



## **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting**

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

**Date:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at 7pm

**Present:** Councillors: Nixey (Chair), Ara, Austin, Green, Huxley, Makinson, Moore, L Piper, S Piper, Rusiecki, Wing

Also in attendance

Cllr Shonk; County Councillor

Miss L Fidler; Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer (Minutes)

#### **015/22 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Crittenden, Knight and Young (unwell), Cllr Hetherington (work commitment) and Cllr Albon (personal commitment).

#### **016/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Wing declared an interest in Minute 023/22, matters relating to Spencer Square.

#### **017/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(i) **PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK**

There were no requests to speak.

(ii) **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO RAMSGATE**

There were no reports provided.

(iii) **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO RAMSGATE**

Cllr T Shonk provided a verbal update on his work within Ramsgate, with particular attention going to highways & footpaths, and how his Members' Grant budget is being used. Cllr Shonk confirmed that he will act upon any matters that are raised with him.

#### **018/22 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (Minutes 124/21 – 140/21) were received and considered.

**RESOLUTION: The Minutes were approved as accurate and signed.**

## **019/22 BASIC PARISH ALLOWANCE**

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk, regarding the Basic Parish Allowance and considered whether this allowance should be paid in 2022/2023. Included with this report were the following documents for the Councillors' consideration:

- A National Association of Local Councils Legal Topic Note on Councillors' Allowances.
- The East Kent Joint Parish Independent Remuneration Panel's Quadrennial Review of Town and Parish Council Members' Allowances for the municipal years 2021-2025

It was confirmed that the draft budget (Minute 020/22) included a provision for this allowance (payable personally to members, and the ward allowance for use by councillors in their wards), should the Councillors decide to approve this allowance.

**RESOLUTION: The Parish Basic Allowance of £600 per councillor and £1,200 to the Chair (the sum recommended by the East Kent Joint Parish Independent Remuneration Panel) will be paid to the Councillors in the 2022/2023 Civic year.**

## **020/22 BUDGET 2022/23**

Councillors considered the draft budget for 2022/2023 as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. It was noted that the precept request must be submitted to Thanet District Council by 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and virements within the budget can be made throughout the year (when approved by resolution) but there can be no further changes to the precept after this date. Two grammatical errors within the budget were highlighted.

**RESOLUTION: The draft budget was approved and the precept for 2022/2023 was confirmed at £960,211.12; which represents no change to the sum paid by rate payers against 2021/2022 (£80.64 for a Band D Property).**

## **021/22 FUNDING & GRANTS**

- (i) Councillors considered applications received for community funding via the Ramsgate Fund from the Pie Factory; Screaming Alley; Sea Cadets; Mooch and the Miss Ramsgate Organisation.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

- a. **£1,000 should be vired to the Events Budget as recommended by the Town Promotion Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**
- b. **Pie Factory: The applicant will be asked:**
  - i. **Do they apply to the Colyer Fergusson Charitable Trust for up to £500 per young person in need?**
  - ii. **What are the qualifications of the Counsellor used by the applicant (incl. confirmation of public liability), what are the aims of these sessions, and what do creative interventions involve.**

**The application will be returned to the Council for consideration once the answers are known.**

- c. **Screaming Alley CIC: £3,000 will be awarded to purchase theatre standard sound and lighting equipment.**  
**Cllr S Piper was out of the meeting when this vote took place.**

- d. **Ramsgate Sea Cadets: £2,723.00 will be awarded to purchase IT equipment in support of a Rembrant 6 Ship Manoeuvring Simulator and various furniture requirements (2 x office chairs, 12 x general chairs, 4 x tables)**
  - e. **Mooch: £1,300.98 will be awarded for a temporary art installation called “Whee” on the public conveniences at the Pier Yard Car Park.**
  - f. **Miss Ramsgate Organisation: £2,750 will be awarded for clothing for the Courts and refurbishment and decoration of the carnival float.**
- (ii) Councillors considered an application from Thanet Citizen’s Advice Bureau for funding from the Community Services Budget in 2022/2023.  
**RESOLUTION: That £20,000 be awarded to the Citizens Advice Bureau to cover the cost of a Part Time Debt Assessor in 2022/2023, on the condition that this service is provided within the Ramsgate area (i.e. not from an office somewhere else).**
- (iii) Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and consider whether funding for a Shop Front Design Guide, as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone project, should be approved.  
**RESOLUTION: It was not felt that £10,000 for a Shop Front Design Guide would be good value for money. The HAZ Project Officer will be informed that the Town Council is receptive to providing financial assistance for a physical improvement within the HSHAZ project, but not the requested activity.**

**022/22 CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and considered if the Council should declare a climate change emergency. A motion to defer the matter and come back to the Council with a plan of action before declaring an emergency failed at the vote.

**RESOLUTION: To declare a climate change emergency.**

**023/22 SPENCER SQUARE**

**RESOLUTION: To consider this matter confidentially due to the likely discussion about the current Leaseholders (this matter was discussed at the end of the meeting).**

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk, and considered the motions contained therein from Cllr Wing.

**RESOLUTION: To defer this matter until the Cllr Wing’s declaration of interest can be clarified.**

**024/22 ARCHIVE GRANT**

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and considered whether to apply for The National Archives ‘Scoping Grant Fund’.

**RESOLUTION: An application to The National Archives ‘Scoping Grant Fund’ should be submitted.**

**025/22 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

- (i) To confirm the council’s nominated representative for the “Levelling Up Fund Executive Group”. It was noted that Cllrs Albon, Austin & Green would be

willing to attend as substitute members.

**RESOLUTION: The Chair will be the primary representative, and when not available to attend a meeting a substitute will be found.**

- (ii) To confirm the council's nominated representative for the "Population Health Management (PHM) Development Programme".

**RESOLUTION: Cllr Hetherington was confirmed as the Council's representative.**

#### **026/22 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

Councillors received a written report from Miss E Richford, Deputy Town Clerk, regarding Council credit cards.

**RESOLUTION: The following Council credit cards will be arranged (Unity Trust Bank does not have arrangements for debit cards):**

**One credit card with a purchase limit of £1,000.00 for use by the Town Clerk to be kept at the Custom House; available to the office staff with the Town Clerk's permission; to be used for larger purchases by the Town Promoter and Senior Technician; this card to have a cash withdrawals facility.**

**One credit card with a purchase limit of £200.00 for the Town Promoter and Senior Technician to use with transactions authorised by the Town Clerk before being made; this card will not have a cash withdrawals facility.**

#### **027/22 RAMSGATE FUTURE PLAN**

Councillors considered the following motions from Cllr Green:

- (i) Ramsgate Town Council invites a member of TDC's Cabinet/Management Team to talk about the plan.
- (ii) That we explore with TDC whether they are genuinely interested in a partnership with us over two of their proposed projects, the "linear garden" on the Eastcliff promenade, and the beach club.

**RESOLUTION: The above motions were approved for action.**

#### **028/22 WELFARE PROVISIONS FOR TRAVELLERS**

**RESOLUTION: To consider this matter confidentially due to the likely discussion about the current Leaseholders.**

Councillors received a written report from Cllr Wing and considered the motion contained therein.

**RESOLUTION: Thanet District Council will be asked what welfare provisions are currently provided to the Travellers (i.e. toilets and showers), how this level/agreement was reached, and if/how the provision can be improved.**

Cllrs L Piper and S Piper asked that their vote against this resolution be recorded.

#### **029/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (Annual Town Meeting)