



Ramsgate Town Council

MINUTES

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

DATE: 9th March 2020

VENUE: The Oddfellows Hall, High Street, Ramsgate.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr P. Campbell.

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

Apologies: Knight, L Piper, Young.

Officers in attendance: Town Clerk: Richard Styles; Deputy Town Clerk: Eileen Richford; Supervisor Technician: Chris Barton; and Senior Technician: Maxine Morgan.

There were Nineteen members of the electorate in attendance.

AM 41 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2019

The Chairman opened the meeting and asked for the minutes of the 27th March 2019 to be approved.

Cllr Rev. Piper proposed, and Cllr Ara seconded.

RESOLVED

AM 42 RTC ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT 2018-19 -PRESENTATION

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

The meeting received the report.

Cllr Campbell gave a report on the general activity of the Council. Cllr Albon responded on behalf the Planning and Environment Cttee (to be called the Planning + Infrastructure Cttee as from May).

The work of the amenities Cttee was explained.

Cllr Green reported on the work of the Town Promotion Cttee and in particular the Dog friendly Ramsgate initiative, which encourages dog owning visitors.

Cllr Campbell outlined the work of the Finance+ General purposes Cttee in its governance and audit functions.

Cllr Rev Piper made the following points:

- ❖ Fly tipping: When clearing up any fly tipping, evidence should be gathered, and the results given to TDC. Cllr Piper suggested that any fine income resulting from RTC actions, should be shared with RTC.

Cllr Wing made the following observations:

- ❖ Dean Williams, the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer had written a carbon audit of the energy use of the Council. It could be used as a blueprint for smaller scale domestic carbon use audits. Charlton Athletic will use the audit system as a basis for calculating its carbon use.

AM 43 OPEN FORUM

General questions and observations from the public

- ❖ Theresa Smith: believed that there was an increase in dog fouling and that an investigation should be made into 'Dog poo energy converters'.
- ❖ Clifford East: asked about the future of the Maritime Museum. Cllr Campbell replied that TDC were in touch with the Steam Trust who had a lease on the building and the Ramsgate Society who had plans to restore and regenerate the museum. The Clerk pointed out that some of the artefacts were being removed for restoration, but that they would be returned when the building was in a fit state to receive them.

- ❖ Janet Fielding: wanted to know the situation with the BAM Nuttall pontoons moored in the Royal Harbour. She pointed out that they do not have planning permission and that they 'look hideous'. Cllr Campbell pointed out that the current TDC Cabinet had insisted on an open tender to provide a replacement for the pontoon used in the Brett aggregate berth. Cllr Albon as a TDC cabinet member, confirmed that TDC would not permanently moor the pontoons in the harbour or the port and that they would go, if a superior bid was received by TDC.

- ❖ Rebekah Smith: Thanked the Council for its funding of Events and that Events do draw visitors into the Town. The numbers cannot be quantified definitively, but events do make a difference. The recent use by POW! of Radford House at the weekend was a great success. Cllr Campbell pointed out that residents pay for events grants through their Council tax and it is they who should be thanked.

- ❖ Suzy Humphries: Can a subsidy scheme be considered to bring down the high cost of parking in Ramsgate. Cllr Green replied that TDC need the income from parking, but if local businesses could put forward a scheme where they contribute to the cost of lowering parking charges; RTC might subscribe via its Ramsgate Fund. Davena Green said that £2.30 per hour to park in Ramsgate was ridiculous and deterred visitors. Cllr Campbell said that he was receiving complaints from local residents as motorists try to park in other streets to avoid paying parking charges.

- ❖ Ralph Hoults: outlined the Ramsgate Royal Harbour 200 event. The event will take place over 3 days and featured a number of activities. 24 local groups are participating already and welcomed any others who might wish to participate. Cllr Campbell informed the meeting that RTC had set aside funds over the last 2 years to deliver this event.

- ❖ Clive Richards: Thanked RTC for funding the Dynamo 80th Anniversary. He said that it could be the last such event as there are so few veterans from the Dunkirk evacuation left. The little ships will participate, and there will be reenactors and a parade. Lord Boyce and the new Lord Lieutenant of Kent will be taking the salute.

- ❖ Mr Morgan: Asked whether the plans for Radford House were fixed or whether they could be altered? In particular he did not like the idea of the shop window of glass behind the new heritage front doors. Cllr Campbell advised that the plans were not rigidly set out, but that some account had to be taken of the building's heritage status and that of its future carbon footprint. The Clerk replied that the plans were drawn up in response to the comments made by residents and groups in past consultations. Any proposed changes or alterations would have to take account of the environment, the listed status of the building, its future use and its legacy in the future. The building must be an asset to the community and not a burden, otherwise it would not have an assured future.
- ❖ Other questions were received about the 'jack up rig or Platform' and crane in the harbour; did they pay mooring fees? The response was that they do and as soon as the winter/spring gales cease they would be working on projects elsewhere.

Pleasurama received an enquiry about future plans and Cllr Albon assured the meeting that indeed, something was happening and that there would be something to report shortly.

Project Motorhouse wanted to know when the art-based hoardings would be remounted on the boundary of the Pleasurama site.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm