



**RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group**

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

**Date:** Thursday 8 December 2022, 3pm

**Present:** Councillors; Austin, Green and Wing.  
Residents; M. Foley (arrived during Item 4), D. Shotton (Chair), P. Shotton and A. Stevens.

Also in attendance; Mr D Williams (Digital Communications and Marketing Officer - Minutes)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Albon, Huxley and Moore and P. Bax (Personal Commitment), Councillors Ara, Crittenden and Makinson and L. Fidler (Work Commitment) and Councillor Hetherington and J. Dawes (Unwell).

**RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies received.**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Climate Change Task Group meeting held on Thursday 20 October 2022 were received and considered.

**RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted as accurate.**

**UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Climate Change Task Group received a report from the chair on progress made from the previous meeting. This detailed updates from the group on their actions.

D. Shotton welcomed A. Stevens to the Climate Change Task Group. (A. Stevens has a background working for district councils and with their Carbon Audits.)

Councillor Austin updated the group on planting of Trees in Ramsgate. Thanet District Council are creating a map to show a map of where tree planting will be happening, this will be available from Spring 2023 and planting will start in the Autumn, working with various community groups.

Councillor Austin has received information from Karen McKenzie of Broadstairs and St. Peters Town Council regarding TPO of Trees. Broadstairs are reviewing their Neighbourhood Plan and are putting three proposed provisions into their draft review which relate to TPO trees and developers. Councillor Austin has sent these proposed provisions to J. Dawes and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to be included in the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Green updated the group regarding electric charging points at Radford House, stating that an Architect has been employed and is looking at the layout of the yard and the best place for the Technicians to be situated. An update will have to be postponed until a decision has been made, but it is clear there will be charging points. D. Shotton suggested looking into the feasibility of using SUDs and rain water saving for toilets at Radford House.

Councillor Green stated that two options were being taken to Council regarding an Electric Vehicle and a Diesel van. A. Stevens suggested that to give a full picture the calculation of fuel and the carbon footprint of both vehicles would help with the Council making an informed decision.

Councillor Wing updated the group on creating a list of charging points in Ramsgate, stating that little progress has been made with Kent County Council and Councillor Wing will keep campaigning to Thanet District Council to do more.

Councillor Green and Wing have had the detailed questions added to the Ramsgate grants Application Form.

The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer has contacted Eve Lockton-Goddard regarding the Green Initiatives fund held by Thanet District Council and is awaiting a reply.

M. Foley stated that Westwood Cross is soon approaching the end of its design life of 25 years, with the possibility of some of it becoming a wildlife area in due course.

Councillor Austin updated the group on the consultant meeting with the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Plan, stating that progress has been made.

D. Shotton updated the group on a speed awareness meeting that was attended and held by the Dumpton Park Drive Road Safety Group.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

- 1. Councillor Austin mentioned that some information has been received from the Local Government Association regarding how to have a Waste Free Christmas, this is a link to information from the Environmental Agency. Councillor Austin to send the link to the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer to upload and publicise on the website.**
- 2. The Climate Change Task Group urge that the proposed provisions for the TPO of trees is accepted to be included in the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Austin to send these to the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer.**
- 3. Councillor Green and D. Shotton to contact Joseph Dance regarding street trees in the Nethercourt Ward and bring back to the next meeting with an update. Councillor Austin to contact Barry Manners in Kingsgate regarding tree planting and pass the information and details to Councillor Green to follow up. Councillor Wing stated that Matthew Gallagher was a**

Thanet Representative for Kent County Council and it was worth contacting him, as well as the others.

4. Councillor Green to update the group at the next meeting regarding the charging points at Radford House.

M. Foley joined the meeting.

5. The Town Clerk to include A. Stevens for input regarding the vehicle report for Council, to help with calculating the vehicle differences.
6. Councillor Wing to submit a Freedom of Information request to Kent County Council to see if Thanet has its quota of charging points, as detailed and stated.
7. Councillor Wing to take a motion to the next Council meeting, regarding charging points in Ramsgate stating that there should be charging points in all car parks in Ramsgate, at Council Buildings (including Radford House), at Newington Community Centre, Ramsgate Station Car Park and at Pier Yard. These should feed into the Local Plan and the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Plan.
8. The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer to await a reply from Eve Lockton-Goddard and circulate to members, once received.
9. M. Foley to find out more details regarding Westwood Cross end of life and return to the next meeting.
10. Councillor Austin to circulate the current draft Ramsgate Neighbourhood Plan to the group.
11. Councillors to start canvassing their wards in preparation of consultation of the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Plan.
12. The Climate Change Task Group recommend to Full Council that they instruct the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to devise an agile consultation tool, as they think the consultation data on which the current Neighbourhood Plan is based may be significantly out of touch.
13. The Climate Change Task Group recommend that the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed at the next Planning Meeting.
14. Councillors Austin, Green and Wing to raise interest with the other Councillors regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.
15. The group to contact Margate regarding the Twenty is Plenty campaign that they have created and find out more details.
16. D. Shotton asked if the Sustainability Fund can be linked with the Air Quality Improvement, as it would be appropriate for traffic calming.
17. Councillor Austin to ask Hannah Scott about the On Street Parking Fund and whether Ramsgate can apply for funding for Ramsgate and if no response is received then Councillor Wing will raise the fund at Full Council at Thanet District Council, asking the same question.
18. Councillor Green and D. Shotton to work together on a document for increasing road safety within Ramsgate that is to be sent to Thanet District Council and Kent County Council. This document will be run past A. Stevens for input regarding road safety for cyclists and runners. This document to be put before Council to be agreed and then distributed by the Town Clerk to the relevant authorities.

## **ENERGY CONSERVATION ON THE RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL ESTATE**

The Climate Change Task Group received a question from the chair on the conservation of energy at Ramsgate Town Council.

The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer updated the group on existing measures taken by the council to reduce energy consumption. D. Shotton suggested looking into an automatic door button being installed for the foyer, to reduce heat escaping from the doors being open.

M. Foley will go through the Energy Audit and take appropriate measures on what is achievable and feasible for Radford House.

D. Shotton stated there was a National Grid Sea Link Consultation that Ramsgate Town Council should respond too. A report has been created forming recommendations for a response.

### **RESOLUTION:**

- 1. A. Stevens to send the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer a link to a website ([www.kentnetzero.org](http://www.kentnetzero.org)) allowing Ramsgate Businesses to undertake a free carbon audit, with recommendations on how they can become Carbon Neutral and what grants they are eligible for. This link to be publicised online to the businesses.**
- 2. Councillor Wing suggested that A. Stevens do a possible Audit of Ramsgate Town Council to cover any missing aspects.**
- 3. The Town Clerk to circulate the National Grid Sea Link report to all Councillors for comment and insist that Ramsgate Town Council responds before the deadline on the 18<sup>th</sup> December. Councillor Austin to send the presentation slides to the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer, who will forward these to the Town Clerk to distribute along with the report to all Councillors.**

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 3pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:30pm.