



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate.
Date: Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 7pm.
Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Ara, Austin, Crittenden, Green, Hudson, Huxley, Makinson, Nixey, Ovenden, Shonk and Wing

Also in attendance:

Mr D Williams, Marketing & Communications Officer
Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

016/26 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Driver (private commitment), Cllr Hetherington (private commitment), Cllr Moore (unwell) and Cllr Young (unwell)

017/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None Declared.

018/26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(i) **PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK**

A written report from Karl Aylett, Community Warden for Newington & Northwood, was read out. Karl was thanked for this submission and is welcome to attend Council meetings when he can.

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

Cllr Shonk invited councillors and residents to put any complaints in writing to him, and he will raise them with KCC. Blocked drains and pot holes are a significant problem at the moment.

019/26 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Members received the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 16th December 2025 (Minutes: 308/25 – 319/25). Cllr Hudson noted that she was indeed present, but not recorded as such in the minutes.

RESOLUTION: The minutes were amended to record Cllr Hudson's attendance and were approved as a true and accurate record.

020/26

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 31st January 2026, totalling £7,734.45 and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st and 31st January 2026, totalling £59,503.13.
RESOLUTION: The payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO were noted, and the payments above the delegated power of expenditure were approved.
- (ii) Councillors considered the draft 2026/2027 budget as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. It was noted that the precept for 2026/2027 must be set at this meeting.
RESOLUTION: The draft budget as recommended was approved with a total precept resource of £1,180,659.

021/26

PRIORITIES 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- (i) Council considered a motion from Cllr Green that the council could embark on small projects within Ramsgate's parks.
RESOLUTION: Ward councillors should bring forward ideas for parks in their wards.
- (ii) Council considered a motion from Cllr Austin asking the council to consider if further drinking fountains should be installed under the management of the town council.
RESOLUTION: Cllr Austin should progress with the SeaChangers bid and running costs and maintenance will be discussed with TDC.
- (iii) Council considered a proposal to refresh the painted street furniture in the town centre (the "Blue Posts"). Addington Street will be added to the list for audit, for volunteers to do the work.
RESOLUTION: This proposal was approved.

022/26

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council was asked to note the following Committee Minutes (for approval by the respective committees):

- (i) Town Promotion Committee 10th December 2025 (Minutes 302/25 – 307/25)
- (ii) Planning & Infrastructure Committee 7th January 2026 (Minutes 001/26 – 008/26)
- (iii) Finance & General Purposes Committee 21st January 2026 (Minutes 009/26 – 015/26)

RESOLUTIONS: The Minutes were noted.

023/26

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Council was asked to approve and adopt the communication strategy, which sets out the strategic approach to internal and external communications, the delivery of the plans, and arrangements for managing communications during critical incidents:

- (i) Communication Strategy
- (ii) Communication Plan 2026-2027

(iii) Crisis Communication Plan

RESOLUTIONS: The Marketing & Communications Officer was congratulated on their hard work, and these documents were adopted.

024/26

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Council was asked to approve the following policies. The IT Policy is required to support compliance with AGAR Assertion 10 in relation to governance and internal control. The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy provides a framework for the responsible and ethical use of AI, including risk management and decision-making safeguards:

- (i) IT Policy
- (ii) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

RESOLUTIONS: These policies were accepted.

025/26

SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE

Council received and considered the outcome of a Freedom of Information Act request received by Cllr Green from Kent County Council about the bus service in Thanet.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Shonk will take this information to KCC to ask why Thanet receives such little support. A further FOI will be submitted by the Chair & Clerk seeking clarification on how funding is allocated by KCC. The Chair & Clerk will write to the MP asking for confirmation if the extra funding available from the Department of Transport will be allocated to Kent/Ramsgate.

026/26

CIVIC MATTERS

- (i) Council received a report from Mrs K Hobbs, PA to the Mayor, and considered the recommendation contained therein for an additional civic event.

RESOLUTION: Operation Dynamo Commemorative Service and Sunday Parade and Service will be added to the annual list of civic events.

- (ii) Council received a report from Mrs K Hobbs, PA to the Mayor, and considered the questions contained therein regarding the flying of flags. Motions to fly the Union Flag all year round (either on the East Cliff or at the Custom House) failed at the vote.

RESOLUTIONS: The Union Flag will be flown at half-mast on Holocaust Memorial Day. The Pride Flag will be flown from the 1st of June until whenever the next occasion in June is that a flag is required.

027/26

UPDATES FROM THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Short verbal updates were invited from members. Updates received could only be noted.

028/26

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7pm.