

Castletown Town Commissioners

Ordinary Board Minutes

1 August 2022

Present: Mr J. Horton (Chairman) (JH)
Mr J. Ludford-Brooks (Vice Chairman) (JLB)
Mr C. Leather (CL)
Mr J. Cubbon (JC)

Apologies: Mrs B. Cannan (BC)
Miss D. Quinney (DQ)
Mr N. Rogers (NR)
Mr L. Wylie, Operations Manager (LW)

Attending: Mr H. Mackenzie, Town Clerk (HMCK)
Miss H. Fox (minutes)

OB/028.22 Chairman's Welcome

Mr Horton opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He advised he has been to the Tynwald Day event, which he noted was a good experience and was proud to represent Castletown. He has also been to the Southern 100 event and the Agricultural show.

Mr Horton advised the survey for Market Square had 600 respondents, most notably 75% of the respondents thought the pedestrianisation was a good thing. Constructive comments and it's felt the square is a success. The future of the square will be the subject of further discussion.

OB/029.22 Minutes

It was resolved the minutes of the meeting of 4 July 2022 be approved as read and a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Mr Ludford-Brooks

Seconded: Mr Leather

OB/030.22 Business out of the same.

The matter of the fire station was discussed. The Clerk advised there has been social media activity and some movement at the site itself. The deadline is 15 September 2022. Mr Ludford-Brooks suggested there should be another meeting in 2 weeks' time to check the progress.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting on 13 September for the board to visit the fire station.

Following on from the previous meetings discussions regarding the wider parking issues, date for meeting to be arranged.

Action: Meeting date to be finalised for end of August/start of September.

Extraordinary meeting has been held and borrowings ratified.

No progress as yet on the notice board relocation.

The Clerk noted following the letter to the residents of Queen Street and Scarlett Road regarding maintenance of the grassed area was not unanimous in their responses.

There were some frustrations at the Southern 100 prize giving as the pub closed at 10:30pm. It was mentioned to move the celebrations to the Sidings/Viking area but that would be detrimental to the centre of town. It was noted one member of staff decided to close at that time and 12:00am was the time the brewery had agreed to stay open until. The matter has been discussed with the member of staff and it will not happen again.

In relation to the unsightly buildings, a meeting is due to take place with advocates as currently the Local Authority doesn't have much power to enforce the legislation.

The product is a 'Panna Arena' has been a success and there is a new fence being built around the grassed area to enhance the site. Mr Cubbon suggested there should be football goals and volleyball nets for summer. Mr Horton confirmed that frisbee golf was suggested as well.

OB/031.22 Accounts

It was proposed that the accounts be accepted.

Proposed: Mr Ludford-Brooks

Seconded: Mr Leather

OB/032.22 Notices of Motion

It was noted that Mr Cubbon brought a notice of motion (NOM) forward regarding the Southern Swimming Pool Board. It was determined the NOM was to call a public meeting for all MHKs and local authority members to discuss matters relating to the swimming pool and the feeling of disparity in the consideration of the needs of

Castletown. Mr Leather suggested the Cabinet Minister should attend. The Clerk advised it is unlikely he would do so however; he should be invited to do so first. Mr Horton suggested there should also be a member of each authority in attendance. All agree.

Action: Propose an agenda is prepared and the Minister is invited formally first.

Proposed: Mr Leather

Seconded: Mr Ludford-Brooks

Mr Ludford-Brooks brought forward a notice of motion regarding the regional swimming pool rate charges. He has asked that the Commissioners write to the Chief Minister to urgently request that the Government now considers the introduction at an early date of an 'all Island household Swimming Pool charge' to replace the present system charge and that such charge be included in the annual rates bill applicable to each household. It was noted that Douglas, Onchan and Braddan have no charge currently and they make up half the population of the island. Mr Cubbon noted this could be done through taxes as an option.

Action: Write to the Chief Minister and request 'all Island household Swimming Pool charge'. All agree.

Proposed: Mr Cubbon

Seconded: Mr Ludford-Brooks

OB/033.22 Correspondence

Invites and Events

None received.

General Correspondence

Rent Setting – 2023/2024. The Department of Infrastructure has written to all Local Authorities to request their decision on the increase in public sector housing rents. Mr Cubbon noted that as inflation is so high, is it fair to increase rents. The Clerk advised that if rents do not increase then there will be less funding for housing development. Mr Ludford-Brooks suggested the discussion and decision be deferred until there is a full board.

Action: Defer discussion/decision until there is a full board.

OB/034.22 Planning

Planning applications from the July press list were discussed.

All approved, no objections.

OB/035.22 Consultations

Consultation on Secondary Legislation and Codes of Practice under The Liquor Licensing and Public Entertainments Act 2021. Roadshows are taking place on this legislation, considering the flexibility of liquor licences. Mr Leather has signed up to this. Date is 24 August 2022 at the Foraging Vintners. Mr Horton stated if anyone else would like to go to make it known.

OB/036.22 Matters for future discussions

Mr Cubbon raised the possibility for accessing funding for projects. As a £250,000 event yielded 3 million back which is a good return. It has been noted that Mr Skelly refused to extend the deadline for accessing funds and didn't give an explanation why. It was also noted again that Castletown wishes to sponsor two events a year, consultation also confirmed residents and visitors would like to see more events.

Action: Mr Moorhouse to write to the Department of Economic Development.

Mr Cubbon wanted to note the European Trials Championship is due soon.

Action: The event should be publicised on social media.

Another suggestion for sports facilities by Mr Cubbon is putting tennis rackets at the bowling green, could be done using an honesty box.

Mr Ludford-Brooks raised the matter of the CRHS swimming pool and noted the south needs a pool.

Mr Horton mentioned that Christmas needs to be planned and conversation with ELS who provide the events items.

The Meeting Closed at 19:56.

Public discussion.

A member of the public raised issue with subvention payments for the Southern Swimming Pool Board. They were invited to attend the next public meeting. They take place 3rd Thursday of every month.

Also issue raised with access to main car park entrance (Chapel Lane). Suggestion that some of the buildings removed to allow better access. This is not viable. It was noted

mirrors or some sort of light sensors system might be helpful to see when other cars are coming and going to prevent issues with jams compounded by buses also.

Mr Cubbon noted Parliament Square is another space which could be utilised as a pedestrian zone. JC – parliament square. Another incredible space.

Another member queried whether an accountant had determined the £30k loss for the swimming pool. Was advised no, but a suitably qualified staff member.