

RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting duly convened and held in the Council Chamber, Albion House, Albion Place, Ramsgate on 7 December 2009

Present: Councillors Byne, Carr, Dark, Doyle, Green, Hault, Kirby, Landi,
Moore, Nicholson, O'Donnell, Poole, Rogers, and Todd.

Eileen Richford, Senior Democratic Services Officer, TDC.

65 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Fenner and Ward.

66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared for this meeting of Council.

67 PRESENTATION BY THE RAMSGATE SOCIETY

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ken Read who addressed Council with reference to the Society's response to the Local Development Core Strategy document consultation by Thanet District Council (TDC).

The Society had been unofficially working with the RTC Local Development Framework Core Strategy Working Party (LDFWP) on the response to TDC and now requested that this would become an official joint project/response.

Mr Read had been working on amendments to the Core Strategy document and had passed these to the LDFWP. These would be fed into the response for submission to TDC.

The response deadline was 18 December 2009 and the Society had arranged for a Town Planner to review it. The fees for this were £65.00 per hour to a maximum of £1,000.00 and the Society requested that RTC help toward the fees and to endorse the response.

Members were concerned that they were being asked to endorse and fund a document which currently had no content and was still being worked on.

The Chairman thanked Mr Read for addressing Council.

68 REPORT OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY WORKING PARTY

Members considered the verbal report of Councillor Hault as detailed below;

Core Strategy Working Party set up.

At the Full Council meeting of 2nd November 2009 the Core Strategy Working Party was elected as follows; - Councillors Dark, Hault, Landi, Moore & Rogers. The first meeting took place on 23 November 2009. Councillor Hault was elected as Chairman of the Working Party.

Shaping Our Future

The Thanet District Council had several years and a full team of expert staff to back their document "Shaping Our Future" - RTC had five Councillors and just 25 days to create a smaller but equally important document. With this in mind Mr Ken Read of the Ramsgate Society was invited to the first meeting as he had already carried out a great deal of work on a similar document for the Ramsgate Society. He gave the Working Party an excellent presentation which in the main Members agreed with and invited him to continue with the document with a few of the Working Party's additions.

Ramsgate Societies Full Presentation

On the 27 November several of the Ramsgate Town Councillors, including the Councillor Hoult attended the Ramsgate Society's public meeting held at the Media Centre. Once again the presentation was well staged and well received by most of the large audience, giving it public support. Also, there were few more suggested changes.

Meeting with Colin Fitt

The second Working Party meeting was again attended by Ken Read and also in attendance was Colin Fitt, TDC. Once again several suggested changes were noted.

Planning Consultant for Document.

A document now has to be produced to submit to TDC and Ken Read with his team have agreed to carry out this work at no cost to RTC, delivering a professional document equal to "Shaping our Future" but smaller, to represent the Town of Ramsgate. To give this more impact they would need to involve a Professional Town Planning Consultant to look over the document and advise as necessary at the cost of £1,000 which they would like the RTC to help with.

Why the Ramsgate Society?

Councillor Hoult advised Council that he had called for help from the experts, the Ramsgate Society, as he was new to politics and an Independent without the backing of a political party.

Moved by Councillor Hoult and seconded by Councillor Rogers that;

"Ramsgate Town Council, in principal adopt the final document, subject to any last minute changes it wishes to apply to it

And that

Ramsgate Town Council support the Ramsgate Society in the funding of the Planning Consultancy Costs"

Further debate followed where Members raised concerns about not having time to view the document before submission to TDC. The chairman advised that there was a possibility that the deadline may be extended for the newly formed Town Council.

Amendment to the substantive motion moved by Councillor Carr and seconded by Councillor Rogers that;

“Ramsgate Town Council consider this matter again at its scheduled meeting to be held on 4 January 2010 and on adoption consider supporting the Ramsgate Society in the funding of the Planning Consultancy Costs”

AMENDMENT CARRIED.

A further amendment to the substantive motion moved by Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Nicholson that;

“this be subject to the Chairman obtaining advice from the Town Clerk that this was legally acceptable”

AMENDMENT CARRIED.

AMENDED SUBSTANTIVE MOTION ADOPTED.

69 **ALBION HOUSE**

In view of the urgency of the situation, retrospective authority was sought to instruct a solicitor and surveyor in support of Council's position regarding agreement of a lease for the ground floor and basement of Albion House. The Draft Lease was attached to the agenda papers at Appendix A.

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Hoult and **resolved** that Council approves the appointment of Mr Daniel of Daniel and Edwards, to represent the Council over the lease of Albion House.

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Hoult and **resolved** that Council agree that the appointment of a surveyor to act for the Council in this matter be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

70 **PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON COUNCIL'S BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2010/11**

Agreement was sought to organise and advertise a series of Ward based public meetings in January 2010 in order to consult upon the Council's draft budget proposals for 2010/11.

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Hoult and **resolved** that Council authorises the Chairman in consultation with the Ward Councillors concerned to arrange and advertise meetings in each Ward to consult on the Council's proposed programme and Budget for 2010/11

And

Meetings to take place in January 2010, so that they may inform Council's considerations at its February meeting.

71 **RAMSGATE EVENTS 2010/11 – TALKS WITH THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL AND OTHERS**

The Chairman advised Council that TDC had offered to put £30,000.00 towards an events programme provided that RTC matched the funding. This had been agreed in principle with RTC being able to organise events with TDC's approval.

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Hoult and **resolved** that Council forms a Working Party consisting of the Chairman, two Members of Council

supported by the Town Clerk to work with TDC's representatives and others to arrange events in Ramsgate for 20010/11

and

The Working Party to have full authority to act within the budget set and to report regularly to Full Council.

72 APPLICATIONS TO THE RAMSGATE FUND

Council considered two applications and **resolved** that the payments be awarded as detailed below;

Organisation	Agreed Financial Assistance £	Purpose
St Mark's Parent and Toddler Group - Application 182	500.00	To replenish old and broken toys, purchase barrier/stair gate and new carpet.
Channel Dash Memorial Trust - Application 183	2,500.00	To manufacture and install an all-polished black granite plinth to support the 'Channel Dash' memorial.

Members noted that the Channel Dash Association received £3,500.00 in June 2009 for a different project which was abandoned. The grant had been returned in full.

Meeting concluded at; 8.25 pm.


Chairman - 4 January 2010