



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors: Albon (Chair), Austin, Ara, Crittenden, Green, Hetherington, Hudson, Huxley, Makinson, Moore, Nixey and Ovenden.

Also in attendance:

Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Members stood for a minute's silence for Cllr Day Kark, Deputy Mayor of Ramsgate. The Mayor and Chair gave tribute to Cllr Dark's friendship, humour, love for her family and dedication to public life.

039/24

APOLOGIES

- (i) Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Young (family commitment), Cllr Driver (unwell) and Cllr Wing (unwell). There is currently one vacancy.
- (ii) Members received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and considered whether to permit Cllr Young to be absent from Council Meetings (due to a family matter) for an extended period of absence. .

RESOLUTION: The report was noted. And as per Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 it was approved that Cllr Young could remain absent from Council meetings until 4th July 2024 (an extension of three months).

040/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

041/24

PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK

There were no public requests to speak.

042/24

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

This matter was deferred, as Members received the Minutes from November 2023 (already approved), instead of January 2024. The Minutes from January 2024 will be presented at March's Council meeting.

043/24

FINANCES (INCL. GRANTS)

- (i) Council received a report of payments for 1st to 29th February 2024 and were asked to note the payments authorised by the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £8,481.76) and approve the payments above the threshold delegated to the Town Clerk & RFO (total: £50,084.87).

RESOLUTIONS: The payments authorised by the Town Clerk (total £8,481.76) were noted and the payments above the threshold of the Town Clerk (total £50,084.87) were approved.

- (ii) Councillors received a report from Miss E Richford and considered the five grant applications contained therein for the Community Services, Events Fund & Ramsgate Fund budgets.

RESOLUTIONS:

CS1 – Citizens Advice Bureau - £21,500.00 awarded to fund a part-time Session Supervisor at Ramsgate CAB for one year. The Community Services budget for 2024/2025 should also be topped up by £10,000 from the balance to be carried forward at the end of the 2023/2024 financial year.

CS2 – Pie Factory - £17,378.00 awarded to continue to provide open-access youth services in 2024/2025. It was confirmed that if Pie Factory Music are not successful with their related bid for £20,000, that the Council's contribution does not need to be returned, Pie Factor Music should use the Council's funds to keep the service going for as long as possible.

CS3 – Friends of Ellington Park Community Café - £1,738.00 was awarded for the "Warm Space & Breakfast in the Park" Project. However, the applicant must not submit a retrospective application again. This grant will come from the 2023/2024 budget, using the funds available following an underspend on the May 2023 election.

EF1 – Lumen Studios International Ltd – a request for £2,300.00 was deferred, to be considered later in the year when other summer grants will be considered.

EF2 – Ramsgate Old Motor & Motorcycle Club - £2,000 was awarded towards "The Great Bucket & Spade Run 2024".

RF1 – Miss Ramsgate Organisation - £3,000 was awarded for the purchase of clothing and construction of the Town Queen's float. The Council acknowledged the value of the Carnival Court for Ramsgate. However, the Court will need to understand the importance of reusing and recycling to the Council, and this year this should be integrated into practices involving clothing and jewellery.

- (iii) Council was asked to nominate four members for a new Grant Scrutiny Panel; as resolved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

RESOLUTION: Cllrs Hetherington, Hudson, Moore & Nixey will form the new Grant Scrutiny Panel.

044/24

ASSETS : WARRE REC SKATEPARK

Councillors received a verbal update from Cllr Austin & the Chair. It was confirmed that TDC are willing to offer the Warre Rec. Skate Park to the Town Council on no more than a seven-year lease. The Town Clerk & Cllr Austin will now consider if this is an acceptable offer and report back to the Council.

RESOLUTION: To note this information.

045/24

RADFORD HOUSE

- (i) Members received the Radford House related income & expenditure for the year to 22nd February 2024.

RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

- (ii) Members received a written report from the Radford House Project Manager and a verbal update from Cllr Nixey. Cllr Nixey's report is attached as an appendix to the official minutes.

RESOLUTION: This information was noted.

046/24

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7pm.

Radford House Update

28th February 2024

In addition to the update from our Project Manager, please may I report the following:

- We're in communication with the NHS about running some mental health services from Radford House, whilst an NHS facility is being refurbished. And KCC are going to start using the rooms for 1-2-1 sessions.
- Other new bookings have included:
 - o A Christmas Fayre
 - o A Sketch Club was trialled.
 - o South East Kent College have had a "Digital Skills & Energy Event" for businesses.
 - o A Ramsgate Horticultural Society has been established at Radford House and held their first meeting.
 - o Five rooms upstairs are now occupied by sitting tenants; and we've had no one leave, everyone who has come to Radford House has stayed.
 - o Chat Time continues to be very popular, and there have been a variety of talks.
 - o Manspace are meeting weekly.
 - o There's a weekly singing group.
 - o A Repair Café and Shed (with possible Toolbank) are going to commence in April for a three-month trial.
 - o We've also having our first private booking; a birthday party.
- The following surveys have been undertaken:
 - o A mortar survey (to confirm what the building is made of, so that we replace and repair with appropriate materials)
 - o Asbestos Refurbishment Survey
 - o Damp/Pathology Survey (we've now addressed all the damp problems, except the flat roofs that need to be replaced, it's not worth repairing them. This document will also help inform where heat is lost and how to mitigate this and save energy).
 - o A schematic of the electrics and pipework has been undertaken, which will help inform the Mechanical & Electrical consultants of any remapping that needs to be undertaken, and anything redundant that can be removed to tidy the building up.
- A further planning application has been necessary, which was submitted before Christmas and is currently awaiting validation by TDC, this includes:

- An amended scheme in the car park (to put back in two parking spaces) and new gate arrangement, as we've been informed that the current gate is not safe for a community centre.
 - A change to the main entrance door (as approved by the Council)
 - Removal of the up and over doors – we had permission for new doors, but not permission to remove the old ones.
 - Permission to relocate the boiler, which is required to move in order to install the lift.
- And other notes:
- The current version of the Business Plan (we're at Version 10) is due for another update and a meeting should take place in the next month about this.
 - Project Manager Paul is now based at Radford House everything Thursday afternoon and is available for questions.
 - The Town Clerk has submitted a second Community Ownership Fund bid, although we're concerned that the Community Ownership Fund has a problematic bid in Ramsgate already, that might be having a negative affect on our bid.
 - The Room Data Sheets are finalised, which confirm the specifics required in each room (e.g. number of plug sockets), and the Design Team will now work out the specifics for RIBA Stage 3 – they are holding off until planning permission is given for the amended scheme.
 - In October new Building Regulations Secondary legislation came into affect, and we will need a Building Regulations Principal Designer. It seems that the industry is currently trying to figure out the specifics and who can do this work. We've checked with other local projects, who've confirmed that they are also trying to get their heads around what is needed and who will do it – we think it's going to be something that will fall to our architect to do.
 - I can confirm that the town clerk will respond to Cllr Wing's request for information, which will be shared with all members. A full response should be forthcoming next week.