



Ramsgate Town Council

MINUTES

MEETING: Finance and General Purposes Committee.

MEETING DATE: 25th January 2017.

VENUE: The Council Chamber, the Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Campbell (Chairman), Brown, Connor, Falcon,
J. Fairbrass, L.Fairbrass, Kennedy, Rev Piper, L.Piper and Shonk.

R.Styles - Town Clerk.

E.Richford - Deputy Town Clerk.

189. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Martin - Other business.

Cllr Young - Other business.

Cllr Stummer- Schmertzing - Other business.

190. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr L.Fairbrass -Thanet CAB.

191. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 26th October 2016 (Minutes 132-140) were approved as a true record.

Proposed by: Cllr Rev Piper.

Seconded by: Cllr Connor.

RESOLVED

192. HERITAGE ACTION ZONE & COMMONPLACE SURVEY

Heritage Action Zone - further discussion required by partners therefore the decision on funding is deferred.

A briefing on the HAZ by TDC Director of Services is to be arranged.

Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.

Seconded by: Cllr L.Fairbrass.

RESOLVED

Commonplace survey

Payment to Commonplace for the survey is authorised.

Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.

Seconded by: Cllr L.Fairbrass.

RESOLVED

193. COASTAL COMMUNITY FUND -UPDATE

The Clerk reported on current progress.
The report was noted.

194. BUDGET 2017/18

- a) 2016/17 Income and expenditure: the Clerk went through each budget item in turn and explained any variances to the satisfaction of the meeting and this was duly noted.
- b) Repairs Sinking fund: is to be identified in future as a restricted purposes fund and not to be treated as part of the Council's reserves.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr L.Fairbrass.
RESOLVED
- c) Budget 2017/18 - Staff.
The Technical Officer is to be upgraded to SCP 23 and to be awarded an ex gratia payment in respect of the greater responsibility and skills required of his work.
The Deputy Town Clerk is to be upgraded to LC3 and given a 2% inflation award by virtue of her greater responsibility as Deputy Town Clerk & RFO.
All other staff to be awarded a 2% inflation uplift within their paygrades.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr J. Fairbrass.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
- d) Budget 2017/18 - Lengthsman
The current contract groundwork will continue till 1st April 2017, but it was decided to appoint a Parish Lengthsman to carry out small works and other duties from that time. The post is to be advertised and interviews held so that the successful candidate will be in post from 1st April 2017.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr Rev Piper.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
- e) Budget 2017/18 - Apprentice Lengthsman
It was decided to appoint an Apprentice Parish Lengthsman with training provided by East Kent College to carry out small works and other duties. The post is to be advertised and interviews held so that the successful candidate will be in post from 1st April 2017.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr L.Fairbrass.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
- f) Budget 2017/18 - Human Resources
The Clerk reported that the current provider had made changes and that the recommendation was to retain the services of the Morgan Jones Consultancy on an annual basis with individual matters paid for as they occur. The budget allocation recommended was £7,000. Appraisals for all staff would be completed by the spring which may require HR input.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr Shonk.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

- g) Budget 2017/18 - Active Ramsgate
It was agreed to allocate a budget figure of £43,000 to include a sum of £5,000 for Active Ramsgate Activities.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr Rev Piper.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
- h) Budget allocations agreed as follows:
Civic - £14,500.
Office + IT - £23,000.
Custom House - £78,500.
Allotments - £17,500.
Democracy - £15,500. To include £2,500 for Cllr training.
Grant funds - £40,000.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr L.Fairbrass.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
- i) Budget 2017/18 - Events
A budget of £60,000 to include anticipated TDC grant was agreed.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr Connor.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
- j) Budget 2017/18 - Decorative lights.
A budget allocation of £20,000 was agreed.
The clerk was also asked to investigate the cost of lighting up the tide ball mast and obtaining way leave permission from TDC and KCC. If the project gets agreement, then funding will be via the contingency in the first year.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr L.Fairbrass.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
- k) Budget 2017/18 - Town Improvement.
A budget allocation of £16,000 was agreed.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr L.Fairbrass.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
- l) Budget allocations agreed as follows:
Finance - £8,150.
VIC - £25,000.
Storage + Transport - £15,000.
Leopold St car park - £9,500.
- m) Budget 2017/18 Community services:
Rape crisis centre - £10,000.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr Connor.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

- n) Budget 2017/18 Community services:
Thanet CAB - £10,000.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr J.Fairbrass.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
- o) Suspension of standing orders
To complete the remaining business on the agenda, standing orders were suspended.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr L.Fairbrass.
RESOLVED
- p) Precept
The meeting agreed to recommend a precept figure of £51.93/annum for a band D property.
Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr J. Fairbrass.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

195. FORMER ALLOTMENT LAND AT MANSTON ROAD

The Clerk was authorised to instruct a specialist legal advisor in order to deliver a report to Council on the legal position regarding the disposal of the land and retention of the capital receipt without restriction by the District Council.

Proposed by: Cllr Campbell.
Seconded by: Cllr Rev Piper.

RESOLVED

196. REO VISITOR BOOKLET FUNDING REQUEST

The meeting agreed to allocate £1100 to REO to defray the cost of producing this booklet. The money to be taken from the contingency.

Proposed by; Cllr Campbell
Seconded by: Cllr L.Fairbrass.

RESOLVED

197. WAYFARING FUNDING APPROVAL.

The meeting approved the allocation of £12,500 as agreed as the RTC share of the Ramsgate wayfaring project stage1, based on the report received by the meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr Campbell
Seconded by: Cllr Shonk.

RESOLVED

198. RADFORD BEQUEST.

It was agreed to form a working group consisting of the Council Committee Chairmen the Mayor and two other Councillors, to look at the options on how best to administer and get best value from this bequest. The working group will report back to the F+GP Cttee and/or Council with its findings.

Proposed by: Cllr Campbell
Seconded by: Cllr S. Piper.

RESOLVED

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

MAYOR/CHAIRMAN