

Northern Districts Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee

Meeting held at Ramsey Town Hall at 7:00pm on Thursday 21st December 2023

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

In attendance: The following Clerks and Officers attended the meeting:
Mrs M. Callow (Andreas – Clerk), Ms B Wallace (Ramsey - Technical Services Manager), Mrs A Done (Ballaugh - Clerk), Mr NQ Cannell (Ramsey - Finance),

1. Apologies for absence:

Mrs L Sims (Bride – Clerk), Mr B Kennedy (Jurby – Clerk) Mr M Royle (Garff - Clerk), Mr I Burton (Bride), Mr T Cowin (Ramsey – Clerk), Mrs L. Smith (Lezayre - Clerk),

2. Minutes for Adoption

It was resolved that the minutes from the previous meetings of 21st September 2023 and 12th October 2023, (as circulated in advance of the meeting) be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matter Arising not included within the Agenda:

Nothing

4. Finance report:

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

5. General Site Updates

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

6. 2024-25 Budget

- A 6% increase has been allowed for pay and waste disposal costs apart, apart from the EFW which we have already been notified of an 8% increase.
- Rent increase has been calculated at CPI to give £26,200, compared to RPI which would give a cost of £28,400.
- £5,000 has been allocated for updating the site.
- Two versions of the budget were circulated, and the difference was based on waste tonnages. Version 1 being 2023/24 estimated tonnages with a 5% increase, and Version 2 being without any increase and estimated solely on 2023/24 estimated tonnages and disposal costs.
- Net version 1 £483,555
- Net version 2 £433,121

Proposed JA, Seconded SS - to go with version 1 – got to increase. Carried.

- Questions were asked about the inclusion of Bride in the budget calculations and the ongoing business notifications.

Proposed RC, Seconded SR - Bride to continue to be included in all aspects of the site. Carried.

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7. Future of the Northern Civic Amenity Joint Committee

It was noted that:

- Every parish had received Bride's advocate's letter.
- That Bride had not paid this quarter's contributions and reference had been made to them not paying any further contributions.
- Comments were made in reference to the claims in the advocates letter being incorrect.
- KB read the advice from RTC advocates which stated that the 2017 agreement was still binding as the parties have continued to discharge their obligations under such.
- The parishes were disgusted with Bride's conduct and noted how unprofessional they had been. Bride did not argue properly for their case during the request for review. The process must be fair, and it was felt by all around the table that there had been no consideration by Bride of the impact their actions would have on the other members of the committee.
- The local Government Unit at the DOI had advised that as the current agreement ended in 2019, and as a subsequent one hadn't been signed that they were not obliged to arbitrate and that we should seek our own legal advice.
- That committee felt that the DOI wouldn't take the issue seriously, and it could drag on for too long, meaning that Bride would get the freedom of the site at others expense. In order to get a quick resolution, it was felt that a harsh response was required.
- That there were enough reserves to carry the site through until the end of March 2024.
- It was agreed that the chairman would have the authority to act for the committee whilst dealing with this ongoing situation.
- A meeting will be arranged for early February to discuss options and actions going forward. A meeting can be called earlier if required in January.
- Members are NOT to talk directly to staff about the ongoing situation.

The following was proposed by KB, seconded by RC, carried unanimously:

- An acknowledgement letter be sent to Bride's advocates.
- As our legal advice stated that the agreement was still binding, a formal letter would be sent to the Local Government Unit including the legal advice asking them to arbitrate between all the members of the committee to achieve a suitable outcome. The letter is to be copied to Emily Curphey CEO DOI, Alfred Cannan Chief Minister, Tim Crookall DOI Minister, Tim Johnston DfE Minister, Alex Allison Ramsey MHK, Lawrie Hooper Ramsey MHK.
- In the letter it is to also state that if an agreement cannot be reached by the 31st January 2024 then the other members would be unwilling to continue with the operating of the site beyond the 31st March 2024, and would look to handing it back to the DOI.
- If an agreement cannot be reached by the 31st January 2024 a press release will be issued stating that due to the actions of one parish, the future of the site is uncertain and at risk of closure.
- Until otherwise agreed Bride is still a member of the joint committee and as such will continue to receive all communications, notes etc.
- Bride is to be chased for payment in line with RTC's debtors' policy.

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8. Any other Business

The DOI had formally written to the committee to ask if they had any objection to the DOI undertaking a tender exercise for the disposal of WEEE, small WEEE, dry cell batteries and Lithium-ion batteries.

Proposed by KB, seconded by SR to allow the DOI to undertake tendering, Carried.

9. Date of next meeting was agreed as **7pm Thursday 8th February 2024.**

The meeting ended at approx. 20:20.



Chairman

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