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, 15th February, 2023, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. F. B. R. Williams, Miss L. L. Craine, Messrs. A. R. Beighton, G. S.

Court, R. D. Cowell, S. R. Kelly, J. McGuinness, A. J. Oldham, L.

Parker, L. I. Singer and W. G. Young.

Apologies for absence were received from Revd. Canon N. D. Greenwood.

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

(2022/23:322) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 18th January, 2023, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

(2022/23:323) Matters Arising:

Mr. Singer asked if a clause from the private business could be brought into public. The Chairman advised that this could be raised later in the meeting.

Matters for Information:

(2022/23:324) Action Tracker February, 2023:

Resolved: To note the "Action Tracker" to 9th February, 2023, subject to the following and accepting that some matters may be referred to within other Clauses of these minutes:-

- Ramsey North Promenade Changing Huts Mr. Cowell asked about these huts and was advised that Planning dated back from 2019, the scheme awaited suitable bathing water quality, now received; the matter would not detract from the provision of facilities on Queen's Promenade; and that the matter could be discussed further at the Special Board meeting to be held on 22nd February, at which MUA and DEFA representatives would be in attendance.
- Bus Services Mr. McGuinness referred to the bus service provision and proposed that Bus Vannin be again approached and asked to review and increase the service during TT and maintain or improve the On Demand Service and the Ramsey / Peel route. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Williams and carried.
- Seagulls in Mooragh Park Mr. Kelly asked if anything could be done to deter nesting sites, particularly near the Bowling Hut. Members were reminded that budgetary provision for 2023/24 allowed only for the provision of bunting as a general deterrent.

Mr. McGuinness referred to the Commission's ongoing review to pay all staff on a monthly basis and asked that this matter be included on the Action Tracker.

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(2022/23:325) Action Tracker Budget Approved and Proposed Projects:

Resolved: To note the Action Tracker of Budget Approved projects at 9th February, 2023.

It was further resolved to note the list of projects proposed for the rating year 2023/24.

Mr. Singer queried the target completion date of April 2024, for the provision of public conveniences at the Millennium Garden. The Housing and Property Manager informed members that subject to receipt of some detail from the provider of the toilets, the planning application is ready for submission, it is hoped that the completion date could be sooner than envisaged but no guarantees could be given.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2022/23:326) Town Clerk's Report – Climate Change Duties and the Climate Change Act 2021:

Discussion ensued with regard to the Town Clerk's report dated 17th January, 2023, advising of the requirements placed on the Commission in terms of the above-titled Act and that he will report further thereon to facilitate the required public report to be prepared. Mr. McGuinness commented that the Commission had the opportunity to be a leading example but that the Commission should have availability to grants to support this.

Mr. McGuinness proposed that Government Departments and Members of the House of Keys be lobbied to support Local Authorities by way of grant in their endeavours to meet climate change targets. Members were in concurrence with Mr. McGuinness's comments.

Mr. Singer also agreed with Mr. McGuinness but asked what happens if the Commission does not meet its targets, were any penalties for not doing so targets?

The Town Clerk informed members that he would investigate Mr. Singer's queries.

Miss Craine commended looking at the matter practically, the Commission should do as much as they possibly can, with support they could do more, but they cannot do the bare minimum towards climate change.

Mr. Williams seconded Mr. McGuinness's proposal, with the proviso that enquiry be made about penalties. This was put to the vote and carried.



(2022/23:327) Town Clerk's Report - Control of Dogs on the Foreshore:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 6th February, 2023, advising of the payment of a fixed penalty fine in respect of a breach of the Control of Dogs Byelaws.

Whilst appreciating the report Mr. McGuinness suggested that the complainant's concerns had not been fully answered with regard to areas where dogs are permitted, risks to be considered, monitoring and dogs being permitted on the foreshores as compared with the Mooragh Park area. Members were asked if they wished to discuss the matter now or wait until the byelaws are due for review in 2026.

Mr. Young reminded members of the current byelaw provision, asking if anything had changed; he reminded members that the North Beach has 6 miles accessible and suggested it was the onus of individuals to take care of their possessions.

It was further resolved, following a proposition by Mr. Cowell, seconded by Mr. Beighton and agreed that no review of the byelaws be undertaken until 2026.

(2022/23:328) Finance Officer's General Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer's general report dated 8th February, 2023, subject to the following:-

Accounts – queries from Mr. Singer with regard to goods/services received from 2 specific parties were explained.

Works and Development:

(2022/23:329) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications:

Resolved: To note the Technical Services Manager's Report dated 8th February, 2023, detailing planning applications received from the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, under the planning consultation procedures, be noted subject to the following: -

REF NO:

4041

P.A. NO.:

23/00002/REM

PROPOSED:

Reserved Matters application to PA 20/01386/A for the erection of

a detached single storey dwelling

NOTES:

Reserved Matters

SITE:

Land adjacent to Fasque, Andreas Road, Ramsey

A proposal by Mr. Singer seconded by Miss Craine that the Commission do not oppose this application was carried.

Class

(2022/23:329) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications Continued:

REF NO:

4044

P.A. NO.:

23/00066/B

PROPOSED:

Change of use from public house (use class 1.3) to create ten

apartments (class 3.4) while retaining original element of building, demolition of previous extensions and erection of new replacement

extension

NOTES:

P.A. in Detail

SITE:

Britannia Hotel, Waterloo Road, Ramsey

REF NO:

4045

P.A. NO.:

23/00<u>067/CON</u>

PROPOSED:

Demolition of previous extensions and erection of new

replacement extension in association with application PA

23/00066/B

NOTES:

Registered Building

SITE:

Britannia Hotel, Waterloo Road, Ramsey

Mr. Kelly, as Lead Member for Works and Development, expressed the hope that members would be supportive of the applications with regard to the former Britannia Hotel. No objections / comments were raised other than general support of a proposal having been submitted for the site.

Parks and Leisure:

(2022/23:330) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Fireworks Display:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 8th February, 2023, advising of progress being made with regard to organising the 2023 Fireworks Display.

A proposal was put by Mr. Court that the Commission hold the display on Sunday, 5th November, as is traditional in Ramsey, with a reserve date of 6th. Mr. McGuinness seconded the proposal.

Discussion continued members suggesting that a Sunday was not the best day for the business owners in the Town, or for children to attend, (having school the following day). Members queried whether we should ask Douglas if and when they propose to hold a fireworks display.

An amendment was put by Mr. Beighton that the display be staged on 4th November, which was seconded by Mr. Oldham. The amendment was put to the vote and carried by 7 votes to 4, Miss Craine and Messrs. Court, McGuinness and Young voting against.

Class

(2022/23:331) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Sea Dip for Sanity:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 7th February, 2023, advising of request made by "Isle Listen" to stage an event "Sea Dip for Sanity" on Ramsey's South Beach on 14th May, 2023.

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

Mr. Beighton referred to "stake holders" – the RNLI, Coastguard, Yacht Club, being advised of the event. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that it was the responsibility of the organisers to do this and he would draw their attention to the comments.

(2022/23:332) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - St. Geroge's Day Service:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 7th February, 2023, advising of request made by the Isle of Man Scout and Guide Association to use part of the Mooragh Park to facilitate St. George's Day Service and activities on Sunday, 23rd April, 2023, between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

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

(2022/23:333) Notices of Motion:

The Chairman advised members that he could see no reason why the Notices of Motion standing in the name of Mr. McGuinness could not be despatched during the current evening's business. The Notices as hereunder were duly considered:-

333.1 Isle of Man Post Self-Service Kiosk – Notice dated 31st January, 2023. Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed by 7 votes to 4 that Isle of Man Post be asked to site a Self-Service Kiosk in Ramsey. Messrs. Beighton, Cowell, Oldham and Singer voted against.

333.2 Digital Image RTC Canvas Bags – Notice dated 5th February, 2023. Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Court and agreed by 10 votes to 1, Mr. Oldham voting against that a sum of £250 be allocated to fund art work for the Commission's promotional "Bag for Life."

Mr. Singer asked that the recruitment of an artist be extended to include the Schools in Ramsey.

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(2022/23:333) Notices of Motion Continued:

333.3 Review and Modernisation of Rates – Notice dated 7th February, 2023.

A proposal was put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Cowell and agreed that the Cabinet Office be asked to reinstate the review of the Island's rating system.

Despite being in support of the proposition members felt that there would still be unwillingness on the part of the Members of Tynwald to undertake the review.

Any Other Business:

(2022/23:334) Technical Services Manager's Report Ruinous Buildings Public Views:

It was proposed by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Cowell and agreed that the Technical Services Manager's report dated 24th January, 2023, entitled "Ruinous Buildings Public Views" be brought into the public domain.

Discussion ensued during which members expressed their appreciation of the correspondence which will enable their restrictions to be brought to the public's attention.

Members recorded that:

- they had recently had beneficial discussions with the Members of the House of Keys for Ramsey;
- they are trying to encourage and motivate redevelopment in the Town including having drawn attention to a grant scheme for brown-field sites being promoted by Government;
- their powers are restricted in many cases yet extreme in others which makes things difficult to progress.

Mr. Cowell asked if a response had been received by Government for grant aid for the redevelopment of brown-field sites? The Town Clerk advised that he did not know and suggested the information might not be forthcoming from Government.

(2022/23:335) Charges – Swimming Pool:

Mr. Beighton referred to an annual admission ticket for the NSC in the sum of £265 and commented that the equivalent for the Ramsey Swimming Pool would be approximately £1,000.

It was agreed that Mr. McGuinness be asked to bring this matter to the attention of the Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board.

(2022/23:336) Events 2023/24 - Budgets:

Mr. Court referred to events that took place in 2022 at various times throughout the year and proposed that officers be authorised to commence progressing events for 2023. The proposal was seconded by Miss Craine and carried.

The events would include Sprintfest; a Coronation Event; a Picnic in the Park; Ramsey Rocks; Fireworks Display and Ramsey in Bling.

The Chairman and Mr. Court asked organisations, members of the public to let the Deputy Town Clerk know if they had any ideas for additional events.

Mr. Singer asked if any grant was available to the Commission for any Coronation Celebrations – the Deputy Town Clerk advised not.

Mr. Oldham advised that the Community Hub is planning a Coronation Event at the Courthouse on 6th May, 2023.

(2022/23:336) Sundry Matters:

Attention was drawn to the following matters:

336.a) Open Day – Ramsey Community Hub – an open invitation has been received to attend the Open Day at Ramsey Community Hub (The Courthouse) on Saturday, 24th February, 2023.

336.b) Special Board Meeting – the Town Clerk reminded members of the Special Board Meeting on 22nd February, 2023, to meet at 7.00 p.m. the organisers of Ramsey Sprint; and at 8.00 p.m. Manx Utilities Authority and DEFA to discuss various matters.

336.c) Bus Vannin – Albert Road Site:

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that Bus Vannin had made enquiry about using the Albert Road Site during TT Fortnight and the MGP.

A proposal was put by Mr. Oldham, seconded by Mr. Cowell that Bus Vannin and motorcyclists generally be permitted to use the site.

An amendment was put by Miss Craine, seconded by Mr. Williams that only Bus Vannin be permitted on safety grounds. This was put to the vote and carried by 7 votes to 4 Messrs. Beighton, Cowell, Kelly and Oldham voting against.

336.d) Deputy Chairman Activity:

Mr. Court informed members of events he had attended as Deputy Chairman: viz *Ramsey Grammar School 6th Form Prize Giving* – in so reporting he congratulated all the pupils for their hard work during recent difficult times.

Holocaust Memorial Service – in so reporting he commended Mr. Singer's role and the speech given at this Service.

The Chairman thanked the public and media for attending and also those watching via the live-streaming service and closed the public session at 8.12 p.m.

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.

(2022/23:337) Minutes:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meetings held on 25th January, 2023, and 30th January, 203, subject to the following:-

25th January, 2023 – Mr. Singer queried bringing these minutes into public. It was proposed by Mr. Craine, seconded by Mr. Cowell and agreed that these minutes, the rate having now been set, be brought into the public domain.
30th January, 2023, - Mr. Singer raised the same query about bringing the minutes into public. Mr. McGuinness advised that the matter should first be discussed with the members of the House of Keys for Ramsey, who had been in attendance.

Matters for Information:

(2022/23:338) On-Going Matters "Action Tracker":

Resolved: To note the "Action Tracker" to 9th February, 2023.

(2022/23:339) On-Going Matters - Register of Ruinous Property, Unsightly Land and Buildings:

Resolved: To note the "Register of Ruinous Property .." to 9th February, 2023, subject to the following and accepting that matters may be referred to within other Clauses of these minutes:-

Cannon Court – Mr. Cowell referred to the suggestion that the Commission might be interested in acquiring the site. The Technical Services Manager queried the Commission's views on the suggestion. Members agreed they had no wish to acquire the site and agreed that the section of the item within the Register be removed.

Coffee Pot - Mr. Singer queried if a second letter had been sent and if any more slates had come off the property. The Technical Services Manager advised that it was not a second letter and that no further slates had come off and that other matters have now taken priority. Mr. Singer's requested that further communication be sent did not receive further support.

Sub-Station Tower Street – Members were informed that there would be the opportunity to discuss this matter with Manx Utilities Authority at the Special Board meeting on 22nd February.

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Finance and General Purposes:

(2022/23:340) Town Clerk's Report – Boundary Extension:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 17th January, 2023, advising of replies from Garff and Lezayre Parish Commissioners with regard to the Commission's wish to extend the Town Boundary.

A proposal was put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams that the Commission proceed with the application; required Public Inquiry and engagement of Sarah Corlett, a Town Planning Consultant, and Dickinson Cruickshank Ramsey, Advocates.

Members were advised of the likely costs and the rationale for the extension.

The proposal was carried by 8 votes to 3, Miss Craine and Messrs. Singer and Young voted against.

(2022/23:341) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Amenity Area Car Park:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 8th February, 2023, advising of request made by Ramey Rugby Club to park their mini bus in the Amenity Area Car Park on the Mooragh Estate.

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Court that permission be granted. An extension to the proposal was put by Mr. Parker seconded by Mr. Beighton that the Club be informed that they might also consider parking by their container. The extended proposal was carried without division.

(2022/23:342) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Sprintfest – West Quay:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 8th February, 2023, advising of correspondence received from licensees in the town seeking to extend their services to areas outside their premises during road closure times, accept that they will also need to seek the permission of the Licensing Court.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised members that he did not consider sufficient information had been provided to enable the Commissioners to fully consider the matter but he has advised the licensees that of the Commission's agreement in principle, having regard to previously made comments about the level of service required to be provided.

A proposal by Miss Craine, seconded by Mr. Williams that the Commission write to the licensees indicating their support and appreciation that they are willing to participate in Sprintfest but that the Commission need fuller details of their proposals before formally considering the proposals, was agreed.

(2022/23:342) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Sprintfest - West Quay Cont:

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed the areas affected by the road closures and assured members that the organisers will engage with local businesses well in advance. Members were assured that the Queen's Promenade, Dale Street and Market Hill would remain open.

(2022/23:343) Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Town Branding:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 8th February, 2023, advising that a meeting with the supplier of the "Town Branding" social media campaign was held on 10th February. The Deputy Town Clerk expanded on that meeting and members were pleased to note that further filming to promote retail and hospitality within the Town is being undertaken in the near future.

Mr. Court asked that the Deputy Town Clerk obtain "the uncompressed rushes" from any filming undertaken.

(2022/23:344) Finance Officer's General Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer's general report dated 8th February, 2023, subject to the following:-

Annual Insurance – Mr. McGuinness drew attention to the balance of insurance due because it was lower than originally suggested. The Finance Officer explained where the differences in premium occurred and advised members that a revaluation of all of the Commission's properties will be undertaken in the next financial year.

Aged Debtors – the Finance Officer informed members that various of the debts had now been paid and that a problematic service user for commercial refuse had, it is hoped, found a way to ensure regular payments in the future. The largest debtor appearing on the list had paid and the debt due via the Attorney General's Chambers is being chased.

(2022/23:345) Technical Assistant's Report – Fixed Penalty Notices - Appeals:

Members considered the Technical Assistant's report dated 7th February, 2023, advising of appeals submitted in respect of fixed penalties issued for littering offences.

Resolved: That, following a be noted:-

- Penalty 0138 Proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Court and agreed to reject the appeal. – Mr. Beighton declared an interest and did not vote.
- Penalty 0699 Proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Court and agreed to reject the appeal.
- Penalties 0700 and 0710 Proposed by Mr. McGuinness, second by Mr. Beighton and agreed to reject the appeals.

(2022/23:345) Technical Assistant's Report – Fixed Penalty Notices – Appeals Continued:

- Penalties 0703, 0704 and 0705 Proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Beighton and agreed to uphold one penalty and repeal the other two.
- Penalties 0706 and 0707 Proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Singer to uphold the appeals
- Penalty 0711 proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Court and agreed to reject the appeal.
- Penalties 0714 and 0715 proposed by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Beighton and agreed to defer consideration pending receipt of further information.

It was further resolved, following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Miss Craine and agreed that information be sought from the CA Site committee with regard to recycling of cardboard.

(2022/23:346) Technical Assistant's Report – Fixed Penalty Notices – Referral for Prosecution:

Members considered the Technical Assistant's report dated 7th February, 2023, advising of the lack of responses, including appeals or payment of fines, to fixed penalty notices issued.

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that both cases be referred for prosecution.

The Town Clerk informed members that one of the fines had been paid and it was agreed that only the first detailed penalty be referred.

(2022/23:347) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – North Ramey Bowling Club:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's tabled reported dated 14th February, 2023, providing details of the report submitted by North Ramsey Bowling Club for their lease of the Bowling Green and hut from the Commission.

It was proposed by Mr. McGuinness that the Club be granted a 5-year lease with immediate effect, they be permitted to place advertising boards, subject to planning, and they return equipment to the Commission.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the terms may need to be amended from that proposed by Mr. McGuinness to facilitate the Club's wish to apply for grant.

Mr. McGuinness amended his proposal to allow for a lease of up to but under 7 years, the other conditions remaining in place. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed without division. Mr. Kelly declared an interest owing to his membership of the Club and did participate in the debate nor did he vote.

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Works and Development:

(2022/23:348) Technical Services Manager's Report – Statutory Nuisance Changes:

Discussion ensued with regard to the Technical Services Manager's report dated 24th January, 2023, advising that DEFA has indicated that they are suspending their services in investigating statutory nuisances for local authorities. Members felt that this was another instance where things were being passed back to local authorities and they could see no rationale for this action. The Department is quoting legislation under which local authorities should undertake the work but commented that legislation did not prevent the Department doing the work on their behalf.

It was proposed by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr Beighton and agreed that the Chief Minister and all members of the House of Keys be informed of the Commission's concerns. Members felt that they did not have the staff or resources to undertake the services, nor were their staff qualified to undertake the duties. It was thought that fewer than 10 referrals are made each year to the Department for investigation.

An amendment was put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that enquiry be made about outsourcing the duties to a third party be included within the main proposition.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried by 9 votes to 2, Messrs. Kelly and Oldham voting against.

Housing and Property:

(2022/23:349) Housing Committee:

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 7th February, 2023, which were tabled, subject to the following:-

Clause 072c) Albert Street Flats – the Housing and Property Manager advised that the sale has gone through and necessary documentation signed.

(2022/23:350) Housing and Property Manager's Report - Boiler Servicing and Maintenance Contract:

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 8th February, 2023, advising of the tenders received for the provision of boiler servicing and maintenance.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Singer and agreed by 10 votes to 1, to accept the tender submitted by Paul Wheeler Ltd. Mr. Court voted against.

(2022/23:351) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Cronk Elfin Refurbishment Update:

Resolved: to note the Housing and Property Manager's report dated 8th February, 2023, providing an update on the refurbishment works progressing at Cronk Elfin.

Any Other Business:

(2022/23:352) Beach Event:

Mr. Young queried an event held on the Mooragh Foreshore and was advised that it was a "Love Your Beach" event promoted by the Manx Wildlife Trust.

(2022/23:353) Storage – Riverside Yard:

The Town Clerk informed members that he had received a request from the Queen's Pier Trust to store 50 railway lines in the Commissioners' Riverside Yard.

Resolved: that following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Court and agreed, permission be granted, subject to the Trust being informed that such permission is only until such time as the Commissioners need the space.

(2022/23:354) Planning:

Mr. Cowell asked if there was any progress on the planning proposals for land abutting the Sulby River and was informed there was no update available.

Members were informed that Hartford Homes will be holding a presentation at the Town Hall on 7th March at which the public will be welcomed concerning proposed development in the vicinity of Bride Road.

(2022/23:355) Refuse Bins:

355a) Brookhill Area Mr. Williams referred to "Dalek" bins having been put back in place in the vicinity of Brookhill Road and from which complaints have been received that refuse is blowing out.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Miss Craine and agreed the bins be replaced with the "Tardis" style bins.

355b) Market Place – Mr. Beighton referred to the bin near the "Gelatory" on Market Place and asked if it had been moved as it is understood to block the view of motorists. The Technical Services Manager was asked to investigate this but informed members that the bin is fixed into position.

(2022/23:356) One World Centre Emergency Collection:

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed that the One World Centre be permitted to make street collections on land in the Commission's ownership during the weekend 17th / 18th February, 2023, in response to the UNICEF declared emergency in Turkey / Syria following earthquakes.

(2022/23:357) Road Markings:

Mr. Singer commented on the lack of road markings throughout the town. The Town Clerk informed members that the matter has been referred to the Department of Infrastructure.

The meeting closed at 9.42 p.m. giving a time of 3 hours for the payment of attendance allowances.

Chairman.

