

Castletown Town Commissioners

Ordinary Board Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2018

Present: Mr Leather (Chairman), Mr Parnell (Vice Chairman) Miss Quine & Messrs. Horton & Ludford-Brooks.

Apologies were received from Mr Cubbon and Mr McAleer

Also, in attendance the Town Clerk, Mr Mackenzie

AB/027.18 Chairman's Update

Mr Leather apologised for the significant gap between meetings, this was in part due to the Clerk taking annual leave, but predominantly as there had been so little correspondence received to discuss.

The Chairman had attended Tynwald, he did not feel that it was as well attended by the public as had been the case in past years, and in his opinion, perhaps consideration needs to be given by the organising committee to attract higher profile attendees.

On a sombre note the Southern 100 had a tragic final day. The Southern 100 is a large family, unfortunately on this occasion the family took a bit of a knock. Mr Leather felt that the town should write to the S100 expressing their continued support. This was seconded by Mr Ludford-Brooks with all in favour.

AB/028.18 Approval of minutes from Ordinary Board Meeting

Miss Quine proposed that the minutes of the Ordinary Board Meeting dated 4th June be approved as read. This was seconded by Mr Horton with all in favour. The minutes were duly approved.

AB/029.18 Matters Arising

The Clerk informed members that Manx National Heritage had offered to provide members with an update on the progress to return the Peggy to Castletown at 6pm on 23rd July.

AB/030.18 Approval of Accounts

The Clerk circulated accounts for payment.

Miss Quine proposed that the accounts be approved as detailed. This was seconded by Mr Horton with all in favour. The accounts were duly approved.

AB/031.18 Correspondence

- A letter had been received from a Mr P A Oates with regard to highway matters on Malew Street. It was confirmed that the correspondence had been forwarded to the DOI and was duly noted.
- A letter had been received from The Hon JP Watterson SHK, inviting comment in respect of the Tynwald Select Committee on Poverty. The Board considered that the biggest cause of poverty is the Government itself with an apparent reluctance to engage employees on a living wage and continued support for indirect taxation. Miss Quine queried how many children were receiving free school meals. In her opinion the current approach of government was certainly not attracting people to the Island. It is furthermore considered that there is poverty in Castletown and our Chairman Mr Leather would be delighted to attend the select committee in person to respond to the criteria which are detailed in your letter should this be considered helpful.
- A letter was received from Mr & Mrs Curphey who owned the land between Poulson Park and the Silverburn River. They were concerned of rumours that the Town was seeking to remove railings from the park to encroach on their land. The Clerk has spoken with them to allay these fears, and request permission to tidy the area up to the benefit of all. Mr Ludford-Brooks expressed his frustration at the condition of the PROW. Miss Quine and Mr Horton were in agreement that the town must act for the benefit of the town as a whole in addressing unsightly areas.
- A letter was received from Zoe Ellis of the recently formed "Friends of Poulson Park". It was agreed that they would be invited to meet the board in conjunction with the Castletown Parks Charity.
- A letter was received from Mrs Harper of the Scouts requesting permission to hold a summer fayre in the Market Square on 29th August. The Board were fully supportive and duly noted the application which would have to be raised with the DOI.
- A letter was received from the Poppy Appeal seeking permission to collect in the town during their annual appeal. Board Members were fully supportive.

- An email was received from the RNLI seeking permission to collect in the town on 4th August. Board Members were fully supportive.

AB/032.18 Market Square

An email was received from Mr Cubbon requesting deferment of this item. It did not received support from members present.

The Chairman stated that The Market Square was due to reopen in its entirety this morning, however due to parked bikes and visitors sitting on the benches, he instructed the workforce to leave the Castle side of the Square Closed.

He stated that he and other members have received a steady stream of feedback from local residents, expressing their dismay that the board did not act on the feeling of the general public to reclaim the Market Square as a public space. During the planned closures of the Market Square, Castletown has not ground to a halt, indeed he had never seen it so busy. Mr Leather therefore sought the support of the board to bring forward amendments to the parking orders in our revisit arrangements.

Castletown is unique in being able to offer its residents a focal point and he firmly believed that the square should be reclaimed for the benefit of the community of Castletown.

Mr Leather proposed that an application be made to the Department of Infrastructure that the square be closed in its entirety and the following supplementary orders introduced.

Chapel Lane Car Park – All spaces

MON -SAT- 2hrs Free parking, £1 for any additional period thereafter.

Fire Station – All Spaces

MON – SUN – 2Hrs Free Parking

Castle Court

Contract Parking and £1 all day parking. Any income from parking would be ringfenced for reinvestment in the provision of associated infrastructure.

Barracks Square

Blue Badge Parking only. (There is flat level access to all areas within the town)

Although he did not support the continued parking of vehicles on the Castle side of the Square, under any circumstances. He was mindful that some members do and would urge that if parking is to be permitted in the Square, then it be for those members of our community in possession of a blue badge. Should this be the case then the Barracks Square could additionally offer 30min general parking.

He would also urge members to support the relocation of the Bus Stops from the Parade to the Rear of the Town Hall. This could create additional short stay parking for users of the Co-Op and Post office.

Miss Quine Seconded the proposal on the basis that the full pedestrianisation of the Square be sought.

Mr Parnell supported the sentiments and the strategy, however it must wait until the Castle Court Car Park was available. He was fully supportive of increasing parking available to Blue Badge Holders.

Mr Horton fully agreed, however he expressed frustration that the amended orders requested in March had not been progressed. He believes that this has been the busiest summer he has experienced (through his association with the traders). He remained frustrated that the square was not being used to its full potential.

Mr Ludford-Brooks was fully supportive. Anything that minimised potential conflict between vehicles and pedestrians had to be a good thing.

Mr Parnell proposed an amendment that an application be made for the Square to be pedestrianised on the Castle Side. This was not seconded.

A vote took place for Mr Leather's Proposal which was carried 4:1, Mr Parnell being against.

AB/032.18 Bee Bombs

Miss Quine proposed that the Town support the concept of providing local children with "Bee Bombs" of native flowers to encourage wild flower growth which was beneficial to Bees and other insects. Members were supportive and Miss Quine was to investigate further with potential providers of appropriate seeds.

AB/033.18 Release of Balloons & Lanterns from CTC Land

A query had been received from a resident asking if the board would support the Marine Conservation Society pledge to stop all balloon and sky lantern releases. (See www.mcsuk.org/dontletgo)

Mr Ludford-Brooks suggested that it could potentially be added to Byelaws.

There was clear support for concept, however CL was of the opinion that that the matter was being raised in Tynwald.

Mr Horton requested that meetings be arranged specifically to address Standing Orders and Bylaws. It was agreed that these would be prioritised.

AB/034.18 Speakers Garden

Miss Quine expressed her frustration at the negative feedback that had been received in respect of the Speakers Garden during the recent Castletown Heritage Event. She proposed that the matter be escalated to the Trustees of MNH that the Board remained deeply unsatisfied with the lack of care that was shown to this key part of the town. This was seconded by Mr Horton with all in favour.

AB/035.18 Consultations

It was agreed that members would submit their individual views to any consultations deemed relevant via the Consultation Hub. The Clerk informed members of the live consultations.

AB/036.18 Planning Matters & Decisions

The Following Planning matters and applications were considered:

- 18/00549/B 12 Malew Street (Tracy Bells) Refurb of upper floors to create apartments.
- 18/00596/B Thie My Chree - Polytunnel
- 18/00612/B 43 Arbory St - Replacement windows to the rear
- 18/00609/B Hopes and Dreams – Retrospective erection of a classroom
- 18/00703/C 11 Bank Street – Change of use to Residential
- 18/00215/B How Yngren, Douglas Street - replacement with pebble dash with render
- 18/00298/B Seaward - replacement windows
- 18/00687/B Ballamoar Douglas Road – Alterations & Extensions
- 18/00150/B 28 The Crofts – Render
- 18/00706/B The Sidings – Proposed Extension

- The Methodist Church had lost their appeal in respect of 17/00950/B, Mr Ludford-Brooks considered that this was "crazy".
- Mr Ludford-Brooks read out the responses that had been received from Dave Lewis of Haven Homes.

- Clarification to be sought in respect of the lane ownership from Poulson Park

AB/037.18 Matters for future discussion

- **Possible Food Festival**
- **Standing Orders**
- **Byelaws**

The meeting closed at 19.58