



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council

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

Date: Wednesday 26th August 2026 at 7pm

Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Ara, Austin, Crittenden, Driver, Green, Hetherington, Hudson, Makinson, Moore, Nixey, Ovenden, Shonk & Wing.

Also in attendance:

Mr D Williams, Deputy Town Clerk & Compliance Officer (Minutes)

Ms C Clarke, Project Manager

Before the formal agenda commenced, the Chair referred to the recent tragic incident in Ramsgate and the impact this had had on the local community.

Members were advised that, following correspondence with relevant partners, an online meeting with the Police and ward councillors for Central Harbour and Eastcliff had been arranged for the following afternoon.

Members then stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

232/26 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Huxley (personal commitment) and Councillor Young (approved absence).

233/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

234/26 **PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK**

- (i) There were no requests to speak from members of the public.
- (ii) Councillor Shonk reported that a formal discussion with KCC representatives was due to take place in September regarding highways matters. Members raised concerns regarding the current volume of roadworks across Thanet and the impact on traffic congestion. The Chair and Deputy Town Clerk would write to the Leader of Kent County Council to raise these concerns.

235/26 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Councillors received and considered the draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th July 2026 (Minutes: 200/26-213/26) as a true record. Only questions of record were considered.

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

FINANCES

- (i) Councillors received a report of payments; Council was asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st to 28th August 2026, totalling £10,408.82 and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st and 28th August 2026, totalling £111,534.37.

RESOLUTION: These payments were noted and approved as requested.

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

RESOLUTIONS:**a) Ramsgate Fund:**

Ref	Applicant	Event / Project Name	Funding Awarded
RF7	Kent Film Foundation	Weekly Film Makers Youth Club	£1,929.00
RF8	Royal Temple Yacht Club	Legal Advice for Charitable Status	£0.00*
RF9	Ramsgate Society	Blue Plaques Qty: 6	£500.00
RF10	High Street Social Club for Arts in Ramsgate CIC	Getting Arts in Ramsgate Ready to be Self-Sustainable	£2,400.00
RF11	Differences Not Disabilities	Community SEN Support Hub	£0.00

*** The Council decided not to award funding to the Royal Temple Yacht Club for legal advice regarding charitable status, due to concerns over value for money and the risk that the advice may not result in charitable status being achieved or a direct community benefit being delivered. It was agreed that the applicant should be signposted to alternative sources of support and advice, including Funding for All, where available.**

b) Events Fund:

Ref	Applicant	Event / Project Name	Funding Awarded
EF1	Deferral Request - Sonder Arts	Totem Sculpture Exhibition	Withdraw funding and invite reapplication next year. **
EF14	Sporefaring Festival	Sporefaring – Mushroom Festival	£4,000.00
EF16	Ramsgate Historic Quarter Scheme	'In Search of the Sacred Isle' Book Launch	£500.00
EF17	Remixd CIC	Festival of Optimism	£2,000.00

EF18	Liminal Events CIC	Ramsgate Winter Festival	£9,900.00
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**** The current funding allocation will be withdrawn, and the applicant is invited to reapply next year. Where appropriate, the applicant may refer to the Council's previous in-principle support in future funding applications.**

c) Community Services Fund:

Ref	Applicant	Event / Project Name	Funding Awarded
CS9	Creative Futures	Together We Sing	£2,000.00
CS10	Paddle Media	Creative Journalism Workshops & Strange Tourist Training Newsroom	£2,000.00

d) Return Forms:

Councillors noted the Grant Scrutiny Panel's comments.

237/26

RADFORD HOUSE

- (i) Councillors received a written report from Ms C Clarke, Project Manager on various matters relating to Radford House.

RESOLUTION: The written report was received and noted.

- (ii) Councillors received and considered the Internal Refurbishment Cost Estimate Report and accompanying report summary, following a pre-meeting with Urban Design and Ms C Clarke.

RESOLUTION:

- a) **Officers were authorised to work with Urban Design and the Quantity Surveyor to value engineer the internal works as far as possible.**
- b) **The internal refurbishment works were approved to proceed to open public tender.**
- c) **While procurement for an internal works contractor progresses, the recommendations from the structural engineer regarding the lift tower and site preparation for the Technicians' depot will be received. Any significant budget issues will be reported to the September Council meeting for consideration before an internal works contractor is approved, allowing time for any major change in direction if required.**

Ms C Clarke left the meeting.

238/26

CIVIC FUNCTIONS

Councillors received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and considered the Mayor's motion to vire funds previously allocated for a Civic Service to the Mayor's three nominated charities. The Mayor's nominated charities for the 2026/27 civic year were noted as the RNLI, Salvation Army Winter Shelter and East Kent Mencap. Members discussed the importance of retaining a civic service for the town, while also supporting the Mayor's wish to provide charitable support.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed:

- a) **That a multi-faith civic service be held at the Salvation Army.**

- b) That any remaining balance from the Civic Service budget, after the cost of the service, be donated to the Mayor's nominated charities.

239/26

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Councillors were asked to note the following Committee Minutes (for approval by the respective committees):

- (i) Planning & Infrastructure Committee 5th August 2026 (Minutes: 214/26 – 221/26).
- (ii) Town Promotion Committee 12th August 2026 (Minutes: 222/26 – 231/26).

RESOLUTION: The minutes were noted.

240/26

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 items of business.

- (ii) **Pride in Place Project Board Quote:** Councillors received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, concerning a quote submitted to the Ramsgate Pride in Place Project Board, and considered whether to progress the matter. The item was considered confidentially because the Project Board's plans were not in the public domain.

RESOLUTION: That Ramsgate Town Council should proceed, if selected as the preferred provider for the Community Action Grant administration service.

- (iii) **Unauthorised use of the Coat of Arms:** Councillors received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and considered how to proceed regarding the unauthorised use of the Council's Coat of Arms. The item was considered confidentially due to ongoing negotiations. An amendment was proposed and carried that the Council should proceed with options three and four only, rather than reiterating its request for removal at this stage.

RESOLUTION: Following the amendment, the substantive resolution was carried to seek clarification from the College of Arms regarding the status of the Ramsgate Coat of Arms and the Council's rights in respect of its use, and to obtain further legal advice before a further report is brought back to Council for consideration.

241/26

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 7pm.