



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Promotion Committee

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, CT11 8LP

Date: Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7pm

Present: Councillors: Albon, Ara and Huxley (Vice-Chair).

Also in attendance:

Mrs R Smith (Town Centre and Tourism Manager - Minutes)

Ms G Dempsey (Visit Ramsgate Project Manager)

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair chaired the meeting.

152/26 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Nixey and Moore (unwell) and Councillors Crittenden and Ovenden (personal commitment).

153/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

154/26 **MINUTES**

(i) The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Promotion Committee held on 3rd February 2026 (minutes 029/26 to 036/26) were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes of the Committee meeting on 3rd February 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record,

(ii) The minutes of the Town Enhancement Working Group were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted.

(iii) The minutes of the Active Ramsgate Working Group were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted.

155/26 **WORKING GROUPS**

The committee received a report from Mrs R Smith regarding the working groups and proposed changes to the terms of reference for both groups. The report also outlined the proposed change of title from Active Ramsgate Working Group to Visit Ramsgate Working Group, together with other amendments to the terms of reference.

Councillor Albon volunteered to be added to the members list for both working groups as 'back up'.

It was also noted that, as two of the three members were not in attendance, the recommendations were noted and approved subject to written agreement from Councillors Crittenden and Ovenden.

RESOLUTION:

- i) **The committee noted the report.**
- ii) **The committee approved the Terms of Reference, Chair (Cllr Crittenden), Vice-Chair (Cllr Huxley), membership and the meeting dates for the Visit Ramsgate Working Group. Cllr Albon will be a reserve member.**
- iii) **The committee approved the Terms of Reference, Chair (Cllr Crittenden), Vice-Chair (Cllr Huxley), membership and meeting dates for the Town Enhancement Working Group. Cllr Albon will be a reserve member.**

Item ii) and iii) are subject to Cllr Crittenden and Cllr Ovenden agreeing to their involvement.

156/26

BUDGET

The committee received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, on the Town Promotion Committee's 2025/26 budgets. Members were asked to make a recommendation to Council on the reallocation of surplus funds by virement, as the year-end surplus was higher than expected. Taking into account carried forward reserves and the approved Decorative Lighting electricity costs of £8,500, the remaining surplus was £27,971.99. Members were asked to consider using the surplus funds for the Westcliff Arcade lights and lamppost banners.

RESOLUTION:

The committee noted the report.

157/26

COUNCIL EVENTS

- (i) The committee received a report from Mrs R Smith on the Eurovision Screening Party and Operation Dynamo events, including additional promotional work to complement Operation Dynamo and promote the harbour as a destination. Councillor Albon expressed concern about the number of hours provided by town council staff to enable the event to run smoothly and thanked the staff for their efforts. Councillor Albon also expressed disappointment about the lack of appropriate support from Thanet District Council and stated that this should be addressed for future events. He advised that he is seeking to draw up a Charter between the two councils to support clearer joint working arrangements.

Councillor Huxley asked about police presence and Mrs R Smith commended the support from our local police officers. The Mayor will ask her PA to send letters of thanks to the organisations and individuals involved in supporting the event.

RESOLUTIONS: The committee noted the report and agreed to support the continued development of Operation Dynamo and similar-sized events, including the implementation of the operational improvements identified through the debrief process.

- (ii) The committee received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, on the New Year's Eve event fund.

RESOLUTION:

1. The committee agreed that the New Year's Eve event should be commissioned through a competitive process.
2. The committee approved the draft Invitation to Tender acknowledging some flexibility around scope of services as the event develops.
3. The committee agreed to delegate authority to the Town Centre & Tourism Manager to:
 - Issue the tender
 - Manage the evaluation process in consultation with the Chair/Vice-Chair of Town Promotion
 - Report back to Town Promotion Committee with recommendations

158/26 **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

There were no matters to report regarding Anchor Funding and the Events Fund.

159/26 **BEAUTIFICATION**

Members received a written report from Mrs M Morgan, Technician Manager on various Beautification projects undertaken in April – June 2026.

RESOLUTION: The committee noted the report.

160/26 **DECORATIVE LIGHTING**

- (i) The committee received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding a potential lighting project at Westcliff Arcade and how the project should proceed.

RESOLUTION:

The committee agreed in principle to Option B and recommended that underspend from the previous year's Town Promotion budget be used, subject to approval at Full Council. Officers were authorised to:

- Obtain full technical details (including plans and electrical arrangements)
- Confirm licence requirements with TDC
- Clarify costs (capital and ongoing)
- Report back to Committee with a detailed proposal

- (ii) The committee received a written report from the Town Centre & Tourism Manager giving an update on the Blachere "Big Bulb" decorative lighting.

RESOLUTION:

- a. The committee noted the report.
- b. The committee agreed to seek legal advice and requested that the Town Clerk take the matter forward in accordance with that advice and report back to Full Council.

- 161/26** **MAINTENANCE**
There were no matters to report regarding the Harbour Street Gate, decorative lighting, events equipment maintenance or general project maintenance.
- 162/26** **MISC SUPPORT & PROMOTION**
Members noted that Julie Edwards, TDC Senior Tourism Officer, had left TDC and that a handover with RTC officers had taken place. Members were also advised that two new Visitor Information Centre volunteers had started.
- 163/26** **VISIT RAMSGATE**
The committee received a written report from Ms G Dempsey, Visit Ramsgate Project Manager on Active Ramsgate Week and the Visit Ramsgate brochure. Ms Dempsey was congratulated on all her hard work.
RESOLUTION:
(i) The committee noted the report.
(ii) The committee recommended that:
 i. A deposit charge
 ii. Extra feather banners
 iii. Shorter satellite events throughout the seasons
 iv. Possible limiting of activities per family
be considered by the Visit Ramsgate Working Group meeting on 2nd July, with a report back to the Town Promotion Committee in August in respect of Active Ramsgate Week 2027.
- 164/26** **TOWN PROMOTION PROJECTS CARRIED FORWARD**
The committee received a written report from the Town Centre & Tourism Manager regarding the lamppost banners and considered whether the project should be progressed with further quotes or whether an alternative project should be considered. Members were asked to consider the projects and whether underspend from the previous financial year should be used, subject to Full Council approval.
RESOLUTION:
(i) The committee noted and approved the quotation for lamppost banners.
(ii) The committee noted the possible ongoing maintenance costs.
(iii) The committee approved both projects.
(iv) The committee recommended that underspend from the previous year's Town Promotion budget be used, subject to approval at Full Council.
- 165/26** **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
Wednesday 12th August 2026 at 7pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:32pm.