

Castletown Town Commissioners

Ordinary Board Minutes

5 September 2022

Present: Mr J. Horton (Chairman) (JH)
Mr J. Ludford-Brooks (Vice Chairman) (JLB)
Mr C. Leather (CL)
Mr J. Cubbon (JC)
Mrs B. Cannan (BC)
Miss D. Quinney (DQ)
Mr N. Rogers (NR)

Apologies: None.

Attending: Mr H. Mackenzie, Town Clerk (HMCK)
Mr L. Wylie, Operations Manager (LW)
Miss H. Fox (minutes)

OB/037.22 Chairman's Welcome

Mr Horton opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He advised he has been with Mr Ludford-Brooks to the Manx Aviation Museum and the unveiling of a plaque for the HMS Hurley in the old part of Janet's Corner. Whilst the weather was poor, the event was enjoyable and was attended by His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor. They also attended an afternoon tea with Southern Befrienders also attended by his Excellency.

OB/038.22 Minutes

It was resolved the minutes of the meeting of 1 August 2022 be approved as read and a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Mr Leather

Seconded: Mr Ludford-Brooks

OB/039.22 Business out of the same

Fire station – Bottle Monkey

Mr Leather advised he has visited a few times and there has been significant work undertaken. The main garage area has been painted, the brewery equipment, sink and other plumbing items have been installed. Roofing issues have been fixed and the outside has been painted as well. It looks likely it will be open in some form by the end

of the month.

Grassed areas – Queen Street/Scarlett Road

No further responses/feedback from the residents in these areas at present. One of the main correspondents on this matter has been off island but has returned. It was noted there have been tracks made in the grass allowing for access on foot through which could be looked at being made wider as a solution.

The Clerk will be meeting with him in due course.

Action: The Clerk to arrange meeting.

Unightly buildings

Awaiting response from the advocates on this matter.

Panna football arena

Has been well received and set up in a few different locations. Most recently Barracks Square for the August bank holiday. Has been well received.

Frisbee Golf

Still awaiting response from Mr Skelly however, Mr Horton has reported he has not yet received this. Possibly look into other prices.

Swimming Pool

Correspondence has been received from Diane Kelsey, MLC stating that it was understood there is frustration, and strongly suggested the board attend the Island Plan Conference on 20 and 21 September to understand the intent of CoMin. Following conference, specific planning issues can be discussed thereafter. Mr Cubbon expressed his displeasure that the Minister didn't reply in person and delegated it to Ms Kelsey. It was noted the Minister advised he could attend in the New Year however, the consensus among the board is this is too long to wait. It was suggested that the board could call a public meeting so the Minister would have to attend then. The Clerk strongly suggested a public meeting would not be the best course of action and to proceed with writing to the Minister asking for him to meet with the board again in the first instance.

ACTION: Letter to be written to the Minister to request he attends a meeting with the board. Letter received from Diane Kelsey, MLC to be referred back to the Minister to respond.

Proposed: Mr Leather

Seconded: Mr Ludford-Brooks

Rent setting

Was initially deferred. Discussion around in previous years Castletown Town

Commissioners have always voted to be at 0% increase. However, it is noted CTC won't be able to provide adequate maintenance support if an increase isn't applied. Unanimously agree to increasing the rent to the level of inflation.

ACTION: Agree to inflation at the rate at the time. Unanimous.

Proposed: Mr Ludford-Brooks

Seconded: Mr Cubbon

OB/040.22 Accounts

No accounts were presented.

OB/041.22 Market Square

Mr Wylie confirmed the pedestrianisation of Market Square will end on 19th September and the whole area will be open again for parking. Feedback was sought during the period of pedestrianisation in the form of a short survey. Results showed 75% of the respondents were happy with the arrangement. It is intended after a month of the cars returning to the square to conduct another survey to seek feedback on future arrangements. Mr Ludford-Brooks stated he would like to see Market Square pedestrianisation and shut to cars all year.

The Clerk confirmed the rationale behind opening the whole area to parking is that it is too dangerous for children to have it shut partially. It was noted that the one-way system has caused frustration which has compounded some of the negative feedback on the square. As the building work at Derby House is progressing well, it is thought the one-way system is on target to be restored to two-way on schedule. There will also be feedback on the survey undertaken by Betty Laurincova which was displayed in the Town Hall foyer seeking opinions on plans for Castletown, in and around the square and other areas of the town. The results from this exercise will be available in the coming weeks.

ACTION: Further survey on Market Square plans to be circulated mid/late-October with future plans for the area to be decided thereafter.

Proposed: Mr Leather

Seconded: Mr Ludford-Brooks

OB/042.22 Notices of Motion

No notices of motion were brought forward.

OB/043.22 Correspondence

Sid Quirk half marathon. No objection to it running through the town. Mr Cubbon noted it is a shame it doesn't begin in Castletown rather than the airport.

Treasury rates have written regarding the loss of rates in School Hill.

Menopause awareness scheme – asked for support for promotion of their cause.

Castletown football club

They have asked for another meeting regarding the football cabinet. It has already been advised the reasons why CTC are unable to keep the cabinet in the Town Hall. Mr Horton has offered to meet and explain in person in the foyer but the offer has not been accepted yet.

ACTION: Mr Leather to meet with Castletown Football Club.

OB/044.22 Planning

Planning applications from the August press list were discussed.

All approved, no objections.

OB/045.22 Consultations

Castletown traffic calming. Boards position was to support it. 20mph unanimously in favour.

ACTION: Board support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit but not the traffic calming physical measures.

Proposed: Mr Ludford-Brooks

Seconded: Mr Leather

OB/046.22 Matters for future discussions

Town Hall hub

Mr Horton discussed the option to set up the Town Hall as a place for people to meet to have a coffee and socialise during the winter. The Clerk suggested the foyer or the library would be a good starting point and if there is success with this then the main hall could be used. Mr Horton also confirmed the Bowling Green Café would be able to donate a coffee machine for use. Consideration should be given to the rising costs of fuel and electric to heat and power the hall if this is progressed however.

Meeting closed: 20:23