RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, CT11 8LP.
Date: Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 7pm.
Present: Councillors Nixey (in the Chair), Ara, Austin, Green, Hetherington, Huxley, Ovenden, Shonk & Wing

Also in attendance: Laura Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO (Minutes)
One member of the public

258/26 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Albon & Crittenden (personal commitments), Cllr Young (approved absence) and Cllr Driver (unwell).

259/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

260/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(i) PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK

Members received an introduction to Margatron CIC from Mr A. Stannard, Founder & Technical / Community Liaison. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would find out more from Mr Stannard and report back to the Council.

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

Cllr Shonk reported that he'd arranged for Mr P Valek, KCC Highway Manager for Thanet to meet with the Town Councillors.

261/26 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members received the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26th August 2026 (Minutes 232/26 – 241/26).

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

262/26 DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Members received and considered a motion from Councillor Wing that the Council initiates and funds a Dolly Parton Imagination Library for Ramsgate.

RESOLUTION: The proposal as detailed in the report was approved;

(i) That Ramsgate Town Council establishes a Dolly Parton's Imagination Library pilot scheme for up to 200 children aged 0-4 within the Ramsgate Town Council area.

(ii) That a budget of £5,800 be allocated during the 2026/27 financial year, funded through a virement from the New Projects & Asset Acquisitions budget.

(iii) That the Council seeks to launch the scheme as soon as practicable after Christmas 2026.

(iv) That the Town Clerk, working with Cllr Becky Wing, be authorised to liaise with the Dollywood Foundation UK, Moon Lane Books and other interested partners to establish and promote the scheme.

(v) That residents, businesses and community organisations be encouraged to support the programme through donations, sponsorship and fundraising.

(vi) That provision for continuation of the scheme be included within the Council's 2027/28 budget. For the Council to review the success of the scheme in 2026/2027 before utilising the 2027/2028 budget.

Cllr Wing left the meeting after this agenda item.

263/26 FINANCES

(i) Members received a report of payments from 29th August to 30th September 2026. The Council was asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £15,566.74) and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £134,101.94).
RESOLUTION: The payments authorized by the Town Clerk (£15,566.74) were note, and the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk (£134,101.94) were approved.

(ii) Members received the Draft Reserve Balances as at 25th September 2026.
RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

(iii) Members received the Draft Summary of Receipts & Payments as at 25th September 2026.
RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

264/26 RADFORD HOUSE

(i) Members received a written report from Ms C Clarke, Project Manager, giving an update on matters relating to Radford House, including the overall project position and risks, and key risks and required actions.
RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

(ii) Members received a written progress report from Urban Surveying & Design as at 23rd September 2026, together with a Progress Programme spreadsheet.
RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

(iii) Members received an "External Fabrics Repairs Cost Report" from Rev Construction Consultants as at 24th September 2026.
RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

265/26 THANET LOCAL PLAN SCOPING CONSULTATION 2026

Members considered the invitation from Thanet District Council to participate in the New Thanet Local Plan Scoping Consultation, running from 24th August to 9th October 2026. Members were asked to determine whether the Council wished to submit a formal response on the proposed aims, objectives and priorities for the new Local Plan. A draft response from the Town Clerk & RFO was proposed.
RESOLUTION: Councillors will consider the draft response and email the Town Clerk any recommendations for inclusion, specifically relating to their wards.

266/26 DECORATIVE LIGHTING FUNDING RELEASE REQUEST

Members received and considered a written report from Mrs R Smith, Town Centre & Tourism Manager, regarding the proposed decorative lighting project and whether the

Council should approve the release of funding for the project detailed therein. It was AGREED that the cost to include York Street will be considered.

RESOLUTION: A budget of £15,000 was approved for use by officers for procurement and installation of additional Christmas decorative lighting for Winter 2026.

267/26 INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Members received and considered a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, on the Council's insurance arrangements.

RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

268/26 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members received the following committee minutes (for approval by the respective committees):

(i) Planning & Infrastructure Committee Meeting 2nd September 2026 (Minutes 242/26 – 250/26).

(ii) Asset Management Committee Meeting 9th September 2026 (Minutes 251/26 – 257/26).

RESOLUTION: The draft minutes as detailed were noted.

269/26 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

(i) Members considered whether, 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 should be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

(ii) Members received and considered a confidential written report from Ms C Clarke, Project Manager, containing four quotations for portacabins, including commercially sensitive information, supplier comparisons and negotiating information. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the four quotes contained therein.

RESOLUTION: Subject to contract, affordability, planning requirements, regulatory compliance and procurement checks JCPSA was approved as the preferred supplier for stacking portacabins, at the cost detailed in the report.

270/26 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27th October 2026 at 7pm.