



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Wednesday 31st August 2022 at 7pm

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

Also in attendance
County Councillors Constantine & Shonk
Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO (Minutes)

170/22 **APOLOGIES**
It was noted that there is a casual vacancy for one Member of Council for Montefiore Ward.

171/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.

172/22 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(i) **PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK**

There were no requests to speak.

(ii) **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO RAMSGATE**

No report was received.

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

Cllrs Constantine & Shonk reported on their activities in Ramsgate.

173/22 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th July 2022 (Minutes 150/22 – 157/22) were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were approved as accurate and signed.

174/22 **FINANCES (INCL. GRANTS)**

Members received a report of payments.

RESOLUTION: The list of payments over £1,000 was approved (total £40,850.60), and the payments under £1,000 that had already been authorised by the Town Clerk (total £6,205.58) were noted.

175/22

RADFORD HOUSE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

To receive and note the following updates from the Radford House Project Managers:

- (i) Radford House – Programme – Meanwhile Use – 12.08.22
- (ii) Project Manager’s Update 31.08.22
- (iii) Meanwhile Use – Compliance Requirements

Cllrs Nixey & Green reported that the Project Manager’s are very good at explaining the process and breaking things down. And the importance of mean time uses to inform the business has become apparent.

176/22

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS & BEAUTIFICATION

- (i) Members considered a motion from Cllr Crittenden to develop and action a strategy to improve the local public spaces.

RESOLUTION: The Council will develop and action a strategy to co-ordinate and support existing volunteer gardening groups, and undertake public spaces gardening works throughout Ramsgate, not only of the East and West cliff promenades, but also the town centre flower beds and through the creation of pocket parks elsewhere in Ramsgate. The development of such a strategy would be undertaken through the Town Promotion Committee (in conjunction with Finance & General Purposes Committee for staffing), and take into consideration the Neighbourhood Plan and Town Regeneration plans, recognising the role of TDC as primary stakeholder and landowner.

- (ii) To receive a report regarding the East Cliff Bandstand and consider the exploratory work proposed therein relating to the decorative lights.
RESOLUTION: Up to £1,000 from the Miscellaneous Budget to be used to engage an electrician and a sound and lighting engineer to ascertain the condition of the East Cliff Bandstand’s lighting system and bring a report back to the Council.

177/22

HIGHWAYS: 20MPH

- (i) Members considered a motion from the Central Harbour Ward Councillors in support of 20mph speed limits.

RESOLUTION: The Council notes the following:

- That speed limits on Britain’s residential roads are 60% higher than those in comparable European nations;
- That more than half of all road accidents occur on roads with 30 mph limits;
- That reducing speed limits on residential roads has been found to lower the incidence of accidents and the number of fatalities and serious accidents that result from them;
- That a 20 mph limit could make a considerable contribution to improving air quality in Ramsgate, thereby both improving our health and contributing positively on climate change;
- That new Department of Transport guidelines make it easier for local authorities to adopt a 20 mph default speed limit on residential roads;
- That both members of this Council and members of the public have consistently shown strong support for 20mph limits in Ramsgate.

And resolves the following, to:

- **press the County Council to reconsider its existing policies on speed limits and to support a town-wide 20 mph speed limit on residential roads;**
 - **continue to press for more pedestrian crossings at key crossing points;**
 - **continue to work with the District and County Councils to make Ramsgate a safe and pedestrian-friendly town.**
- (ii) Councillors considered a response to KCC's consultation on a proposal to reduce the speed limit on 10 roads across the town centre from 30mph to 20mph.
RESOLUTION: The Council supports all the proposed roads for a speed reduction, however, Leopold Street should be included as well.

178/22 MANSTON AIRPORT: DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

To receive and note a report from Cllr Green following the Secretary of State's decision to approve the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Manston Airport. A lengthy discussion ensued around the arguments for and against Manston's use as a cargo hub, and the Town Council's role in this discussion.

Cllr Young left the meeting prior to the vote being taken.

RESOLUTION: The following statement will be issued:

"It is disappointing that once again the Government has decided they know better than the independent examiners and their own advisors. Ramsgate Town Council stands with the residents of Ramsgate and elsewhere who fear the consequences for their town and their quality of life. We remain unconvinced that the claimed benefits for local people are real or deliverable. This decision is a concern for all of us who are worried about climate change, and exposes the hypocrisy of the Government on this vital issue. We anticipate the decision to grant the DCO will be challenged legally, and once the ground of the challenge are known the Council will meet to consider its options."

Cllrs Rusiecki, L Piper and S Piper asked for their vote against this statement be recorded.

179/22 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

(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.

RESOLUTION: To exclude the press and public for the following item of business.

(ii) LAND ADJACENT TO CHILTON LANE WEST ALLOTMENTS

Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk & RFO, and consider the counterproposal contained therein from the owner of the land adjacent to the Chilton Lane West Allotments. It was confirmed that a proposal for tree planting on TDC land would be brought to a future council meeting, as an alternative way of increasing tree coverage in Ramsgate.

RESOLUTION: The negotiation for this land has failed, and the offer to purchase the land will be withdrawn.

180/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7pm