



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

Venue: Radford House, 18-20 Effingham Street, Ramsgate, CT11 9AT

Date: Thursday 27th June 2024 at 7pm.

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

Also in attendance:

Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

145/24

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Crittenden (personal commitment), Cllr Wing (unwell) and Cllr Young (personal commitment). **And Cllr Huxley (personal commitment). [amendment made when the Minutes were approved on 31.07.24]**

146/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

147/24

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- (i) There were no public requests to speak.
- (ii) County Councillor Shonk reported that he's asked the KCC Cabinet Member, Cllr Neil Baker, to visit Ramsgate.

148/24

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Members received the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th May 2024 (Minute no; 117/24-128/24).

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

149/24

FINANCES (INCL. GRANTS)

- (i) Councillors received a report of payments; Council is asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st May to 30th June 2024, totalling £17,319.55 and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO between 1st and 31st May 2024, totalling £54,985.67.

RESOLUTION: The payments authorised by the Town Clerk

& RFO were noted, and the payments above the threshold delegated to an officer were approved.

- (ii) Councillors received a report from Miss E Richford, Deputy Town Clerk, and consider the two grant application forms detailed therein that are returned to the Council for consideration.

RESOLUTIONS

EF6 – A request from Kent Film Foundation to reallocate their previously approved grant (£500) to Ramsgate International Film Festival was denied. This money will be return to the grant budget if not required by Kent Film Foundation’s original purpose.

EF8 – Further information from Discovery Planet CIC regarding their six-month programme of learning opportunities was received (as previously requested) and it was agreed to grant this organisation £3000.

- (iii) Councillors received the “Financial Statement – Cash Book” for the 2023/2024 financial year (the details contained therein informed the Annual Governance & Accountability Return).

RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

- (iv) As per the Financial Regulations, members considered whether staff salary payments should continue to be made by BACs.

RESOLUTION: Salary payments will continue to be made by BACs.

- (v) As per the Financial Regulations, members considered whether variable direct debit is acceptable in relation to payments for electricity, gas, water, internet/telephone, HR, photocopier and leased vehicle.

RESOLUTION: Variable direct debit will be used for the above purchases.

- (vi) Members considered the findings of the review of effectiveness of the system of internal control (Page 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2024), and a covering letter from the internal auditor.

RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

- (vii) Members reviewed the Risk Register for year ending 31st March 2024.

RESOLUTION: This document was approved.

- (viii) Members considered the Annual Governance Statement by resolution (Section 1 / Page 4 of the Annual Governance &

Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2024).

RESOLUTION: The Annual Governance Statement (all 'yes', one 'N/A') was approved.

- (ix) Members considered the Accounting Statements for 2023/2024 (Section 2 / Page 5 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2024).

RESOLUTION: The Accounting Statements was confirmed (all 'yes', one 'N/A').

150/24

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members received the following committee minutes for information (to be approved by the respective committees):

- (i) Approved Planning Committee 8th May 2024
- (ii) Draft Finance & General Purposes Committee 22nd May 2024
The Chair reported that following the concerns raised about a decision made involving the allotment 'legacy' tenants, this matter will be brought to July's council meeting for re-consideration (if members resolve to suspend the relevant standing order to allow the matter to be discussed). The effected tenants will be invited to write to the Council in advance of this meeting.
- (iii) Draft Town Promotion Committee 5th June 2024
- (iv) Draft Planning & Infrastructure Committee 12th June 2024

151/24

HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Councillors considered whether the use of a working group (draft terms of reference were provided) would assist with figuring out how to progress the Highways Improvement Plan.

RESOLUTION: A working group lead by Cllr Wing, along with Cllrs Makinson & Shonk will be formed, as per the terms of reference.

152/24

DEFIBRILLATORS

Members received a report from the Town Clerk & RFO, and considered a proposal contained therein from the Chair, Cllr Albon, that the Council progresses a plan to increase defibrillators across the Wards.

RESOLUTION: To progress this project as proposed in the report and return the matter to the Council for further consideration.

153/24

WESTERN UNDERCLIFF SEASONAL FACILITIES

Members received a quote from Thanet District Council to provide seasonal facilities at the Western Undercliff over the six-week summer holiday, as the Council previously funded in 2023.

RESOLUTION: To provide this provision again, however, the council will seek our own quote to provide these facilities, to see if TDC's quote can be bettered. It should also be promoted that

these facilities are provided by the Council.

154/24

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

(i) EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS

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 REPAIRS

Members received a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk, about various matters relating to The Custom House. It was recommended that this matter be considered confidentially due to the Lease and quote to be discussed.

RESOLUTION: That this information be noted.

155/24

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 31st July 2024 at 7pm.