

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING - JULY, 2023.**

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners adjourned on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, was continued in the Boardroom of the Town Hall, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. At 7.00 p.m..

**Present:** Mr. A. J. Oldham, Miss L. L. Craine, Messrs. G. S. Court, R. D. Cowell, J. McGuinness, L. Parker, L. I. Singer, F. B. R. Williams and W. G. Young.

Apologies for absence Messrs. A. Beighton and S. R. Kelly and Revd Canon N. D. Greenwood who has been granted leave of absence.

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

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.

**(2023/24:087) Minutes:**

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, subject to the following:-

The Town Clerk referred to the Special Leave Policy presented and advised that a request had been made that it be amended to reflect specific duties in that the policy differed from the "Employing Body in this case NJC" terms and conditions. It was noted that staff are employed under 3 different bodies who have different terms and conditions. The Policy aims to regularise the situation for all employees.

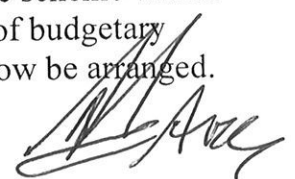
At the request of Mr. McGuinness it was agreed that wording be amended to reflect that special leave for specific duties remain is printed but the words "unless terms and conditions applied by 'employing bodies' state otherwise."

**Matters for Information:**

**(2023/24:088) Action Points – Meeting Department of Infrastructure:**

Resolved: To note the Action Points provided by the Department of Infrastructure following the meeting with the Minister and officers of the Department held on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

**Quay Flood Defences:** Mr. Singer and Mr. Cowell queried the delays and was referred to the letter 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, copied within the agenda papers, from Ms M. Pedhuru, Head of Highways Asset Management commenting on the scheme which was send back to the Department by Treasury [thought to because of budgetary concerns];. Ms Pedhuru commented that public consultation can now be arranged.



**(2023/24:088) Action Points – Meeting Department of Infrastructure  
Continued:**

*Net-Zero Climate Change and Local Authorities Access to funding* – Mr. Singer commented that this scheme will be very expensive.

**(2023/24:089) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker”:**

Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker” to 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

**(2023/24:090) On-Going Matters - Register of Ruinous Property, Unightly Land and Buildings:**

Resolved: To note the “Register of Ruinous Property ..” to 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, subject to the following:-

*Britannia Hotel* – Mr. Williams asked for an update with regard to this property. The Town Clerk informed members that despite emails and telephone calls no update was available – he will continue to try and contact the Brewery.

**Finance and General Purposes:**

**(2023/24:091) Finance Officer’s Report:**

Resolved: To note Finance Officer’s report dated 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, subject to the following:-

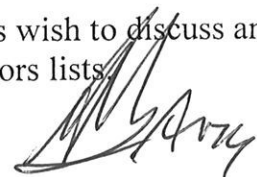
*Estimates and Revenue Expenditure* - the Finance Officer drew attention to the simplified reports and reminded members that full graphs will be included quarterly and that any member with queries was welcome to contact him for further information / explanation.

*Bank Balances* – the Finance Officer informed members that the balances quoted within the report have changed since the receipt of further income and the General Revenue account is now in better funds than at this time last year in that loan funding has been received.

Rent Arrears – it was reported that the amount of rent arrears is slowly coming down. There will be seasonal “dips”. Reference was made to the debtor appearing 37<sup>th</sup> in the list, who is also on the aged debtors’ list member were informed that the situation is being monitored as closely as possible.

*Aged Debtors* – since compilation of the report some of the debts have been paid. The debtor listed 6<sup>th</sup> in the list is being approached with regard to arrangements being put in place to clear this debt by instalments. Recovery of several debts is being progressed through the Small Claims Court.

The Finance Officer reiterated his availability should members wish to discuss any aspects of his report, including the Rent Arrears of Aged Debtors lists.



**(2023/24:092) Technical Assistant’s Report – Byelaws Moveable Dwellings:**

Members considered the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, concerning owners of motorhomes sleeping in vehicles whilst parked in a public place without having the prior written permission of the local authority and having regard to fewer camper permits issued. Discussion ensued and members were informed of the different number of campervan permits issued to the end of June last year and to the same date this year.

Resolved: That the Commission maintain the status-quo with regard to on-street parking of motorhomes as has prevailed in recent years.

Concern was expressed about persons “campers” disposing of their waste cassettes down drains and over sea walls which they believe to be an offence and against whom action will be taken.

**(2023/24:093) Technical Assistant’s Report – Fixed Penalty Notices - Appeals:**

Members considered the Technical Assistant’s Report dated 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, advising of the appeal made in respect of a fixed penalty littering notice issued.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Parker the appeal be accepted because of sufficient doubt as to the offender. The proposal was defeated by 5 votes to 4 Mr. Court and Mr. Young also being in support of the proposal.

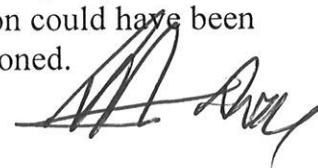
Mr. Williams requested that details of appeals again include photographs if available.

**Works and Development:**

**(2023/24:094) Technical Services Manager’s Report – Street Lighting Timings:**

Resolved: To note the Technical Services Manager’s report dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, concerning the timing of street lighting and the replacement of cells on the lamps.

Mr. McGuinness commented, that whilst appreciating there was a degree of urgency in this matter, the report was not what was requested, namely deferral of consideration and provision of further costings. The Town Clerk apologised indicating that he had acted having regard to the urgency in association with the ongoing decision of spend to save. Mr. McGuinness further commented that the action could have been progressed by email with such decisions being then sanctioned.



**Housing and Property:**

**(2023/24:095) Housing and Property Manager’s Report – Cronk Elfin Refurbishment Update:**

Resolved: to note the Housing and Property Manager’s report dated 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, June, 2023, providing an update on the refurbishment works progressing at Cronk Elfin subject to the following:-

Mr. Singer referred to “potential non-performance... which poses a risk of delayed completion”. Mr. Oldham suggested that this might be because of difficulties in obtaining materials. Mr. Parker, as Lead Member was requested to discuss the Commission’s concerns with the Housing and Property Manager for discussion at a future Design Team Meeting.

**(2023/24:096) Housing and Property Manager’s Report – Upper Queen’s Pier Road External and Bathroom Refurbishment:**

Members considered the Housing and Property Manager’s report dated 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, advising of the deadline for submission of businesses cases to the Department of Infrastructure for Government’s 2024/25 budget consideration, namely 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2023, and seeking authority to progress the proposed external and bathroom refurbishment of properties at Upper Queen’s Pier Road, following a pilot scheme completed in 2020.

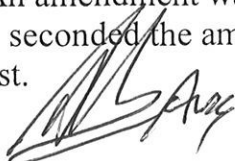
Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed by 8 votes to 1, Mr. McGuinness voting against, that the Housing and Property Manager progress the scheme.

Mr. Cowell commented that the suggested use of the same architects, quantity surveyors, etc., might not be appropriate. Mr. Parker commented that he understood that this was because of their known record in other schemes, but approval to do so would ultimately be given during the Petitioning process.

**(2023/24:097) Technical Assistant’s Report – Town Hall Car Park:**

Members considered the Technical Assistant’s report conveying a request from the Isle of Man Constabulary for the provision of additional reserved parking spaces for use by the Isle of Man Constabulary at the Town Hall Car Park.

A proposal was put Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Miss Craine that two spaces be provided. An amendment was put by Mr. Cowell that 2 permits be provided. Mr. McGuinness seconded the amendment, which was carried by 8 votes to 1, Mr. Singer voting against.



**Parks and Leisure:**

**(2023/24:098) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Ramsey Rocks Concessions:**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, advising of submissions received to provide catering services by concession at Ramsey Rocks which takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Miss Craine and agreed by 8 votes to 1, Mr. McGuinness voting against that 2 concessions be granted – the matter having previously been delegated to the Lead Member to progress.

**Any Other Business:**

**(2023/24:099) Correspondence for information:**

Members noted 3 letters provided by the Town Clerk in response to on-going matters, subject to the following –

099a) Letter 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, Minister DEFA – Re: Registered Structure “Swing Bridge” and Planning Breach Investigation – correspondence noted.

099b) Letter 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023, Head of Maintenance, Department of Infrastructure re: Regeneration Area Lanes and Table Tops and Quayside Flood Protection:

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Court and agree without division that the Department be informed that the Commission do not believe that the lighting in the lanes is ducted and that they did not anticipate the transfer of an “insufficient product”; a timescale for completion of temporary repairs carried out to the table tops is to be requested. Comments about Quayside Flood Protection was considered previously Clause 088 refers).

099c) Letter 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, Head of Highway and Assessment Management, Department of Infrastructure re: Ramsey Quayside and Flood Prevention – Clause 088 refers.

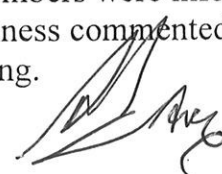
**Matters of Establishment:**

**(2023/24:100) Minutes Establishment Committee:**

Resolved: To note and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, subject to the following:

Mr. Singer referred to proposed changes in the administration of the C.A. Site – members were informed that the matter had not been progressed because the procurement system had been flawed.

Mr. McGuinness referred to an application for re-grading - members were informed that discussions between officers were ongoing – Mr. McGuinness commented that he felt there were no changes in circumstances to warrant regrading.



**(2023/24:100) Minutes Establishment Committee Continued:**

Mr. Parker referred to operation of the C.A. Site, particularly the disposal of lithium batteries and future disposal of plasterboard. The Town Clerk advised members that he was not aware of any issues with regard to disposal of lithium batteries but he would make enquiries. The Finance Officer informed members that plasterboard waste currently goes to “Wright’s Pit” or “Turkeyland” and that Government will advise in due course of its future disposal as it cannot be accepted at the incinerator.

Mr. McGuinness stated that the Commission’s concerns in these matters should be brought to Government’s attention.

**(2023/24:101) Sundry Matters:**

**101a) Meeting with Members of the House of Keys;** The Town Clerk informed members that the routine meeting with the Members of the House of Keys for Ramsey is being arranged.

**101b) “Fibre Communications Provision:** Miss Craine queried progress on the provision of “fibre” and was informed that a delay is being encountered because of difficulties in obtaining 2 quotations.

At Mr. McGuinness’s request the Finance Officer and Minute Clerk were instructed to withdraw from the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

A further staff / Establishment discussion took place.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. giving a time of 1 ½ hours for the payment of attendance allowances.

No matters were recorded in private.

  
Chairman.