



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, CT11 8LP.

Date: Wednesday 24th June 2026 at 8:17pm.

Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Austin, Green, Hetherington, Huxley, Moore, Nixey, Ovenden and Shonk.

Also in attendance:

Mr D Williams, Deputy Town Clerk & Compliance Officer.

One member of public

174/26 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ara (personal commitment), Crittenden (personal commitment), Driver (personal commitment), Hudson (personal commitment), Makinson (unwell), Wing (unwell) and Young (Agreed extension of absence).

175/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

176/26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(i) **PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK**

There were no public requests to speak.

(ii) **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO RAMSGATE**

County Councillor Shonk updated Members that he had contacted Paul Valek to raise Ramsgate Town Council's concerns regarding the high street and the highways improvement plan and to clarify what action could be taken. He advised that a meeting would be arranged with Paul Valek and Councillor Mole to discuss the matter.

177/26 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Members received the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 27th May 2026 (Minutes 132/26 – 146/26).

RESOLUTION: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

178/26 **FINANCES**

(i) Members received a report of payments 1st to 30th June 2026; the Council was asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £13,485.40) and approve the payments above

the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £151,051.62).

RESOLUTIONS: The payments authorised by the Town Clerk (total £13,485.40) were noted and the payments above the threshold of the Town Clerk (total £151,051.62) were approved, and it was requested that future reports of payments include an additional column showing the relevant budget headings to clearly identify what Members are approving.

- (ii) Members received the “Balance Sheet” for the 2025/2026 financial year (the details therein informed the Annual Governance & Accountability Return)

RESOLUTION: The “Balance Sheet” for the 2025/2026 financial year was noted.

- (iii) Members were asked, as per the Financial Regulations, to consider and confirm that staff salary payments should continue to be made by BACS.

RESOLUTION: Council confirmed that staff salary payments should continue to be made by BACS.

- (iv) As per Financial Regulations, Members were asked to consider and confirm that payment via variable direct debit is acceptable in relation to payments for electricity, gas, water, internet/telephone, HR, photocopier and leased vehicle.

RESOLUTION: Council confirmed that payment via variable direct debit is acceptable in relation to payments for electricity, gas, water, internet/telephone, HR, photocopier and leased vehicle.

- (v) To consider the findings of the review of effectiveness of the system of internal control (Page 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ending 31st March 2026), and a covering letter from the internal auditor.

RESOLUTION: Council noted the findings of the review of effectiveness of the system of internal control (Page 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ending 31st March 2026), and the covering letter from the internal auditor.

- (vi) Members reviewed the Risk Register for year ending 31st March 2026.

RESOLUTION: Council approved the Risk Register for year ending 31st March 2026.

- (vii) Members received the Annual Governance Statement for approval via resolution (Section 1 / Page 4 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ending 31st March 2026).

RESOLUTION: Council approved the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 / Page 4 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ending 31st March 2026) and it was duly signed by the Chair of Council.

- (viii) Members received for approval the Accounting Statements for 2025/2026 (Section 2 / Page 5 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ending 31st March 2026).

RESOLUTION: Council approved the Accounting Statements for 2025/2026 (Section 2 / Page 5 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ending 31st March 2026) and it was duly signed by the Chair of Council.

- (ix) Members were asked to nominate a Councillor to undertake Financial Regulation 2.6:

“At least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chair or a cheque signatory shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the Finance Officer. The member shall sign and date the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of this. This activity, including any exceptions, shall be reported to and noted by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.”

RESOLUTION: Councillor Ara was nominated and agreed to undertake Financial Regulation 2.6 on behalf of Council.

179/26

MANSTON AIRPORT DCO (NON-MATERIAL CHANGE APPLICATION)

Members received and considered the non-material change application to the Manston Airport Development Consent Order (DO) 2022, including an extension to the implementation period and amendments to technical requirements. Members were asked to consider the proposals in that context and determine whether the Council wishes to submit any comments to the Planning Inspectorate.

RESOLUTION: That the Council submit written comments to the Planning Inspectorate stating that it does not consider the proposed extensions to be valid or required, noting that judicial reviews are a legitimate part of the legal process and that, given the MOD’s comments, concerns remain regarding the radar replacement requirements.

Councillor Shonk vote against.

180/26

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members received the following committee minutes (for approval by the respective committees):

- (i) Planning & Infrastructure Committee Meeting 3rd June 2026 (Minutes 147/26 – 151/26).
- (ii) Town Promotion Committee Meeting 10th June 2026 (Minutes 152/26 - 165/26).

RESOLUTION: The draft minutes as detailed were noted.

181/26

VISIT THANET WEBSITE

Members received and considered a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO on whether funding should be given to Thanet District Council for the Visit Thanet Website. Members were asked to consider whether and how the Council wishes to support this proposal, taking into

account the available options, associated risks and the need to ensure value for money and a clear benefit for Ramsgate.

RESOLUTION: That the Council does not support funding the Visit Thanet website unless Thanet District Council can fully justify why it is unable to fund the project itself and the contributions from Broadstairs and Margate are confirmed; Ramsgate Town Council would only agree to provide funding if shared editorial control of the website is granted.

Councillor Shonk voted against

182/26

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 29th July 2026 at 7pm.