events** – the Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the President of Tynwald encouraging local authorities to make greater effort to promote National Week between 30<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2024. The Town Clerk undertook to circulate the letter to members for information.

The Deputy Town Clerk drew attention to the following:-

- d) **Use of Albert Road Site** – the Deputy Town Clerk conveyed the request made by Bus Vannin to again use the former Albert Road School site during T.T. and Manx Grand Prix. Proposed by Mr. Oldham, seconded by Miss Craine and agreed men con that permission be granted.

The Chairman closed the public meeting at 7.55 p.m.



**RTC Board Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, Continued:**

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.

**(2023/24:287) Minutes Recorded in Private:**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, and the monthly Board Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following:-

Mr. Young referred to the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, stating that had he been aware of the meeting he would have been in attendance. Members were reminded that the schedule of meetings had been included within the Finance Officer's report submitted to and approved by the Commission in November 2023.

Members were reminded that 2 further budget / rate setting meetings are scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

**Matters for Information:**

**(2023/24:288) On-Going Matters "Action Tracker":**

Resolved: To note the "Action Tracker" to 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

**Finance and General Purposes:**

**(2023/24:289) Town Clerk's Report – By-Election:** - transferred into public.

**(2023/24:290) Finance Officer's Report:**

Resolved: To note Finance Officer's report dated 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, subject to the following:-

**Estimates and Revenue Expenditure:**

In response to a query about "**Town Centre Management**" the Finance Officer undertook to provide Miss Craine with an email to explain the expenditure under this heading.

Mr. Kelly queried "**Bags for Life**" on sale in the Town Library – Members were informed that sales had slowed and no further orders were considered necessary at the present time.

**Rent Arrears-** members noted the usual season increase in the number of tenants in arrears with their rent, but noted also that a payment is due to be received from the Department of Social Security. In response to a specific query members were informed that the tenant listed at No. 30 in the appendix to the report had cleared the arrears.



**(2023/24:291) Technical Assistant’s Report – Fixed Penalty Notices – Appeals:**

Members considered the Technical Assistant’s report dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, advising of appeals submitted in respect of fixed penalty notices.

**Appeal 0781** – Mr. Beighton asked for a deferral pending receipt of further information, particularly photographic and details of what had been left. The Technical Services Manager informed members that the photographs taken did show the name and address of the person to whom the penalty had been issued.

A proposal was put by Miss Craine that the appeal be rejected; and that the Commission via social media and their website, make it known that persons making misuse of recycling facilities will be liable to fixed penalty fines. Mr. McGuinness seconded that part of Miss Craine’s proposal regarding use of social medial.

Mr. Cowell seconded the main part of the resolution concerning the rejection of the appeal. The proposals were considered severally and both agreed nem con.

**Appeal 0143** – it was proposed by Mr. Beighton, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and carried by 9 votes to 1, Mr. Williams voting against to reject this appeal.

**Housing and Property:**

**(2023/24:292) Housing Committee:**

Resolved: To note the Minutes of the Meeting of the Housing Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, subject to the following:-

As the meeting was inquorate it was proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Miss Craine and agreed that the contents be ratified.

Reference was made to current vacancies on the Housing Department’s staff and members were informed of progress in filling these positions.

**(2023/24:293) Housing and Property Manager’s Report – Cronk Elfin Refurbishment Update:**

Resolved: To note the Housing and Property Manager’s report dated 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, providing an update on the refurbishment works progressing at Cronk Elfin.

**(2023/24:294) Housing General**

Mr. Williams referred to the proposals for “The Circle” at Cronk Elfin and proposed that this be added to the “Action Tracker”. The proposal was seconded by Mr. McGuinness. Miss Craine proposed an amendment that in addition tenants be kept informed of proposals and action in this area, and the Commission copied in on such correspondence. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed nem con.





Mr. Cowell queried progress with regard to redevelopment of the former Albert Road School site. The Town Clerk undertook to provide members with information following discussions with the Housing and Property Manager.

**Any Other Business:**

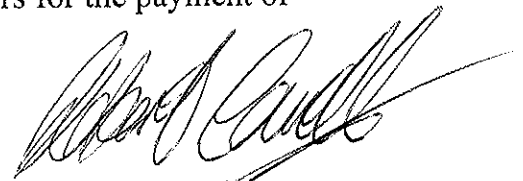
**(2023/24:295) Finance Officer's report additional budget proposals:**

The Finance Officer tabled a paper concerning additional budget items and projects for consideration.

A proposal by Miss Craine, seconded by Mr. Court that the matter be deferred to the next budget meeting was defeated by 4 votes to 6. Canon Greenwood and Mr. McGuinness voting with the proposer and seconder.

Report of the discussions were recorded in private

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



Chairman.