

Castletown Town Commissioners
Ordinary Board Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2017

Present Mr Leather (Chairman), Messrs. Cubbon, Horton, McAleer & Parnell.

Apologies were received from Mr Ludford-Brooks and Carol Quine

Also in attendance the Town Clerk, Mr Mackenzie

AB/63.17 Approval of minutes from last meeting

Mr Parnell proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 2nd October be approved as read. This was seconded by Mr Cubbon with all in favour. The minutes were duly approved.

AB/64.17 Matters Arising

With regard to AB/58.17, Mr Leather stated that he had had an informal discussion with Mr A Osbourne regarding the potential for them to create an access onto the Barracks square to utilise the area for the businesses in the Old Town Hall.

With regard to AB/53.17, a brief discussion took place surrounding the potential merits of removing the Double yellow lines on Castletown promenade.

AB/65.17 Approval of Accounts

The Clerk circulated accounts for payment. Mr Horton felt strongly that consideration should be given to increasing the CCTV coverage in the town.

Mr Parnell queried that costs for vehicle recovery. The Clerk confirmed that these were vehicles in contravention of parking regulations in the towns car parks which had been removed to the Department of Infrastructure secure compound.

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

AB/66.17 Correspondence

The Clerk presented members with the following items of correspondence:

i, **DOI Transfer of services** – Members had been circulated a survey by the DOI, seeking feedback on the transition of services that had taken place. Members were requested to make individual responses.

ii, **Invitation to Port Erin Christmas Service**– A letter was received from Port Erin Commissioners inviting members to attend their Christmas Service.

iii, **Invitation to Louis Barbers Anniversary event** - A letter was received from Mrs McAleer of Louis Barbers inviting members to join a reception to mark the milestone of the business in the town.

iv, **Notification of Post Office collection changes.** Mr Leather gave a summary of details to reduce the frequency of post office collections.

He was of the opinion that this was a significant retrograde step and he was strongly against the proposal, in his opinion the post office should be seeking to improve services, not reduce them.

Other members were not as concerned.

Mr Parnell proposed that the letter be noted. This was seconded with all in favour with the exception of Mr Leather

v, **Public Sector Rent Setting** – A discussion took place regarding the level of increase (if any) that should be applied to public sector housing rents. Mr Leather proposed that any increase be in line with inflation. This was seconded by Mr Horton with all in favour.

vi, **Consultations** – It was agreed to defer discussion surrounding both the consultations on Local Government Legislation and Planning Legislation until the next public meeting.

AB/67.17 Planning

The Following Planning matters and applications were considered with no objections being raised:

17/01069/GB - 7 The Parade Castletown Isle Of Man IM9 1LG. Parish: CASTLETOWN. Proposal: Alterations including rendering to front and gable elevations, repair works to gutter and chimney stack and installation of two replacement roof lights (in association with 17/01070/CON)

17/01065/CON - Crofton The Crofts Castletown Isle Of Man IM9 1LW. Parish: CASTLETOWN. Proposal: Registered Building consent for the erection of a rear conservatory (in association with 17/01064/GB)

17/01120/B - 8 Arbory Street Castletown Isle Of Man IM9 1LJ. Parish: CASTLETOWN. Proposal: Ground floor window / door alterations to approved front elevation.

17/01061/B - 23 Queen Street Castletown Isle Of Man IM9 1PB. Parish: CASTLETOWN. Proposal: Installation of replacement windows to front elevation.

17/01047/B - 10 Bayr Grianagh Castletown Isle Of Man IM9 1HN. Parish: CASTLETOWN. Proposal: Erection of a sunroom extension to the north elevation.

17/00792/793 - 4 Parliament Square Castletown Isle Of Man IM9 1LA. Parish: CASTLETOWN. Proposal: Internal and external alterations (in connection with Registered Building Application 17/00793/CON)

With regard to the appeal surrounding 17/19 Malew Street. There was agreement to clarify Martin Sewells Submission but reiterate the earlier position.

Mr Cubbon expressed his concerns that the joined-up government was not apparent through the planning process

AB/68.17 Paper for discussion re Skatepark

Mr Leather proposed suspension of Standing Orders to allow the public to questions. This was seconded by Mr McAleer with all in favour.

Mr Cubbon gave a presentation regarding the background to his paper and the motivation behind such. He considered that provision is in place for toddlers to 8yrs, but fell by the wayside for teenagers and they are seen as a problem. The Board should be providing facilities for the children who's parents do not necessarily have the income to ensure that they take part in organised events. The request is not for commissioners to wholly fund the project, but to part fund any scheme. Funding hinges on a commitment from CTC. The wider concept reflects the problems of joined up government and decisions must be taken in the concept of the whole community.

Mr Horton stated that he had grown up in the town and appreciated that the facilities are lacking between the age 15-18 and is fully behind the proposal. The attraction is evidenced by the congregations of young people in Port Erin. He believes it should be seen as a positive step.

Mr McAleer commented on the positive efforts of Mr Cubbon. He would like to see wider improvements of facilities in the park beyond the initial concept. Would fully support the concept.

Mr Parnell fully supports the proposal in principle. However felt that young people should not be grouped together en masse. Castletown is not the same as Braddan and it should be noted that a previous proposal for a WiFi shelter was not supported by the constabulary at the time. Mr Parnell also considered that it was inappropriate to compare to costs of the skatepark to the library. The skatepark should not be seen as a panacea to the issue of problem children. The park is a bigger issue than simply a skatepark. Improved facilities such as toilets should be seen a priority.

Mr Leather stated that in principle he fully supports the concept, however Castletown will never realise the potential of Poulson park on its own. He did not wish to commit the town to a long term project without additional information and potentially considers the scheme as a "fad".

Mr Leather invited comments from the public gallery. Comments received were positive.

A discussion took place regarding the concept of a park becoming self-policing through increased public use. It was accepted that there would likely be negative feedback from members of the public.

Mr Parnell Proposed that rate borne funds be used to contribute towards the build cost of a facility and was seconded by Mr McAleer with all in favour.

Mr Parnell also proposed that the finance Committee should sit and discuss and consider what monetary value the level of support should be set at. This was seconded by Mr Leather with all in favour.

Mr Leather stated that he was very proud of what the board had achieved. Mr Cubbon felt that the town was getting a little better at a lot of things.

AB/69.17 Online Survey Results

The Clerk Gave a summary of the survey response, indicating that 71% of Castletown Residents saw the primary function of the Market Square as a public open space as opposed to a car park and a discussion took place regarding the need for a parking strategy for the town.

It was agreed to allow the Clerk to draft a paper.

AB/70.17 Bus Parking

A proposal for amendments to the bus stops in the Parade had been received from the DOI with feedback requested. Mr Leather suggested that the proposal be rejected, the removal of parking was seen as unacceptable. This was seconded by Mr McAleer with all in favour.

Matters for Future Discussion

- **Parking Strategy**
- **Fire Station Site**

The Meeting Closed at 20.19