



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Austin, Crittenden, Driver, Green, Hetherington, Huxley, Makinson, Moore, Ovenden and Young.

Also in attendance:

Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and Mr D Williams, Marketing and Communications Officer.

119/23

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Ara (work commitment), Dark (unwell), Hudson (family matter), Nixey (personal commitment), and Wing (Thanet District Council commitment).

120/23

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

121/23

SPECIAL MOTION: MANSTON AIRPORT

The Chair announced that an emergency motion had been received from Cllr Green, details of which were emailed to the members on 25th July.

RESOLUTION: Suspension of Standing Order no; 9b: “No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least 5 clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.”

Members considered responding to the following non-material changes to Manston Airport Development Consent Order that have been requested by RiverOak Strategic Partners Ltd;

a) a non-material change to amend the security figure at Article 9(1)(a) from £13.1 million to £6.2 million to reflect RiverOak’s acquisition of the main airport site prior to the making of the DCO; and

b) a non-material change to Article 21(3) to confirm that RiverOak’s time limit for exercising its compulsory acquisition powers are limited to one year after either the DCO comes into force or the outcome of any challenge, rather than one year after the DCO comes into force and immediately after the outcome of any challenge.

RESOLUTION: The Council will write (via Cllr Green and the Town Clerk) a strong letter urging the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that residents are protected from any interference in the Compulsory Purchase Order compensation scheme and noise mitigation measures that would result from a reduction to Riveroak Strategic Partner's security figure. This is all the more important in the current cost of living crisis and housing crisis, especially as the cost of noise mitigation will have increased with inflation and the general rise in building materials.

122/23

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(i) PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK

There were no public requests to speak.

(ii) REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLRS ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO RAMSGATE

There were no County Councillor reports.

123/23

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Members received the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28th June 2023 (Minute no; 103/23-113/23).

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

124/23

POLICY & PROCEDURES

- (i) Members considered a revised "Protocols & Procedures for the Mayor of Ramsgate"; as proposed by the Mayor's PA and Town Sergeant in conjunction with the Mayor.

RESOLUTION: This document was approved, subject to the following amendments:

(a) Work with the Twinning Associations will be added as a priority activity.

(b) The requirement of the Mayor not to make any political advantage from the post will be expanded.

- (ii) Members considered whether the Ward Allowances (the sum that each Member has available for small ward specific projects) should continue to be rolled over across the term of office, or whether it should be spent within each financial year.

RESOLUTION: This budget will be permitted to roll-over for the term of office.

125/23

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Council considered the nomination of two representatives for the Thanet Area Group.

RESOLUTION: Cllrs Albon and Ovenden will represent the Council at the Thanet Area Group.

126/23

FINANCES (INCL. GRANTS)

- (i) Council received a report of payments made between 23rd June and 21st July 2023. Council was asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £17,820.63) and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £23,842.35).
RESOLUTION: The payments authorised by the Town Clerk (total £17,820.63) between 19th May and 22nd June 2023 were noted and the payments above the threshold of the Town Clerk (total £39,853.30) made between 19th May and 22nd June 2023 were approved.
- (ii) Councillors received a report from Miss E Richford and considered the grant applications contained therein from in relation to the Events Budge and Ramsgate Fund.
RESOLUTIONS:
- a) **EF16 2023-2024 – Starlings Support CIC – Newington Lights Festival - £2,000 awarded.**
 - b) **EF17 2023-2024 – Looping the Loop CIC – October Half-term Workshops and Performances for all ages - £1,000 awarded.**
 - c) **RF8 2023-2024 – Kent Film Foundation – Purchase of equipment - £2,756 awarded.**
 - d) **RF9 – 2023-2024 – Montefiore Tennis Club – two new nets - £345.60 awarded.**
 - e) **RF10 2023-2024 – Brunswick Court Residents Gardening Group – tools and plants - £1,500 awarded.**
- (iii) Councillors received a quote from Pear Technology for a Digital Mapping System for the entire ward, with specific mapping of the allotment sites. This software will assist with a variety of projects and different ‘layers’ can be added to the map.
RESOLUTION: This quote was accepted, with the mapping software cost to come out of the New Project Contingency Budget, and the Allotment mapping cost to come out of the Allotment Capital Budget. There are a number of either/or costs associated with this work, the Town Clerk will decide how to progress with these within her delegated powers of expenditure.

127/23

PROJECT SUPPORT

- (i) **THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL : CLOCK HOUSE PROJECT**
Members considered a request from TDC to write a letter in support of The Clock House Project (a Levelling Up Fund project), to be used when applying for grants. The key aims of this project are:
- Restoration of a key heritage building in Ramsgate Royal Harbour (Listed Grade 2* and on the Historic England Buildings at Risk List)

- Increasing the quality of heritage interpretation available in the town
- Widening audiences that participate in heritage related activities
- Recording and exploring the unique stories of Ramsgate and its maritime history
- Maritime Museum acting as a gateway to other heritage opportunities in the town.

A copy of the latest “Exhibition Concepts July 2023” were included with the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS:

- (a) **A letter of support will be written.**
- (b) **An email of concern will be written to the Chief Executive, Leader and the Head of Regeneration & Growth at TDC about the lack of public engagement around this project, specifically the Clock House Steering Group who have not met for over 5 months.**

(ii) HERITAGE LAB CIC: ART INSTALLATION PARTNERSHIP WITH HS1 AT ST PANCRAS INTERNATIONAL

Councillors receive a written report from Miss L Fidler and consider how to proceed with the proposal detailed therein from Heritage Lab CIC.

RESOLUTION: The Council would like to find out more, specifically what contribution from the Council is envisaged.

128/23

SUMMER FACILITIES AT WESTERN UNDERCLIFF

Members received a report from Miss L Fidler regarding the provision of seasonal portaloos at the Western Undercliff and consider if this proposal should be financed from the “New Project Contingency” and / or “Ward Allowances” budgets. It was confirmed that this request to TDC had been received too late in the year, at which point the seasonal provision of portaloos across the district had already been approved.

RESOLUTION: The Council will fund the provision of one event toilet and one enhanced access toilet at the Western Undercliff during the school summer holiday, including daily cleaning; TDC will make the necessary arrangements and manage the contract.

129/23

PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following the meeting with Mr D Chetwyn at 6pm on the 26th July, Members are asked if there are any actions to take before the Neighbourhood Plan is returned to the members for approval by the Planning & Infrastructure Committee (the next step being submission to TDC; to ascertain if a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required.

RESOLUTION: The following will be investigated before the Neighbourhood Plan is returned to the Planning & Infrastructure Committee:

- (i) Grammatical updates.
- (ii) How to protect the green area on either side of Canterbury Road East.
- (iii) Is the principal of a “15 minute neighbourhood” included in the Plan.

130/23

TOWN PROMOTION: PALMS

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and considered how to proceed with the project detailed therein.

RESOLUTION: The overall number of palms across the Eastcliff, Westcliff and Town Centre can be reduced to bring the project within the approved budget.

The Town Centre & Tourism Manager and Lead Technician’s were delegated the power to re-arrange the palms as they see necessary in conjunction with the nursery.

131/23

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 30th August 2023 at 7pm (only if required).