



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate

Date: Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7pm

Present: Councillors: Green (Chair), Albon, Austin, Crittenden and Hudson

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

009/26

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Young (unwell), Cllr Driver (personal commitment), Cllr Hetherington (commitment).

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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PREVIOUS MINUTES

Members received the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 3rd December 2025 (minutes 295/25 to 301/25).

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

012/26

ACCOUNTS & BUDGETS

(i) The Committee received to note the Receipts and Payments to 31st December 2025.

RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

(ii) The Committee received version 3 of the draft budget for 2026/2027 along with a explanatory report. Version 4 of the draft budget was received at the meeting, in which further savings had been identified.

RESOLUTIONS:

a. Whether to approve the full Basic Parish Allowance for members will be left to the Council to decide.

b. Version 4 of the draft budget for 2026/2027 is recommended to the Council for approval.

c. The town clerk will recommend where additional funding for the Ramsgate Shed's rent could be found.

013/26

GRANT PROCEDURE – PREVENTING DUPLICATE GRANT CLAIMS

The Committee received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and considered the proposed contained therein to introduce controls in the grant procedure intended to prevent, detect and deter duplication across RTC's own grants and external funders.

RESOLUTION: Applicants should inform the Council when they receive alternative funding, to discuss how the councils funding could be repurposed to avoid duplication.

014/26

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – PARTIAL STAFFING REVIEW

- (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: To exclude the press and the public for the following item of business.

- (ii) To receive a "Review of Staffing Arrangements and Associated Future Needs" as prepared by the Local Council Consultancy in December 2025 and consider the recommendations contained therein. It was noted that the Committee has the delegated power to "*The power to employ and remunerate officers on such terms and conditions of employment as it considers appropriate provided the Council has first approved a budget to meet the recruitment and first year employment costs of any such officer and such costs will be contained by the offer of employment made*". It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the individual staff and salaries to be considered.

RESOLUTION: The changes proposed within the report relating to the roles of "Finance Officer" and "Deputy Town Clerk & Compliance Officer" were approved, subject to the council approving the necessary budget.

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DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7pm