RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate
Date: Wednesday 29th July 2026 at 7pm
Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Ara, Austin, Crittenden, Driver, Green, Hetherington, Hudson, Makinson, Moore, Nixey, Ovenden, Shonk & Wing

Also in attendance:
Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

200/26 **APOLOGIES**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Huxley (family commitment) and Cllr Young (approved absence).

201/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.

202/26 **PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK**
(i) There were no requests to speak from members of the public.
(ii) County Council Shonk reported that a new KCC contractor's road repair workmanship is far better than in the past, but of course there's still lots to do.

203/26 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**
Members received and considered the draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th June 2026 (Minutes: 174/26-182/26) as a true record. Only questions of record were considered.
RESOLUTION: The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

204/26 **FINANCES**
(i) Members received a report of payments; Council was asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st to 31st July 2026, totalling £9,335.67 and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st and 31st July 2026, totalling £80,555.78.
RESOLUTION: These payments were noted and approved as requested.
(ii) Members considered and the following virements as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee:
a. Increase the "Subscriptions & Membership Budget" by £395
b. Increase "Meeting Expenses" by £150
c. Increase "HR & H&S Support" by £150
d. The remainder of the balance brought forward, £86,796.00, to be moved to the "General Reserves Budget"
RESOLUTION: These virements were approved.

(iii) Members considered the following virement as recommended by the Town Promotion Committee – the underspend across the Town Promotion Committee budgets from 2025/2026 (£27,971.99) be carried forward for use in two new projects; a "Westcliff Arcade Lights" project and increased funding for the "Banner Lampposts Project" – specific costs to be confirmed by the Town Promotion Committee.
RESOLUTION: This virement was approved.

(iv) Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, detailing options currently available for a renewed gas supply contract.
RESOLUTION: The quote from SEFE for 38 months was accepted.

205/26 CONSULTATIONS: KCC BUDGET CONSULTATION

Members considered the Council's corporate response to the KCC Budget Consultation. The deadline for a response was 7th September 2026.
RESOLUTION: The draft response proposed by the Town Clerk was approved, with an additional priority – subsidised bus routes should be a priority for improvement to create equity between Ramsgate and other areas of Kent.

206/26 M.V. CORONIA WATCHFUL

Members received and a written progress report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, including a condition survey, review of the survey, follow up questions, and redacted sales form for the M.V. Coronia Watchful. Mr K Fidler was thanked for his contribution reviewing the condition survey and raising questions.
RESOLUTION: To note this information.

207/26 CIVIC BADGES

Members received a report from Mrs K Hobbs, Mayor's PA, and considered how to proceed with the purchase of civic badges.
RESOLUTION: The quote from Michaels Civic Regalia for the purchase of five civic badges (£1,163) was approved.

208/26 RAMSGATE TUNNEL

(i) Members received the Ramsgate Tunnel Emergency Plan.
RESOLUTION: This report was noted.

(ii) Members received a letter from Whitney Gee, Programme Manager & Tunnel Manager at KCC, seeking support for the "A299 Whitstable to Ramsgate" bid to the Department of Transport's Structures Fund for the "A299 Whitstable to Ramsgate".
RESOLUTION: The draft letter of support was approved.

209/26 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

(i) Members considered a proposed amendment to the allotment termination and appeals process. The proposal was that the Chair of the Asset Management Committee be delegated authority to approve allotment terminations, with the Chair of the Council serving on any subsequent appeal panels. This was intended to strengthen the independence of the appeals process by ensuring appeals are considered by a councillor with less prior involvement in the day-to-day management of allotment matters.
RESOLUTION: This amendment was approved.

(iii) To approve an amendment to Standing Order 3(i) as such: "*A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak and remain seated when ~~standing~~ speaking".*
RESOLUTION: This amendment was approved.

210/26 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**
Members were asked to note the following Committee Minutes (for approval by the respective committees):
(i) Asset Management Cttee 24th June 2026 (Minutes: 166/26 – 173/26).
(ii) Planning & Infrastructure Cttee 1st July 2026 (Minutes: 183/26 – 188/26).
(iii) Finance & General Purposes Cttee 8th July 2026 (Minutes: 189/26 – 199/26).
RESOLUTION: The minutes were noted.

211/26 **TDC ASSETS: EAST CLIFF BANDSTAND**
Members received a written progress report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and considered how to proceed with the information contained therein.
RESOLUTION: To request a one-year licence free of charge, and in return the town council will commission a condition survey of the site.

212/26 **LETTERS OF SUPPORT**
Members considered the following requests for support in principle, to accompany grant applications:
(i) Heritage Lab CIC - Arts Council England bid
RESOLUTION: To write in support of this bid.
(ii) St George's Church - Historic England Listed Places of Worship Renewal Fund bid.
RESOLUTION: To write in support of this bid.

213/26 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
Wednesday 26th August 2026 at 7pm.