



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate.
Date: Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7pm.
Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Ara, Austin, Crittenden, Green, Heatherington, Hudson, Huxley, Nixey, Ovenden, Shonk and Wing

Also in attendance:

Mrs R Smith, Town Centre & Tourism Manager

Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

043/26 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Makinson and Moore (private commitments) and Cllr Young (unwell).

044/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Ovenden declared an interest in item X; matters relating to businesses in the town centre, as his wife works in one of the businesses.

Cllr Hetherington declared an interest in item X; as a board member of Arts in Ramsgate.

045/26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(i) **PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK**

Representatives from the Royal Naval Association and Royal Air Force Association explained that Armed Forces Day is intended to show support for the Armed Forces (serving personnel, veterans and their families), and should be a celebration of their service and courage. It was noted that grant funding is available for this event.

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

Cllr Shonk invited councillors to put any KCC problems in writing to him and he will raise them with KCC. The number of potholes is particularly problematic at the moment; and the poor repairs that are being carried out.

046/26 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Members received the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council

held on the 28th January 2026 (Minutes: 016/26 – 028/26).

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

047/26

FINANCES (INCL. GRANTS)

(i) Council received a report of payments; Council was asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st and 28th February 2026, totalling £9,415.22 and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st and 28th February 2026, totalling £87,255.85.

RESOLUTION: The payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO were noted, and the payments above the delegated power of expenditure were approved.

(ii) Members considered the recommendations of the Grant Scrutiny Panel in respect of the following grant applications and resolved how much to award.

RESOLUTIONS:

a) Events Grant:

Ref	Applicant	Event / Project Name	Funding Awarded
EF1	SONDER Arts CIC	Totem Sculpture Exhibition, June 2026	£2,750.00
EF2	ROMMC	Great Bucket & Spade Run, 07/06/2026	£2,500.00
EF3	Ramsgate Pirates	Ramsgate Pirates Festival, 06/06/2026	£3,000.00
EF4	Thanet Big Sing Community Choir	Operation Dynamo – Little Ships Return Commemorative Service, 24/05/2026	£1,200.00
EF5	St George’s Church & Great British Carnival CIC	St George’s Day Spring Parade, 19/04/2026	£3,000.00
EF6	Looping the Loop CIC	A Midsummer’s Tea Party, 20/06/2026	£3,796.00
EF7	Ramsgate Festival of Sound	Ramsgate Through the Senses, 25-26/04/2026	£3,000.00

b) Ramsgate Fund

Ref	Applicant	Event / Project Name	Funding Awarded
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RF17	Ramsgate Space CIC	Kitchen Completion & CRM System	£3,500.00
RF1	6th Ramsgate Royal Harbour Sea Scouts	Ice House – Mains Water Connection	£3,067.20
RF2	The Ramsgate Society	Destiny Peace Memorial Restoration	£2,635.00

c) Community Services Grant

Ref	Applicant	Event / Project Name	Funding Awarded
CS13	High Street Social Club (Arts in Ramsgate)	Community Meals, Cooking & Nutrition Lessons	£2,500.00
CS14	East Kent Mencap	Scrapstore – Staff Support	£6,000.00
CS15	Beyond the Page	United Mothers ESOL Programme	£2,000.00
CS16	Porchlight	Family Routes – Year Two	£1,000.00
CS1	SHIFTwithin CIC	Connect With Respect	£1,540.00
CS2	Your True Reflection AO CIC	Restorative Healing Group	£0.00 (Not awarded)
CS3	Citizens Advice Thanet	Ramsgate Office – Supervisor Role	£24,555.00
CS4	SONDER Arts CIC	Happy Mondays Programme	£3,445.50
CS5	Pie Factory Music	Youth Service Sessions	£5,000.00

048/26

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members received the following draft Committee Minutes (for approval by the respective committees):

- (i) Town Promotion Committee 3rd February 2026 (Minutes 029/26 – 036/26)
- (ii) Asset Management Committee 11th February 2026 (Minutes 037/26 – 042/26).

RESOLUTION: The minutes were noted.

049/26 **UPDATES FROM THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Short verbal updates are invited from members. Updates received can only be noted.

050/29 **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Members considered the revised job description for the role of Marketing & Communications Officer, which follows on from the approved recommendations in Local Council Consultancy Services partial staffing review.

RESOLUTION: The job description was approved with no amendments.

051/29 **TOWN PROMOTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following two items had been referred from the Town Promotion Committee for consideration, due to the scale and costs involved with each:

(i) Members received a written report from Mrs R Smith, Town Centre & Tourism Manager, and consider the proposal contained therein to commission a Standing With Giants display in 2026.

RESOLUTION: £20,000 was approved for a Standing With Giants six-week installation at the harbour was approved, to feature 338 steel "Tommy" silhouettes.

(ii) Members received a written report from Mrs R Smith, Town Centre & Tourism Manager, and considered the proposal contained therein to purchase the MV Watchful.

RESOLUTION: The Council is supportive of this project, and would consider providing a marine survey, however, more detailed information is required.

The Council is asked to approve the following recommendation (for a virement in the new year):

(iii) Minute 034/26(ii) "to carry forward underspent monies from the Town Promotion budgets at the end of the financial year (2025/2026), estimating at £8,500.00, and earmarking them under a new budget heading entitled 'Electricity Costs for Decorative Lighting'. This heading will be used to meet the ongoing feeder pillar and lighting electricity costs."

RESOLUTION: To approve this virement in the new year.

052/26 **ARMED FORCES DAY 2027**

Members received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and consider the proposal contained therein from the Royal Naval Association to make Armed Forces Day a more celebratory event.

RESOLUTION: Having heard from the RNA members the councillors agree that this event should be a celebration, particularly for the children of serving personnel. The RNA are invited to complete an Events Grant application form.

053/26

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

- (i) It was recommended that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.
RESOLUTION: To exclude the press and public for the following items of business.
- (ii) Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and consider how to respond to the matter contained therein involving a data breach on 13th January 2026. It is recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the private individual concerned, and the financial negotiation to be considered.
RESOLUTION: Financial compensation will not be awarded.
- (iii) Members received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & FRO, and Mrs R Smith, Town Centre & Tourism Manager, regarding the recent criminal damage to various shops within the town centre, and consider if the town council can give any assistance to effected businesses. It is recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the details of private businesses (finances, insurance) to be discussed.
RESOLUTION: The Council will fund 20% of the window repair costs to the effected businesses, based upon the costs within the report.
- (iv) To receive a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding a salary increment. It is recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the individual staff member concerned.
RESOLUTION: This increment, as per the Town Clerk & RFO's contract was approved.

054/26

SPECIAL MOTION:

The Chair announced that he wanted to bring forward an emergency motion, details of which were emailed to the members on 25th July.

RESOLUTION: To suspend Standing Order no; 9b: "No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least 5 clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting." In order to consider the following item of business.

Members considered a request from TDC to ask Ramsgate Town Council to consider approving a £3,000 contribution towards the refurbishment of the throwing cage at the Royal Harbour Academy athletics track, enabling the project to be completed before the end of the current financial year. This request has been received from James

Gregory, Sport & Play Facilities Project Manager at Thanet District Council.

055/26

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 7pm.