



## Ramsgate Town Council

### MINUTES

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**DATE:** 31st March 2021

**VENUE:** Online -Virtual via 'Teams'.

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Cllr A-M Nixey.

**Councillors in attendance:** Albon, Ara (Mayor of Ramsgate), Crittenden, Green, Hetherington, Huxley, Mackinson, Moore, L.Piper Rev. S. Piper, Ruseicki, Wing and Young.

**Apologies:** Knight.

**Officers in attendance:** Town Clerk: Richard Styles; Deputy Town Clerk: Eileen Richford. Meeting host: Dean Williams.

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#### **AM 43: CLLR PETER CAMPBELL**

The Chairman gave a brief eulogy on the life and achievements of Cllr Peter Campbell. The meeting whole heartedly supported the Chairman's statement.

#### **AM 44: MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2020**

The Chairman opened the meeting and asked for the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to be approved.

Cllr Ara proposed, and Cllr Green seconded.

**RESOLVED**

#### **AM 45: RTC ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT 2020-21 -PRESENTATION**

The Town Clerk went through the presentation on the activities of the Council in the past year.

The meeting received the report.

- Cllr Ara, as Mayor gave a report on her civic activities. The meeting thanked her for her efforts to represent the town in her civic duties.
- Cllr Nixey gave a report on the general activity of the Council.
- Cllr Albon responded on behalf of the Planning + Infrastructure Cttee.
- The work of the amenities Cttee was explained. A statement was read by the Deputy Town Clerk.
- Cllr Green reported on the work of the Town Promotion Cttee and in particular its work during the pandemic in terms of the Active Ramsgate website etc.
- Cllr Rev Piper outlined the work of the Finance+ General purposes Cttee in its governance and audit functions.

Cllr Wing made the following observations:

- There is a lot of fly tipping /litter at Northwood and Newington. She hoped that RTC would increase its activities in the various wards and not just the Town Centre.

The full statements will be published as appendices of these minutes.

## **AM 46: OPEN FORUM**

### **Questions from the public**

#### **3 questions were received**

1. **Angela Stevens:** “Why is Ramsgate Town Council considering buying an expensive piece of land in Thorne Hill, near Minster, that is in the Villages constituency and not in Ramsgate?”

*Cllr Green replied 'It is a statutory duty of all Town and Parish Councils to provide allotments for their residents if requested. If challenged, they need to be able to show they have complied or at least attempted to meet any need. RTC has a 170-waiting list for an allotment with residents having to wait 18 months or more before being offered one. Land within Ramsgate has development potential and currently according to a KCC document issued in 2018, development land in Ramsgate fetches more than £1m/acre.*

*This is beyond RTC's ability to fund unless the residents are prepared to fund a substantial borrowing requirement or the Govt restores compulsory purchase powers removed from the 1908 Allotments and Smallholdings Act.*

*We are investigating other possibilities. The 14.2 acres of prime grade 1 agricultural land at Thorne Hill, is priced at under £13,000/acre or 1/77th of the price of Ramsgate land with development potential, so far from being expensive, it may be a viable option for RTC. We are fortunate that the landowner considers it his civic duty to offer the land at an advantageous price.*

*RTC, like all public bodies, has a resilience reserve fund, designed to be able to meet its commitments in the event of disaster. This is held in a bank account currently gaining no interest. Alternative accounts offer little or no*

*interest payments. An investment in land could be an alternative, with the prospect of borrowing against the asset, should a disaster happen.*

*Having agreed that the proposal is worth investigating, the Council is investigating further before deciding. This investigation includes:*

- *Consulting the residents on our allotment waiting list regarding the attractiveness or otherwise of the offer.*
- *Consulting with Minster and Cliffs End parish Councils to ask if they would wish to participate.*
- *Obtaining quotes for the likely costs of converting the land into an allotment.*
- *Investigating what grants may be available from the National Lottery or elsewhere towards the project.*
- *Investigating what terms would be available should RTC need to borrow funds.*
- *Consulting environmental residents' groups to test whether they would be interested in partnering the Council in the project.*
- *The results of these investigations will be reported back to the Council when complete'.*

2. **Angela Foster:**“What pressure is Ramsgate Town Council putting on Thanet District Council to provide adequate recycling for those residents in seafront locations without household collections?”

Cllr Albon said that he will speak to TDC directly about improving recycling in Ramsgate.He asked Angela to contact him with any specific proposals.

3. **John Litchfield PCSO:**

“As some of you may know Last year we entered Ramsgate into the SOUTH and SOUTH EAST in Bloom Competition and received a SILVER - GILT and a certificate of recognition from Royal Horticultural society.

This year we have again entered Ramsgate Town into the small seaside town category but we have also entered East cliff, Addington Street, and Westcliff and chines as well as a couple of other areas into other categories.

Last year was a tough year for all but the amazing effort put in by volunteers, Town Council technicians. We as a town achieved so much.

With this year's competition I am hoping that we can expand and get more councillors involved as we have spread to other areas. There are many ways Councillors can get involved and we can bring the community together and make the town look even better than it already does. If anyone councillors would like to get involved please feel free to contact me.”

The last question was in fact a statement and was noted by the meeting.  
If the public on seeing the recording of the meeting want to raise any points, the Council will reply in due course.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm.**

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