



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Wednesday 21st December 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Austin, Ara, Crittenden, Green, Hetherington, Makinson, Moore, Nixey, Ovenden, L Piper and Wing

Also in attendance:
Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO.

260/22

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Piper (family commitment), Cllr Rusiecki (Party commitment) and Cllr Young (unwell).

261/22

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

262/22

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 was nothing reported.

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

There were no County Councillors present.

263/22

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30th November 2022 (minutes 244/22 to 253/22) were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were approved as accurate.

264/22

FINANCES (INCLUDING GRANTS)

(i) A report on payments was received.

RESOLUTION: Payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO (total £23,120.13) were noted and payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO were approved (total £158,849.78).

- (ii) A written report from the Deputy Town Clerk & RFO was received in respect of the Events Fund.

RESOLUTION: That £2,000 be awarded to POW Thanet for the “Power of Women 2023 Festival Ramsgate Day” that will take place on the 11th March 2023 (Ref. EF21)

265/22

BUSINESS PLAN

Councillors received a draft Business Plan for 2023-2027 and considered if any changes should be made prior to adoption. Members were also asked to consider if the current draft budget adequately supports the Plan or if there are areas for amendment.

RESOLUTION: The Business Plan was approved, subject to the following amendments:

- a) Add “improve road safety” to the section about 20mph zones.
b) Add “Town Team and others” to the list of organisations that may be involved in community projects.

The Town Clerk to also research whether DBS checks for Councillors is appropriate and undertake an audit of Councillors skills.

266/22

RADFORD HOUSE

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and consider the various recommendations contained therein.

RESOLUTIONS:

- (i) The findings of the Building Survey were noted.
(ii) A quote of £4998.80 (excl. VAT and contingency) from J-Mech to install a new (second-hand) boiler was approved.
(iii) A quote of £4,975 from Shire Construction to install an accessible toilet was approved.
(iv) Mrs S Humphries was confirmed as the successful contractor for the Community Engagement & Events Officer post was approved, with a budget of £20k budget approved for this work (10 month contract).
(v) A quote of £928.13 from E. Saunders Electrical Contractors to undertake a period inspection of the electrical installation at Radford House was approved.
(vi) A quote of £4,125 from Neat Studios (the Radford House architect) to undertake a Feasibility Study of the Technician’s Depot was approved.
(vii) An additional budget of £50k was delegated to the Town Clerk in conjunction with Cllrs Nixey & Green, to progress surveys/repairs/incidentals in the new year.

267/22

COLLECTIONS POLICY

Members received a draft Collections Policy that was based upon the Arts Council’s “Accreditation Scheme for Museums & Galleries in the United Kingdom: Collections Development Policy Template”.

RESOLUTION: The Policy was adopted.

268/22

NATIONAL GRID: SEA LINK

Councillors considered the Council’s response to the non-statutory consultation from the National Grid on “Sea Link – update on proposals to provide a subsea

connection between Suffolk and Kent: start of non-statutory public consultation". Presentation slides from Thanet District Council were included as well as a recommendation from the Climate Change Action Group.

RESOLUTION: The Council supports this proposal, however all survey information available from the SSSIs should be shared unredacted at the earliest opportunity; so that the Council can work within it's powers with stakeholders to ensure that wildlife and coastal lands, seas, sands and waterway are protected.

269/22

RAMSGATE SOCIETY PROJECT

To receive and consider a proposal from the Ramsgate Society for the Council to jointly host "The Ramsgate Design Awards" in 2023.

RESOLUTION: The Council will work with the Ramsgate Society to host these awards in 2023.

270/22

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Councillors considered nominating a representative for the "Thanet Coastal Stakeholder Group".

RESOLUTION: Cllr Tony Ovenden was nominated as the Council's representative on this group.

271/22

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 19th January 2023 7pm (2023/2024 Budget Setting)