



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate.
Date: Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 7pm.
Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Austin, Crittenden, Driver, Green, Hudson (joined during Item 5(ii)), Makinson, Moore, Ovenden, Shonk and Wing.

Also in attendance:
Mr D Williams, Deputy Town Clerk & Compliance Officer
Two members of public.

132/26 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ara (personal commitment), Hetherington (personal commitment), Nixey (personal commitment) and Young (Agreed extension of absence).

133/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

134/26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests to speak.

135/26 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Minutes of Council meeting held on 6th May 2026 (Minutes: 114/26 – 125/26) were received.

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

136/26 **FINANCES (INCL. GRANTS)**

(i) Councillors received the report of payments and were asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st and 31st May 2026 totalling £9,048.84 and approve the payments above the threshold of the Town Clerk between 1st and 31st March 2026 totalling £45,936.48.

RESOLUTION: The payments totalling £9,048.84 were noted, and the payments totalling £45,936.48 were approved.

(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) Events Grant:

Ref	Applicant	Event / Project Name	Funding Awarded
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EF8	Ramsgate Bowling Club	Open Bowls Tournament 2026	£1,200.00
EF9	Royal Temple Yacht Club	Ramsgate Week 2026	£3,000.00
EF10	Canterbury & District Model Engineering Club	Ramsgate Steam Event	£1,750.00
EF11	Thanet Trust	Community Heritage Exhibition	£2,000.00
EF12	Ramsgate Festival of Sound CIC	Ramsgate Festival of Sound 2026	£10,000.00
EF13	Screaming Alley CIC	Ramsgate Public Performance Programme	£6,000.00

b) Ramsgate Fund:

Ref	Applicant	Event / Project Name	Funding Awarded
RF3	St Lawrence Bowls Club	Replacement Lawn Mower for Bowling Green	£2,000.00
RF4	Friends of Spencer Square	Spencer Square Gardening Budget	£898.00, and as a one-off gesture of thanks to the Friends, the Technicians will provide some 'in kind' assistance.
RF5	Ramsgate Historic Quarter Scheme	Sash Window Repair Workshop	£750.00
RF6	Ramsgate Arts Club	DJ Mixing Console & Live Music Mixing Console	£3,327.00

c) Community Grant Scheme:

Ref	Applicant	Event / Project Name	Funding Awarded
CS6	Kent Film Foundation	Weekly Filmmakers Youth Clubs	£0.00*
CS7	Ukrainian Community in Thanet	Ukrainian Childrens Oxy Camp Access Programme	£1,500.00

CS8	Differences Not Disabilities	Ramsgate Community SEN Support Hub	£0.00**
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* Council withdrew CS6 to allow the applicant to reapply to another fund with the same application. The applicant is to be advised that there are limited funds left in the Community Services Fund.

** Council withdrew CS8 to allow the applicant to make an appointment with the Town Clerk to assess what fund the application would be suited too.

Council agreed that grant applicants should be informed of the remaining balance in the relevant fund at the time of application.

137/26

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- (i) Draft Planning & Infrastructure Committee 13th May 2026

RESOLUTION: The draft minutes were noted.

138/26

POLICY & PROCEDURES FOR ANNUAL REVIEW

Members were asked to review the following policies & procedures, as per Standing Order 5(j). These are all existing policies and procedures; changes have been made to (iv, v, vi, vii).

- (i) Review of Inventory of Land and other Assets including buildings & office equipment.

RESOLUTION: The inventory of land and other assets, including buildings and office equipment, was noted. It was further agreed that the Asset Management Committee should review the inventory list.

- (ii) Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks. Please note that the Deputy Town Clerk & Compliance Officer will be taking the insurance to tender prior to renewal in September 2026.

RESOLUTION: The arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks were noted. It was further agreed that the Town Clerk and Town Sergeant would undertake discussions regarding the security of the silver.

- (iii) Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies; Allotment Society; Civic Officers; KALC; NALC; SLCC.

RESOLUTION: The Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies, including Allotment Society, Civic Officers, KALC, NALC and SLCC, were noted.

- (iv) Review of the Council's complaints procedure;

RESOLUTION: The amendments to the Council's complaints procedure were adopted to reflect legislative updates.

- (v) Review of the Council's policies, procedures, and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21), specifically:

- a. Communications Policy
- b. Cookie Policy
- c. Data Protection & Retention Policy
- d. Privacy Policy

RESOLUTION: The amendments to the Communications Policy, Cookie Policy, Data Protection & Retention Policy, and Privacy Policy were adopted to reflect legislative updates.

- (vi) Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;
RESOLUTION: The amendments to the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media were adopted to reflect legislative updates.
- (vii) Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures; specifically:
 - a. Equalities Policy
 - b. Lone Working Policy
 - c. Standing Handbook V3

RESOLUTION: The amendments to the Equalities Policy, Lone Working Policy, and Standing Handbook V3 were adopted to reflect legislative updates.

139/26

SCHEME OF DELEGATION (INCL. COMMITTEES)

Councillors received a report from the Town Clerk & RFO regarding Committees and the Scheme of Delegation and were asked to confirm the necessary arrangements for the ensuing year.

RESOLUTION:

- The terms of reference for the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Planning & Infrastructure Committee, Town Promotion Committee and Asset Management Committee, together with the general guidance, were approved, subject to an amendment to the Planning & Infrastructure Committee terms of reference to state a membership of seven and a quorum of three.
- The changes to the Town Clerk's Scheme of Delegation were also approved.
- It was further agreed that committee memberships remain unchanged.

140/26

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- (i) Councillors were asked to consider and approve the "Advisory Note: The Role of Council Representatives on Outside Bodies".
RESOLUTION: The Advisory Note: The Role of Council Representatives on Outside Bodies was approved.
- (ii) Councillors were asked to nominate two representatives for Kent Association of Local Councils (currently Councillors Hetherington and Nixey).
RESOLUTION: That Councillors Hetherington and Nixey remain appointed as representatives to the Kent Association of Local Councils, subject to confirmation in their absence.

- (iii) Councillors were asked to nominate one representative for the Kent & Medway CCG Primary Care Network (currently Councillor Hetherington).
RESOLUTION: That Councillor Hetherington remain appointed as the representative to the Kent & Medway CCG Primary Care Network, subject to confirmation in their absence.
- (iv) Councillors were asked to nominate one representative for the Ramsgate Event Organisers group (currently Councillor Driver).
RESOLUTION: That Councillor Crittenden be appointed as the representative to the Ramsgate Event Organisers Group, replacing Councillor Driver.
- (v) Councillors were asked to nominate two representatives for the Thanet Area Group (currently Councillors Albon & Ovenden).
RESOLUTION: That Councillors Ovenden and Albon remain appointed as representatives to the Thanet Area Group.
- (vi) Councillors were asked to nominate one representative for the Thanet Regeneration Partnership Board (currently Councillor Green).
RESOLUTION: That Councillor Green remain appointed as the representative to the Thanet Regeneration Partnership Board.
- (vii) Councillors were asked to nominate one representative to work with Ramsgate Society on the Community Champion Award (currently the Mayor).
RESOLUTION: That the Mayor of Ramsgate remain the representative to work with the Ramsgate Society on the Community Champion Award, subject to confirmation.

RESOLUTION: The Town Clerk to review whether the above outside bodies remain active and that they report back to Council with updates on their status and activities.

141/26

MANSTON AIRPORT AIRSPACE STAGE 3 CONSULTATION

Councillors received a report containing the professional advice from Alan Stratford & Associates on the Manston Airport Airspace Change Proposal – Stage 3 Consultation and were asked to confirm the Council's final submission to the consultation.

RESOLUTION: That the Council approves the use of the report prepared by Alan Stratford & Associates, together with Councillor Green's submission, as the basis of its final response to the Manston Airport Airspace Change Proposal – Stage 3 Consultation. This submission will be forwarded to RiverOak Strategic Partners (RSP), the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and the local Member of Parliament. The submission will also be circulated publicly, including by way of a press release, to inform residents of the Council's commissioned work and formal response to the consultation.

142/26

PSPO CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Councillors considered a draft response to Thanet District Council's Public Space Protection Order Consultation and were asked to confirm the town council response. TDC have confirmed that the town council is a statutory consultee.

RESOLUTION: That the Council approves the draft response to Thanet District Council's Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation, noting its strong support for the introduction of the PSPO, including an additional comment be included highlighting that there are wider issues within the town, particularly relating to young people, which should be taken into account by Thanet District Council.

143/26

LICENCE TO OCCUPY EAST CLIFF BANDSTAND

Councillors were asked to consider a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, providing an update on various matters relating to the East Cliff Bandstand and consider whether to proceed with the Licence to occupy for one year.

RESOLUTION:

- That the Council agrees in principle to proceed with the Licence to occupy the East Cliff Bandstand for a period of one year.
- That, prior to entering into the Licence, the following actions be undertaken:
 - Confirmation of costs with Thanet District Council, including utilities, rates and insurance;
 - Confirmation that Thanet District Council will reinstate the power supply, and the expected timeframe;
 - Preparation of a business plan, including staffing requirements and budget;
 - Consideration of any urgent investment required to enable implementation of the business plan, limited to health and safety matters;
 - Completion and signing of the Licence.
- That the above information and proposals be either reported back to Council for approval or delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and East Cliff Ward Councillors, to progress using the New Project Budget.

144/26

COASTAL DRINKING WATER FOUNTAIN

Councillors considered a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, providing an update on matters relating to the drinking water fountain planned for near Government Acre and considered whether to proceed with this project.

RESOLUTION:

- That the Council accepts the grant funding for the drinking water fountain near Government Acre and agrees to proceed with the project.
- That a contribution towards the ongoing running costs be met from the Climate Change Budget, with any remaining costs to be funded from the New Projects Budget.

145/26

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) **Security Officer Quotes:** Councillors considered three quotes received to provide security officers in Ramsgate from 1st June – 30th November 2026. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the quotes contained therein.

RESOLUTION:

- **That the quote submitted by Marc One Security for the provision of security officers in Ramsgate from 1 June to 30 November 2026 be accepted.**
- **That, subject to future funding opportunities, an application be made to the Pride in Place scheme to seek a contribution towards the cost of this provision when such funding becomes available.**

(iii) **Letter of support:** Councillors considered a confidential request for a letter of support, seeking the Councils help in nominating a local resident for an award. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the private individual to be discussed.

RESOLUTION: That the Council agrees to provide a letter of support in respect of the confidential request to nominate a local resident for an award.

146/26

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 24th June 2026 at 7pm.