



## **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting**

**Venue:** The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate.

**Date:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillors: Albon (Chair), Ara, Austin, Crittenden, Driver, Green, Heatherington, Hudson, Huxley, Makinson, Nixey, Ovenden, Shonk and Wing

Also in attendance:

Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

**064/26** **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Hetherington (personal commitment) and Cllr Young (unwell).

**065/26** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**066/26** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(i) **PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK**

There were no requests to speak.

(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.

**067/26** **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Minutes of Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Minutes: 043/26 – 055/26) were received.

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

**068/26** **FINANCES (INCL. GRANTS)**

(i) The payments to note and authorise for the month of March will be presented at April's council meeting, this is because there are a lot of transactions right up until 31<sup>st</sup> March (the end of the financial year) and it is not possible to give a final list at this Council meeting.

**RESOLUTION: This information was noted.**

(ii) Councillors were asked to delegate authority to the Town Centre & Tourism Manager in respect of expenditure under the following budgets "Active/Culture/Heritage Ramsgate", "Visit Ramsgate

Website”, “Active Ramsgate Week” and “Visit Ramsgate Marketing”.

**RESOLUTION: This delegation of powers of expenditure were approved.**

**069/26**

**EUROVISION SONG CONTEST EVENT**

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and Mrs R Smith, Town Centre & Tourism Manager, detailing a possible Eurovision Song Contest event, to support the UK’s entrant and Ramsgate resident, Sam Battle, and consider how to proceed.

Councillors suggested that businesses could be approached for sponsorship, entertainment should be arranged for quiet periods, whether concessions could be arranged to make money, and noted that TDC’s press department should be used to promote the event.

**RESOLUTION: To set a budget of £10,867.21, to come from the “New Projects Budget” for a Eurovision event as detailed in the report. Authority was delegated to the Town Centre & Tourism Manager, to:**

- **Finalise contracts for screen hire and associated infrastructure;**
- **Continue negotiations with TDC regarding fee reductions or waivers;**
- **Confirm event location, layout, and operational plan;**
- **Seek supplementary financial or in-kind support where appropriate.**

**070/26**

**OPERATION DYNAMO EVENT 2026**

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and Mrs R Smith, Town Centre & Tourism Manager, setting out an expenditure plan for the Operation Dynamo Event; the Council was asked to approve these costs.

**RESOLUTION: The use of the budget as detailed in the report was approved, with authority delegated to the Town Centre & Tourism Manager to approve the expenditure, confirm bookings, and make operational adjustments within the overall approved budget.**

**071/26**

**RADFORD HOUSE**

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and Ms C Clarke, Project Manager, providing various updates regarding Radford House to note and action.

**RESOLUTION: Updates relating to the following were noted:**

- **Technician’s depot**
- **Procurement position.**
- **Design Freeze**
- **Building control**
- **Gate arrangements**
- **Fire escape and tunnel.**

**And the External Works Envelope was approved for public tender.**

**072/26**

**RAMSGATE PRIDE IN PLACE PROJECTS**

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, asking the Council to consider and confirm which (if any) projects should be submitted to the PiP Board for funding.

**RESOLUTION: Applications for continued funding for town centre security officers and for the installation of a lift at Radford House will be submitted to the Ramsgate Pride in Place Board, subject to eligibility and a formal invitation to apply.**

073/26

**MV WATCHFUL**

Members received a progress update from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO and consider the information contained therein relating to a marine survey and examination of records.

**RESOLUTION: A budget of £8,000 from the “New Projects Budget” will be allocated to undertake a full marine survey (incl. drying docking) and examination of records of the MV Watchful.**

074/26

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

(i) Planning & Infrastructure Committee 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Minutes 055/26 – 062/26)

(ii) Annual Town Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Minutes AM70 – AM75).

**RESOLUTION: To note this information.**

075/26

**UPDATES FROM THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Green provided an update on the Ramsgate Pride In Place programme, including:

- Ramsgate Neighbourhood Board have now appointed a chair, Bernie Morgan.

- The PIP regeneration programme will launch on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026, coinciding with the St George’s Day Spring Parade, and all members will be invited.

- The Board’s overall plan has been approved, and complimented, by the Government.

076/26

**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: That the press and the public be excluded for the following item of business.**

(ii) Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and consider how to proceed with the Freehold Market Valuation of the Custom House.

**RESOLUTION: The Landlord of the Custom House will be offered the sum detailed in Freehold Market Valuation to buy the freehold of the Custom House.**

077/26

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm.