



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Ara, Austin, Crittenden, Driver, Green, Hudson, Huxley, Makinson, Moore, Nixey, Ovenden, Shonk & Wing

Also in attendance:

Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

045/25 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from; Cllr Young (personal matter), Cllr Driver (doctor's appointment) and Cllr Hetherington (doctor's appointment).

046/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Albon declared an interest in matters relating to item 055/25; as the TDC Cabinet member with the related budget.

047/25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no public requests to speak.

048/25 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Members received the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 29th January 2025 (Minutes 021/25 – 030/25).

RESOLUTION: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

049/25 **FINANCES (INCL. GRANTS)**

(i) Members received a report of payments 1st to 31st December 2024; the Council was asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £7,132.57) and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £48,989.36).

RESOLUTIONS: The payments authorised by the Town Clerk (total £7,132.57) were noted and the payments above the threshold of the Town Clerk (total £48,989.36) were approved.

(ii) Members considered a report from the Deputy Town Clerk & FO and the recommendations of the Grant Scrutiny Panel in respect of various

funding applications.

RESOLUTIONS:

a) Events Fund 2024-25

EF25. Ramsgate Festival of Sound; £2,000.00 awarded for “Ramsgate Through the Senses 2025”.

EF26. St George’s Church & Great British Carnival; £2,000.00 awarded for “St George’s Day Parade 2025”.

b) Events Fund 2025-26

EF1. Ramsgate Old Motor & Motorcycle Club; £2,500.00 awarded for “The Great Bucket & Spade Run 2025”.

EF2. Ramsgate Branch of the Royal British Legion; £1,200.00 awarded for “VE Day Celebrations”

c) Ramsgate Fund 2025-26

RF1. The Ramsgate Society; £1,378.00 awarded for “Restoration of the Dunkirk Memorial”.

RF2. Ramsgate Space CIC; £3,500.00 awarded for Ramsgate Space Activation Hub.

RF3. Osborne & What; the applicant will be asked to re-apply once relevant permissions have been obtained.

d) Community Services Fund 2025-26

CS1. Citizens Advice Thanet; £22,000.00 awarded for provision of a Session Supervisor at 22.5hrs per week at the Ramsgate branch.

CS2. Pie Factory Music; £15,000.00 awarded towards continued youth services in 2025/2026. NB. The Council did not specify how the funding should be used, and the applicant can reapply later in the year if required.

CS3. Neurodivergent Friends CIC; £2,500.00 awarded towards a “Creative Connection Club”.

CS4. Paddle Media; £2,500.00 awarded towards “Creative Journalism Workshops & Strange Tourism Training Newsroom” workshops.

CS5. Sonder Arts CIC; £2,000.00 awarded towards Happy Mondays Community Group.

- (iii)** Members received a report containing various virements requested by the Town Promotion Committee. It was noted that TDC will be planting the potted palms into the ground, commencing 27th February, and so recycling of the palms was not considered.

RESOLUTIONS:

a) £22,356.00 will be carried forward in 2025/2026 (from underspends in the Town Promotion 2024/2025 budgets) for use in relation to decorative lights in York Street and Queen Street.

b) £8,000.00 will be carried forward in 2025/2026 (from underspends in the Town Promotion 2024/2025 budgets) for use in relation to a new decorative lighting feeder pillar for the town centre lighting.

(Minutes 031/25 – 039/25).

- (ii) Draft Planning & Infrastructure Committee Meeting 12th February 2025
(Minutes 040/25 - 044/25).

RESOLUTION: The draft minutes were noted

051/25

PLANNING APPLICATION

Members considered the following planning application:

F/TH/24/1328 – Land to the rear of 10, Effingham Street: Erection of a two storey building to facilitate 2No 2-bed self-contained flats, together with roof terrace to ground and first floor level and associated external stairway and shed.

This application was considered by the Council as the deadline for comments was before the next Planning & Infrastructure Committee meeting.

RESOLUTION: Although the Council usually supports the creation of smaller dwellings, this application is recommended for refusal due to over-development of a small site, lack of bins storage, and fire safety risks (without proper evacuation points).

052/25

RADFORD HOUSE (INCL. TECHNICIANS)

- (i) Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk regarding funding for temporary external room hire and considered how to proceed. Cllr Nixey volunteered her ward allowance for supporting events

RESOLUTION: That a budget of £7,000.00 be set aside (from “New Projects Budget) for relocation of the Repair Café, Horticultural Society and Chat Time, for up to 8 months, whilst Radford House is refurbished. This budget also includes the Event Organiser’s time to facilitate Chat Time.

- (ii) Members considered a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk regarding temporary accommodation for the Technicians at Ramsgate Port and considered how to proceed.

RESOLUTION: A budget of £10,000.00 was agreed for the relocation of the Technicians team to the Port for one year. Although the cost of re-instating the Radford House gate was approved, other solutions will be explored.

- (iii) Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk, providing an update on various Radford House matters.

RESOLUTION: This report was noted.

053/25

COUNCILLORS USE OF COUNCIL ASSETS

Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk regarding use of rooms/hall hire by councillors and consider how to proceed (to permit this activity with accompanying policy or not). It was agreed that the policy and consideration of safe meeting spaces within each ward will be returned to the Council at a future meeting.

RESOLUTION: No bookings by political parties will be permitted in any council buildings.

054/25

CLIFF TOP SHELTERS

Members received and considered the Head of Terms offered by TDC for the Lease of 14 clifftop shelters to the town council. A supporting report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO was enclosed.

RESOLUTION: The Council will wait for TDC's 2025/2026 budget to be confirmed; to see what provision for shelters is included before this matter is considered. The Council will also need to know what the recharge for insurance, rent and services will be before a decision can be made.

055/25

WARRE REC BASKETBALL COURT

Members received and considered a motion from the Central Harbour Councillors that the council commits up to £8k towards resurfacing the Warre Rec Basketball Court.

Cllr Albon let the meeting for this item of business and Cllr Nixey (Vice Chair) took the chair).

RESOLUTION: The Council commits a maximum of £8,000.00 from the 2025/2026 New Project Budget (current balance £23,000.00) to underwrite the shortfall required to complete the basketball court resurfacing project."

056/25

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Members received a written report from Cllr Green and consider the motion contained therein as a starting point for the council in respect of the local government reorganisation process.

RESOLUTION: An informal meeting of the councillors will be scheduled to identify assets or services they believe should be delivered and managed locally for the benefit of residents. The Council will then write to KCC and TDC to express an interest in taking on these functions. The Council will assess the potential costs, income, and liabilities of any asset transfers and service delivery to understand the impact on the precept. An engagement strategy will also be developed to gauge residents' interest in local service delivery and the potential effects this may have on the parish precept.

057/25

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS:

(i) It was recommended that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

(ii) **CUSTOM HOUSE RENT REVIEW**

Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding the Custom House rent review. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially, due to the rent negotiation to be discussed.

RESOLUTION: The sum of rent identified within the RICS

Valuation Report will be proposed to the Landlord. The Town Clerk & Chair to manage the negotiation.

(iii) RAMSGATE SHED

Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, regarding a short-term lease of Unit 3 12 School Lane for the purpose of housing the Ramsgate Shed. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially, due to the rent negotiation to be discussed.

RESOLUTION: The proposal to rent Unit 3 12 School Lane for the purpose of housing the Ramsgate Shed for six months was approved (as per the Town Clerk's report), with funding to come from the Social Enterprise Kent grant held by the Town Team.

058/25

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7pm.