

# **Northern Districts Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee**

**Committee Meeting held at Ramsey Town Hall at 7:00pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Present: Mr K Brew, Chairman (Lezayre), Mr R Cowell Deputy Chair (Ramsey), Mr S Smith (Ballaugh), Mr D Hope (Jurby), Mr J Allison (Andreas)

In attendance: The following Clerks and Officers attended the meeting:

Mrs M. Callow (Andreas – Clerk), Mrs A Done (Ballaugh - Clerk), Mr NQ Cannell (Ramsey - Finance). Ms B Wallace (Ramsey - Technical Services Manager), Mr M Royle (Garff - Clerk).

DOI – S. Willoughby (SW), R. Greenwood (RG), J. Quayle (JQ), I. Brooks (IB), N. Katsaiti (NK).

## **1. Apologies for absence:**

Mr S Ryzak (Garff)

## **2. DOI – Future of the Site**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the DOI.

Everyone introduced themselves.

Discussions ensued around the operation of the site.

The DOI noted that they had several options going forward, but they required to know from the committee how they wished to proceed for them to take anything further. An option could be for Government to centralise the service, but this would take time to establish.

The best option currently with Bride would be for the committee to seek legal advice and go for a breach of contract. LA's discussed the cost that this would put back on to each parish, again something that the smaller ones cannot afford to do. The financial impact on the remaining LA's by Bride's withdrawal is unfair. Can't expect other parishes to increase their contributions and pay for legal action.

The DOI do not have the funds to run the site and would need to go to Treasury for any required funds. The DOI are looking at the legislation, but it takes a long time to change it. The legislation currently states that LA's "MAY" undertake the function of running the site – they don't have to do it. The DOI do not have the legal standing to charge the LA's for providing the service either.

DOI are looking at a new Waste Strategy about how all waste is dealt with on island and each LA is welcomed to feedback on it when it goes to consultation.

The remaining LA's recognised the need for the site and the consequences of not having it however the consensus was that it was an unfair situation and had repercussions for all 4 sites going forward.

Questions were raised about the possibility of Government paying or subsidising Bride's Contributions? It was also noted that this was unfair to expect government to pay Bride's contributions.

If the Government paid Bride's contributions, then would they pay a portion of everyone else's contributions?

Discussions started to look at options to reduce costs such as reduction in days, the loss of a service i.e. re-use shed etc. It was noted that the site is 90% fixed costs. The site is not for profit. A rent reduction was mentioned.

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DOI invited Bride to the meeting, but they declined. DOI commented that both sides have set out their stalls and no-one is willing to move.

Again, it was mentioned about Bride have the benefit of being heavily subsidised by the tip and quarry. A question was raised about removing these from Brides rates to level the playing field. It would change Bride's contributions for the site and other LA's contributions would change however this was more accepting of the committee.

It was agreed that the committee needed to agree a course of action and go back to the local Government unit so they could start to put things in action.

This section of the meeting closed at 19:51. RC left the meeting.

### **3. Adoption of previous meeting minutes:**

**It was unanimously agreed** that the minutes from the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (as circulated in advance of the meeting) be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Matter Arising not included within the Agenda:**

NC approached the DOI about the rent and the increase being based on RPI and not CPI, it was noted that Government is moving to CPI on most other things but not this. It is based on RPI.

### **5. Finance report:**

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

£(27,974) Deficit for the period to 31.7.24;      £183,774 Net Assets at 31.7.24

Budget impacted by the digger repairs and the hiring of another vehicle whilst repairs undertaken.

The additional asbestos costs from fly tipping on site have impacted the site as we do not have a budget for this as we do not accept it.

All contributions paid apart from Bride – questions asked about the raising of an invoice if we have stopped Bride residents from using the site. Bride no longer paying for site that is the reason for stopping residents from using the site.

There had been a slight increase in recycling over the month but a decrease in burnable.

### **6. General Site Updates**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Items noted were public meeting, WEEE Items and Septic Tank issues.

Staffing – site is under resourced and has been for quite some time now, uncertainty makes it hard to advertise post. Look at limited term contract for the site.

5-day operations and re-use discussed under any other business.

### **7. Any Other Business**

- [REDACTED] request to dispose of items at the site was discussed. Discussions were around payments for the service that [REDACTED] provide and what would be included and what constituted commercial. Proposed by KB, seconded by JA – to advise [REDACTED] that the committee considered them commercial and therefore unable to use the site.

**Carried unanimously.**

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## 7. Any Other Business – cont.

- 5-day operation of site – discussions took place around how the 5-day operation was working. Staff had received complaints from users of the site. It had given rise to an issue with the collection and emptying of skips. Staff were not happy with the new rota. The savings were not as anticipated however it should be noted that it has only been a month.

Discussion around the re-use took place – how people were using it, the quality of items being left, lack of resource to manage it on top of everything else.

Proposed by KB, seconded by JA – to go back to 7-day operation from the 1<sup>st</sup> October (or soon if arrangements can be made) and close the re-use with immediate effect.

**Carried unanimously.**

- A discussion took place around where the committee wanted to go with the site. Do they want to take legal action? How long would action take? If we take action, will it take us beyond the end of the termination notification of March/April 2025? How much is it likely to cost. Talked about the repercussions of not having the site – how do we portion out the contributions with 6 paying for the site and 7 using it. Could DOI subsidise all parishes. Do we want to run site but at current costs? How does that work?

Staffing the site - RTC cannot continue to supplement the shortfall as they are currently under resourced themselves and it having a massive impact.

Proposed by KB, seconded by JA – to get legal advice on the process and the potential costs, including the split for each parish so they know what the expected costs are for each parish and to look at a limited term person for the site.

**Carried unanimously**

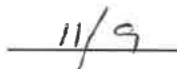
Proposed by KB, seconded by JA – chairman to email all parishes with the options available to discuss with their own boards and bring back preferred options or alternatives to the committee at next meeting as how to go forward.

**Carried unanimously**

Next meeting: set for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 7pm.

Meeting ended at 9:12pm

  
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**Chairman**

 2024

